

**Prehistoric & Roman Archaeology at Stonald Field  
King's Dyke West, Whittlesey**

**-Monuments & Settlement-**

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## Summary

*East of the Flag Fen basin, near a small land bridge that once joined the fen islands of Whittlesey and Northey, our excavations uncovered a intricate pattern of later prehistoric and Roman archaeology. The site produced a rich collection of artefacts dating from the end of the Neolithic (c. 2500 BC) through to the end of the Roman period (410 AD).*

*Prehistoric monuments, burials and settlement were overlain by the route of the Fen Causeway. The relationships between the different features illustrated a long and complex history to this part of the island, the focus of which began with the construction of a circle of posts and the building of a henge. Once erected this monument became a meeting point attracting both the debris of occupation and the burial of the dead.*

*At the beginning of the Bronze Age round barrows were built next to the henge marking the resting place of ancestors, and eventually the cremated remains of other bereavements were incorporated into or around these earthworks. Down slope, and closer to the northern edge of Whittlesey island, groups of pits and post-holes indicated the regularity of occupation as broken pots, used tools and butchered bones littered their fills.*

*Later in the Bronze Age new constructions created a permanency to this occupation with the post-built foundations of circular houses replacing the scatters of pits. The inhabitants of these houses would have been familiar with the fieldsystems at Fengate and intimate with the practices connected with the construction and 'use' of the timber alignments and platform at Flag Fen. With the rising water levels this occupation ceased and it was not until the Roman period that the site witnessed renewed activity.*

*Running across the site and making its way to the now relic platform at Flag Fen went the Fen Causeway as it hopped from island to island linking the high grounds east and west of the fen basin. Its construction brought with it roadside paddocks and enclosures and occasionally these were dotted with small workshops producing pottery or metalwork. Over time the road became less important and gradually an accumulation of debris over its surface bore the evidence of its demise.*



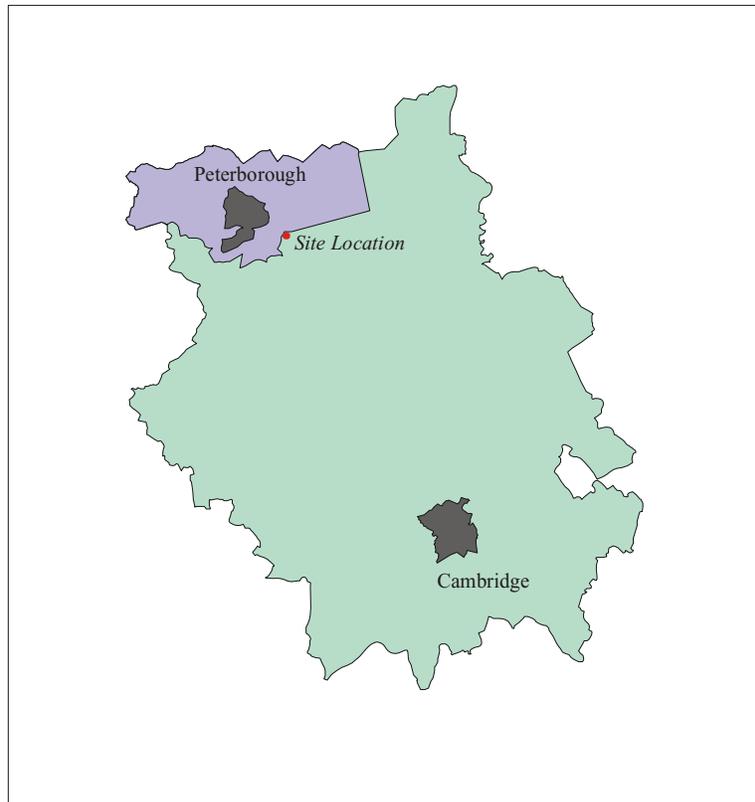
*Whittlesey Brick Pits, King's Dyke West with Stonald Field in the centre foreground*



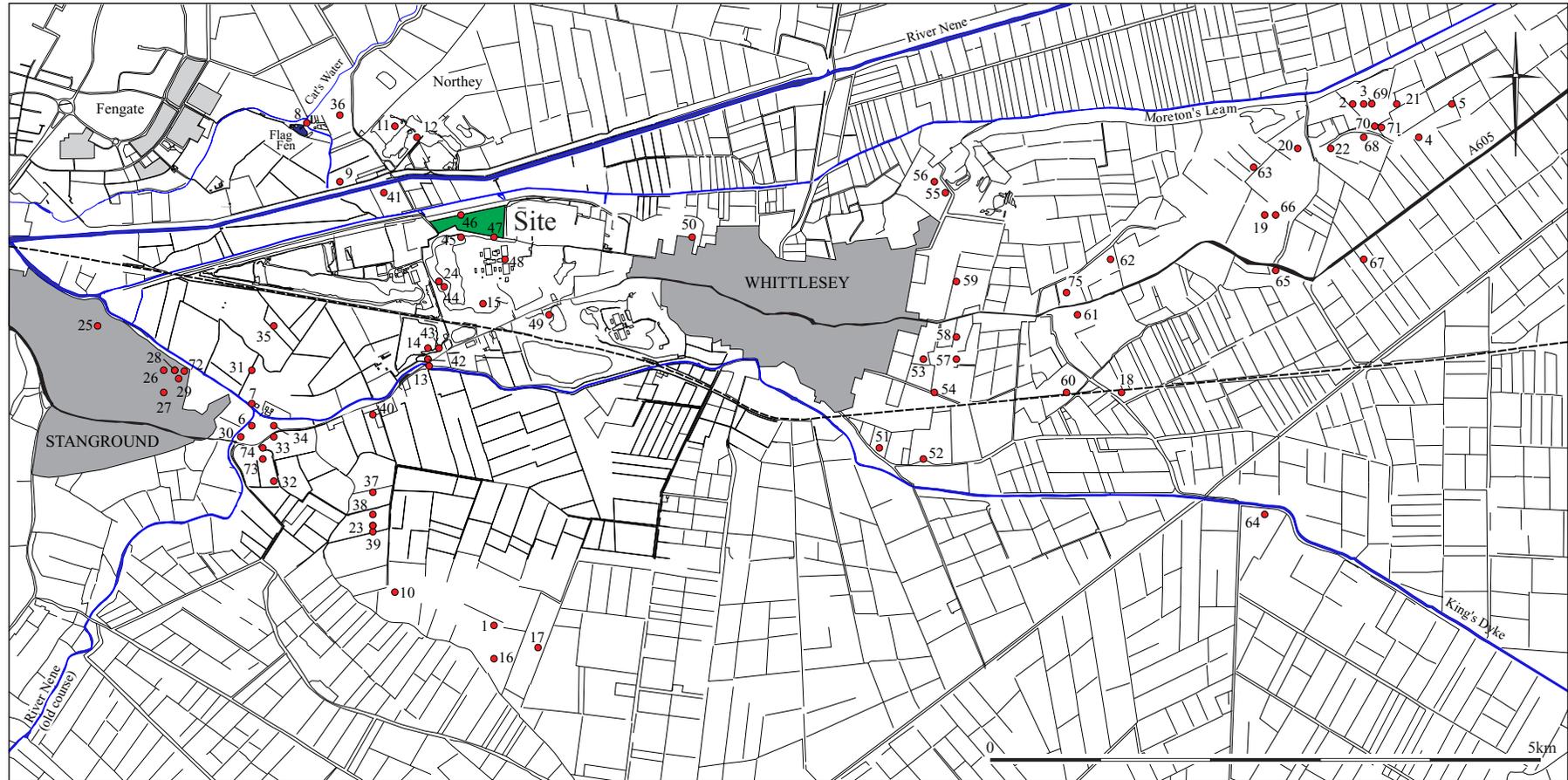
*Close up of Stonald Field and excavation area (Christmas break 1999/2000).  
Both photographs Copyright Ben Robinson 2000.*

## Introduction

A 1.35ha open-area archaeological excavation was carried out at Stonald Field, King's Dyke West, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, on behalf of Hanson Brick Ltd in advance of clay extraction. Also known as Area A, Stonald Field (Figure 2) formed a western extension of the existing quarry and had previously been identified as an area containing substantial Romano-British settlement (Mortimer 1995 & 1996). Subsequent work carried out along Stonalds Fields eastern edge highlighted an earlier archaeological element, emphasising the significance of the relationship between areas of preserved buried soil and prehistoric archaeology (Knight 1999). Geophysical survey, which was primarily designed to focus on the Romano-British settlement core, also gave a hint of the underlying prehistoric potential by revealing a series of large enigmatic ring-works amongst the more obvious Roman features (Martinez & Sheil 1999). Designed to encompass all potential discoveries, the specification set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Gibson and Gdaniec 1999) was agreed by the Development Control Officer, Simon Kaner of the County Archaeology Office. The excavation commenced on 18.10.99 and was completed on 3.3.00.



**Figure 1:** Site location relative to the county of Cambridgeshire



## **Geology and Topography**

The site was located in a field known as Stonald Field situated immediately west of Whittlesey village and close to the northern edge of Whittlesey Island, which is one of a string of small islands which had extended eastwards from the mainland (Peterborough) into the Fen (the other islands being Coates and Eastrea). Whittlesey village occupies the centre of the island, at which point the island measures little more than one kilometre wide. The island is made up of March Gravels, with varying amounts of clay admixed, and overlies the blue Oxford Clays. The 5m OD contour ran east-west across the centre of Stonald Field, with the ground falling northwards to 3m OD immediately the other side of Moreton's Leam and rising southwards up to 8m OD on the line of the A605. The field occupied a strip of land sandwiched between a modern bank known as the Low Road to the north, and a trackway known as the Fen Causeway to the south. Further north is the River Nene bounded here by what is known as the Northey Wash. The quarries edge marked the sites eastern boundary and Funtham's Lane, beyond which lies Bradley Fen, marked its western.

The general topographic reconstructions of this and surrounding areas have been made in the course of the Fenland Survey Project (Hall & Coles 1993), with published maps showing landscape reconstructions and archaeological sites for different periods. However, it must be recognised that in most cases, such reconstructions have been based on quite generalised information, from a range of survey data, and may be subject to revision in some areas with the benefit of more detailed studies. The exact location of the (shifting) fen-edge period-based outline must be treated as only approximate in the absence of detailed local survey data (of which this report will become part of). However it is certain that during the Bronze Age, the Nene ran both north and south of Whittlesey Island (Hall 1987) and that it is probable that until at least the late Roman period that Northey 'island' was a peninsula at the northwestern end of Whittlesey island. Together Whittlesey and Northey formed the land mass that bounded the eastern edge of the Flag Fen Basin.

## **Archaeological Background**

The earlier evaluation had demonstrated Stonald Field (TL 242981) to contain a focus of Roman activity which comprised a road, adjacent boundaries and a concentration of 'dark earth' characterised by large quantities of Roman pottery. As part of that evaluation the pottery concentration was field walked and recorded as a dense core of material (*c.* 5000 square metres in area) located centrally within the existing field and over the line of what was thought to be the Fen Causeway (Mortimer 1995). Subsequent small scale excavations to the east of the main focus had identified Roman field boundaries and quarry pits (Mortimer 1996, Edwards 1996, Alexander 1997).

The projects emphasis on the Roman was transformed however when in 1998 a watching brief (Figure 3) located a concentration of later prehistoric features including five Late Bronze Age roundhouses 200m to the east of the Roman focus (Knight 1999). Subsequent geophysical survey (Martinez & Sheil 1999) picked up the line of the Roman road and the main focus of Roman activity. It also revealed three somewhat enigmatic ring-forms on the western side of the road but



Figure 3: Previous Work

expressed the area to the east of the Roman focus as archaeologically ‘quiet’. However, the later prehistoric features identified within the 1998 watching brief consisted mainly of small postholes (c. 0.30m in diameter and 0.15m in depth) and any similar distribution located within the area of geophysical survey was unlikely to register. Indeed the character of the settlement revealed within the watching brief was such that it is difficult to think of any non intrusive prospection technique that could have located its presence (see Knight 1999).

As previously documented (Mortimer 1995, Edwards and Gdaniec 1997) chance finds and groups of monuments have always attested to a one time prehistoric presence on and around Whittlesey Island and with the discovery of a Late Bronze Age settlement cluster close to its northern edge we can begin to locate the island within the broader prehistoric landscape. The Flag Fen basin and Fengate complex has dominated that broader prehistoric landscape reconstruction and Whittlesey Island should be considered as part of the same back fen landscape. Indeed the post Deverel-Rimbury attribution of the settlement links the site to a wider and ever increasing corpus of recently discovered settlements around the Peterborough area, focusing on the Nene and Welland valleys. At Eye (Gibson and White 1998; McFadyen 2000), Langtoft (Hall 1998), Northborough (Knight 1998) and Tower Works, Fengate (Lucas 1998) unenclosed settlements characterised by circular house structures, four-post structures and large pit features have been identified and on three occasions been found to occupy parts of established Middle Bronze Age fieldsystems.

As well as the Late Bronze Age material the watching brief also identified a quantity of earlier features including a tree-throw that contained sherds of Beaker pottery, and two pits with Collared Urn fragments. On the opposite side of the Nene at Northey, Neolithic and Bronze Age features were also recorded during the fen dyke survey (French and Pryor 1993). The listed gazetteer below gives a comprehensive coverage of all known sites, monuments and find spots for the immediate Whittlesey area.

### **Sites, Monuments and Material Culture Gazetteer (Figure 2)**

(After Edwards and Gdaniec 1997)

#### *Neolithic*

1	King's Delph		(TL 244 944)
	Find spot of Neolithic blade tool. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey A4)		
2	Eldernell	SMR 07729	(TL 322 991)
	Find spot of polished stone axe. (Hall 1987, Whittlesey A2)		
3	Eldernell	SMR 01728a	(TL 323 991)
	Find spot of polished stone axe, now in Whittlesey Museum. (Hall 1987: 56).		
4	Eldernell	SMR 03755	TL 328 988)
	Find spot of flint flakes from fieldwalking.		
5	Eldernell	SMR 03757	(TL331 991)
	Find spot of Neolithic flints on gas pipeline route, 1976. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 6).		



22 Eldernell SMR 09746 (TL 320 987)  
Find spot of Late Bronze Age hoard of 12 axes, spearhead, hammer and other material; found 1988. Location TL 325 987 in SMR record.(French & Pryor 1993: 25-30).

### *Iron Age*

23 Bulling Drove SMR 01719 (TL 233 953)  
Iron Age pottery recorded from area with Roman settlement remains, including probable pottery kiln debris, with further SMR numbers associated with this site (994, 999, a-b, 1364). (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 3)

24 King's Dyke, Funtham's Lane SMR 03151 (TL 239 975)  
Some Iron Age pottery is reported amongst predominantly Roman material from this settlement site. (Challands 1977; Phillips 1970: 188).

### *Roman*

25 Stanground SMR 03153 (TL 208 971)  
Roman pottery kiln site and perhaps wharf and causeway, found in 1901. (Hall 1992: 16)

26 Stanground SMR 03128 (TL 214 967)  
Roman settlement , with generally late sherd material, burnt stone, bone and tiles. (Hall 1992: 17, Stanground 3)

27 Stanground SMR 03129 (TL 214 965)  
Roman settlement remains, perhaps associated with Stanground 3 sites. (Hall 1992: 17)

28 Stanground SMR 10090 (TL 215 967)  
Area of ditches and scattered Roman features, including group of 5 inhumation burials, probably part of a larger cemetery. Probably Roman, although Anglo-Saxon brooch (SMR 10090a) also recovered from this area.

29 Stanground SMR 03128 (TL 215 967)  
Roman pottery workshops, excavated in 1965. (Dannell 1973; Hall 1992: 16, Stanground 3)

30 Horsey Toll Bridge SMR 04016 (TL 221 961)  
Find site of Roman coin.

31 Horsey Toll Farm SMR 01369 (TL 222 967)  
Sherd scatters, collected 1956-59, in Whittlesey Museum.

32 Horsey Grange SMR 04018 (TL 224 957)  
Roman burial site. Burials ploughed out in 1960's.

33 Horsey Grange SMR 04017 (TL 224 961)  
Roman settlement remains.

34 Horsey Toll Road SMR 04015 (TL 224 962)  
Roman building remains including building stone, tile, tesserae and pottery. Part excavated in 1961. (Phillips 1970: 188).

35 Horsey Hill SMR 04019 (TL 224 971)  
Sherd scatters south towards Horsey Toll Farm. (Phillips 1970: 188)

- 36 Northey SMR 08188 (TL 230 990)  
Square soilmark recorded from aerial photographs, just to north of Fen Causeway. Romano-Celtic temple? (Hall 1987: Thorney 44)
- 37 Bunding Drove SMR 07735 (TL 233 956)  
Roman settlement with occupation debris, bone sherds and tile fragments extending over 0.3ha. (Hall 1987, Whittlesey 4)
- 38 Bunding Drove SMR 00995 (TL 233 954)  
Roman settlement debris including second-third century pottery and tile spread over 0.3ha among elements of an extensive field system. Finds in Norris Museum. (Hartley & Standen 1959; Phillips 1970: 188; Hall 1987, Whittlesey 2)
- 39 Bunding Drove SMR 07734 (TL 233 953)  
Roman settlement remains, including probable pottery kiln debris, with further SMR numbers associated with this site (SMR 994, 999, a-b, 1364). (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 3)
- 40 Black House Farm SMR 02939 (TL 233 963)  
Find spot of Roman pottery and ditches. (Phillips 1970: 188)
- 41 Northey Gravel SMR 07730 (TL 234 983)  
Substantial earthwork site, probably Roman period; no finds known. (Hall 1987: 57, Whittlesey 1)
- 42 Field's End Bridge SMR 03154 (TL 238 968)  
Finds spot of Roman pottery, coin, sword and strainer within clay pit, recovered in 1965. The context of the sword, probably an auxiliary cavalry weapon of late first century date, remains uncertain but possibly a deliberate (votive?) deposit. Apparently from peat deposits 8-10ft deep. (CBA 1965; Howe 1978; VCH 1978: 5).
- 43 Field's End Bridge SMR 02940 (TL 239 969)  
Finds of Roman coins and pottery. Site of PMSAFS excavation 1962. (Phillips 1970: 188)
- 44 King's Dyke, Funtham's Lane SMR 03151 (TL 239 975)  
To the east of the lane, 8 north-south burials (several mutilated) and 2 pits were recovered on the edge of the clay pit, with a large ditch on their west side. Quantities of first/second century pottery from the ditches and from among the skeletons suggest a Roman date for them, while some Iron Age pottery may also be present. (Challands 1977; Phillips 1970: 188)
- 45 Low Road SMR 03496 (TL 241 979)  
Ditches and a pit were recovered in this area during 1983-1984 excavations by the Whittlesea Archaeological Field Unit, possibly relating to line of Fen Causeway? (Moore 1984)
- 46 King's Dyke SMR 10171 (TL 241 981)  
Romano-British settlement marked by extensive surface scatters and cropmarks on aerial photographs. Also investigated areas, within SMR 11702. Landscape evaluation revealed finds-rich dark earth accumulations at core of system of 'paddocks' with more extensive field system. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 14; Mortimer 1995, 1996)
- 47 'Low Road' SMR 02941 (TL 244 979)  
Cremation from this area reported in PMSAFS records. (Phillips 1970: 188)
- 48 King's Dyke, Itter Farm. SMR 09662a (TL 245 977)  
Excavations of a 28 x 15m area during 1958-1959 revealed a series of settlement-related ditches and pits of Roman date with material spanning the late first-fourth centuries. The site was clearly substantially larger with further features seen to the south and west, with pits, ditches and postholes to the north. (Challands 1978)

49	King's Dyke	SMR 03126	(TL 249 972)
	Romano-British settlement site, with ditches, burials and some worked flint, presumed site of Roman burial marked on 1929 6" OS map.		
50	Whittlesey	SMR 110457	(TL 262 979)
	Area with cropmarks showing ring ditch, east of Stonald Field. Possibly Romano-British.		
51	Whittlesey	SMR 02949	(TL 279 960)
	Find spot of Roman pottery.		
52	Whittlesey	SMR 02920	(TL 283 959)
	Find spot of Roman pottery.		
53	Whittlesey	SMR 04335	(TL 283 968)
	Area of cropmarks - possibly Roman period field systems.		
54	Partridge Farm	SMR 02938	(TL 284 965)
	Find spot of Roman coins. (Phillips 1970: 188) - some 400m W of site below.		
55	Bassenhally	SMR 07728	(TL 285 983)
	Romano-British settlement site; pottery 2nd-4th centuries. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 10). Cropmarks to SW		
56	Bassenhally Field	SMR 04280	(TL 284 984)
	Area of cropmarks, possibly associated with site above.		
57	Partridge Farm	SMR 01062	(TL 286 968)
	Romano-British settlement site, marked by scatters of sherds, tile and quern fragments. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 15)		
58	Whittlesey	SMR 04154	(TL 286 970)
	Area of cropmarks, possibly of Roman period.		
59	Whittlesey	SMR 04155	(TL 286 975)
	Area of cropmarks possibly including line of Fen Causeway.		
60	Lattersey Field Farm	SMR 10163	(TL 296 965)
	Romano-British settlement site, marked by spread of burnt stone, bone and sherds. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 16)		
61	Eastrea	SMR 10593	(TL 297 972)
	Romano-British settlement site, marked by extensive cropmarks with ditches, fields and track systems. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 21).		
62	Eastrea	SMR 10164	(TL 300 977)
	Small Romano-British occupation site. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 18)		
63	Coates	SMR 03919	(TL 313 985)
	Romano-British settlement remains including sherds and brick. (Phillips 1970: 197)		
64	Glassmoor Farm	SMR 03938	(TL 314 954)
	Find spot in 18th century of group of Roman lamps, likely to be a lost cargo on now extinct river channel. (Phillips 1970: 196; Hall 1987: Whittlesey A8)		
65	Coates	SMR 03789	(TL 315 976)
	Romano-British settlement located on glacial gravels, with cropmarks closeby. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 5)		

- 66 Coates SMR 03732 (TL 315 981)  
Romano-British settlement remains including sherds and quern. (Philips 1970: 197; Hall 1987: Whittlesey 17)
- 67 Kingsland farm SMR 03754 (TL 323 977)  
Find spot of Roman pottery from fieldwalking.
- 68 Eldernell (TL 323 988)  
Romano-British settlement site, part excavated in late 19th century. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 7)
- 69 Eldernell SMR 01728 (TL 323 991)  
Romano-British settlement site with gravel road linking to the Fen Causeway. Associated cropmarks. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 8)
- 70 Eldernell, Chapel Farm SMR 01366 (TL 324 989)  
Find spot of Roman pottery.
- 71 Eldernell SMR 03877 (TL 324 989)  
Romano-British settlement with earthwork remains, associated with sites 7 & 8 above. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 9)

*Post-Roman - Medieval - Post-Medieval*

- 72 Stanground SMR 02972 (TL 215 967)  
Find spot of Anglo-Saxon cauldron and bronze vessel in pipe trench, 1966. (Dallas 1976)
- 73 Horsey Toll SMR 02973 (TL 223 959)  
Cromwellian fort guarding approaches to Stanground. Scheduled Ancient Monument 156. (Hall 1987: Stanground 2)
- 74 Horsey Toll (TL 223 960)  
Find spot of Viking spear, with possibly associated skull; to Peterborough Museum in 1912. A poorly provenanced Viking axe is also from this area. (Howe 1984)
- 75 Eastrea SMR 02834a (TL 296 974)  
Grubenhauser sunken Anglo-Saxon building - Scheduled Monument 109. (Hall 1987: Whittlesey 22).

## Methodology

The Excavation Project Design established three main objectives (Gibson and Gdaniec 1999):

- Characterise the nature and extent of the Prehistoric remains first revealed in the 1998 contingency excavation.
- Define the presence/absence of the Fen Causeway and in so doing establish the focus of the settlement.
- Establish the character of the settlement (isolated rural farmstead or roadside settlement, distribution/transport depot), define its economic base and its position within the known framework of the Roman Greater Peterborough landscape.

The excavation area was designed to encompass the main Roman focus (as demonstrated by the archaeological evaluation, fieldwalking and geophysical survey; Figure 3) and incorporate the strip of ground between it and the later prehistoric activity identified within the 1998 watching brief (Figure 4). The area was stripped using a 360<sup>0</sup> tracked digger with a 2.50m wide grading bucket. It can be divided into three sub-areas (A, B & C) beginning at the eastern end of the site. As each part was revealed 25 x 15m blocks were hand drawn at 1:50 creating a total of 46 base plans. The excavation of individual features was also started from the eastern end.

Pits and postholes were half-sectioned whereas linear features were excavated using 1m wide slots at regular intervals. Junctions between features were also investigated. Features that produced significant artefact assemblages were excavated 100%. Equally, the excavation sample of features that proved difficult to characterise or devoid of diagnostic artefacts was also expanded.

Environmental sampling targeted the principle elements of feature sets (boundary ditches, pits, postholes etc.) across the site's chronology. As standard policy features that produced impressive artefact assemblages were always sampled for environmental remains. Many of the samples were floated on site during the process of the excavation. This helped to inform the overall sampling policy (a total of 82 individual samples were taken). Pollen analysis was restricted to a single deep features.

Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and including the plans a total of 214 individual sheets of drawings were made. The Unit-modified version of the M.o.L.A.S. recording system was employed throughout: excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a cut, a fill) were recorded as individual contexts ([200] – [1144]), with interrelated stratigraphic events (e.g. a ditch cut and its fill) assigned feature numbers (**F.s 200 – 920**; bolded upon introduction within the text). The Site Code was **WBP '99** and was used throughout the site record.

