

## *Summary*

An archaeological evaluation of the land within the grounds of and adjacent to the Old Vicarage, Mellor was carried out during July 1998. Photographic evidence suggested that a ditch or similar feature of unknown use and origin lay in the adjacent field to the Old Vicarage. In addition, an account of a building development that took place at the site in the 18<sup>th</sup> century recorded the discovery of a fosse (ditch) of possible antiquity. The location of the ditch and several other features were confirmed by geophysical survey. Five trenches were excavated, two across the ditch feature, two within the presumed interior of the ditch over what appeared to be linear features (considered at the time to be possible grave sites) and a further trench outside the ditch. The evaluation results concluded that the ditch was Iron Age in origin with prehistoric pottery being discovered in its lower fills and that the site either had been continuously occupied until the late 1<sup>st</sup> / early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, or had been re-occupied at that time after an earlier abandonment. Post-holes were discovered cut into the bedrock within the interior trenches. It has been postulated that the site which comprises an area of 5.5 acres could be the remains of an Iron Age hillfort that became re-occupied during the Roman occupation of the area.