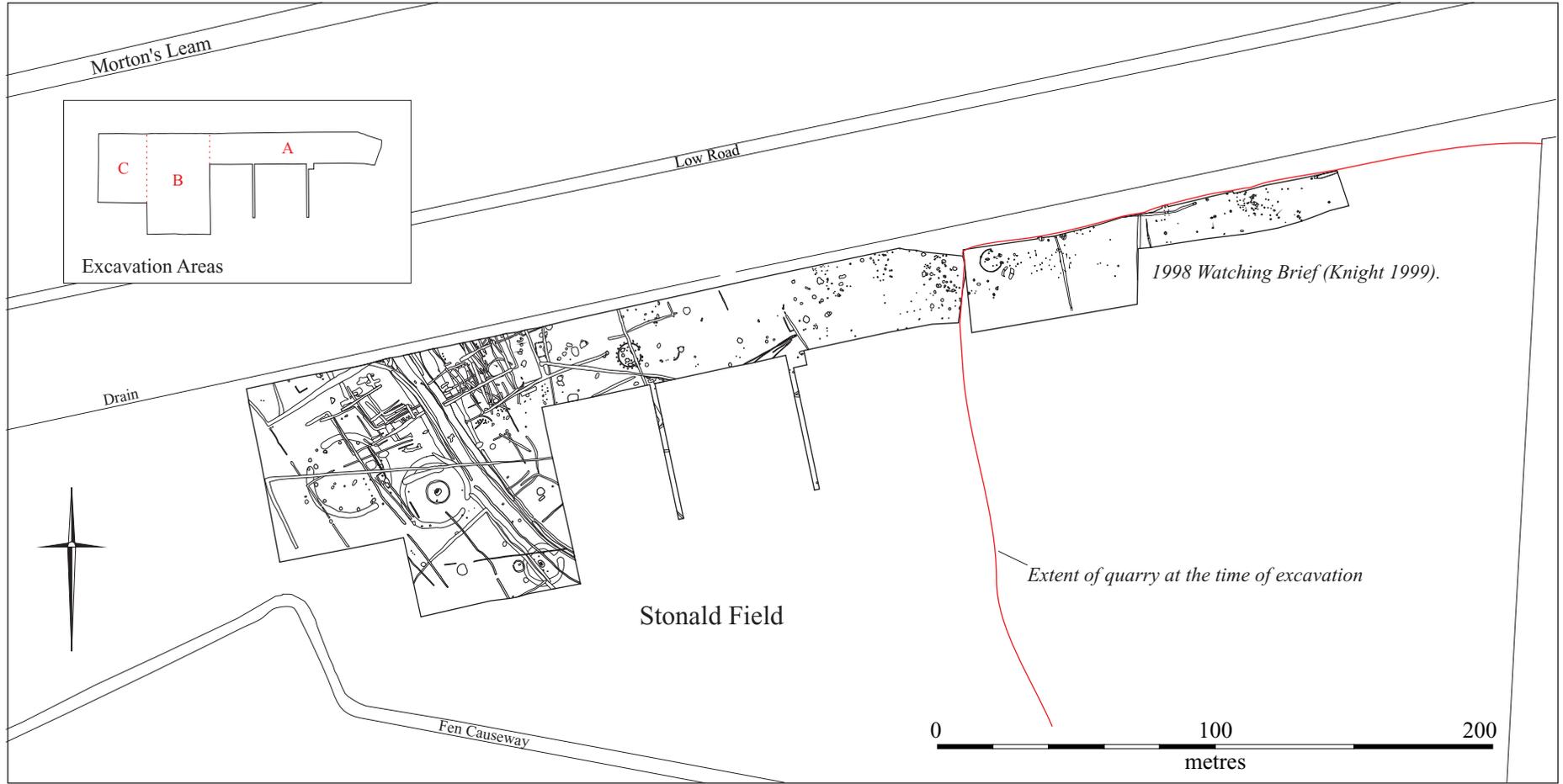


Figure 4: Area of excavation and excavation areas



Figure 5: Excavated Slots

## Excavation Results

The excavation results can be separated into two major periods: *Later Prehistoric* and *Roman*. Features belonging to the Later Prehistoric period can be divided into six groups based around three monuments, a ‘cemetery’ and two phases of occupation. Similarly the Roman period can be sub-divided into four groups of features beginning with the Fen Causeway, followed by a description of subsequent roadside activities and ending with the roads demise. Each group has been given a main heading (i.e. *Pit-circle and Henge*) and a sub-heading (i.e. *Peterborough Ware Pit – Pit-circle – Henge – Collared Urn deposit*). The sub-headings list the component features that make up each group and these are given in chronological/stratigraphical order.

### *Later Prehistoric*

For the purposes of this report the Later Prehistoric period is taken as beginning in the Neolithic (c. 4000BC) and ending just prior to the arrival of the Romans (c. 43AD). The vast majority of the features contained Bronze Age material (2200-800BC) but there was also some late Neolithic features (2800-2200BC) as well as some earlier Iron Age (800-400BC). Later Prehistoric features were identified throughout the excavation area but there were two particular focuses to the activity. The eastern half of Area A contained a dense spread of settlement features belonging to both the early and later Bronze Age, whereas Area B was dominated by a diagonal line of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age monuments which comprised a henge and two round barrows. Within the line of monuments elements of a satellite ‘cemetery’ was also identified. This part of the report has been sub-divided into six feature groups (Figure 6):

- Pit-circle and Henge
- Round Barrow 1
- Round Barrow 2
- ‘Cemetery’
- Early Bronze Age settlement
- Later Bronze Age settlement

These elements should not be seen in isolation but as parts of a related landscape. For instance the positioning of the two barrows would appear to have been influenced by the location of the pit-circle and henge and objects associated with the ‘cemetery’ had similarities with objects found within the closing deposits of the henge.

### Pit-circle and Henge (*Peterborough Ware Pit – Pit-circle – Henge – dark deposit*)

The pit-circle was 24.80m in diameter and comprised eleven regularly spaced pits (Pits 1-11; set c. 6m apart except for a 12m gap for the ‘missing pit’ in the northern part of the circuit) plus two addition/external pits (Pits 12 and 13) which were situated opposite Pits 1 and 11 forming a porch-like construction. The ‘porch’ provided the circle with a formalised entrance oriented towards the north-west. Variable in depth and diameter the majority of the pits consisted of steep sided, flat bottomed features which contained horizontally layered fills. None of the pits

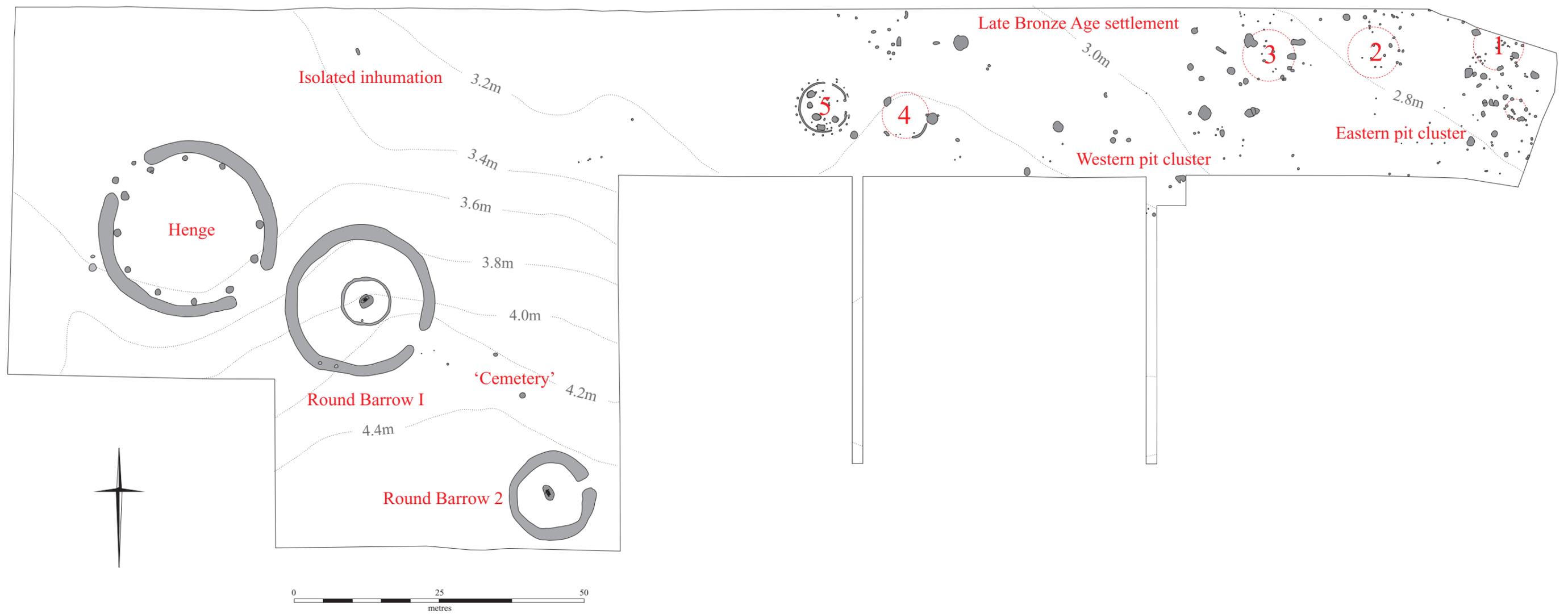


Figure 6: Plan of prehistoric features.

contained obvious post-pipes or evidence for post packing, although Pits 5 and 6 had indents in the centre of their bases which could have been caused by posts. Pits 7, 9, 10 and 11 contained charcoal-rich basal fills which included some large chunks of charcoal that could also be charred remnants of former posts. These were all located around the northern half of the pit-circle. Only four of the twelve pits produced artefacts: Pit 1 included 21 sherds of pottery; 2 pieces of flint and 1 fragment of bone; Pit 2 contained 6 sherds of pottery; Pit 4 had 2 pieces of flint and 3 pieces of burnt flint; whereas Pit 5 had only 2 flints. All of these were located around the southern half of the pit-circle.

Post-pit	Feature	Context	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)
1	873	1100	1.57	0.45
2	874	1101	1.28	0.50
3	875	1102	1.07	0.34
4	866	1093	1.04	0.38
5	865	1092	1.30	0.72
6	884	1111	1.20	0.57
7	879	1106	1.50	0.32
8	901	1138	1.34	0.41
9	893	1125	1.17	0.58
10	892	1124	0.90	0.48
11	891	1123	1.40	0.42
12	870	1097	0.70	0.35
13	872	1099	1.20	0.42

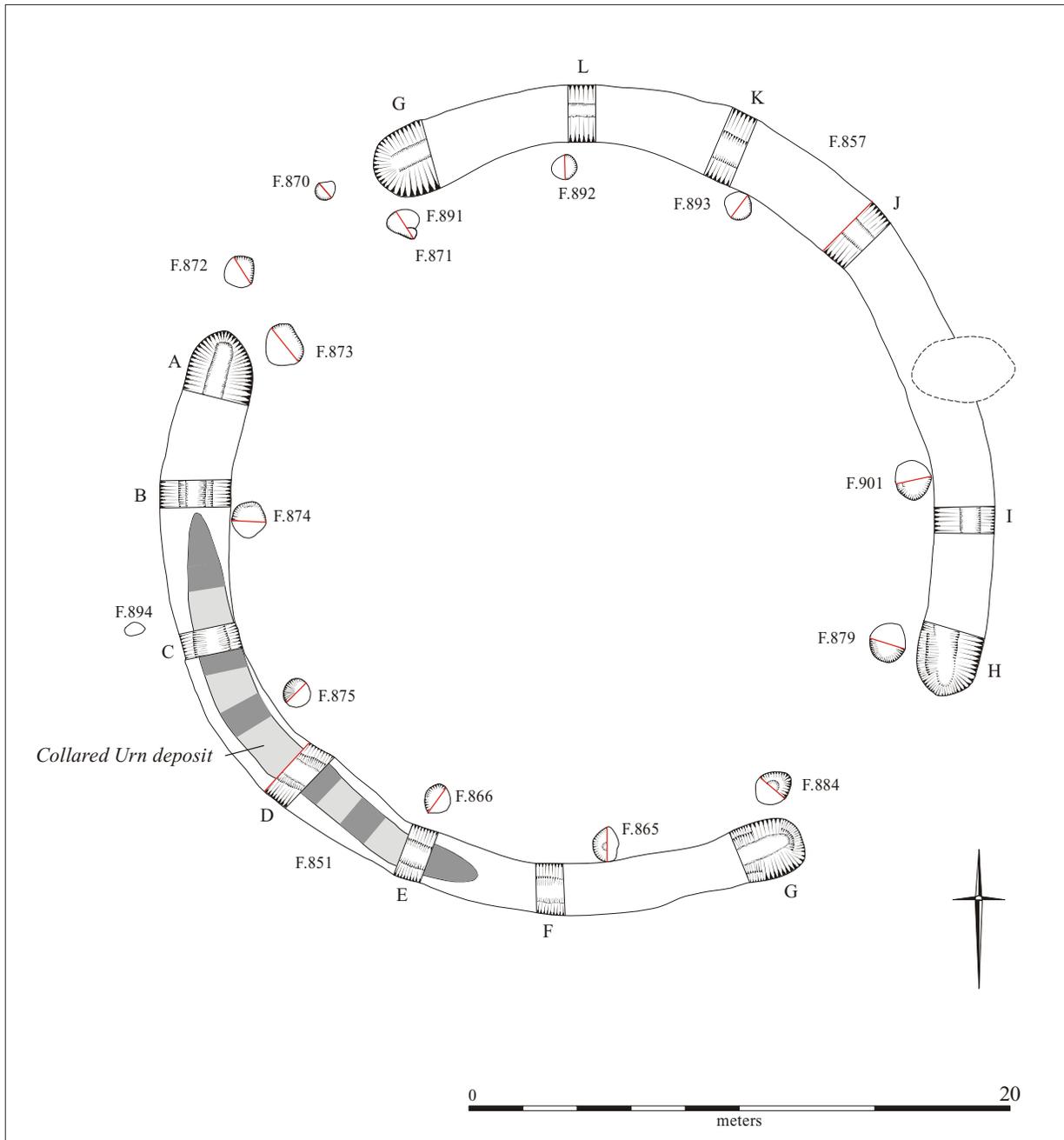
**Table 1:** Pit-circle Dimensions

The interior of the circle was empty and its nearest external feature consisted of a single shallow hollow **F.894** located 4m to the west of Pits 2 and 3. The hollow contained a single sherd of flint tempered ware thought to be of Late Neolithic date. The location of the hollow placed it beneath the position of a projected external bank belonging to southern henge ditch F.851. The relationship between the hollow and pit-circle can only be inferred but it must either be earlier or contemporary. If contemporary then this would suggest a separation in construction between the pit-circle and the henge.

Slot	Feature	Context	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Volume (m <sup>2</sup> )
A	851	1076	2.32	1.32	1.53
B	851	1086	2.48	1.35	1.67
C	851	1087	2.38	1.40	1.66
D	851	1088	2.49	1.54	1.92
E	851	1089	1.99	1.16	1.16
F	851	1090	2.07	1.18	1.23
G	851	1091	2.07	1.15	1.19
H	857	1079	2.20	1.20	1.32
I	857	1080	2.35	1.19	1.39
J	857	1082	2.40	1.37	1.64
K	857	1083	2.50	1.35	1.68
L	857	1084	2.00	1.25	1.25
M	857	1085	2.45	1.34	1.63

**Table 2:** Ditch Dimensions

The henge was 30.80m in diameter and consisted of two large C-shaped ditches, **F.851** and **F.857**. The gaps or causeways in-between the two ditches measured 7.40m in the south-east and 7.80m in the north-west and importantly the north-western causeway corresponded exactly with the 'entrance' to the pit-circle. The two henge ditches were of equal size and both had deep V-shaped profiles with narrow bases (average width: 2.28m; average depth: 1.29m) and rounded terminals. In two places the internal edge of the henge ditches encroached the perimeter of the pit-circle: F.851 cut Pit 5 and F.857 cut Pit 9. As the upper profiles of both two ditches were subject to weathering this relationship does indicate which of the two features came first.



**Figure 7:** Plan of Pit-circle and Henge

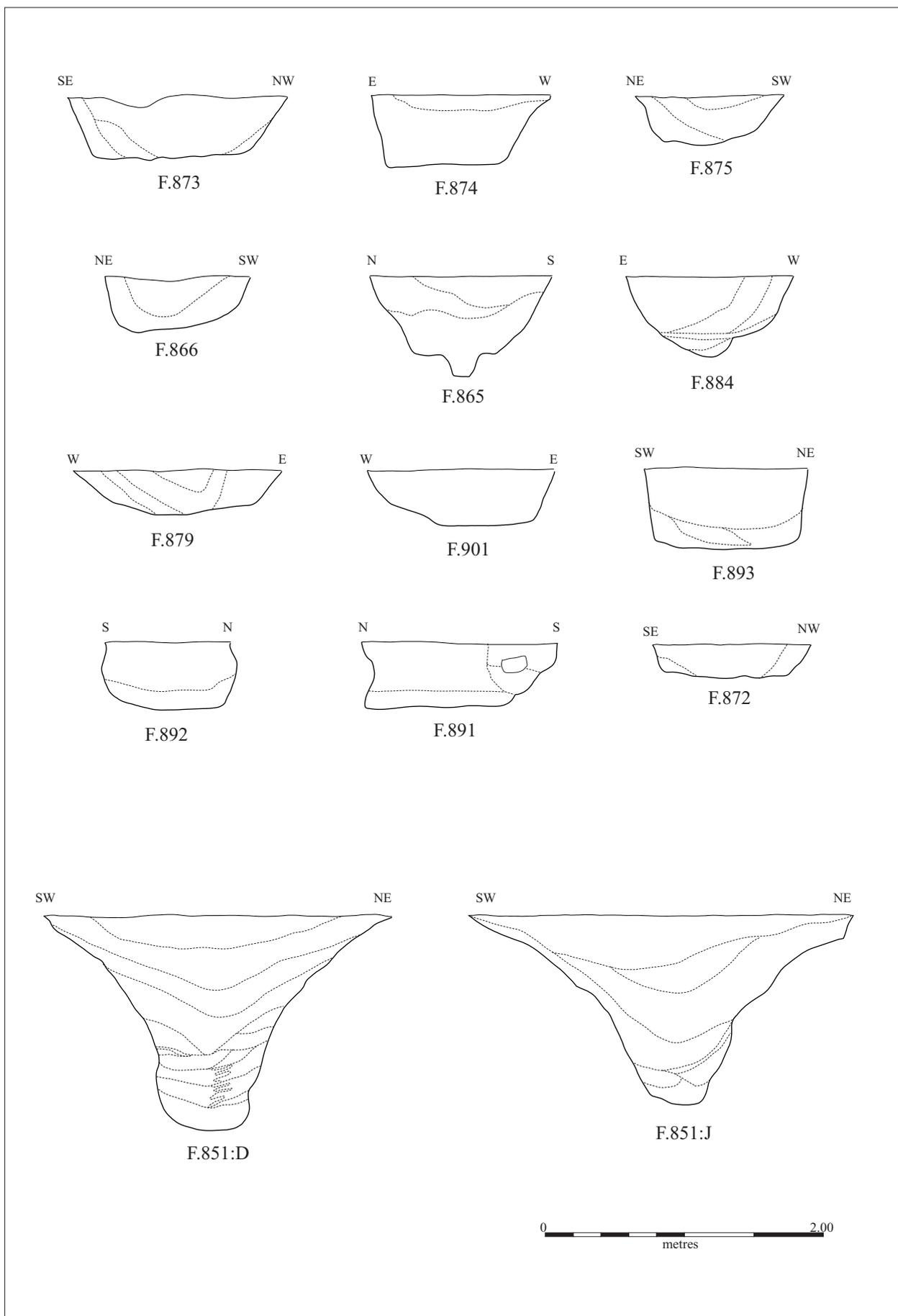


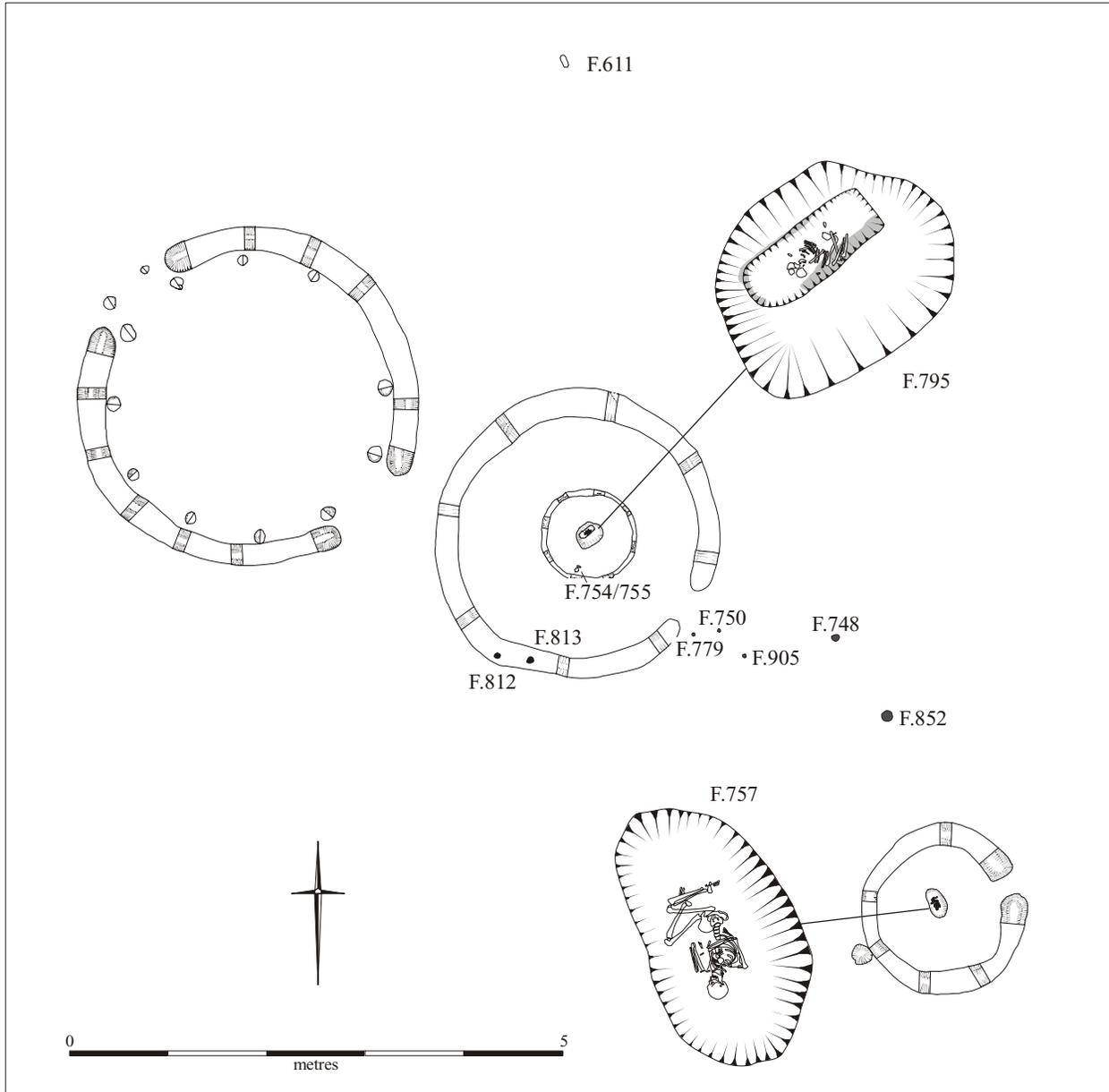
Figure 8: Sections of Pit-circle and Henge

The initial infilling sequence for both ditches was consistent: asymmetric edge erosion deposits, comprising major slumps of fine silty sand from the inner edge and minor slumps of coarse gravel from the outer edge regularly interrupted by pockets of slow accumulating silts. Higher up as the weathered ditch profiles began to stabilise the silt pockets increased in size demonstrating longer periods of stability. Occasionally small lenses of charcoal accompanied the tops of the silt deposits but otherwise artefacts were rare. In Slot G the charcoal lense was substantial and careful excavation revealed a pattern of overlapping pieces of compacted charred wood. Five pieces of Neolithic flint were recovered in Slot C from the primary outer edge erosion slumps. Slot C was situated immediately adjacent to the late Neolithic pit **F.894** and it is possible, given the scarcity of finds, that these were originally associated with the pit. Small amounts of flint and bone (8 and 6 respectively) were recovered from the upper silt deposits in Slots D, J, K and M and this would appear to be representative of the amounts of materials entering the ditches during the 'use' of henge. In contrast the top of the southern ditch was capped with a discrete 'dark' deposit (blackish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal) that contained a comparatively rich array of finds; from five 1m wide sample slots 45 sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery (Collared Urn/Food Vessel), 73 pieces of worked flint, 74 pieces of bone and 12 fragments of burnt clay were recovered. Both the appearance of the fill and its finds content made this deposit directly comparable with the fills from the eastern and western pit clusters located to the east of the henge. This deposit was not present in the northern ditch of the henge.

Round Barrow 1 (*central inhumation – post-ring – secondary cremation – ring-ditch – ring-ditch cremations*)

Round barrow 1 consisted of a central inhumation, F.795, a post-ring F.758, and a pen-annular ring-ditch F.761. Three cremations were present: one immediately inside the southern side of the post-ring F.755; and two situated within the upper fill of the southern part of the ring-ditch, F.'s 812 and 813. There was no trace of a mound but there was a buried soil horizon that initially made the different components of the barrow very difficult to trace.

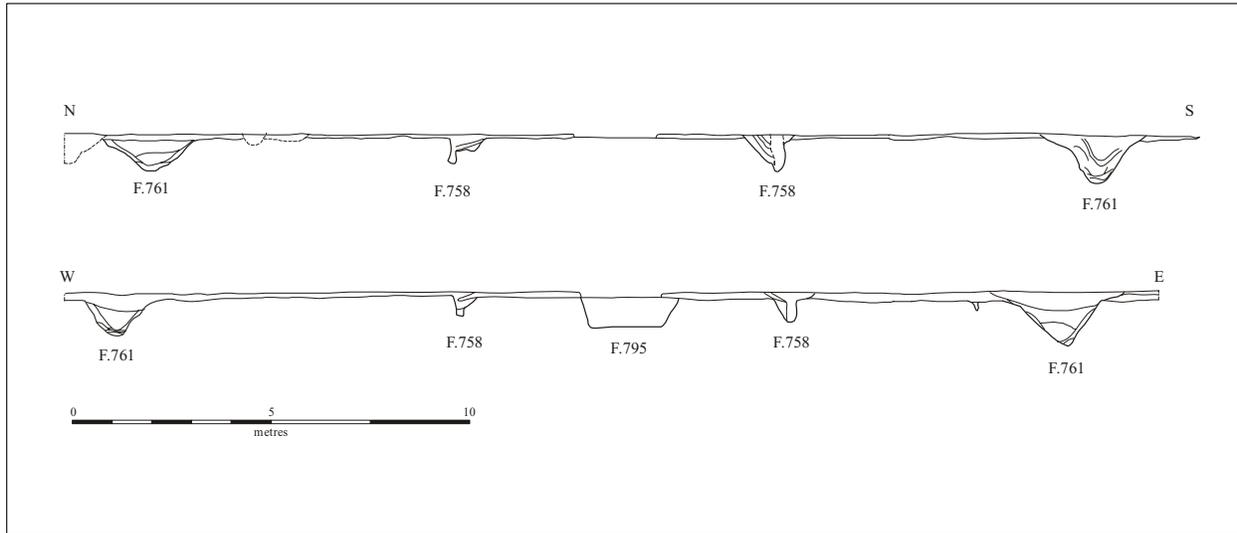
The central inhumation F.795, consisted of a large, oblong grave pit (dimensions: 2.30 x 1.40m; depth: 0.77m) at the base of which was a small rectangular grave-shape cut oriented NE-SW (dimensions: 1.50 x 0.60m; depth: 0.22m). The lower grave cut contained a single tightly crouched inhumation (length: 0.70m; width: 0.40m) situated on its side, with its head at the south-western end of the cut and facing towards the south-east, and its hands were raised towards the face. Behind the head approximately 0.05m from the skull was a small flint knife of late Neolithic type. The body was surrounded by a dark black silty material which was discrete to the lower grave cut and separate from the main grave fill. This material was found to both cover and underlie the skeleton. Along the north-eastern end the dark layer had slumped away from the grave cut and had trapped some of the upper grave fill beneath it as if the dark material had once lined the edge of the cut. The shape of the lower grave cut was U-shaped in profile, with a vertical north-eastern end and steep south-western end. It was 1.50m in length, 0.60m in width and 0.22m in depth. The dark material would appear to represent traces of a coffin that had decayed to the point where it collapsed under the weight of the upper grave fill; and when it collapsed the sudden rush of material would appear to have flattened the incumbent's skull.



**Figure 9:** Plan of burials and ‘cemetery’ features.

The post-ring F.758, comprised a 8.25m diameter post-trench that encircled the central inhumation. It averaged 0.50m in width and 0.90m in depth and consisted of a trench (characterised by a vertical outside edge and 45° angled inner edge) which contained post-packing material around a series of post-pipes (0.25-0.35m diameter) which were located tight up against the outside edge of the post-trench. A total of eight 1m wide slots were excavated located at cardinal points around the circuit. Within these slots a total of twenty-three post-pipes were identified of irregular size and shape (some being full-circles others half-circles) The base of the post-pipes suggest that the posts were round ended rather than pointed. The gaps in-between the post-pipes also varied with some pipes touching whereas other were separated by

gaps of up to 0.30m. In section the material defining the post-pipes could be demonstrated to have arrived in the trench from within inside the ring with clear tip lines being visible. In particular a gravel lense was consistently recorded in all of the sections which stopped vertically at the position of the former posts. The gravel lense also capped the post-trench fill that consistently stopped at the point of contact with the former post-positions. No entranceway was detected.



**Figure 10:** Sections across Round Barrow 1

The cremation located just within the post-ring F. 754/755, was first recorded as a double cremation but later changed to a single interment once it was determined that it had been divided by intrusive ploughing. The two clumps of calcined bone were found together with fragments of pottery which consisted of rim sherds suggesting that the bone had at least been accompanied by an inverted urn, if not contained by, similar to the three small inverted Collared Urn located immediately to the south-east of the barrow. Along with the inverted urn fragments was a single flint knife. The ring-ditch that encircled the central grave and post-ring was 25.65m in diameter. It was pen-annular in plan with a causeway measuring 3.25m across which was oriented to the south-east. The ditch measured between 2.35-3.15m in width and had a broad V-shaped profile up to 1.30m in depth. Its infill sequence was comparable with the henge comprising a asymmetrical edge erosion pattern interrupted by gradually increasing stabilisation periods. Towards the top of this sequence two cremations, F.812 and 813, were inserted; one of which (F.812) survived within fragments of a coarse 'bucket' type urn.

The relationship between the post-ring and the ring-ditch was unclear but it is interesting that the two rings did not share the same centre. This could be an attribute of the two features being constructed at different times. It is possible that the central inhumation was accompanied by the post-ring and the insertion of the cremation and urn was accompanied the cutting of the ring-ditch and the construction of a barrow mound. Once the mound was established any future burial would appear to have occurred outside of the limits of the earthwork (i.e. either adjacent or within the confines of its silted ditch).



**Figure 11:** Early Bronze Age crouched inhumations

#### Round Barrow 2 (*central inhumation – ring-ditch - pit*)

Round Barrow 2 was situated 27m to the south-east of Round Barrow 1 and was less complex, smaller in diameter and oriented differently. It comprised a single central inhumation **F.757**, encompassed by a pen-annular ditch **F.734** (diameter: 15.40m) oriented eastwards. The causeway measured 1.75m. As with Round barrow 1 the central inhumation was crouched but here it was oriented differently. The skeleton was situated on its side with its head at the south-eastern end of the grave, facing west, with its left hand raised to its face. Its right arm was bent across its chest. The grave, deep and narrow, oriented roughly NE-SW, and its base contained a faint trace of the same black silty material as found within the grave of Round Barrow 1. The infilling of the ditch was unremarkable with very little artefactual material. As with the henge and Round Barrow 1 some charcoal staining was present within the lenses of silt that interrupted the edge erosion deposits. At the back of the ring-ditch and situated opposite the opening in the ring-ditch was a large irregular pit **F.792** (1.90 x 1.75m; depth: 0.82m) which had similar fills to the adjacent ditch.

#### ‘Cemetery’ and Isolated Inhumation

Only two out of the five features recorded contained human remains. The ‘Cemetery’ group was made up of two cremations: **F.748** and **F.852**; and three empty inverted urns **F.779**, **F.750** and **F.905**. The cremations were located roughly centrally between the two barrows whereas the three urns were situated immediately outside of the ‘entranceway’ to Round Barrow 1.

Cremation **F.748** consisted of two conjoined Collared Urns, one upright and one inverted, propped against the edge of a oval-shaped pit. The upright urn was complete and contained the remains of two cremated individuals. The inverted urn was minus its collar and neck (the pot had been carefully truncated down to its shoulder) and had been used as a lid to cover the top of the

complete urn. Interestingly, the way the lid had been fitted meant that decorated part of the complete urn was obscured from view, all that could be seen was the bodies of two pots joined together at the shoulders. The pots occupied the western edge of the pit and were kept upright by a three stage backfill. Devoid of finds, the backfill was relatively clean apart from the uppermost layer which appeared to be made up of residual pyre material (i.e. charcoal-rich) although noticeably free of any traces of calcined bone. This contrasted with the contents of the urns which was free of pyre material suggesting a careful separation of the cremated bone from the pyre debris.

In contrast the adjacent cremation F.852 was not held within a ceramic container but instead survived as a discrete circular plug (diameter: 0.40m; depth 0.10m) of calcined bone within a larger back-filled circular pit. The cremated bone, like that found within the urned cremation, was free of pyre material but was accompanied by an unburnt plano-convex flint knife located within the same 'cut' as the bone. The surrounding fill consisted of fine sandy loam with abundant pea-gravel and occasional charcoal which appeared to be up against the bone 'plug'. This relationship suggests that the bone had gone into the pit inside some kind of (organic) container that had subsequently decayed leaving just a ghost of its shape.

The three inverted urns were small Collared Urns seemingly located within the buried soil horizon and not discrete features. One of the urns was complete, F.750, whereas the other two were truncated consisting of entire rim and neck fragments, F.'s 779 and 905. The complete urn was situated on its side with its mouth facing eastwards whilst the truncated urns were inverted resting close to the surface of the buried soil. The survival of the complete urn seems to be an attribute of its horizontal positioning and its relative depth within the buried soil.

A single isolated inhumation, F.611, was located c. 25m to the north of Round Barrow 1. It was located within a small and shallow rectangular grave cut oriented NE-SW. As with the previous two inhumations the skeleton was crouched and on its side. Its head was at the northern end of the grave facing west. Its right hand was raised towards its mouth whereas its left arm rested across its chest. As with the inhumation in Round Barrow 2 there were no grave goods

### *Early Bronze Age Settlement*

Area A contained numerous pits and postholes some dating to the later Bronze Age but many of which contained fragments of Collared Urn pottery. The Early Bronze Age Settlement group describes the latter of these two categories and illustrates a rough spatial division between the earlier and later Bronze Age occupation. The pits and postholes of this group occupied mainly a broad swathe along the south-eastern quarter of Area A which can be sub-divided into two sets of features: *Western Pit Cluster* and *Eastern Pit Cluster*.

#### Western Pit Cluster

The western pit cluster contained eighteen pits (F.'s 245, 249, 255, 256, 259, 260, 269, 270, 271, 276, 277, 278, 287, 292, 303, 317, 318, 438, 439) and fourteen postholes (F.'s 257, 258, 262, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 291, 355, 356). Of the eighteen pits half produced

fragments of Collared Urn pottery (F.'s 249, 259, 269, 276, 277, 278, 287, 292, 303, 317, 318, 439), the remainder shared similar fills as did the postholes. The pattern of postholes did not suggest any obvious structures and can best be described as irregularly spaced pairs. The pits containing pottery tended to be the largest features and contain the darkest fills.

The majority of pits consisted of shallow (0.20 – 0.35m in depth) irregular hollows which, with the exception of the combination of intercutting pits F.s 276, 317 and 318, were all spatially discrete. The only feature to extend deeper than 0.35m was the shaft F.529 which measured 1.81m in depth. The surface diameter of the shaft was equal to its depth but this represented the size of its weathering cone. Further down the profile of the shaft became vertical the diameter measured only 1.04m, and at about 0.85m from the surface a weathered ledge marked a final reduction in diameter (down to 0.70m) which was maintained to flat base. The infilling sequence comprised primary weathering deposits (yellow brown sandy silt followed by pale brown/yellow silty sand) overlain by a 0.30m thick silt accumulation (mid brown grey clayey fine silt). Above the silt deposit was a 0.65m deep slump of brown silty sand derived from the weathering of the upper profile. Finally a capping fill similar in character to the above ground buried soil horizon (light grey silty sand) would appear to illustrate a combination of further weathering and the eventual re-establishment of the soil profile. Abraded sherds of Collared Urn-type fabric pottery were present at the top and base of the shaft but these would appear to be incidental inclusions, whereas a basal dump of unarticulated animal bones may hint at something more purposeful.

The largest assemblage of artefacts came from a set of intercutting pits F.s 276, 317 and 318, located *c.* 24m to the east of the shaft. The primary pit F.318 was relatively empty but the two features (F.276 and F.317) which encroached its boundaries produced substantial amounts of both pottery and flint. F.318 was irregular in plan (1.50m x 1.25m), cut to depth of 0.27m, and much of its upper fill had been truncated by the two later pits. By comparison F.317 was bigger (1.45m x 1.40m), deeper (0.33m) and contained a darker fill (brown black sandy loam). F.276 was smaller in size (0.97m x 0.56m) but also cut to greater depth (0.35m) and made obvious by its darker fill. The small amount of artefacts within F.318 demonstrated general patterning with predominantly scrapers and tools coming from the top and blades from the base.

A few metres to the west these pits was a single pit F.278 which had the same surface appearance as F.276 and F.317. It measured about 2.10m x 2.00m, was 0.25m in depth and was also infilled with dark brown black sandy loam. South of F.278 was another irregular hollow, F.439 (dimensions: 1.59 x 1.30m; depth: 0.13m) that contained a similar fill only mottled with flecks of degraded orange clay.

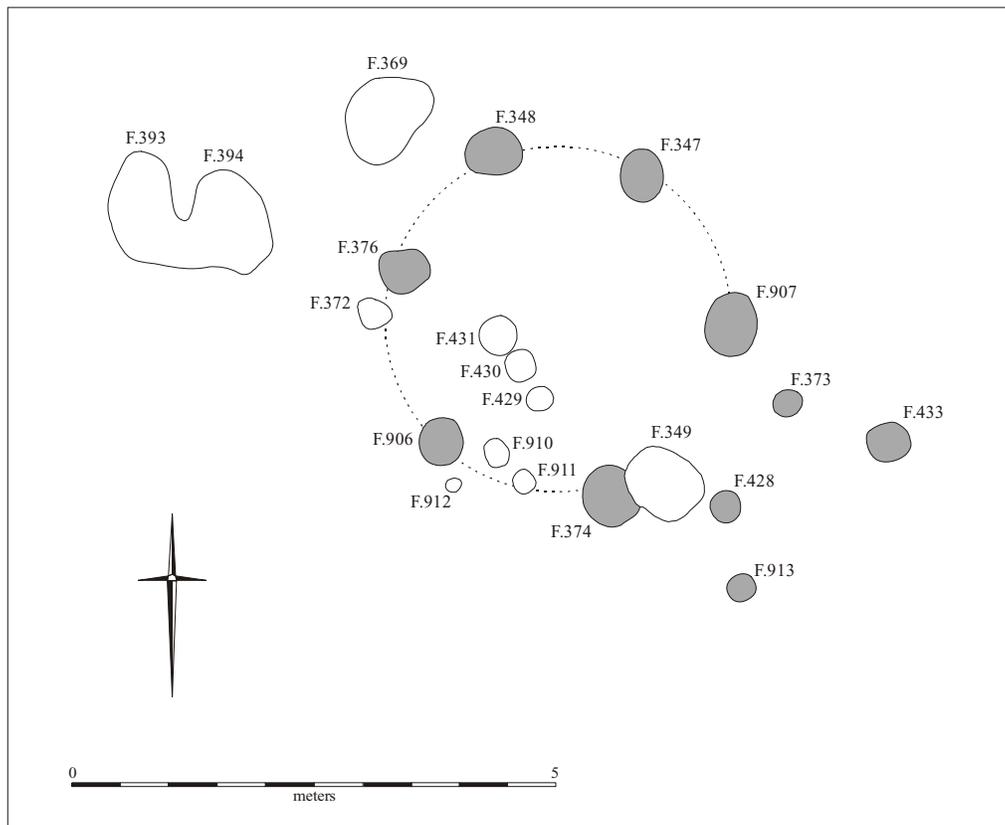
Feature	Pottery	Flint	Burnt Flint	Bone	Fired Clay
276	22	46	7	10	3
278	10	10	13	5	41
317	34	70	17	12	20
318	0	15	2	0	0
439	2	6	6	0	5

**Table 3:** Artefact Distribution Between Features

## Eastern Pit Cluster

A small circle of six pits/postholes (F.'s 347, 348, 374, 376, 906, 907) could be seen to represent the focus of eastern pit cluster. A further twelve pits were located within 8m of the circle (F.'s 349, 367, 369, 379, 383, 388, 393, 394, 396, 434, 435, 436). In addition the eastern pit cluster also included thirty-six postholes (F.'s 372, 373, 380, 382, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 389, 390, 391, 392, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 433, 910, 911, 912, 913) some of which were related to the circle of pits.

The pit/posthole circle was 3.50m in diameter. The pits/postholes ranged between 0.45–0.55m in diameter, 0.13–0.32m in depth and each had steep bowl-shaped profiles infilled with mid grey sandy silt with moderate small to medium rounded stones and occasional charcoal. None of the pits had obvious post-pipes (hence the pit/posthole ambiguity) and two had large assemblages of burnt flint which could be seen a characteristic more commonly associated with pits rather than postholes. The circular arrangement however is a characteristic of post-built structures. Accompanying these features was a collection of unambiguous postholes (F.'s 372, 431, 430, 429, 910, 911, 912, 428, 373, 913, 433) only one of which contained any artefacts (F.373;1 sherd of pottery). The postholes ranged between 0.15–0.45m in diameter, 0.02–0.12m in depth and had concave to steep sided profiles infilled with mid grey sandy silt. Four of the postholes (F's 373, 428, 433, 913) formed a crude porch arrangement attached to the south-eastern edge of the circle whereas the rest either complimented the circle or were situated internally.



**Figure 12:** Early Bronze Age Structure.

Feature	Pottery	Flint	Burnt Flint	Bone	Fired Clay
347	2	0	0	0	0
348	10	3	9	0	3
374	0	0	6	0	0
376	1	1	48	8	4
906	0	4	114	2	2
907	5	1	1	0	2
Totals:	18	9	178	10	9

**Table 4:** Artefact distribution

Of the surrounding pit features one in particular (F.349) had a direct relationship with the circle. In plan F.349 measured 0.80 x 0.70m and was 0.27m deep. Its profile was irregular and its western edge clearly cut the fill of pit/posthole F.374 of the circle. What stood out about this specific feature was the nature of its assemblage. As with the majority of the pits/postholes that made up the circle it also contained a large number of pieces of particularly distinctive burnt flint. Unlike the burnt flint encountered elsewhere on the site it had been burnt to such an extent that it had turned a brilliant white colour. It also contained thirty eight sherds of pottery (Collared Urn) all of which had burnt including three sherds that had been severely distorted by heat to the extent that they had begun to vitrify. Along with the burnt flint and burnt pottery large lumps of fired clay were present. The fired clay came in different shapes but nearly all the pieces had either fingertip, wood grain, cereal grain and/or basket-like impressions and the clay appeared to be the same as the clay used in some of the pottery. The fingertip impressions were clearly defined and occurred on opposing sides from the other impressions. The cereal grain impressions appeared random and accompanied the basket-like patterns and were probably incidental.

Feature	Pottery	Flint	Burnt Flint	Bone	Fired Clay
349	38	0	59	5	18

**Table 5:** Artefact Distribution

### *Late Bronze Age Settlement*

The Late Bronze Age settlement evidence was spatially distinct from the earlier Bronze Age cluster. Whereas the earlier features occupied the south-eastern quarter, the later pits and postholes were identified within the north-eastern quarter and western half of Area A. Similarly, in contrast to the pit dominated Early Bronze Age the later features consisted primarily of postholes, many of which belonged to discernable structures. In total five Late Bronze Age round houses were identified along with a single four-post structure (Figure 13). Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recovered from features both internal and external to these structures. The five round houses could be separated into two types: those with east facing entrances and external walls defined by a circular post-trench (Structure's 4 & 5); and those with south-east facing entrances and external walls without any clear definition (Structure's 1-3). Interestingly the two types occupied different parts of the settlement with Structure's 1-3 in the east and Structure's 4-5 in the west separated by a gap of about 54m. Some of the structures were more convincing than others and Structure 5 was by far the most complete. Structure 4 was heavily truncated but

maintained particular attributes that made it reminiscent of Structure 5. Of the south-east facing buildings 2 & 3 were the most complete.

Structure 5 comprised two rings of posts, a post-ring, **F.441**, and a post-circle, **F.458-473**. These encircled eight internal uprights, **F.’s 444, 445, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454**, a small hearth, **F.501**, four storage pits, **F.’s 488, 523, 525, 529**, and a large rectangular ‘rubbish’ pit (**F.495/496**). The principle wall of the Structure 5 was a oval or flattened ring-shaped post-trench, **F.441** which had openings or entrances in the eastern (width: 1.70m) and south-eastern (width: 1.25m) parts of its circuit. Its construction involved a narrow, vertical sided trench (width: 0.20-0.30m; depth: 0.15-0.30m) that occasionally revealed discrete post impressions (diameter: 0.15-0.25m) and which was infilled with yellowish grey-brown sandy-silt. The eastern opening was also marked by two posts, **F.474** (diameter: 0.40m; depth: 0.41m) and **F.475** (dimensions: 0.40m x 0.30m; depth: 0.40m) whereas the south-eastern opening was not. The character of the post-trench either side of the eastern entrance was different being ‘flattened’ in plan and shallower in depth. This attribute perhaps served to accentuate the main entrance creating a flat façade.

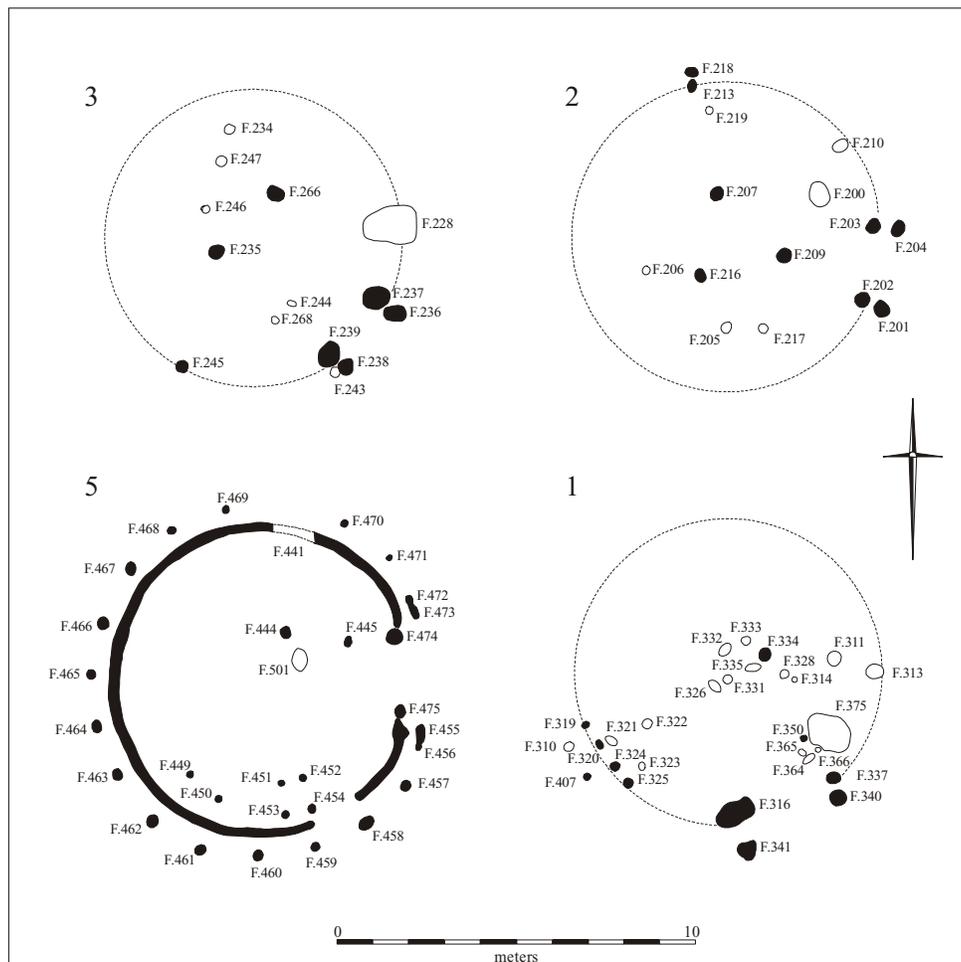


Figure 15: Comparative plan of Late Bronze Age houses



Elements of the external ring of posts, F.458-453, also added to the enhancement of the eastern entranceway. The post-circle measured 9.75m N-S x 9.00m E-W and was made up of nineteen postholes: seventeen circular postholes around the perimeter F.456-472 (diameters: 0.25-0.30m; depths: 0.15-0.35m), and two elongated oval-shaped postholes, F.455 and F.473, opposite the entrance (length: 0.40-0.50m; width: 0.25m; depth: 0.15-0.25m). The direction of the elongated external entrance posts added to the flat façade of the building. The Roman boundary ditch that truncated the structure almost certainly removed a perimeter post making the original number eighteen.

The internal features of Structure 5 can be divided into postholes (F.'s 444, 445, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454) and pits (F.'s 488, F.495/496, F.501, 523, 525, 529). The postholes formed three component parts: a small four-post structure (F. 451, 452, 453, 454); a two post structure (F.449, 450); and an internal partition (F.444, 445). The four-post and two-post structures were situated either side of the rectangular 'rubbish' pit F.495, and close to the southern circumference of the main wall. The fills of both the four-poster (0.75 x 0.75m) and two-poster (width: 1.00m) included smudges of burnt clay that was also present within F.495.

The six pit features comprised the rubbish pit F.495, a hearth, F.501, and four storage pits, F.'s 488, 523, 525, 529. Box-like in form, F.495, had vertical sides (dimensions 1.30m x 0.90m x 0.59m deep) infilled with alternate layers of relatively clean clays ([540]c, e, h, m & p) interleaved with layers of 'dirty' silt ([540]a, d, g, j, n, q & r):

- a) Dark greyish-brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal, occasional degraded fly ash, burnt stone and flint pebbles.
- b) See F.496.
- c) Yellowish, orange-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, pebbles and fly ash
- d) Greyish-brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal, burnt clay fragments and occasional pebbles.
- e) Pinky-red orange-brown silty clay with charcoal, burnt/degraded clay, burnt bone and occasional pebbles.
- f) Yellowish brown-grey silty sand with burn stone fragments and large pebbles.
- g) Dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with abundant charcoal, burnt clay and fly ash.
- h) Orange-brown silty clay, with occasional pebbles, flecks of charcoal and burnt stone fragments.
- j) Dark greyish-brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal, lumps of clay and fly ash.
- m) Yellowish orange-brown sandy silty clay with pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal.
- n) Grey-brown silty sand with abundant charcoal, pebbles and fragments of burnt stone.
- p) Pale, yellow-brown clayey sandy silt, with occasional flint pebbles and flecks of charcoal.
- q) Pale yellow-brown clayey sandy silt with pockets of dark greyish brown sandy silt with abundant charcoal.
- r) Dark brownish-grey with abundant charcoal and some small pebbles.

The lowest layers contained disarticulated lamb bones ([540]m, n, q & r). Towards the end of the pits infilling sequence another pit was cut within its confines, F.496, (Cut [540]c; Under [540]a). This consisted of a sub-circular pit with a U-shaped profile (dimensions:0.48m x 0.38m; depth: 0.54m) cut deep into the deposit sequence of F.495. This was also infilled with a 'dirty' deposit: brownish-grey sandy silt with abundant charcoal and occasional lumps of burnt clay and again included a concentration of disarticulated lamb bones.

The four remaining pits within the floor space of the house were very different in character. These were rounded in plan, had overhanging profiles and were infilled with orangey brown or mid grey sandy silts and practically devoid of artefacts. The overhanging profiles of the four pits

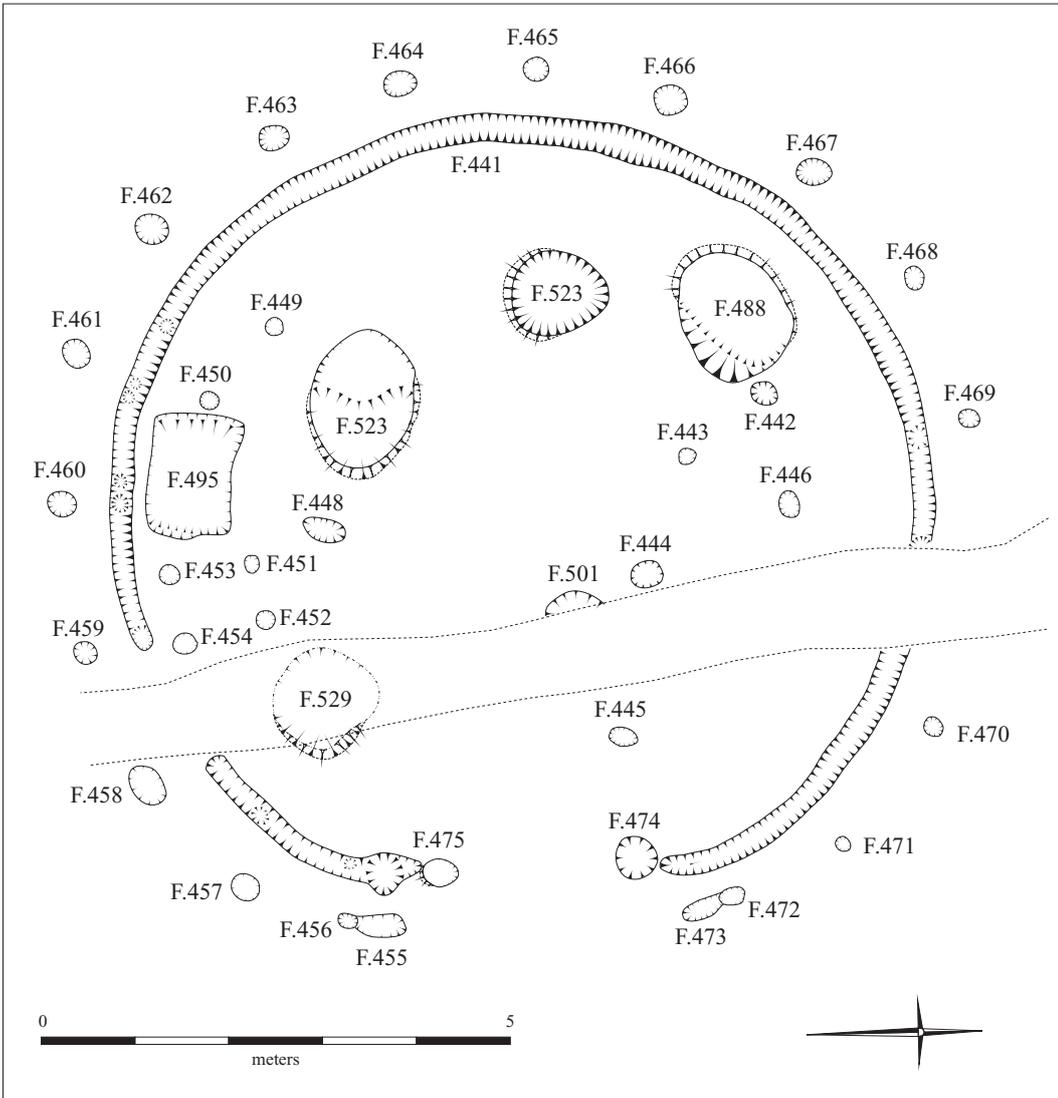


Figure 14: Late Bronze Age round house 5

would appear to confirm their sheltered setting within the house as contemporary pits located outside of the structure were consistently characterized by weathered bowl-like profiles.

Feature	488	523	525	529
Dimensions (m)	1.40 x 1.10	1.05 x 0.90	1.50 x 1.10	1.10 x 1.10
Depth (m)	0.34	0.55	0.62	0.45
Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	5.24	5.20	10.23	5.44

**Table 6: ‘Storage pit’ dimensions**

Structures 1-3 can be best characterised by their south-east facing porch constructions and, due to the lack of an external wall line, the character of their respective internal features. The porch constructions of all three buildings consisted two pairs of postholes, each pair comprising one large internal and one small external post, and varied in width: Structure 1 measured 3.10m; whereas Structures 2 & 3 measured 2.00m (the same width as Structure 5). The absence of an external wall means that the diameter of the south-east facing structures is hypothetical although the diameter of east-facing Structure 5 (*c.* 8.50m) would also appear to fit this pattern (see Fig?). Indeed by applying the diameter of 8.5m to the south-east structures internal patterning becomes apparent with centralised double post arrangements being revealed within both Structures 2 & 3. In both buildings these central posts settings match the width of their porches adding symmetry to the structures. In contrast Structure 1 lacked the same centralised double post arrangement. The central postholes within Structure 1 were shallow features (<0.10m) and two of these contained disarticulated lamb bones (F.311 & 331). The 1998 excavations of the area immediately east of this structure located a round house (Structure V) whose centre was also marked by a cluster of small shallow pits containing lamb bones (Knight 1999).

The four-post structure, F.’s 490, 493, 494, 515, was located within the western half of the site about 9m north-east of Structure 5. It measured 2.75 x 2.75m and comprised of postholes around 0.50m in diameter and between 0.35 – 0.50m in depth. These were infilled with dark grey silty sand. Adjacent to posthole F.494 (0.30m apart) was a small linear hollow (1.75 x 0.75m).

## Discussion

The pit-circle and henge represent the first major architectural element of the site. In combination they form a complex monument which influenced the location of subsequent monuments. Other than a few Neolithic pits, including a single pit located in the vicinity of the southern henge ditch, little evidence for activity prior to the construction of this monument was recorded. The stratigraphical relationship between the pit-circle and henge was not clear and similarly there is ambiguity over whether the pits that formed the pit-circle had ever held posts. The relationship between post-circles and henges has been examined elsewhere, and the evidence suggests that post-circles pre-date the construction of their accompanying henges (see Barclay 1983 & Clark 1936; also Gibson 1998). It is equally possible that the pit-circle was just that - a circle of pits - and comparable examples have been excavated elsewhere both locally at Barnack (Simpson 1993) and Maxey (Simpson 1985), and further afield at Monkton Up Wimborne, Dorset (Green 2000). Two of the pits did have small socket-like indentations at their bases and some had large lumps of charred wood within their fills, although this does not conclusively demonstrate the presence of posts it supports this conclusion. Based on the interpretation of the evidence we can begin to reconstruct a monument that began as a circle of posts or timber circle and that had a formalised entranceway oriented north-westwards. Subsequently a henge was constructed around the timber circle, its earthwork accentuating the alignment of the circle by not only acknowledging the existing entranceway but also mirroring its orientation in constructing an opposing south-eastern entrance.

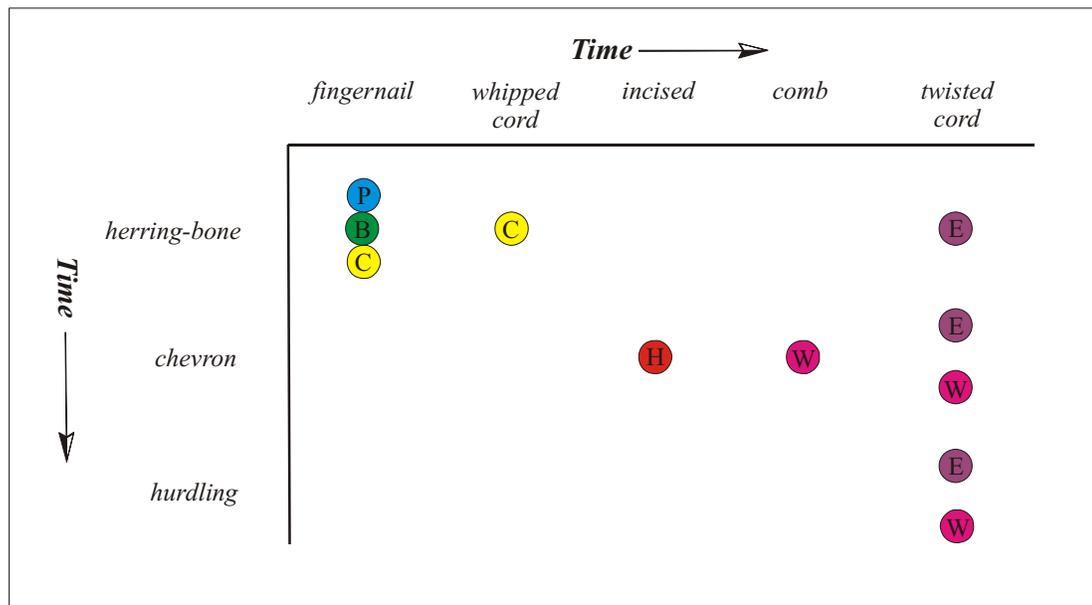
There do not appear to be any direct local equivalents to this monument. The hengiform located on the western side of the Flag Fen basin (Pryor 2001) has by comparison greater affinity with barrow/ring-ditch constructions and similarly the henge at Maxey represents a different category of monument altogether (French & Pryor 1985). South of Whittlesey island at King's Delph the Fenland survey recorded an 110m diameter ditch crop mark just north of the Suet Hills round barrows (Hall 1987). The crop mark was interpreted at the time as a possible henge and would appear to be very similar in scale to the Melbourn Road henge, Royston, (Palmer and Deegan 1996). The Melbourn Road henge also has an internal circuit of pits (c. 95m in diameter). Closer examination of the King's Delph crop mark (CUCAP 1987) suggest that the ditch is not complete and has at least one opening around the north-eastern part of its circuit giving the feature the same orientation as the Stonald Field henge. If the crop mark at King's Delph is a henge then its relationship with the Suet Hills barrows presents an interesting parallel to the relationship between the Stonald Field henge complex and its adjacent barrows.

The two barrows both began as single crouched inhumations buried within deep grave cuts. Close by a third crouched inhumation probably of similar date but not associated with a barrow construction was buried within a shallow grave. The burial beneath Round Barrow 1 was marked primarily by a small mound (c. 8.25m in diameter) surrounded by a ring of posts. It was situated 12.5m from the south-eastern entrance of the pit-circle and henge complex and sufficiently offset so as not to interfere with the projected alignment of the henge. The diameter of the ring of posts was remarkably similar to the diameter of the Late Bronze Age house structures and perhaps both had a similar outward appearance to the henge. Continuing the association with the henge the pen-annular ring-ditch constructed around the burial and post-ring had the same alignment and was a similar size to the adjacent monument. In fact it could be suggested that the diameter

of the henge earthwork actually dictated the diameter of the ring-ditch. The gap left between the henge ditch and barrow ditch would appear to be an adequate space for the position of the henges external bank. Effectively the two monuments touched forming a material relationship that joined the two constructions.

Round Barrow 2 was less complex, much smaller in size, oriented differently and at first sight remote from the other two monuments. Situated *c.* 50m north-east of the north-eastern corner of the excavation area a fourth monument has been identified (Palmer 1994) comprising another ring-ditch roughly the same size as Round Barrow 2 (*c.* 15.50m in diameter). When plotted with the others an alignment is formed which matches that of the original monument (the pit-circle/henge) and that links the three ring-ditches together. Through its alignment, Round Barrow 2 can also be incorporated into the history of the pit-circle/henge complex.

Between the two barrows an arrangement of three inverted pots and two cremations (one of which was contained within a pot) formed a small ‘cemetery’. The decoration on the pots consisted of impressed herring-bone designs done by fingernails or whipped cord. The only other contexts on the site to contain these decorative motifs were a single inverted urn placed next to a cremation inside the post-ring of Round Barrow 1, and within the closing fills of the pit-circle. The history of the pit-circle probably began as a circle of posts but during the transformation of the spaces around it, it too was transformed and ended up as a group of backfilled pits. That these backfilled pits contained pottery with similar motifs to vessels associated with the adjacent barrow and nearby ‘cemetery’ illustrates the kind of relational dynamics involved in the evolution of such monumental complexes. The links are illustrated in Diagram 1 which shows the different decoration styles associated with Collared Urn ceramics in relation to the types found within the different contexts on this site.



**Diagram 1:** Distribution of decoration types (P=pit-circle; H=henge; B=round barrow cremation; C=cemetery; W=western pit group; E=eastern pit group)

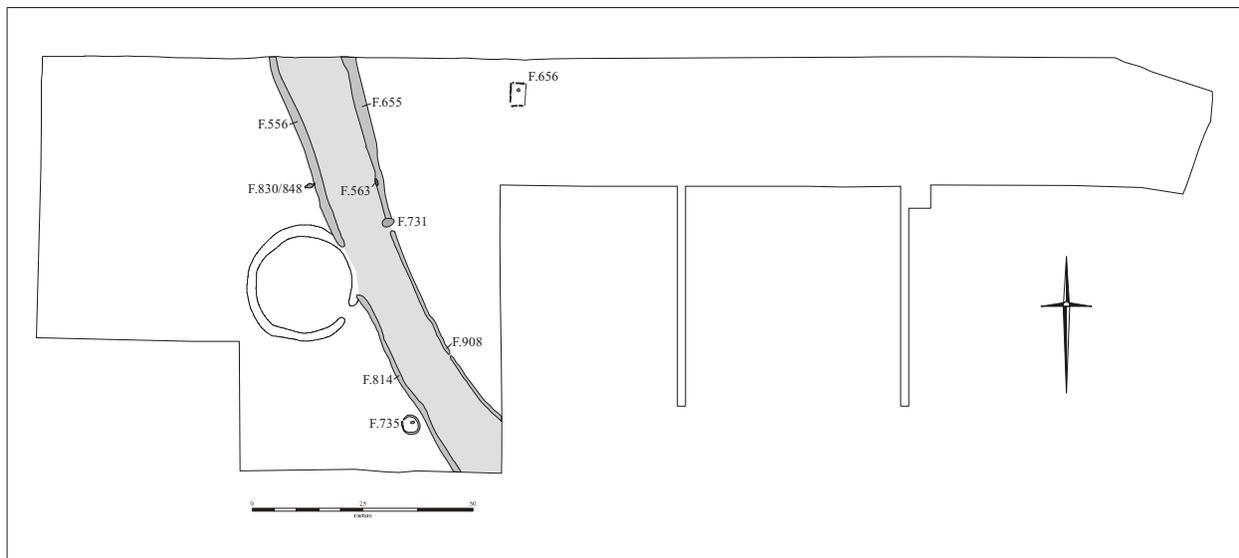
The diagram shows a relationship in the ceramics that extended between the capping fill of the southern henge ditch and the two clusters of pits. Collared Urns have been separated into early and late types: early urns generally exhibit herring-bone designs whereas with later urns hurdling patterns dominate (See Longworth 1984 or Burgess 1986). Time arrows represent this chronology. In the diagram, the pit-circle, barrow and cemetery are separated from the pit clusters. This is a relationship that also existed spatially on the ground. However, the pottery from the capping fill of the southern henge ditch and the infills of the pit clusters share similar decorative styles. During the excavation, it was recognised that the capping fill and the infills of the eastern and western pit clusters shared similar fills, and the pottery styles within these contexts would appear to confirm this link. Such links or differences cannot be attributed to or solved by decoration styles alone, but these patterns suggest a line of questioning that could perhaps be answered by absolute dating.

The diminutive pit-circle (*c.* 3.50m), associated with the Early Bronze Age eastern pit-cluster, represents an interesting structure which in plan resembles a round house. The round house analogy is of course enhanced by four postholes located at the south-eastern angle of the circle, forming a porch-like construction. If this structure is to be considered as a round house, its early date makes it important. 'Permanent' structures belonging to this period are very rare. However, the circle also recalls Neolithic hengiform monuments, and given the proximity of the feature to the henge, this interpretation must also be considered. Indeed, it is easier to find direct analogies for this feature if it is classed as a mini-henge or hengiform monument. An Early Bronze Age pit-circle from Charnham Lane, Hungerford, Berkshire (Ford 1991), comprised seven pits measuring 6m in diameter. Similar to the King's Dyke West example, the pits contained fragments of Early Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint and lumps of fired clay. The Charnham Lane circle was also located near to a probable Early Bronze Age occupation site that contained Collared Urn pottery.

The excavation produced a series of later Neolithic and Bronze Age architectures, which could be related to each other through a shared form, proximity and/or acts of deposition. The pit-circle was enclosed by the banks and ditches of the henge. The post-ring of Round Barrow 1 was located outside the entrance way to the henge, and in turn, it too was encompassed by a ditch and earthwork. The Early Bronze Age structure contained deposits similar to those located within the final fills of the Henge. This interrelationship occurred across time and space, and represented a dynamic that existed between elaborate structures. A dynamic made material through a shared symmetry and alignment in these constructions. Brück (following on from the work of Barrett 1994 and Pollard 1992), has described these architectures as 'highly structured spaces' that 'may have enabled the circumscription and control of patterns of movement through space' (2000). These 'sites' were fixed points within a fluid landscape where people would congregate, bury their dead etc. She goes on to suggest that the transition between the earlier and later Bronze Age witnessed a redrawing of these social boundaries, what she calls a 'movement downscale', when the architecture of settlement (i.e. the roundhouse) replaced the monumental (*ibid*). The house, with all of its architectural elaborations, became the new location of social negotiation. At King's Dyke West the process from henge to house took nearly a millennium to construct and involved many subtle transformations in practice.

## Romano-British

Romano-British archaeology was identified across the site and comprised mainly linear features (either ditches or post-trenches) which were at their most concentrated in the northern half of Area B. The concentration also coincided with a spread of 'dark' soil that covered all the Roman features. In turn the Roman linears could clearly be seen to cut the buried soil horizon which survived at its deepest around this part of the site. Not only did this developed stratigraphy demonstrate a physical separation between the prehistoric and Roman but it also allowed the preservation of Roman surfaces. The superimposition of ditches and paddock boundaries formed a complex palimpsest that can be separated using both stratigraphic relationships and pottery dating. In total three main phases were defined, producing a series of coarse 'snapshots' of the site layout through time: 1) AD 43 - 150; 2) AD 150 - 250; 3) AD 250 – 350. Of course it has to be recognised that many of the features would have extended beyond the limits of individual phases, and so a more fluid and multi-layered temporality should be understood for the settlement story. The aim has been to explain each stage of development, as an entity in itself and in relationship to what had gone before.



**Figure16:** Phase 1

### *Phase 1 (AD 43 – c.150) – Construction of Fen Causeway and its early history*

The first Roman activity was marked by the construction of a road that passed across the site, roughly north-south, over a distance of 107m. The road comprised two parallel ditches set 11.00-14.00m apart that flanked a metallated surface. The metallating was preserved as a narrow strip between subsequent roadside infringements and was traced over a distance of 30m directly beneath a 'dark' soil deposit within the northern half of Area B. The evidence suggests that this particular metallating represents succeeding re-surfacing of the original road, although a small patch of metallating observed within the northern edge of excavation was sealed beneath a make-

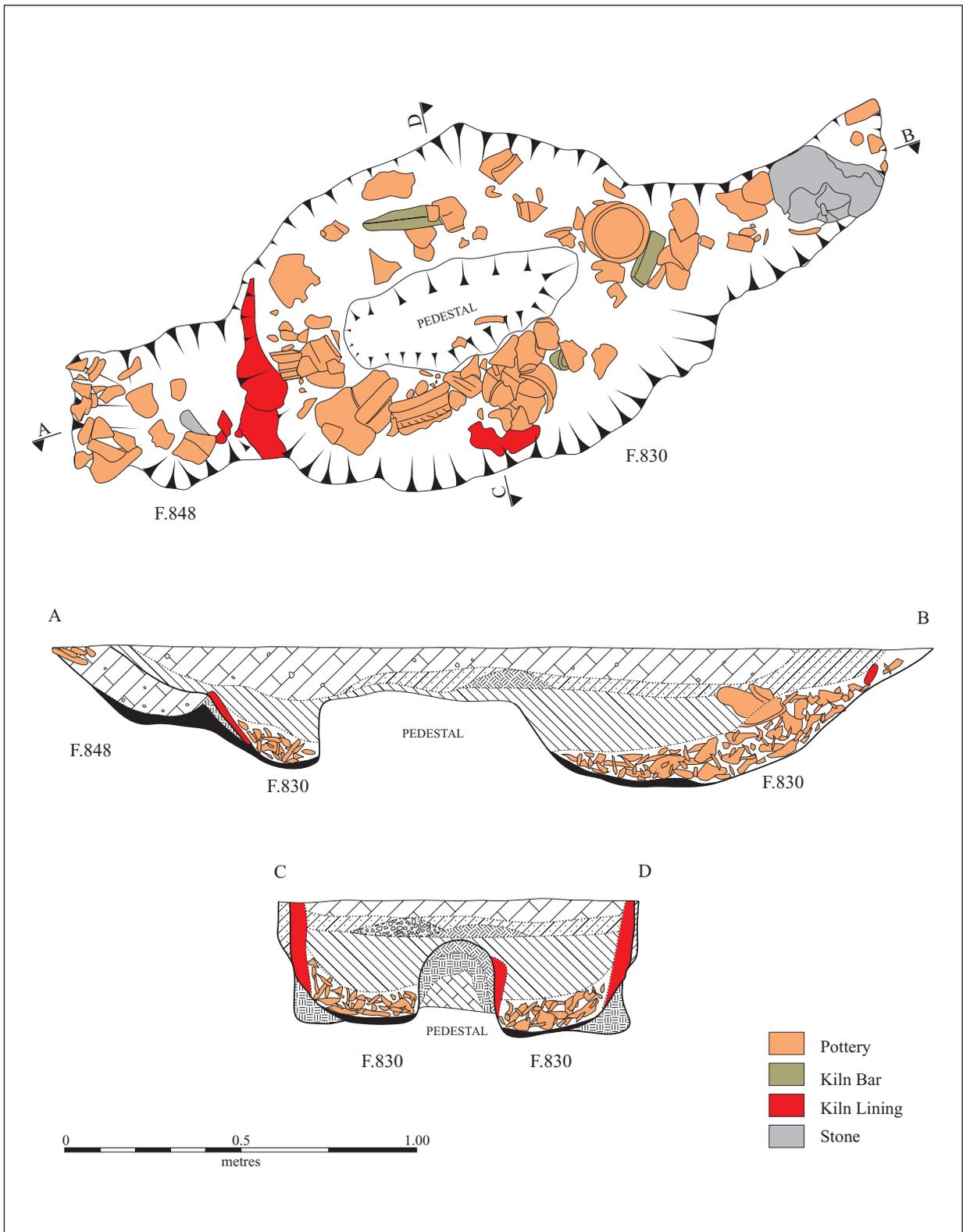


Figure 17: Plan and sections of pottery kiln

up layer and a secondary road surface which could indicate its primacy. The roadside ditches were not continuous but consisted of segmented lengths (F.s 556, 655, 814 and 908) separated by small causeways. Four transects were cut across the line of the road: three across the northern section where the metalling was still intact, and one across the southern section south of the later paddock complexes. The ditches were broad and V-shaped with an average width of 3.20-3.30m and 1.0-1.04m in depth. The causeway between the two lengths of ditch that flanked the western side of the road was by comparison expanded and appeared to accommodate the eastern circumference of the adjacent round barrow. This relationship between road and earlier monument suggests that the round barrow was large enough to represent a significant obstacle to the construction of the road. Interestingly, the same could not be said of the smaller of the two barrows as the road traversed it. The early history of this particular section of the road would appear to have been marked by little other than the steady accumulation of silt within its adjacent ditches. Amongst the silts very few objects were recovered and those that were found consisted almost entirely of residual/prehistoric pottery and flint.

The initial lack of Roman material illustrates an absence of focused activity within the locale. Once the roadside ditches had silted up entirely however, the first visible roadside activity occurred. This comprised a single inhumation **F.563**, and a pit **F.731**, inserted into the top of the eastside ditch, and the construction of a roadside pottery kiln **F.830/848**, on the opposite side of the road.

The kiln, F.830/848 (Figure 17), was sunken and comprised a large oval-shaped oven pit (dimensions: 1.21m x 0.89m; depth: 0.39m) with stoke-holes at either ends and a free-standing rectangular pedestal along its centre (length: 0.66m; width: 0.26m; height: 0.25m). The truncated walls of the oven pit and pedestal were covered with fired-clay (pale yellowish brown to deep brownie red). The surface of the fired clay had been smeared and contained clear finger marks throughout. Closer examination of the composition of the fired clay also revealed grass impression demonstrating the clay to be both prepared prior to its application to the inside walls of the kiln structure. The base of the kiln around the central pedestal was not lined but consisted of slightly fired natural. The lining appears to have been replaced on occasion and sections across the oven and pedestal walls revealed repairs indicating the kiln had been re-used. The two stoke holes were never in use at the same time and represent a change in orientation during the working life of the kiln. This aspect of the kilns construction was clear. Whereas the western stoke hole had been subsequently blocked by a new patch of clay lining the eastern stoke hole had been cut through existing kiln lining. Effectively the two stoke holes represent two kilns: West Kiln F.848 and East kiln F.830. What this informs us is that the original orientation of the kiln west-facing, locates it both perpendicular to the existing road alignment and meant that it backed onto the route way. Subsequently when the orientation was switched the kiln effectively fronted onto or close by to the road edge. This could have happened when the road was first narrowed making more space between the kiln and the actual carriageway.

On the opposite side of the road and situated in a similar stratigraphical position (cutting through the top of the roadside ditch) was a small grave containing a single inhumation F.563. The grave measured (1.50 x 0.50m) and located close up against the roadside edge of the infilled ditch (establishing a direct relationship with the road as opposed to the ditch). The inhumation was tightly crouched, face down with its arms folded underneath the upper body. The top of the head

pointed northwards and the body lay with its back to the line of the road. The lower body was on its side with the knees brought up close to the elbow of the right arm. The feet pointed southwards and these like the position of the rest of the body roughly matched the road alignment. No objects were found with the body.

Pit F.731 was roughly pear-shaped in plan (dimensions: 2.75 x 1.80m) and its profile comprised of a flat base with steep sides leading to a weathered upper edge (depth: 0.95m). The basal fill of the feature stood out because of its yellowy green colour and cess-like appearance. Higher up the profile the fill of the pit changed to a dump of pottery including some near complete pieces interleaved with lenses of charcoal.

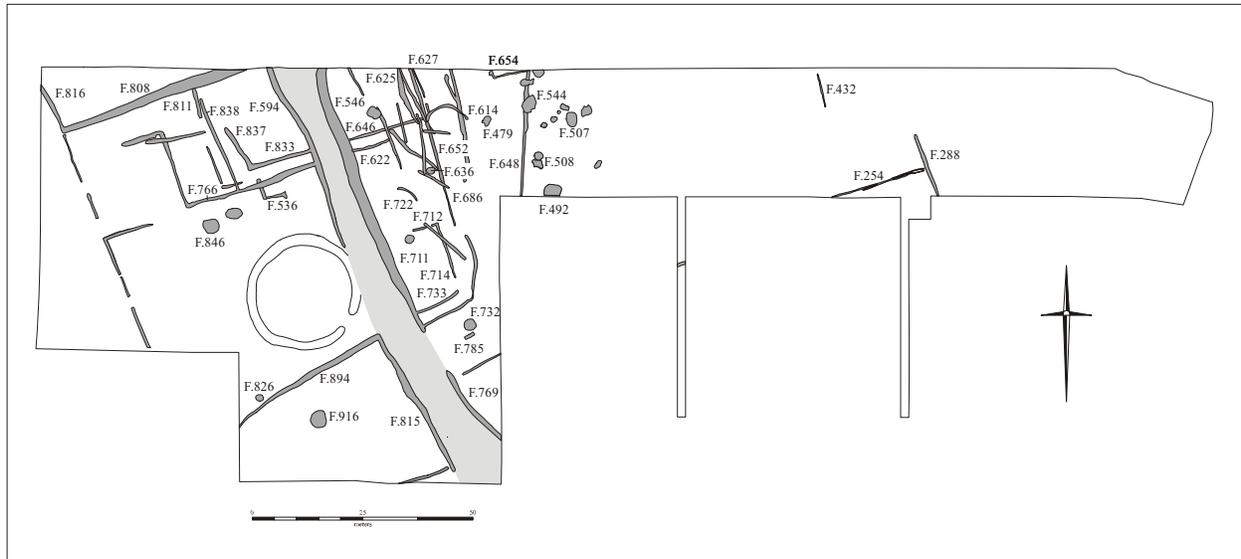
Beyond the immediate parameters of the road two other constructions would appear to be roughly contemporary with the kiln and grave. These consisted of a small rectangular building **F.656**, and a equally diminutive ring-ditch and post-setting **F.735**. Both structures have shrine affinities in terms of their distinctive forms and roadside locations. The foundation of the rectangular structure comprised narrow post-trenches (c. 0.20m in width; 0.09m in depth) parts of which contained slightly larger and distinct post sockets. The eastern edge of the structure had been removed by the field ditch F.648 but a possible entranceway was identified in the north-western corner of the structure 0.80m wide although this was blocked by a single posthole **F.661** (diameter: 0.22m). The internal space measured 15m<sup>2</sup> and was interrupted by a single bowl-shaped pit **F.664** (diameter: 0.60m).

The small penannular ring-ditch F.735 comprised a discontinuous shallow gully which encircled a small oval-shaped pit. The gully measured about 4m in diameter and had a break in the north-western part of its circuit (width: 0.40m). Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the gully as well as a single sherd of Roman pottery. The pit (length: 0.90m; width: 0.50m) was located off centre and appeared to have been dug and backfilled in one action (the fill was almost identical to the surrounding natural only less compact). No finds were present and it was assumed at the time of excavation that this represented the base of a small posthole. The fill of the gully contrasted with the surrounding natural and had an appearance similar to the uppermost fill of the prehistoric round barrow ditch which it cut. The gully was located 1.4m from the roadside ditch. In comparison with the rectangular structure the gully encompassed an area 12.56m<sup>2</sup>.

### *Phase 2 (AD 150-250) - First roadside enclosures and paddocks*

The first roadside enclosures and paddocks had an impact on the width of the road. Where previously its breadth had measured between 11.00-14.00m the combination of new boundaries reduced parts of it to as little as 6.00-8.00m. These boundaries were not directly part of a road maintenance but associated with discrete roadside enclosures whose limits infringed upon the causeway. This would also appear to have happened in a piecemeal fashion as separate blocks of land were demarcated on either side of the road. Whether this occurred along the rest of the route is unclear but for this particular stretch the new enclosures and paddocks marked both the beginning of increased roadside activity and the beginning of a bottle-neck at this point along the Fen Causeway.

The types of boundaries constructed along this part of the causeway comprised two main categories, either ditched enclosures or post-trench built paddocks. These occurred on both sides of the road in combination or separately. The concentration of enclosures and paddocks increased in density from south to north suggesting that their density north of the permitted area should be even greater. The character of the boundaries also changed the further away they were from the line of the road with the post-trench paddocks being limited to swathe around 25m either side of its route whereas the ditched enclosures continued beyond this limit extending outwards into ‘open’ fields.



**Figure 18:** Phase 2

Features representing activities discrete to particular paddocks/enclosures (i.e. kilns, wells and quarries etc.) also demonstrated a spatial relationship to the road. The small roadside industries were restricted to within a immediate *c.* 10m swathe but the wells and quarry pits occurred beyond this immediate corridor extending out to at least 50m away. Interestingly the 50m line along the western side of the road was marked by a boundary beyond which no other boundaries extended.

On the western side of the southern end of the exposed stretch of road a rectangular field block was marked by ditched boundaries: **F.’s 815 & 894**. The block measured about 50 x 38m and encroached the line of the road by exactly the width of its eastern boundary ditch. The profile of the ditch was V-shaped (width: 1.25m; depth: 0.40m) and it was infilled with grey brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles. Directly opposite the corner of another ditched enclosure also encroached the road: **F.769**. The northern section of the exposed road was also reduced in width by the imposition of new ditches **F.s 546 and 594**. These comprised multiple re-cuttings along the same line and both were associated, at least secondarily with roadside enclosures: the extreme northern end of F.546 was seen to begin to turn eastwards as it entered the northern edge of excavation for example. The profile and fills of these ditches were comparable with their southern counterparts F.769 and F.814, if somewhat less truncated.

Off the eastern side of the road narrow post-trenches marked the location of smaller rectangular paddocks. The paddocks varied in size and consistently comprised of L-shaped gullies: Paddock 1 (F.s 714 & 733) measured around 12.00 x 18.00m; whereas Paddock 2 (F.s 646 & 652) measure 18.00 x 24.00m. The post-trenches that made up the paddocks tended to have flat bases and vertical sides (although sometimes the profiles were more rounded). F. 646 was 0.40m in width and 0.20m in depth and had a steep U-shaped profile whereas F.652 was 0.35m in width and 0.14m in depth. The primary infillings of most of these post-trenches consisted of 'clean' re-deposited natural capped by pale grey sandy silt fills. Occasionally these slots appear to have been re-cut/re-set along similar parallel lines. Cutting across the eastside paddocks were a series of diagonal ditches which appeared at odds with the dominant alignments and which did not make any obvious coherent structures: F.s 585, 614, 686 and 712. F.614 was curvi-linear in plan and seems to have an orientation that bridges the rectangular paddocks and the imposed diagonals. This feature had a similar profile to the post-trenches of the paddocks (width: 0.25m; depth: 0.27m).

The western side of the road was also divided by L-shaped paddocks which shared similar alignments to the paddocks on the eastern side of the road: Paddock 19 (F.s 833 & 837) measured about 12.00 x 14.00m and its southern side (F.833) matched the line of the northern edge of Paddock 2 (F.646) situated on the opposite side of the causway. The sharing of alignment across the road can be seen elsewhere and this characteristic does suggest that the two sides of the road were enclosed at roughly the same time. It is important to note that at no time in the history of the road did any of the adjacent boundaries cross its line.

Along with the fields and paddocks there were also a series of pit features. These included wells; rubbish pits, quarries and kiln/furnaces. One of the largest pit features was F.846 (diameter: 3.60m; depth: 1.60m). This was roughly circular in plan and had steep sides leading to a rounded base. The lower fills were dominated by large boulders which were located around the edge of the feature as if originally part of a walled revetment. The boulders included fragments of broken quernstones.

The 'furnace' feature F.785 comprised a narrow rectangular trough (2.50m x 0.52m; depth: 0.21m) the natural clay base of which was fired orange-red along its western end. The infill of the feature also included fragments of fired clay some pieces of which were vitrified. The upper fills comprised sandy clay with lumps of vitrified clay/daub, fragments of burnt limestone and lenses of charcoal. The pit F.732 adjacent to the 'furnace' was 2.10m in diameter and 1.55m in depth. It contained multiple fills characterised by repeated dumps or lenses of ashy material replete with lumps of iron slag. The basal profile of the pit was undercut by edge erosion implying the pit had originally been open and water filled and as if to confirm this diagnosis the basal fill comprised grey sandy silt. The pit probably began as a well and perhaps served activity associated with the furnace. Immediately above the primary silt fill was a deposit of charcoal and iron slag which in turn was sealed by a slump of redeposited natural. This sequence was repeated up through the profile of the pit and capped with brown clayey silt with fragments of pottery, animal bone and more iron slag. Iron slag was also present within the 'furnace' feature establishing a link between the two features.



causeway. There is a contrast in the level of activity on either side of the road: post-trenched paddocks continuing to dominate the eastern side whereas narrow strip fields (c. 14m in width) begin to encompass much of the western area. Unlike the previous phase the new roadside ditches **F.s 547, 548 and 909**, were discrete to the line of the road and not part of road edge enclosures. Their cutting may have reduced the width of the road down to less than 4m but their presence served to re-establish the causeway as a thoroughfare proceeding through an area of paddocks and enclosures as opposed to a route way being encroached upon by various roadside activities. Their was also evidence for re-surfacing with the new metalling being made up of sherds of pottery and tile as well as small pebbles.

Some boundaries from previous phases continued to define the western edge of activity whilst over were re-defined: **F.807** was re-cut for the third time establishing it as a major boundary. The eastern side of the road was transformed by a series of substantial boundaries made up of more narrow post-trenches. Located close to the roads eastern edge small L-shaped paddocks defined areas measuring about 8 x 8m: Paddocks 8 (**F.s 564 & 576**) and 10 (**F.561 and F.570**). Situated centrally within the confines of Paddock 10 were two rectangular features **F.s 555 and 564**. These were of similar dimensions (c. 3.00 x 0.80m; depth: 0.15m) to the ‘furnace’ feature **F.785** identified within Phase 2. Although neither feature contained fragments of slag or vitrified daub **F.555** did produce a pronounced layer of charcoal and burnt stone. **F.555** was also clay lined.



**Figure 20:** Distribution of ‘darksoil’ spread.

One attribute of all of the features that made up Phase 3, and for that matter some of the earlier features, was a ‘universal’ dark soil capping fill (‘rich’, black ‘loam’, full of comminuted organic matter and charcoal; French 1996). This material also produced large quantities of fragmented pottery and was found to extend over the road surface were it was c. 10cm deep. As part of the 1994 evaluation a programme of fieldwalking was undertaken over and beyond the limits of the known Romano-British concentration (Mortimer 1996). The fieldwalking encompassed an area some 32,000 square metres of the field surface. While Post-Medieval finds were few and evenly distributed over the southern half of the field (the result of field manuring), to the north the bulk

of the pottery was almost exclusively Roman in date (of 1210 sherds of which 732 were Roman (60%)) and notably concentrated in a relatively small area (approximately 60 square metres). This area corresponded approximately with the recorded extent of the 'dark soil' deposit. One aspect of this deposit was that it increased in both depth and coverage as it approached the northern edge of the excavation.

### *Discussion*

- The road represents the primary Roman activity.
- Its orientation influences everything else.
- The original width of the road is encroached by the adjacent boundaries in a piecemeal fashion.
- The concentration of roadside activity increases from south to north suggesting less along the stretch south of the excavation and more north of the excavation area.
- The concentration was reflected in the artefact densities picked up in the field walking.
- The northern 'core' is characterised by post-trench built paddocks. Beyond these ditched enclosures and fields dominated.
- Within the paddocks and enclosures discrete activities demonstrated a patterned distribution relative to the roads edge (kilns and furnaces were located immediately next to the road whereas wells and quarry pits were set back from the road).
- The accumulation of 'dark soil' had a direct relationship was the final phase of Roman activity (it capped the tops of the latest features and covered the final road surface).

The construction of the road represents a link between places. The Fen Causeway crossed the southern Fenland linking Peterborough (*Durobrivae*) to Denver, connecting the Midlands with East Anglia (Hall and Coles 1994). The road was a corridor along which people and artefacts moved and the construction of paddocks and fields against the side of the road plugged into this movement. Initially the road dominated the relationship, but gradually over time the roadside boundaries encroached onto its line, creating a bottle-neck beside which the small 'industries' were established. Further back from the roads edge, behind these 'working' areas were wells and quarry pits and beyond these open fields. What is apparent from the evidence of the excavations is that this characterisation represents the southern edge of a concentration of roadside activity that extended beyond the northern edge of the investigation area. How far it extended is not known, but the substantial earthworks at the Northey Gravel site (see site 46 in SMR gazetteer) may also be part of it.

## Acknowledgements

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### *Metal Detecting*

The Phoenix Metal Detecting Club  
(especially Tom Ayres and John)

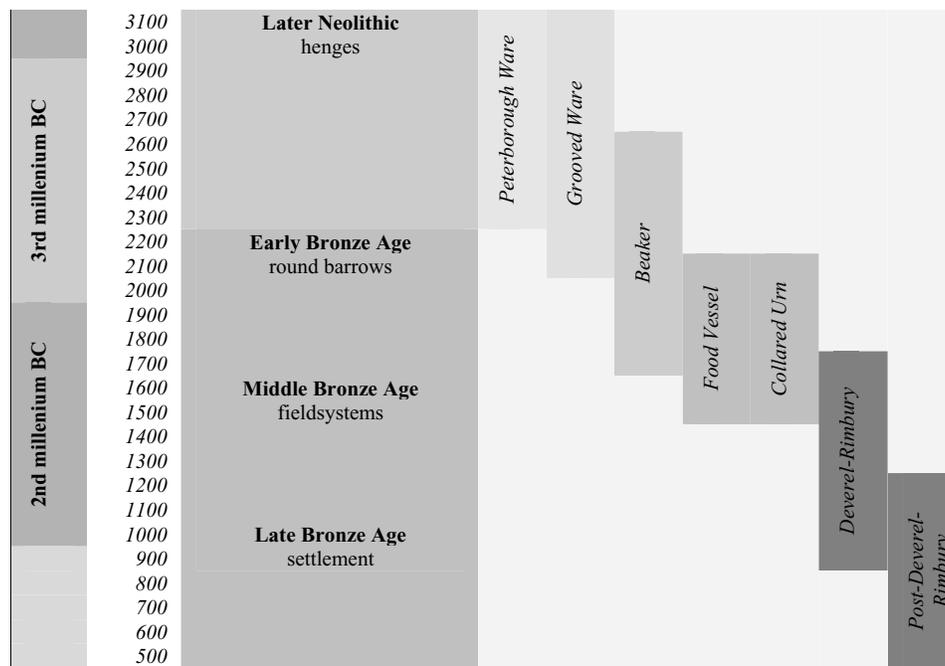
## Appendices:

### 1) Prehistoric Pottery

The prehistoric pottery can be separated into three chronological groups: Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Later Bronze Age which incorporate seven diagnostic types: Peterborough Ware & Beaker (Late Neolithic); Food Vessel & Collared Urn (Early Bronze Age); Deverel-Rimbury & Post Deverel-Rimbury (Later Bronze Age). Of the seven types two in particular, Collared Urn and Post Deverel-Rimbury, stand out as significant assemblages (see Table 1), and together construct a chronological bracket to the main body of prehistoric activity (c. 2100-800BC). The report is divided by period and each period is sub-divided by type and related to context.

Period	No. of Contexts	No. of sherds	Weight	No. of fabrics
Neolithic	5 (6.49%)	25 (4.29%)	360g (3.9%)	3 (8.57%)
Early Bronze Age	40 (51.94 %)	560 (46.24%)	5732g (62.10%)	24 (68.57%)
Later Bronze Age	32 (41.55%)	626 (51.69%)	3138g (33.99%)	8 (22.85%)
<i>Totals:</i>	77	1211	9230g	35

**Table 1:** Overall character of the prehistoric pottery assemblage (Excluding 2 whole EBA pots: 3813g).



**Diagram 1:** Pottery Chronology

A total of thirty-six fabric types were identified and comprised mostly sandy fabrics tempered with either flint, grog or shell inclusions. The three types of inclusions roughly matched the three main chronological groups: Flint=Neolithic, Grog=Early Bronze Age and Shell=Later Bronze Age. Diagnostic sherds (i.e. rim forms or decorated sherds) existed for most of the fabrics making identification reasonably straightforward. The high allocation of fabric types relative to

the size of the assemblage reflects a particular attribute of Collared Urn pottery. Of the thirty-six fabrics twenty four belonged to the Collared Urn assemblage whereas only three fabrics belonged to the preceding Neolithic, and nine to the similarly sized later Bronze Age assemblage. The prehistoric pottery also included two complete Collared Urns.

### *Later Neolithic*

The majority of later Neolithic pottery came from residual contexts. The twenty sherds of Fabric 21 were retrieved from a Roman well context (F.507) and included a T-shaped rim sherd decorated with whipped cord impressions in a herring-bone motif along its top and sides. A similar rim sherd was also recovered from a surface context (Grid Square: 60E59N) close to the southern circumference of the henge and a pit F.894 located beneath the position of the southern bank of the henge produced a single sherd of flint tempered ware. F.272 contained a possible Beaker sherd (decorated with repeated fingernail impressions) although this was accompanied by Late Bronze Age pottery (see below).

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Sherd No.</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Fabric</b>
507 (residual)	552b	20	305	21
698	731	2	9	22
894	1132	1	13	22
272 (residual)	272	1	14	12
SF (60E59N)	-	1	19	21
<i>Total:</i>	5	25	360	4

**Table 2:** Totals of Later Neolithic pottery

### *Early Bronze Age*

The Early Bronze Age assemblage can be divided into five separate contextual groups: Pit-circle; Henge ditch; ‘Cemetery’; Western pit group; and Eastern pit group. It is dominated by Collared Urns although it also includes some Food Vessel sherds (vase type). The large number of fabric types suggests that the majority of the vessels were made separately and perhaps at different times and in different places.

The assemblage comprised two complete urns (one large and one small), the body part of an urn (which had been used as a lid for the larger of the two complete urns), the rims of two inverted urns (whose bodies had been truncated in post-deposition), and sherds from multiple broken vessels. The complete or near complete vessels were restricted to a small area located between the two round barrows and one of them contained the remains of a cremation. The sherds from broken vessels came from a group of pits located towards the eastern end of the site or from the uppermost fill of the southern ditch of the henge. The ‘complete’ vessels shared similar decorative motifs and fabric types which were not present amongst the broken vessels. The styles of decoration and types of fabric present within the broken vessels occurred across the henge/pit group contexts.

## Pit-circle

The pit-circle produced twenty-one sherds of Collared Urn from three of the fourteen pits. Three of the sherds were collars, two of which came from pit F.873, and one of which was decorated (incised herring-bone motif).

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% of collars
873	1100	2	108	13	50
873	1119	12	129	13	8.33
874	1101	6	159	29	16.66
891	1123a	2	1	10 & 35	0
<i>Totals:</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13.63</i>

**Table 3:** Pit-circle

## Henge

With the exception of a single sherd from [1087]t (weight: 5g; unidentifiable organic tempered ware) the pottery from the henge was restricted to the capping fill of the southern ditch. Of the diagnostic sherds the fill contained one Collared Urn collar sherd with incised chevron decoration and two sherds of two separate bipartite vase type Food Vessel. The Food Vessel sherds had twisted cord impressed decoration in the form of diagonal lines on the inside of the rim [1076] & [1130], a single line along the top of the rim [1076], and diagonal lines just above the shoulder [1076]. The remaining sherds comprised base and body sherds.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% of Collars
851	1076	4	66	6 & 34	25
851	1086a	1	67	34	0
851	1087b	1	26	29	100
851	1089a	6	87	29 & 34	0
851	1118	15	70	7 & 29	6.66
851	1127	1	79	29	0
851	1128	6	36	29	0
851	1130	7	248	34	14.28
<i>Totals:</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>679</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9.74</i>

**Table 4:** Henge

## Round Barrow 1

Pottery was retrieved from four contexts within the confines of Round Barrow 1. These comprised: 1) the post-ring F.758; 2) an urned cremation located just within the post-ring F.754/755; 3) middle fills of the ring-ditch F.761; and 4) an cremation inserted into the upper profile of the ring-ditch. The fragments located within the post-ring were the same fabric as the pottery sherds associated with the cremation situated just inside its perimeter. The sherds with the cremation consisted of a few body sherds and four rim sherds. The rim sherds tapered to a thin point and on one of them was the faintest hint of fingernail impressions, the profile and decoration being very similar to the three small Collared Urns located within the cemetery. In

contrast the sherds recovered from the ring-ditch had fabrics also found within the upper fill of the henge and the eastern and western pit groups. The fragments from the inserted cremation urn in the southern circumference of the ring-ditch are made of a shell tempered fabric that is characteristic of Deverel-Rimbury bucket urns.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% of Collars
754/755	894/895	18	390	28	-
758	903	2	12	28	-
758	899a	crumbs	3	28	-
761	904	1	5	10	0
761	904c	4	24	29	0
812	980	10	48	11	-
Totals:	4	35	434	4	0

**Table 5:** Round Barrow 1

## Round Barrow 2

The only context to produce pottery within round barrow 2 was the central grave fill. Two sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from the general matrix of the grave fill and both were small and abraded. One comprised a thin hard sherd decorated with a comb impression whereas the other was a coarser fabric and had raised/pinched mouldings on its external surface.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% of Collars
757	897	2	14	12	-

**Table 6:** Round Barrow 2

## ‘Cemetery’

The ‘Cemetery’ context comprised three small Collared Urns F.s 750, 779 & 905, and one large Collared Urn F.748, covered with the body of another as a covering lid. Of the three small urns one survived complete F.750, whilst the other two consisted of complete or semi-complete rims and parts of the neck and shoulder profiles F.s779 & 905. The complete small urn (15cm in height; 12cm mouth diameter; 13.5cm collar diameter; 14.5cm shoulder diameter; 6.5cm base diameter) was found high in the buried soil horizon on its side. It did not contain any cremated remains. The vessel consisted of a small collar, which was narrower than its shoulder diameter, over a deep neck. The decoration comprised of a herring-bone design made by fingernail impressions around the collar, the neck and just below the shoulder. The surviving parts of the other two urns suggested that these had been placed inverted into a similar contexts as the complete vessel. F.779 had the same collar profile as F.750 but was undecorated. The collar and shoulder zone of the urn from F.905 was decorated with small whipped cord maggots spaced apart in a sort of herring-bone pattern.

The large Collared Urn in F.748 (28cm in height; 21cm mouth diameter; 24cm collar diameter; 23cm shoulder diameter; 8cm base diameter) did contain cremated remains. The vessel was decorated around both the collar and neck zone but not below the shoulder. The decoration

around the collar consisted of ?fingernail impressions in a herring-bone pattern and the neck had the same pattern but this time done using a ?half-reed end impressions. The ‘lid’ that accompanied the urn in F.748 comprised the body of another similar sized vessel that had had its collar and neck removed above the shoulder. The break coincided a junction in the pots coil construction close to or at the shoulder and the shape of the flattened coil could be clearly seen along the fracture as could the strip of clay used to fuse one coil to another. A search through all the Collared Urn rim and neck sherds of the entire assemblage did not locate any pieces that had formally belonged to this body. Whereas the rim for the smaller urn tapered to thin edge the rim of the large urn was square. The diameter of the shoulder of the small urn was larger than its collar but the reverse applied to the larger vessel. Applying Burgess’s dating scheme (1986) to these measurements and the presence/absence of decoration below the shoulder the smaller of the two urns is likely to be the earlier (see below).

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	No. of collars
748	888	239 + whole pot	1619/3000	26	1 (lid)
750	892	Whole pot	813	36	1
779	935	11	85	31	1 (plain)
905	1142	2	371	36	1
<i>Total:</i>	4	-	5888	3	4

**Table 7:** ‘Cemetery’

#### Western pit group

The western pit group contained ninety-eight sherds of Collared Urn derived from thirteen separate contexts. Twelve fabric types were identified, eight of which (4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 29) were also present in either the pit-circle, henge or eastern pit group. The decorative styles consisted of either plain, comb impressed or twisted cord in either chevron or hurdle motifs. Four of the fabrics were unique to this pit group.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% of Collars
224	224	1	31	6	100
225	225	1	7	7	100
249	249	1	7	29	0
259	259	5	24	9	0
259	317	3	9	15	0
269	269	6	19	8 & 10	0
276	276b	20	152	8 & 10	15
276	276c	2	23	6	50
277	277	2	8	6	0
278	278b	9	190	13	11.11
287	287a	6	76	14, 15 & 16	50
287	287b	1	13	16	100
292	296	3	96	17	100
303	311	2	20	7 & 8	0
317	327	34	397	4, 6 & 14	8.82
439	462	2	36	7 & 29	0
<i>Total:</i>	13	98	1108	12	18.36

**Table 8:** Western pit group

## The Eastern Pit-group

The eastern pit group was similar in character to the western pit-group (110 sherds/11 fabrics) but there was a little more variation in decoration (herring-bone as well as chevron and hurdle motifs). Nearly 50% of the assemblage came from a circle of pits (F.s 348, 349, 376, 907) and comprised some heavily burnt sherds including some that had been vitrified. Burnt sherds from F.349 included fragments of two small vessels (*c.* 15cm in height). One of these was a small Collared Urn (dimensions) decorated with twisted cord in the herring-bone motif. The other vessel was made of the same fabric but this had no collar or decoration but consisted of a small jar form with just a hint of moulding to accentuate the rim. These were accompanied by three vitrified (upright) collars sherds from at least two large Collared Urns decorated with twisted cord chevrons. Fabrics 23, 24, 27 & 32 were exclusive to the circle.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% of collars
348	366	10	219	10 & 32	10
349	376	35	512	14 & 27	20
367	386	1	7	15	100
373	392	1	3	10	0
376	395b	1	4	27	
379	398	3	2	?	0
383	405	2	23	7 & 30	0
390	413	1	4	10	100
394	417	47	196	10	4.2
396	419	1	10	18	0
401	382	1	6	10	0
405	425	1	8	?	0
407	430	1	6	4	0
907	402	5	34	4, 23 & 24	0
<i>Total:</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>1026</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11.81</i>

**Table 9:** Eastern pit group

## Discussion

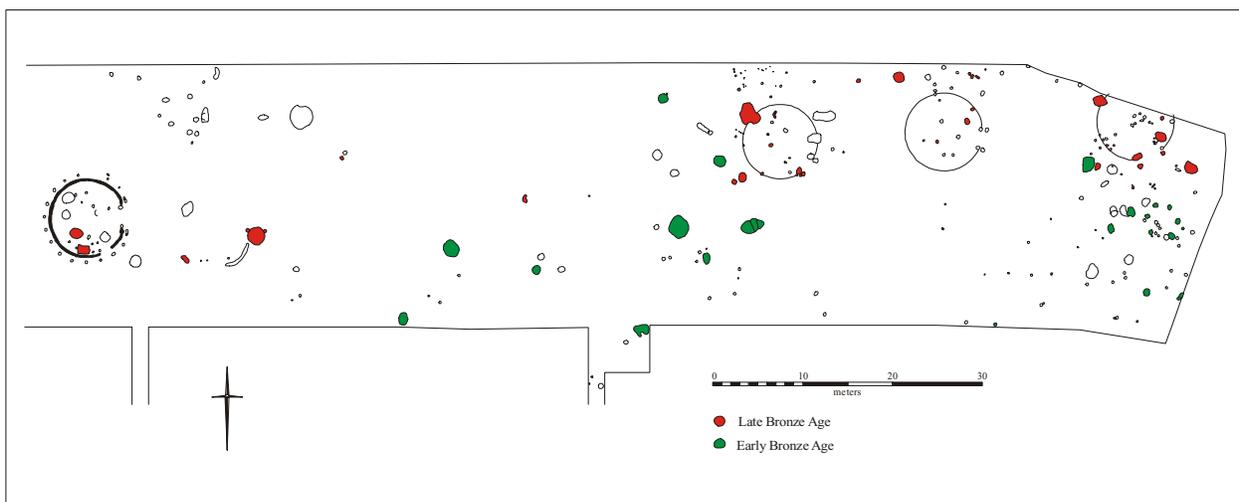
The main part of the Early Bronze Age assemblage comprised Collared Urn sherds. Some Food Vessel sherds were also present and had similar fabrics as the Collared Urns. The variation in context had some effect on the kinds of vessels and their condition (i.e. whole or fragmented). The fabric types in the main occurred across contexts with the exception of the ‘cemetery’ assemblage which contained some of the earliest types of Collared Urn from the site. Otherwise certain fabrics occurred within the pit-circle, henge, ‘cemetery’, round barrow and pit group contexts. Fabrics 10 & 29 for example were represented in the majority of the main categories. Some fabrics were however restricted to particular contexts: Fabrics 23, 24, 27, 30 & 32 were only found within the eastern pit cluster for example. This attribute could be reflective of discrete acts of deposition at different times as well as being a characteristic of the ceramic economy of Collared Urns. The high number of fabrics relative to the number of possible vessels suggests that the pots were never made in large batches but more likely were produced either individually and/or to order(?). This is an attribute that was also reflected in the decoration types, which

although can be categorised under broad styles (herring-bone, chevron & hurdling etc.), demonstrated great variability from one context to the next.

The relationship between broad decoration styles and context demonstrated a greater degree of patterning than the distribution of fabrics. The diagram shown within the Excavation Results (see Later Prehistoric discussion: Diagram 1) illustrates the relationship. Admittedly the patterning is based upon a relatively small selection, but the diagram is at least representative of an actual distribution as survived within the excavated area. And given the variable contexts available for analysis it is suggested that there some validity in this patterning. Interestingly Burgess' scheme (1986) for dating Collared Urns would have the vessels represented in the top left hand corner as the earliest type and those in the lower right hand corner as the later. What the diagram does not show is the variation in forms but an initial examination indicates that the pit-circle, 'cemetery and round barrow vessels have narrow collars whereas the western and eastern pit groups also contain deep collar sherds thus fitting another of Burgess' criteria's. The henge context had the excavations only incised Collared Urn sherd and it also had fragments of bipartite vase type Food Vessel.

### *Later Bronze Age*

The later Bronze age assemblage of 626 sherds represents a similar sized assemblage as the Collared Urn. Unlike the Collared Urn assemblage however, it consists of only 8 fabric types as opposed to 24, an attribute that suggest a different kind of ceramic economy. The contexts containing pottery comprised a single cremation (described above: see Round Barrow 1), house structures, and external pits and postholes. The pottery is characterised by its shell temper (or equivalent voids), absence of micaceous inclusions (as was common with the early fabrics), fine everted rim forms and upright profiles, and occasional fingertip decoration around the shoulders fitting all the attributes of post Deverel-Rimbury pottery. Some coarse wares are also present with corky appearances similar to the Deverel-Rimbury urn fragments associated with the cremation located within the southern ditch circumference of Round Barrow 1.



**Figure 21:** Distribution of earlier and later Bronze Age pottery

## House structures

The five identified structures all contained pottery. Of these the two types of constructions were also marked out by two relatively distinct fabric groups (Structures 1-3=Fabrics 1, 2, 3, 5 & 19; Structures 4 & 5=Fabrics 3, 11 & 20). The number of contexts per house containing pottery was also relatively consistent. The main structure House 5 also stood out ceramically as whereas the other structures average 19.25 sherds, it produced 394 sherds the majority of which came from a single internal pit F.495. Overall the pottery from the house structures consisted of plain vessels. Structure 1 produced a large sherd from a small decorated bowl (pairs of fingertip impressions joined by four parallel incised lines) made from a hard shell tempered fabric that had been burnished. This compares with a similar sherd recovered from Structure V from the 1998 excavations which was identified as a rare example of Fengate Cromer.

The pit within Structure 5, F.495, contained 176 sherds the majority of which were made from fabric 20. These included everted rounded, flattened direct, rounded lip (pinched out externally; and pinched out externally and internally) and rounded direct rim forms. The vessels comprised small ovoid and ellipsoid jars. Some of the rims demonstrated the faintest hint of finger pinching as did some of the shoulders. Less subtle decoration was also observed on one sherd that had regular fingertip impressions around the shoulder. Cut into the top of F.495 was another pit F.496 and this contained similar fabrics but also fragments of a small finger pot (dimensions: 3.2cm in height; 5cm in diameter). It had an open profile and simple rounded direct rim form.

Structure	No. of Contexts	No. of Sherds	Weight	Fabric Types	% Decoration
1	4	19	117g	3, 5 & 19	10.58
2	3	11	58g	1, 2 & 3	0
3	6	13	50g	1, 2 & 5	0
4	2	34	84g	3, 11 & 20	0
5	4	394	1985g	11 & 20	1.26
<i>Totals:</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>471</i>	<i>2294g</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1.27</i>

**Table 10:** House-pottery correlation.

## Pits and postholes

The external pits and postholes shared the same fabrics and forms as the house structures both overall but more interestingly spatially. Features adjacent to Structures 2 & 3 had sherd fabrics that related directly to those found internally. Likewise pits close to or west of Structures 4 & 5 shared the same fabrics. This attribute may reflect a temporal aspect to the settlement layout and as one should expect a spatial relationship between houses and their respective and immediate external spaces.

Of note, and representing the most elaborately decorated sherds from the later Bronze Age assemblage were pieces from F.730 situated beneath the main Roman feature concentration and the most westerly LBA feature. Rim sherds from this context consisted of everted forms decorated with repeated and clearly defined fingertip decoration along the top of the rim and along the shoulders. Other plain sherds from the same context included a very fine 'burnished' everted tapered rim. These may represent vessels belonging to the latter part of the post Deverel-Rimbury tradition situated in the earlier Iron Age as opposed to the terminal bronze Age period.

Feature	Context	Sherd No.	Weight	Fabric	% Decoration
208	208	24	129	1, 2 & 3	4.1
214	214	6	68	5	16.6
226	226	3	8	2	0
261	261	crumbs	2	1	0
271	271	1	3	1 & 5	0
272	272	27	109	11 (12)	0 (bucket)
338	353a	2	3	1	0
343	361	1	8	5	0
397	420	1	12	1	0
411	434	26	68	20	0
421	444	8	18	3 & 11	0
477	520	28	93	11	0
730	856	15	130	20 & 25	6.6
730	856a	21	182	5, 20 & 25	0
730	856b	2	11	20	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>844</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1.93</i>

**Table 11:** Pits and postholes

### *Discussion*

The later Bronze Age assemblage contains a small proportion of decorated sherds (1.27% of house contexts and 1.93% of pit/posthole contexts) which suggests that it sits within the earlier part of the post Deverel-Rimbury tradition. The plain everted forms and rare and subtle finger pinching and finger tipping compares with the assemblage recovered from the 1998 excavation located immediately to the east. The single piece of Fengate Cromer in the midst of this plain assemblage represents an interesting inclusion that could have two different interpretations. Firstly does this sherds indicate that the assemblage is actually later in date than its lack of decoration suggests or is it that this single piece represents an early example of a particular and localised decorated tradition?

### *Iron Age*

A single residual rim sherd from one of the primary Roman roadside ditches had the characteristics of a earlier Iron Age ceramic.

### *Recommendations*

- Refitting of Collared Urn sherds across contexts and feature sets to add to temporal/spatial resolution of EBA pottery assemblage
- Absolute dating of LBA contexts with large Post Deverel-Rimbury assemblages as part of a regional programme of ‘fixing’ the various PDR types into a finer grain chronology.

*Fabric Series:*

Fabric 1 – pale grey pinky brown (exterior) dark grey (interior), organic tempered (small voids: small shell impressions visible) soapy fabric. Some scoring/swipe marks on exterior. (*coarse*)

Fabric 2 – pale pinky brown (exterior) dark grey (interior) grey black (core), minute shell flecks, hard (*fine*)

Fabric 3 – reddy orange (exterior) greyey brown (interior), small shell tempered (even distribution) hard (*fine*)

Fabric 4 – buff/reddy brown (exterior) greyey black (interior), hard sandy fabric, some small grog and rare micacious sparkles (*fine*)

Fabric 5 – purpley grey (exterior & interior) greyey black (core), small voids (shell?) hard fabric – slightly abrasive (*fine* (decorated))

Fabric 6 – grey buff (exterior) black (interior) grog tempered with small mica/sand inclusions, hard fabric

Fabric 7 – grey (exterior) black (interior) grog tempered (frequent, multiple colours) micacious sparkles

Fabric 8 – pinky orange (exterior) pinky brown (interior) hard sandy fabric with frequent small grog and sand inclusions

?Fabric 9 – pinky buff (exterior) pinky grey (interior) grey (core), hard sandy fabric with abundant micacious sparkles.

Fabric 10 – buff (exterior) pale grey (interior) grey (core), sandy fabric with sand and small grog inclusions

Fabric 11 – pale pinky buff (exterior & interior) grey black (core), light soapy fabric with frequent small voids. Corky appearance.

Fabric 12 – reddy orange (exterior) black (interior) very fine soapy fabric with rare small shell inclusions. Decorated: finger nail impressions.

Fabric 13 – orangey pink (exterior) greyey black (interior) soapy fabric with frequent small, medium and large pieces of grog (multicoloured). Chunky rough appearance.

Fabric 14 – pinky brown (exterior) black (interior) hard sandy fabric with frequent large grog inclusions and rare micacious sparkles.

Fabric 15 – pinky grey (exterior & interior) grey (core), fine soapy fabric small frequent grog inclusions and rare micacious sparkles.

Fabric 16 – grey (exterior & interior) fine soapy fabric with occasional very small grog and rare micacious sparkles.

Fabric 17 – reddy brown (exterior) black (interior) hard sandy fabric with abundant micacious sparkles.

Fabric 18 – mottled black, red and buff (exterior) grey black (interior) hard sandy fabric with moderate flint and grog inclusions and rare micacious sparkles.

Fabric 19 – dark grey brown (exterior) grey black (interior) black (core) hard soapy fabric with frequent small shell inclusions. Decorated – incised lines and fingertip impressions.

Fabric 20(i) – buff pink (exterior) brownish pink (interior) grey (core), fine soapy fabric with occasional voids (shell?) and sand inclusions.

Fabric 20(ii) – buff pink (exterior) grey (interior) fine soapy fabric (slightly abrasive) with occasional voids (shell?).

Fabric 21 – light grey brown (exterior) black (interior) compact sandy fabric.

Fabric 22 – buff (exterior) pale grey-buff (interior) black (core), sandy fabric with frequent burnt flint inclusions and moderate micaceous sparkles.

Fabric 23 – reddy brown (exterior & interior) pale grey (core), hard very abrasive sandy fabric with frequent small flint inclusions.

Fabric 24 – reddy brown (exterior & interior) black (core), fine sandy fabric with rare micaceous sparkles.

Fabric 25 – reddy grey (exterior) grey black (interior), abrasive hard sandy fabric with moderate flint inclusions and rare micaceous sparkles.

Fabric 26 – mottled buff and pink (exterior) black (interior) hard soapy fabric with frequent/regular grog inclusions.

Fabric 27 – pale pink (exterior, interior and core: probably burnt), hard slightly abrasive fabric with occasional flint inclusions and rare micaceous sparkles.

Fabric 28 – greyey brown (exterior, interior and core), coarse corky fabric with surviving small shell inclusions.

Fabric 29 – buff pink (exterior) black (interior), hard abrasive fabric with grog inclusions and very rare micaceous sparkles.

Fabric 30 – pale grey (exterior) dark grey (interior) hard sandy fabric with frequent, regular sized grog inclusions (small red/medium black). Sherd partially burnt.

Fabric 31 – buff (exterior) black (interior) fine sandy fabric with grit and grog inclusions and rare micaceous sparkles.

Fabric 32 – pinky buff (exterior) grey (interior), hard, slightly abrasive fabric with frequent irregular grog inclusions and rare grit pieces.

Fabric 33 – mottled black red (exterior/interior) grey (core) hard shell tempered fabric with quartz inclusions.

Fabric 34 – grey buff (exterior) black (interior) slightly abrasive soapy fabric with regular grog inclusions.

Fabric 35 – whiteish buff (exterior) grey black (interior) smooth soapy fabric with rare flint inclusions.

Fabric 36 – orange buff (exterior and interior) black (core), sandy fabric with occasional grit temper and rare micaceous sparkles. Food Vessel.

## 2) Worked Flint *Chantal Conneller*

The lithic assemblage consists of 481 pieces of worked, uncalcinated flint and 298 pieces of burnt flint (table 1). Of the burnt flint assemblage, 56.7% are worked, an unusually high percentage. The worked flint represents material spanning the Late Mesolithic to the Late Bronze Age, though the majority belongs to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. This material will be discussed with reference to the main feature groups from which it was recovered.

Category	Worked No.	Flint %	Burnt No.	Flint %
<b>Tools:</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>20</b>	
Arrow	5	1.0	1	0.6
Denticulate	2	0.4	1	0.6
Fabricator	1	0.2	0	0
Knife	12	2.5	3	1.8
Microdenticulate	2	0.4	2	1.2
Microlith	1	0.2	0	0
Scraper	17	3.5	9	5.3
Scraper/knife	7	1.5	1	0.6
Flaked piece	31	6.4	0	0
Retouched	25	5.2	3	1.8
<b>Tool spalls:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Axe flake	3	0.6	0	0
<b>Debitage:</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>88.2</b>
Core	32	6.7	1	0.6
Core preparation	4	0.8	0	0
Blade	18	3.7	2	1.2
Flake	307	63.8	142	84.0
Shatter fragment	16	3.3	4	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>		<b>169+129 natural pieces</b>	

**Table 1:** Breakdown of assemblage.

### *Pit-circle and Henge*

A small assemblage, consisting of 17 pieces, was recovered from the primary fills of the ditches of the Henge Monument. Blades are particularly common, and in particular 3 fine patinated and one fine utilized example are likely to be Early Neolithic. This suggests the henge was constructed with reference to earlier areas of activity. Other pieces may be Late Neolithic or represent Early Bronze Age material that has moved down the profile; with so small an assemblage precise attribution is difficult. However, it appears that the henge ditch was not a habitual repository of lithic artefacts during the period of the construction and early use of the monument; as Ballantyne suggests (this volume) the ditches may have been deliberately kept clean. The same is true of the central area of the henge. Few lithic pieces were recovered from the internal post-pit features. Once more this assemblage is undiagnostic and could belong to either the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age use of the monument. Primary flakes are unusually common amongst this small assemblage, which could suggest that the area was briefly used for an episode of initial core testing and preparation. Burnt flint was only recovered from one of the post-pits, F.866, in the southern part of the monument, though the macro-charcoal evidence

suggests that the northern posts endured the fiercest conflagration (see Ballantyne, this vol.) – this simply serves to demonstrate the scarcity of flint in the vicinity of the monument.

Larger quantities of lithic material were recovered from the Collared Urn deposits in the upper fills of the western ditch of the henge. The assemblage consists of a broad range of tools (knives, scrapers, a fabricator, flaked pieces, retouched and utilised items), cores and generalised knapping debris. This material is also likely to be midden derived and thus the deposition of this material in the upper fills of the henge ditch may represent the deliberate pollution with the mundane (i.e. midden material) of an area that, during earlier periods, had been rigorously cleaned and maintained. Some instances of selective deposition of lithic artefacts may also have occurred, since the proportions of tools and flaked/retouched pieces are higher than midden-derived assemblages incorporated within the pits of the Early Bronze Age settlement. More significantly, three flakes derived from the reworking of three different polished axes, and dating to the Neolithic, were recovered from the Collared Urn fills of the monument. One of the axe flakes is of stone, the other two of flint. One of the latter appears to have been manufactured from flint derived from the Yorkshire or Lincolnshire Wolds. That these three pieces may have had similar temporal association as the henge to the Early Bronze Age people is, perhaps, significant.

	Tools	Flaked/ retouched	Cores	Core prep.	Blade	Flake	Shatter	Burnt (worked)	Burnt (nat.)	Total
Collared urn fill (no.)	10	13	9	-	1	53	3	6	2	97
<i>Collared urn (%)</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>54.6</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>100</i>
Primary fills (no.)	3	2	-	-	5	7	-	-	-	17
<i>Primary fills (%)</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>41.2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>100</i>
Posts (no.)	1	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	1	13
<i>Posts (%)</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>76.9</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>100</i>
Total (no.)	14	15	10	-	6	70	3	6	3	127
<i>Total (%)</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 2:** Material from the Henge.

### *Round Barrows 1 & 2*

Round Barrow 1 yielded a small assemblage of 30 pieces of worked flint. Knives had important associations with the centre of the mound, with one example recovered from the central cremation and two further examples recovered from the buried soil at the centre of the monument. One of these is a plano-convex form and the other a Late Neolithic polished example, which has been reused both as a knife and as a fabricator. Both the inner and outer ring also yielded small quantities of material, though the majority of this is undiagnostic knapping debitage.

The assemblage from Round Barrow 2 was also small, consisting of 18 pieces. Of these, a portion appear residual. Such pieces include an extremely rolled flake of Palaeolithic Age, which is likely to derive from the underlying gravels, a micro-denticulate and a probable fragment of leaf-shaped arrowhead. A small, sub-circular scraper recovered from the central deposit, F.757,

is likely to be contemporary with this feature, and may represent a grave good. The remainder of the assemblage dates from the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age and contains a high frequency of tools and retouched/flaked pieces.

	Tools	Flaked/ retouched	Cores	Core prep.	Blade	Flake	Shatter	Burnt (worked)	Burnt (nat.)	Total
Central cremation	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
<i>Central feature (%)</i>	<i>50</i>	-	-	-	-	<i>50</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>
Buried soil (no.)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Buried soil (%)</i>	<i>100</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>100</i>
Inner ring (no.)	-	-	1	1	-	10	-	-	-	12
<i>Inner ring (%)</i>	-	-	<i>8.3</i>	<i>8.3</i>	-	<i>83.3</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>
Outer ring (no.)	2	2	3	1	-	6	-	-	-	14
<i>Outer ring (%)</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>7.1</i>	-	<i>42.9</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>
Total (no.)	5	2	4	2	-	17	-	-	-	30
<i>Total (%)</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>6.7</i>	-	<i>56.7</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>

**Table 3:** Material from Round Barrow 1.

	Tools	Flaked/ retouched	Cores	Core prep.	Blade	Flake	Shatter	Burnt (worked)	Burnt (nat.)	Total
Central deposit (no.)	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
<i>Central deposit (%)</i>	<i>50</i>	-	-	-	-	<i>50</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>
Ring-ditch (no.)	3	3	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	14
<i>Ring-ditch (%)</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>14.3</i>	-	-	<i>42.9</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>
Total (no.)	5	3	2	-	-	8	-	-	-	18
<i>Total (%)</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>11.1</i>	-	-	<i>44.4</i>	-	-	-	<i>100</i>

**Table 4:** Material from Round Barrow 2

### 'Cemetery'

Worked flint was recovered from only one of the 'Cemetery' features. One very fine plano-convex knife was included as a grave good. A core and two flakes were also recovered from the upper fills of this cremation pit, along with a burnt natural flint fragment which is likely to have become accidentally incorporated within the cremation process.

	Tools	Flaked/ retouched	Cores	Core prep.	Blade	Flake	Shatter	Burnt (worked)	Burnt (nat.)	Total
F.852 (no.)	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	5
<i>F.852 (%)</i>	<i>20</i>	-	<i>20</i>	-	-	<i>40</i>	-	-	<i>20</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 5:** Material from F.852

### *Early Bronze Age pits*

The Early Bronze Age pits can be divided into two groups; eastern and western.. This distinction is not made simply on geographical grounds, but also on the basis of differences in the assemblages incorporated within the two pit groups. Of the western group, the three inter-cutting pits, Fs.276, 317 and 318, contained the greatest quantities of lithic material. The material from all three is similar, being heterogeneous in character: Many different raw material units are represented, and no refits are possible. A broad range of tools is also present, including scrapers, knives, serrated pieces and amorphous flaked and retouched artefacts - with which a wide range of activities could have been undertaken. Core maintenance flakes - indicating competent flintworking ability - are also present, as are large quantities of knapping debris. Cores are relatively uncommon; those recovered are multi-platformed flake cores, worked with a hard hammer. The assemblage, with its relatively high proportion of tools and broad variety of types, is typical of an assemblage generated through small-scale 'domestic' production and use and is likely to have been incorporated into the pits through the deposition of midden material. A small number of fine blades and a serrated piece may represent curated Early Neolithic pieces. The fact that the pit was recut may suggest it served as a focus for the deposition of material for some time.

Though the assemblages from the other pits are smaller, they display similar ratios of tools and retouched/flaked pieces to debitage and are likely to have become incorporated within the features through a similar mechanism as the F.276/317/318 assemblage. Some more selective deposition may be evidenced in the material from F.278, which includes two knives (one of which is burnt) that have been particularly finely worked.

	Tools	Flaked/ retouched	Cores	Core prep.	Blade	Flake	Shatter	Burnt (worked)	Burnt (nat.)	Total
<b>Western Group</b>										
F.257	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
F.272	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	1	-	8
F.276/317/318	12	5	5	1	5	92	5	5	3	133
F.278	1	1	-	-	1	8	-	3	9	23
<b>Total (no.)</b>	13	8	6	1	6	103	6	11	12	166
<b>Total (%)</b>	7.8	4.8	3.6	0.6	3.6	62.0	3.6	6.6	7.2	100
<b>Eastern Group</b>										
F.348	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	5	13
F.349	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	28	59
F.374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
F.376	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	38	10	49
[380]	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	55	59	118
<b>Total (no.)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	130	104	242
<b>Total (%)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	0.8	53.7	43.0	100

**Table 6:** Material from the Collared Urn pits.

The Collared Urn pits of the western group are notable for the large quantities of burnt flint they incorporate. Only the very occasional piece of uncalcinated material was present. The majority of the burnt flint is worked. 9.2% of the worked pieces were found to be formal tools or

retouched/flaked. Considering that the fragmentation and distortion occasioned by the burning process is likely to have rendered many artefacts unrecognisable, it is likely that the original tool frequency approached that of the assemblages of the western pit group. These assemblages may thus also represent the products of domestic production and use; however they have subsequently been subjected to intense heat. Since knapping refits have been found within the assemblages, it is likely that the knapping episode occurred in the immediate vicinity of the pits. This activity area (or midden) was then fired, possibly in the course of industrial activity reusing the waste products, before the material was deposited within the pits. All pits of the group are associated with structure I, indicating these activities took place within a spatially bounded area.

### *Late Bronze Age settlement*

Worked flint was uncommon within the features of the Later Bronze Age settlement, with only 48 pieces recovered, (table 7). Of this material, much is likely to be residual; of the three formal tools or tool fragments recovered, one is a Late Mesolithic microlith, another a Late Neolithic transverse arrowhead and a third a flake from a polished axe. The only feature with an assemblage of greater than 5 pieces is F.315/327. However, 16 of the 17 pieces are burnt. Considering the proximity of this feature to the Early Bronze Age burnt flint pits, it may be that this assemblage is also residual; though that the pit was a repository for material removed from the Late Bronze Age structure 2, during cleaning, is also a possibility. It thus appears either that the Late Bronze Age settlement area was considered an inappropriate place for the working of flint, or that the cleanliness of this area was maintained.

	Tools	Flaked/ retouched	Cores	Core prep.	Blade	Flake	Shatter	Burnt (worked)	Burnt (nat.)	Total
F.202	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
F.226	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F.252	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
F.260	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
F.269	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
F.287	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
F.298	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
F.315/327	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	14	17
F.328	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F.338	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
F.421	-	1	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	7
F.441	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
F.473	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F.474	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
F.490	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
F.523	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total (no.)	4	3	1	-	1	20	1	2	16	48
Total (%)	8.3	6.3	2.1	-	2.1	41.7	2.1	4.2	33.3	100

**Table 7:** Material from the Late Bronze Age settlement.

## Discussion

### *Mesolithic/Early Neolithic*

A small-scale presence in the periods prior to the major prehistoric occupations of the site is revealed through the recovery of diagnostic artefacts dating to the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic. A single Late Mesolithic microlith may represent an isolated hunting loss, though some small bladelets could conceivably belong to this period, indicating the presence of small-scale knapping stations. Early Neolithic material, represented by micro-denticulates, blades, a probable leaf shaped arrowhead fragment and potentially three axe fragments, is slightly more common, occurring in the western part of the site and particularly associated with the monuments. The presence of material associated with the henge monument may indicate that the site of the monument was one of previous significance. The arrow fragment, serrated pieces and blades may indicate that Early Neolithic occupation occurred on other parts of the site; however these artefacts - and, more particularly, the axe fragments from the henge - are likely to have been curated and thus may not derive from the immediate area. However, occasional small-scale visits to the area can be envisioned during both the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic.

### *Late Neolithic*

The construction of the henge monument provided a focus for more extensive occupation of the area during the Late Neolithic, though this may also have been relatively transient in nature. Late Neolithic flint working is uncommon, or rare, in the actual monument, suggesting that the monument was either rigorously cleaned or that flintworking was deemed inappropriate in its vicinity. In fact, evidence for lithic production is generally rare within the area of such sites, though selective deposition of artefacts may occur (Edmonds 1995). Evidence of a Late Neolithic presence was found within area A, to the east of the henge monument, though this appears to have been of a particular nature. Four arrowheads, all remarkably similar petit-tranchet examples (Green 1980), were recovered from this area. Two were recovered from a single pit feature (F.260) in what was likely to have been an act of deliberate deposition, the others were recovered from later features. Given the difficulty of distinguishing Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age knapping debris, the extent to which Late Neolithic knapping is represented within area A is difficult to gauge; however given that the larger assemblages are associated with Collared Urn material, it is reasonable to presume that the majority of the lithic debitage belongs to this period. Fine Levallois flakes and cores are not present. Thus this area may have been a place of more specialised activity and deposition during the Late Neolithic, or an area of more ephemeral visits, rather than representing workshop/domestic areas.

### *Early Bronze Age*

The majority of the worked flint recovered is likely to belong to this period. The Early Bronze Age marks a difference in the scale and form of occupation and flintworking in the area. The largest assemblages were recovered from pits and these were the focus for the deposition of midden material. This midden material appears to have been generated through generalised and

wide-ranging 'domestic' activities. More specialised activities, which involved the burning and deposition of midden/workshop debris, were also undertaken within area A, focused within structure I. Midden material was also deposited in the ditches of the henge, in an act which seems to deliberately contravene the earlier cleanliness of the henge ditches. Some selectivity is also evident in Early Bronze Age depository activities, particularly in the deposition of three Neolithic polished axe flakes in the upper fill of the henge ditches. A polished axe flake was also recovered from area A; though this was recovered from a post-hole within the Late Bronze Age structure II, it may also be the result of Early Bronze Age curatory proclivities. Artefacts were also recovered from the central cremations of the ring ditches and the cremation cemetery. Knives were particularly common grave goods, including plano-convex examples (which were also recovered from other areas of the site); these types are particularly associated with Collared Urn activity (Edmonds 1995).

### *Late Bronze Age*

Little evidence of flint working was recovered from the area of the Late Bronze Age settlement. Of this material, much is residual. It thus appears that flintworking was not habitually undertaken in the settlement area.

### **3) Environmental** *Rachel Ballantyne*

*The samples collected from each of the five major contexts, Pit-circle and Henge, Round barrows, Early Bronze Age settlement, Late bronze Age settlement and Roman features, were examined individually before being contrasted, and the report has been laid out accordingly. In general the samples fall into three main categories, firstly those from the Pit-circle/henge contexts, secondly those from the settlement contexts, and finally Roman contexts. Finally, evidence is provided within the botanical remains for an increasingly wet local environment between the prehistoric and Roman periods.*

#### **Methodology**

Samples were processed by bucket flotation, the flot being collected in 500µm sieves, and the heavy residue washed over 1mm mesh. The flot and residue components were dried prior to sorting under a low-power binocular microscope. Identifications were based upon the reference collection at the Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, Department of Archaeology, Cambridge University. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1996).

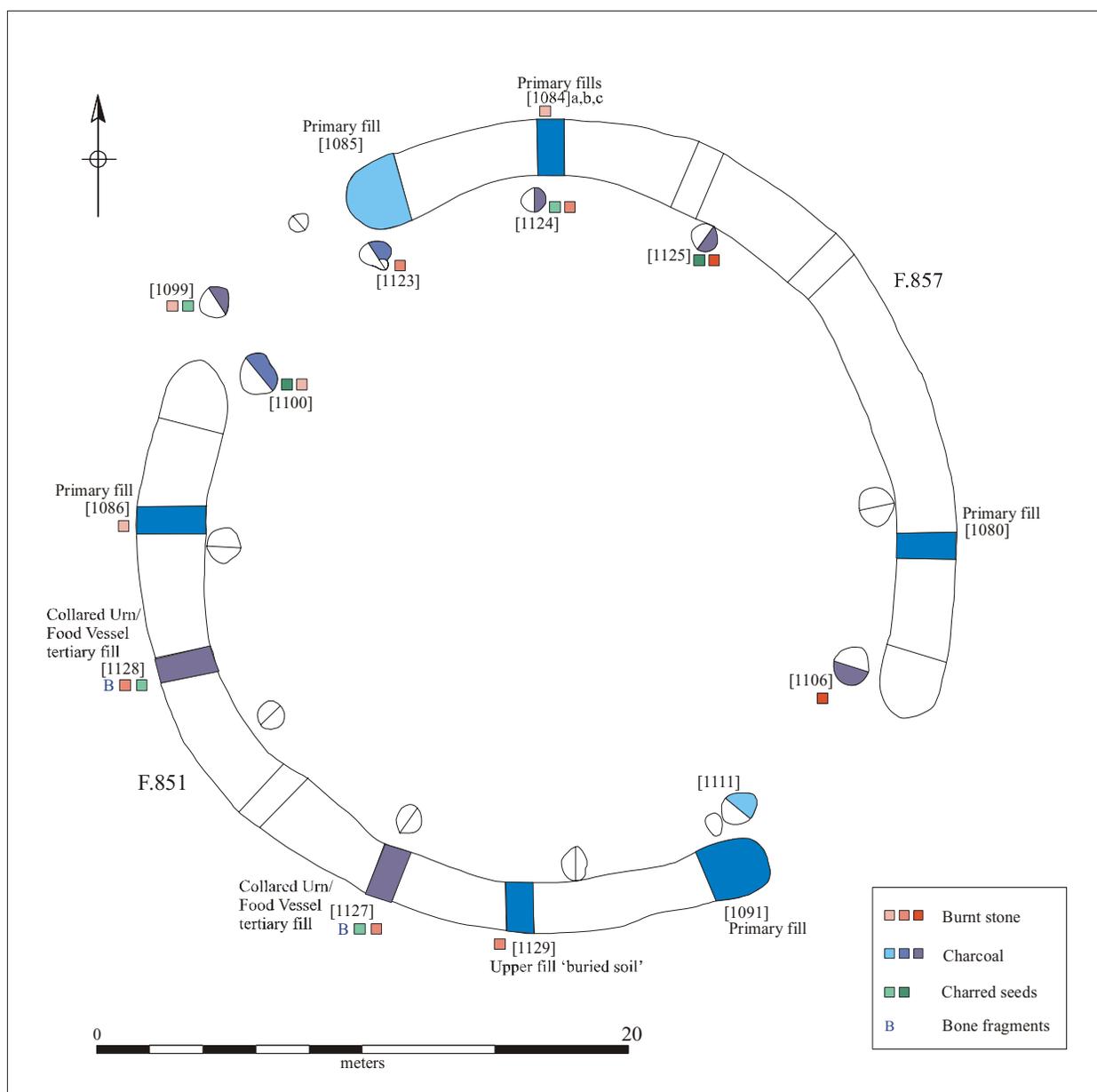
#### **Preservation**

Only charred plant macro-remains were recovered. Variable iron (III) oxide staining of both the soil matrix & the charred remains indicates that the water-table has fluctuated, but no waterlogged contexts remain in any of the sampled features here. There has been good physical preservation of charred remains, for example the large (c. 5cm) fragment of oak charcoal within F.892 of the Pit-circle. Generally low levels of modern contamination were present, mainly of small roots and seeds of fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and chickweeds (*Stellaria* spp.), the ring-ditch samples contained greater modern material, including straw and some vegetative material.

#### *Pit-circle and Henge*

Very low amounts charcoal and a lack of artefactual material within the primary fill of the henge ditches contrasted with slightly higher quantities of charcoal within the upper fills. Much greater quantities of charcoal were present in the post-pits, occasionally including large fragments of oak wood, which may be related to the original post structures. Two post-pits at the NW entrance contained a few nutlets of dogwood and NE internal post-pit F.893 included charred seeds and nutlets of sloe, hawthorn, and wild rose. The capping fill of southern henge F.851, ditch contained large amounts of oak charcoal, and also small fragments of burnt and unburnt bone.

In contrast to the generally clean ditch fills of the henge, the pits contained moderate to very high levels of charcoal, only pit F.884 is low in charcoal. Large fragments of Oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal are present in F.s 879, 892 and 893, and this may represent charring of the actual posts that were held by the post-pits. The recently excavated 'sea-henge' at Holme-next-the-Sea, north Norfolk, was built of oak wood (Brennand & Taylor 2000), which has been well documented as a construction material during British prehistory (Rackham 1986)



**Figure 22:** Summary of the botanical and small non-botanical material recovered from the Pit-circle and Henge monument (increasing darkness of colour reflects increasing quantities of material).

There is slight spatial patterning of charcoal density in a clockwise direction around ditch F.857 from the NW to SE entrances (see plan). The burning event(s) associated with the production of this charcoal may have been centred upon the north-eastern side of the henge, but without examination of the western internal post-pits this pattern cannot be ascertained. During excavation, however, it was observed that the south-western post-pit fills did not appear charred (Knight pers. comm.). There is no reflection of the eastern post-pit charcoal in adjacent ditch samples, whether of primary or later fills, and this suggests that the phase of post burning was not contemporary with the period of henge ditch infilling.

Accompanying the charcoal in three northerly post-pits were charred wild seeds and nutlets. Both WNW entrance post-pits F.s 872 and 873 contained one and three dogwood nutlets (*Cornus sanguinea*), respectively. The charcoal rich post-pit F.893 contained a variety of taxa, including sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), wild rose (*Rosa* sp.) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). These species are all shrubs common within hedges and scrub-land today, and are commonly found together as a successional plant community upon calcareous soils (Rodwell 1991). This assemblage might therefore be taken to indicate the presence of an overgrown, once open local environment. Alternatively these seeds might reflect collected local resources. All the fruits are edible to a degree, and the lack of charred vegetative components of these plants relative to oak wood might be taken to indicate that solely the fruits had been present at charring. Charred seeds of these taxa have often been found at Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites in Britain, suggesting that they were of economic value (Greig 1991, Moffet *et al.* 1989).

### *Henge*

Bulk samples from eight loci around the two henge ditches F.851 and F.857 were examined; four represented primary fill contexts, three tertiary fills, and one a series of silting events in the northern ditch. Clear patterning was evident between the generally clean primary fill, which contained only negligible amounts of small charcoal, and the later rich Collared Urn associated capping fills [1127] and [1128] of F.851.

### Primary fills & ‘Collared Urn’ capping deposit.

The lack of both ecofactual and artefactual material in the primary ditch fills may be taken to indicate the absence of activities (particularly burning) that would cause identifiable debris or deposits. It is possible that the ditches were deliberately kept clear; the small charcoal represents residual surface material incorporated during infilling. Later silting phases within [1084], and the upper fill [1129] show only a subtle increase in charcoal content..

There is no identifiable change in local environment within the ditch samples until the much later midden-associated incorporation of [1127] and [1128] in the south-west of ditch F.851. These two contexts not only include large quantities of charcoal, but also fragments of burnt and unburnt bone, which is consistent with the interpretation of this deposit as midden-derived. A single indeterminate cereal grain and a seed of Common Orache (*Atriplex patula*), a species common on disturbed soils, provide limited evidence of cultivated resources in [1127].

### *Conclusions – Pit-circle and Henge*

Three separate fill ‘types’ are apparent within the henge with respect to charred plant remains:

- The generally charcoal rich post-pit fills, which also contained evidence of wild shrub species.
- The charcoal-low primary ditch fills, and silting episodes of [1084].

- Charcoal rich contexts, with bone fragment inclusions, within the ‘Collared Urn’ capping fill of the southern ditch F.851.

Each of these context types appear distinct from the others within the henge monument, and thus clearly relate to different charring-associated phases within the local environment, upon which two different interpretations may be constructed:

- A Charring of the original oak posts may have been linked to clearance of a scrub-invaded area, after which the henge ditches were cut. The charring of the posts *before* the cutting of the ditches would explain the lack of any oak charcoal horizon within the ditch fills, as would be expected had open, or partially open, henge ditches been present. Little change in the local environment with respect to charring or micro-artefactual remains is indicated throughout the henge ditch fills. Only the late Collared Urn associated capping deposit shows a change in activity in the local area, and provides the first evidence for cultivated foodstuffs.
- B The two ‘charcoal rich’ categories of context within the henge may be related. It is possible that the charred post-pit fills were formed *after* the majority of the surrounding ditches had infilled, perhaps at the time of the Collared Urn capping fills [1127] and [1128]. Such burning would have cleared scrub that was regenerating around the henge (as indicated by the wild seeds and nutlets), and from the charcoal appears to have also involved burning the remains of the structural oak-wood posts. However, the post-pit fills and tertiary ditch fills are quite distinct – the post-pits lack bone fragments and charred grain, whilst the tertiary ditch fills do not contain any of the seeds or nutlets found also in the post-pits.

The pollen samples collected from ditch F.851 could be useful in clarifying the local environment, particularly with respect to the timing of the charred remains identified in the post-pits in relation to the sterile ditch fill. This could help indicate which of the two above scenarios would have been more likely.

### *Round Barrows 1 & 2*

Four samples were examined, two from each ring-ditch monument. In all cases only low amounts of small to medium (<2mm) sized charcoal were present in the samples, no other ecofactual or artefactual material was identified. Whilst lack of evidence cannot necessarily be taken to indicate a lack of nearby activity, it does appear that few charring events occurred close to the ring-ditches. Perhaps the area around and within the ditches was kept deliberately free of material.

### *Early Bronze Age*

Material was examined from pit F.278 of the western pit cluster and from F.s 349, 376 and 906 of the Early Bronze Age structure. The sample from F.349 produced good evidence for cereal cultivation upon sandy, well-drained soils, and possible occupation debris.

Of the three samples examined pit F.349 proved exceptional. A range of cereal grains and weed seeds were recovered, with very small amounts of cereal chaff. The main cereal represented is barley, much of which appears to be the 6-row, naked variety (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum*). This is a barley strain often associated with Neolithic and some early Bronze Age sites in Britain (Greig 1991). Two clear grains and two glume bases of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) provide an interesting accompaniment to the naked barley, since this is a wheat species which did not become common until the Iron Age and Roman periods. Spelt wheat was found at the early/middle Bronze Age site at West Row, Mildenhall (Martin & Murphy 1988), and within Bronze Age contexts at Barleycroft, Cambs. (Steven 1996).

Despite the good representation of barley grain, there is a complete lack of barley chaff within F.349. This suggests that the charred grain had been at least partially processed before charring. Most of the wild seeds within this sample are small to grain-sized, and would be expected to be removed later during the processing sequence.

The main wild seeds represented are of the goosefoots *Chenopodium ficifolium* and *C. album*. Both these species are associated with wasteland and cultivated ground, and have a preference for high nutrient soils. Of the other taxa present woody nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) and corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*) are also associated with disturbed or cultivated land. Corn spurrey is a calcifuge species, found mainly on sandy, calcareous soils; the presence also of vetch or wild pea seeds (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) again suggests cultivation upon sandier, more well drained soils.

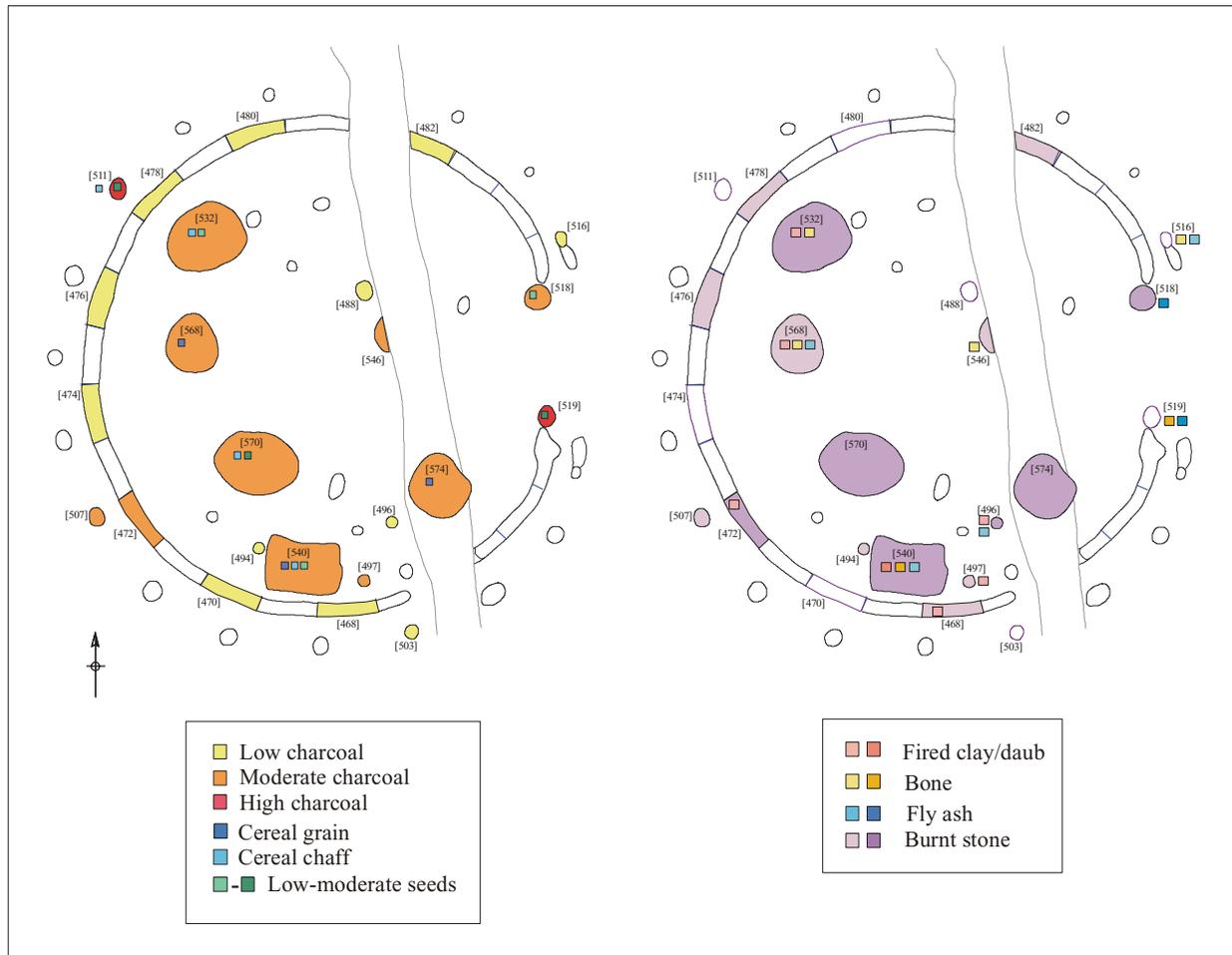
The three other samples contained between them three cereal grains and seven wild seeds, all are taxa which correspond to those within F.349. Whilst charcoal is also best represented within F.349, examination of the heavy residues showed that other remains were more consistent in occurrence between the four samples. Moderate amounts of burnt stone, and low quantities of fired clay and burnt bone indicate the presence of debris from charring events. Very small amounts of fly ash, siliceous material associated with intense heating (possibly within an oven or kiln), and flint debitage are also present.

The Early Bronze Age settlement features contain charring activity debris which appears to have occurred in areas associated with the preparation of animal and plant products. The variety of small artefactual material present also suggests that a nearby occupation context is likely. These four samples correspond well with the capping deposit within the southern henge ditch. Whilst the henge contexts are generally less rich in material, their residues still contain the distinctive burnt stone and small fragmented burnt bone also found within the pit features.

#### *Later Bronze Age Roundhouse (House 5)*

Samples were examined from the ring-gully F.441, internal and external postholes, and the internal pits. In most cases samples were kept small (1-2 litres) such that a greater spatial resolution of sampling could be maintained. The results have been summarised diagrammatically. Patterning in occurrence of both the charred plants and other ecofactual material was evident around the structure. Limited evidence for the cultivation of glume wheats

and barley, upon drier generally sandy soils is present. The poor preservation of the cereal remains has made closer identification impracticable.



**Figure 23:** Summary of charred plant remains and small non-botanical artefacts within House 5 (increasing depth of colour reflects increasing quantities of material).

Eight samples collected from 1 metre intervals around the ring-gully F.441. These all contain a very low, often negligible, level of inclusions. Small amounts of highly fragmented charcoal are only present, and this is probably residual surface material which has accumulated during infilling. South-western segment [472] contained a slightly larger amount of charcoal, and both this context and southern segment [468] also contained very low amounts of small fired clay. In general the external postholes reflect the low levels of (particularly non-botanical) artefactual material present in the ring-gully. Three exceptions are however notable:

- North-western posthole F.467 contains a high amount of charcoal and few charred seeds, although it lacks any other artefactual material. The charred plant remains contrast with the adjacent ring-gully sample which is almost empty.

- Posthole F.477 which was located away from the ring-gully, contains a high amount of charcoal and also moderate amounts of small fragmented pottery and burnt bone. This context does not appear to be analogous with any of the other sampled contexts around the house.
- The entrance post-holes F.s 474 and 475 contain moderate to high amounts of charcoal, some charred seeds, and also a diverse mixture of non-botanical artefacts. The most distinctive distribution is of fly-ash, which occurs in moderate amounts in these two postholes. A lesser amount of fly-ash was also present in the almost empty posthole F.472 to the north of the entrance. Fragments of burnt bone are also notable in entrance posthole F.475.

It appears that greater amounts of material accumulated within these postholes which was linked to entrance-way surface debris – possibly swept or trampled material from the interior of the house.

### *Internal features*

The five internal postholes sampled generally contain low amounts of botanical and non-botanical material in correspondence with those from the exterior of the house, and in contrast to those at the entrance. A small amount of fly-ash is present in four-poster posthole F.452, and both this context and nearby posthole F.453 also contain a small amount of fired clay. The lack of material within the internal postholes, compared to the entrance-way postholes is interesting, since it suggests an accumulation of surface material around the entrance relative to the house interior.

The relatively clean internal postholes also contrast to the interior pit fills, which are botanically the richest contexts around the house. Moderate amounts of charcoal and low amounts of charred plants, with moderate amounts of burnt stone and negligible other artefactual material characterise pits F.s 488, 501, 523, 525 and 529. The rectangular pit F.495 differed in that some of its layers contained greater amounts of bone and fired clay. No fired clay was recovered from the front part of the house, and it is possible that the fired clay found in pit F.495 and in the nearby postholes and ring-gully reflect the presence of burning in this area.

### *Botanical remains*

Only limited evidence for cereal cultivation is provided by the samples, and with the exception of one glume wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) from posthole F.467, all cereal remains derive from the internal pits. As for the Collared Urn phase, barley (*Hordeum* sp.) predominates, although it was not possible here to identify the type. Low amounts of glume-wheat chaff were also present, although it again was not identifiable to species.

Pit F.525 contains three wheat glume bases and a low number of wild seeds. The main wild taxon is of vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), which are also common in the Collared Urn phase samples. In addition there is goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and a sedge seed (*Carex*. sp.).

The goosefoots are also present in the Collared Urn phase on site, and are a characteristic species of arable land. The presence of sedge may indicate cultivation within slightly damper areas, although small legumes are still the predominant wild taxa evident. There was no clear compositional change between the upper and lower pit fills.

Pit F.495 showed no clear patterning between the different contexts, although the small volume of the samples may have limited the ability to distinguish changes. The two layers examined which were identified as 'organic' during excavation [540]d and [540]r contain low amounts of mainly charred cereals with some seeds, and moderate to high amounts of charcoal. The identified taxa follow those present in pit F.525, with mainly barley represented. Basal layer [540]r contained solely barley and glume wheat chaff. Layer [540]c was distinctive in containing a charred holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) seed. This must represent either debris from burnt foliage, or a plant collected for other unknown purposes.

Posthole F.475 at the entrance contains no cereal grains, but a few wild seeds including two hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and seeds of the arable/disturbed land taxa of goosefoot (*Cheonpodium* sp.) and common orache (*Atriplex patula*).

#### *Conclusions – Late Bronze Age settlement (House 5).*

The later Bronze Age samples suggest good botanical continuity with the preceding Early Bronze Age/Collared Urn phase activity. During both phases barley appears the main cereal crop, and the seeds of small legumes and goosefoots predominate as weeds. The continuity in wild taxa suggests that similar relatively well-drained and sandy soils were being used for cultivation during this period.

Spatial patterns are apparent within the roundhouse particularly with respect to charcoal, burnt stone, fired clay and fly-ash. Whilst these results derive as much from differing formation processes between the pits, postholes and ring-gully, different material types do appear consistently absent or in greater concentration in different areas.

## **Roman**

*Three kiln contexts from F830, seven ditch contexts from across the Fen Causeway, and two layers within ditch F.899 Enclosure B were examined. Each of the three settings produced distinctive assemblage types. In general the Roman period samples show evidence for the cultivation and processing of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), and also for an increasingly damp cultivated environment.*

### **Roman Road**

The majority of the evidence for plant resources on site during the Roman period comes from the road ditches. Most sampled contexts contain some cereal grain and chaff, and a range of wild species. The ditches to the eastern side of the road are generally slightly richer in charred

remains to those on the western side, ditch F.556 furthest to the west contained no identifiable charred seeds. In terms of charcoal and non-botanical remains, there is continuity across all the ditches.

Hulled barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) are present in low numbers only to the east of the road. In contrast glume wheat grains (mainly spelt with some emmer) are present across the ditches, but are far outnumbered by glume wheat chaff in all contexts except [598]. Two contexts, [628] and [611] are both particularly high in glume bases, suggesting that charred crop-processing by-products are represented here. Evidence for cultivation of pulses is also provided by remains of Celtic bean (*Vicia faba* var. *minor*, a broad bean type) in both ditches [628] and [614].

The wild seeds within the samples include many taxa associated with disturbed, and often damp environments. A variety of sedges were identified from the ditch samples including seeds of common club-rush (*Schoenoplectus* c.f. *lacrustis*) and common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*). Other wetland taxa present include rushes (*Juncus* sp.), water dock (*Rumex hydropathalum*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), wetland buttercups (*Ranunculus repens* and *R. flammula*) and also one seed of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) a weed associated with cultivation on clay soils.

The presence of wetland species strongly contrasts with the *prehistoric* charred plant remains at Whittlesey Brick Pits, which overall contained a total of two sedge seeds. Whilst charred remains can only represent a section of the environment, the Roman period samples strongly suggest that the local area had become much wetter. This interpretation is further supported by two pieces of evidence: Geoarchaeological evidence for a rising water-table within the area south-east of Fengate has been well documented, and shows organic muds and peats accumulating around 1000BC onwards (Pryor 1985, Hall 1992). The sequence of ditches to the east of the road involving F. 546 and F. 545 shows increasing contextual ‘wetness’ upwards. The deepest context, [599] contains charred plant remains, including some of the wetland species mentioned above. However, the overlying context [598] also contains calcified seeds of duckweed (*Lemna* sp.). Since these seeds are not charred they may well be *in situ*, representing a flooded phase within the ditch. This context is subsequently sealed by alluvial clay, representing a more prolonged period of flooding in the area. This sequence of deposits illustrates that even within the Roman phase of occupation the area around Whittlesey was becoming increasingly wet.

The Roman period botanical assemblage also contrasts to the preceding prehistoric periods in the large number of grasses (Poaceae) and clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) also present within the samples. The major ‘weeds’ within the Collared Urn and Later Bronze Age samples are of goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.) and vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) which are far more poorly represented in the Roman period. It is possible that the environment become damper, but that different, more grassy areas of land were also being utilised.

### *Kiln*

The three samples all contain similar material, with cereal chaff, including culm nodes (straw) being predominant. In most cases this chaff consists of glume bases, most usually identifiable as of spelt wheat. Two rachis internodes of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) are present in [1012]G. The only major seed associated with this chaff is of rye brome (*Bromus* c.f. *secalinus*),

an early introduced grass species. It is probable that the charred chaff and seeds represent a crop-processing by-product from a later stage of crop-processing, where the glume wheat spikelets had already been pounded to break apart the grain from the chaff.

Such by-product material may well have been thrown into the kiln as fuel with the wood. The heavy residue also contained burnt bone fragments, suggesting that food waste may have been utilised as kiln fuel. It is also possible that this charred plant material may reflect the construction of the kiln. Some of the fragments of fired clay kiln-lining show very clearly on their interior surface impressions of interlaid vegetative material – perhaps of straw.

### *Boundary Ditches*

These two contexts from ditch F.899 both show good evidence for burning, but contain negligible charred plant remains. Lower context [1137]d has moderate charcoal and burnt stone with some fired clay. The higher context [1137]c has in contrast very high levels of fired clay, suggesting charred debris from a specific context such as one of the kilns. The two seeds within [1137]c, of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and great fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) are associated with wet environments, the former on clayey soils, the latter in shallow base-rich waters.

### **Discussion & Conclusions**

In summary, the plant remains at King's Dyke West fall into three clear categories:

- The Pit-circle and Henge which contains charcoal and occasional charred wild seeds and nutlets. These may have been collected resources, but could equally reflect the charring of local scrub.
- Early and Later Bronze Age settlements which contain limited evidence of mainly barley cultivation upon primarily well-drained, sandy soils.
- Roman activity involving cultivation of hulled barley and spelt wheat upon heavy, wet soils. The fenland environment is clearly represented by the wild species within these samples.

The plant remains recovered within each period are generally characteristic of those recovered from other fenland sites at this time. The Roman period remains from the earlier assessment at King's Dyke West were richer than those uncovered here, with a much more diverse range of cereal and pulse taxa. However, there were still numerous wetland and grass species present within the samples, to which it was suggested that perhaps pastureland had become under cultivation in an effort to avoid other increasingly wet areas (Stevens 1997).

#### 4) Faunal Remains *Andy Clarke*

A large assemblage of animal bone totalling 4,487 fragments or 433.32kg, was recovered by hand from contexts ranging from the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman periods. Due to the large size of the assemblage, it was not possible to inspect all the faunal remains for the purpose of this assessment. Instead a random 20% sample was selected from the three areas of the site. This sample was then divided into Prehistoric and Roman contexts, which are dealt with separately in this assessment. This was carried out in order to identify the species present within the assemblage and to highlight any patterns evident in element distribution, age profiles, butchery and spatial distribution. Where possible all bone was identified to species level, except for bird and wild species. At this stage these bones are designated as bird, deer or wild species. All the bone was identified using Schmid (1982) and the Cambridge Archaeological Unit reference collection. Age estimation was undertaken according to the criteria established by Grant (1982) and Getty (1975). No attempt was made at this stage to distinguish the bones of sheep from those of goats. These bones are quoted as ovicaprid. Lastly, where it has been possible to do so, broken bones have been re-fitted and counted as a single bone.

Species	Prehistoric	Roman	Total
Cattle	21	62	83
Sheep/goat	7	61	68
Pig	0	15	15
Horse	3	2	5
Dog	0	15	15
Bird sp.	0	3	3
Wild sp.	0	1	1
Cow/size	17	100	117
Sheep size	10	74	84
Un-id	164	383	547
Total	222	716	938

**Table 1:** Number of identified specimens by species (NISP).

The condition of the assemblage is varied, but on the whole the majority of the bone is in a poor state of preservation. The assemblage has suffered a high degree of pre-depositional damage and the local environmental conditions have eroded the surface of much of the bone, a fact that is especially true for Area A. These facts are reflected in the high percentage of unidentifiable bone in each of the periods (Prehistoric = 73.8%, Roman = 53.4%). However despite these high figures it has still been possible to retrieve ageing and mensural data and evidence relating to butchery practices.

The range of species represented within the assemblage is limited and dominated by the major domestic animals. As Table 1 shows below, cattle and sheep/goat dominate, followed by pig, dog and horse. A single bone represents the only definite wild species, originating from a member of the *Mustelidae* family (weasels and stoats).

## *Prehistoric*

### Pit-circle and Henge

The only identifiable bone came from the primary fills of the henge ditches F.851 and 857 and comprised cranial fragments of cow and pig (61.5% of the bone being unidentifiable). The dark deposit located in the upper part of the southern henge ditch F.851 also contained bone (78.5% unidentifiable) and consisted of cranial fragments of cow, pig and a male wild boar.

### Round barrows 1 & 2

The ring-ditches of the two barrows produced material: Round barrow 1 contained cow hind limb bones, i.e. a femur, a tibia and a metatarsal, whereas Round barrow 2 had a single fragment of a cow pelvis.

### Early Bronze Age pit groups

A limited number of bones were recovered from the postholes of the EBA structure, from the shaft F.259, and some of the adjacent pit features. Identifiable bone was located in F.259 in the form of 3 cow bones. One of which was an unfused, distal epiphysis of a metapodial, giving an age at death of <2-2 ½ years for the animal from which it came. Further identifiable bone took the form of isolated cow molars from some of the pits.

The vast majority (82%) of the bone recovered was unidentifiable, a situation no doubt due to a combination of erosion by the surrounding environmental conditions and the depth of time the bone has remained buried. This being the case, and considering the paucity of the identifiable bone, very little information can be obtained regarding site activity for this period. Having said that however, the EBA structure does display the interesting characteristic of having bone (albeit unidentifiable) deposited in the pits that form its entrance. This is a practice that is again observed in the Later Bronze Age structures (see below).

### Late Bronze Age settlement

The Later Bronze Age remains are more extensive than those of the preceding period. Faunal material was recovered from five structures and a number of pits. In contrast to the varying preservational state of the buildings themselves, the bone recovered from them and from the pits is fairly consistent in being in a generally poor condition, having suffered from a high degree of post-depositional damage (such as canid gnawing) and environmental erosion. Due to this fact the majority (90%) of the bone recovered was unidentifiable. Added to this fact, the bone that is identifiable reveals little information apart from that they are indicative of domestic waste (i.e. non meat-bearing bones of cow and ovicaprids). However the faunal assemblage does provide information on a number of interesting points.

Firstly, House 3 produced a single ovicaprid phalange at a foetal or neonate stage of development. The presence of this bone indicates the possibility that sheep or goats were being bred on site. The positioning of the deposits of animal bone highlights a further feature of the site in this period. Apart from House 5 (see below) all the other structures have bone deposited not only in the pits that make up or surround them, but also in the pits that form their entrances.

Finally, House 5, the most completely preserved of the structures, provides the best-preserved animal bone. This structure differs from those mentioned above as it is the only one not to have had any bone deposited in its entrance way. In House 5 it is the internal pits, especially feature F.496 that have produced the animal remains. These take the form of the remains of a semi-articulated lamb skeleton. From the size and developmental stage of the bones, they are taken to be the remains of a single individual aged between 2 – 6 months. No butchery marks were observed on any of the bones and together with the articulation observed it is assumed that this animal was at least partly fleshed when it was deposited.

The deposition of bone in the entranceways, combined with the lamb burial suggests that something other than the simple disposal of refuse is taking place. This is backed up by data from the previous watching brief excavation at King's Dyke West (Knight 1999). This revealed the remains of a roundhouse that had lamb bones deposited in pits both within the structure and in the entranceway. This was interpreted as being 'votive foundation deposits' possibly linked to feasting of seasonally slaughtered lamb (Higbee, 1999). Bearing this view in mind then, it would appear that here too out of the ordinary, possibly ritual practices are being carried out in the ordinary location of round houses; making a ritual out of the routine?

### **Discussion - Prehistory**

A full analysis the remains deposited in the monumental features may have the potential to shed some light on the significance of bone deposits in such contexts, not only through comparison to any similar practices occurring at contemporary sites in the region, but also in comparison to the domestic features on this site. Further to this, when studied from the point of view of the site as a whole, the bone from the Collared Urn deposits could contribute information as the comparative importance of wild and domestic species to the site economy. This information could also be used to highlight any economic changes that took place between the prehistoric and the Roman phases of the site.

### *Roman*

The sample assemblage studied for this period of the site originates from a complex series of features that are interpreted as paddocks and ditches immediately adjacent to and on both sides, of the road. As already stated, this assessment is only dealing with a small sample of the entire site assemblage, but from the small amount of bone inspected for this period it has been possible to gain some insight into the type of animal exploitation carried out during the Roman phases of the site.

As can be seen from Table 1 above the remains of the major domestic species, with cattle and sheep/goat being the most prevalent, dominate the Roman assemblage followed by pig, dog and horse. Only 3 fragments of bone belonging to bird species were recovered which although this needs confirmation, appear to originate from domestic hens. The only definitely wild remains take the form of a mandible from a type of stoat or weasel.

As explained in the main text, the complex of paddocks develops slowly over time, and as one might expect, this is reflected in the type of faunal data retrieved from the different developmental phases of the paddocks.

#### Phases 1 & 2 (early).

It is not until phase 2 that the beginnings of economic activity can be seen reflected in the data retrieved from the animal bone. At this time there appears to be a concentration on cattle and sheep/goat, but there are also limited remains of pig and horse. What form of economy these animals were being exploited for is unclear, but from skeletal elements recovered and the ageing data that they provide, there is a suggestion that at least sheep/goat were being bred on site, indicated by the presence of foetal bones.

#### Phase 2 (late)

The main focus is once again on cattle and sheep/goat, but in these phases there is much more evidence the exploitation of pigs. All three of these domestics provided ageing data that again hints at husbandry taking place on site. However, the age ranges for cattle only begin at 1-2 yrs so there is a possibility that these animals were being brought onto the site along the road. Whether this is true or not, the primary butchery of cattle certainly took place on site, as indicated by cut marks on waste bone from this stage of the butchery sequence. A further point to note on the subject of butchery is that a single sheep/goat size vertebra shows evidence of sagittal butchery (i.e. a carcass being split lengthways along the spine), a practice that is uncommon in this period (Crabbtree, 1989).

#### Phase 3

In the final phase of the paddock features the exploitation seen in the previous phase continues with the slight indication that sheep/goat are favoured more than cattle. There is still an indication from the ageing data that sheep/goat husbandry was taking place on site together with the possibility of 'on the hoof' transportation of cattle. The final fills of Phase 3 sees the faunal assemblage reduce considerably. There is still evidence that cattle, sheep/goat and pig were being exploited, but due to the small number of bones recovered, it is difficult to infer what form this exploitation took.

In conclusion then, it would appear that as the road and the paddock systems linked to it, grow and become more complex, so does the nature of the animal bone assemblage. The early

suggestion of sheep/goat breeding develops from phase 2. There is also the possibility that cattle were either being bred on site by this time or they were being transported in using the road. These inferences continue into phase 3 after which the intensity of activity that is indicated reduces considerably.

The interpretations set out above are based on only a sample of the bone recovered. They are all mere suggestions, but they provoke important questions:-

- There seems to be an indication of husbandry, but what form did it take?
- Cattle and sheep/goat are favoured much more than pig or wild species, is this true or a bias due to only inspecting a sample of the total assemblage?
- The great majority of the bone inspected comes from the parts of the skeleton that hold the least meat, indicating waste from primary butchery. This fact together with the possibility of 'on the hoof' importation of cattle suggests a use for the paddock features that border the road. Are they corrals and holding pens used to fatten the animals before slaughter and the final transportation to a nearby settlement?
- Finally, the bone from the final phases of the road and paddock system suggests a reduction in the activity of the site. If this is true, was the decline a gradual or rapid change?

These questions can only be answered if the entire assemblage is inspected and so accordingly a full analysis is recommended.

## 5) Human Bones *Andy Clarke*

The human remains from the site can be separated into two types of burial: inhumation or cremation; and two periods: Bronze Age or Romans. Inhumations were located within both periods (3 Bronze Age and 2 Roman) whereas the cremations (?) were exclusive to the Bronze Age. The three Bronze age inhumations were situated either at the centre of the two round barrows or as a single isolated burial. The two Roman inhumations came from contexts incorporated into the roadside ditches. The cremations were either found in and around Round Barrow 1 or as single isolated cremation burial beyond its confines. For the purpose of this report, the remains of each individual was briefly scanned to assess the potential demographic information that could be gained, such as age, sex, stature and pathology. All bone was identified using the reference material of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and any age or sex estimations were carried out according to the criteria established by Brothwell (1981) and Schwartz (1995).

### *Early Bronze Age Inhumations.*

Round Barrow 1 – central burial F.795.

F.795 comprised a crouched inhumation aligned northeast to southwest. The skeleton had undergone a great deal of erosion due to the effects of the surrounding environment, a fact that has naturally limited the amount of data it is possible to retrieve. However, even though some of the more fragile elements of the skeleton have not survived, it is clear from the elements that are present that this individual was not fully mature. Much of the bone displays centres of ossification where the fusion is incomplete. Due to this fact it has been possible to age this individual (from the ossification centre that runs through the acetabulum) to approximately 12 – 18 years of age.

Round barrow 2 – central burial F.757

This individual was again in a crouched position and aligned south to north. The skeleton was almost entirely complete with only a few of the smaller elements of the hands and feet being absent. It is in a very good state of preservation, although it has suffered from a limited amount of post-depositional damage. Despite this fact though, it is clear from the brief inspection carried out for this report, that this skeleton represents the remains of a large male of approximately 25 to 35 years of age.

Isolated Inhumation – F.611

F.611 was also crouched position aligned north to south. Upon inspection, it is clear that this skeleton is almost entirely complete and in a good state of preservation, but as with the previous inhumation there has been some post-depositional damage. However the preservation is of a high enough level to ascertain that these remains represent a possible male, aged between 25 to 35 years.

### *Early Bronze Age Cremations*

Of the five Bronze Age cremations four were accompanied by either complete or the fragmentary remains of urns (F.s 754/755, 748, 812 & 813) and one as a discrete collection of calcined located centrally within a pit (F.852). F.754/755 was located near to the central inhumation of Round Barrow 1 and had been disturbed by later (probably Roman ploughing). F.748 and F.852 were situated in the open ground between Round barrows 1 & 2 and F.s 812 & 813 were found within the upper profile of the southern circumference of the ring-ditch of round barrow 1.

#### Urned Cremation - F754/755

The bone was in a very fragmented state, and from the colour it is clear that it has been subjected to burning at high temperatures. Despite this situation however, there is a good deal of the bone that is identifiable. From the brief inspection it was possible to confidently identify the remains of humerii, skull, phalanges, femur, and teeth. All these elements appeared to be of adult age and may hold the potential for at least an approximation of age and sex. But what is especially noteworthy about this cremation is that a single hand phalange was found that was of a size that could only have originated from an individual of less than 1 year of age.

#### Urned Cremation - F.748/749

The bone was in a varied condition with some fragments being bright white in colour, twisted and fragmented, i.e. displaying all the characteristics of burning at high temperatures, while other pieces of bones seem to have hardly been burnt at all. This situation has obviously had an influence on the data that can be retrieved from this cremation. While much of the bone is fragmented beyond recognition, it was possible to identify elements from throughout the skeleton. Not only were these bones in a good enough condition to be identifiable, it is highly probable that they will provide ageing and sexing data too. Further to this, from the presence of two right patella, it was possible to ascertain with some confidence that this cremation contained the remains of at least two people, an interesting fact as the cremated bone was associated with two pots.

#### Urned Cremation - F.812

This cremation is very poorly preserved and consisted of less than one hundred fragments. All the bone had clearly been burnt at high temperature and was all unidentifiable.

#### Cremation in pit - F. 852

As with the other cremations there was clear evidence of uneven distribution of heat in the funeral pyre as some of the fragments are bright white, while others are only black in colour. This situation has rendered much of the bone unidentifiable. However, having said that the majority of the bone takes the form of large fragments from which it has been possible to

identify particular elements from throughout the skeleton, from which it should be possible to retrieve ageing and sexing data.

### *Roman Inhumations*

#### Roadside burial - F.563

F.563 was crouched and aligned north to south. It was almost entirely complete and only has a few of the more fragile and smaller skeletal elements missing. The bones of this individual are in an excellent state of preservation and represent the remains of a probable female aged between 25 to 35 years. It was also possible to observe an incidence of spinal pathology. This took the form of bi-polar spondylosis of the fifth lumbar vertebra, a common trait that is the result of physical stress (Schwartz, 1995).

#### Roadside Burial – F.802

The bones present come from throughout the skeleton (skull fragments, humerus shaft, metatarsals and ribs) and were found in a disarticulated state. Due to the limited amount of bone recovered and their disarticulation, there is very little that can be inferred beyond that they are probably from one individual of an adult age.

### **Results - *Statement of Potential***

The results that are detailed above show that the inhumations and cremations revealed during the excavation hold a great deal of information and could provide valuable demographic data from the Early Bronze Age and Roman periods. To this end a number of points need to be addressed: -

- The age and sex estimations need to be confirmed for the inhumations.
- The inhumations require detailed inspection to acquire data on aspects such as stature, level of dental pathology (if any), level of skeletal pathology (if any).
- The inclusion of a juvenile in F.754/755 and a second individual in F.748/749 both require further investigation to confirm or deny this suspicion.
- The degree to which each cremation has been burnt should be compared as it may highlight possible different cremation practices for different individuals.
- Finally the data collated from the inhumations and the cremations should be compared to contemporary demographic data from other sites excavated in the region.

The only way to explore the above points to the full is to carry out a full analysis on the inhumation and cremations assemblages.

## 6) Roman pottery *Gwladys Monteil*

### Introduction

A large amount of Roman pottery was recovered from several Roman features, including different phases of a road and a pottery kiln, in Whittlesey (Cambridgeshire). For each context the pottery was sorted by combination of fabric and form then counted and weighted. EVEs (based on the percentage of rim present) were also noted.

Out of the total assemblage (8010 sherds) 6492 sherds were identified as Romano-British, they represent 91.6% (170 kg) of the total weight for an EVEs figure of 131.7. The assemblage is on the whole quite abraded and composed of small sized sherds apart from few outstanding groups, especially the kiln F.830/848 assemblage ([1012] and [1061]) and some pits assemblages: F. 507, 629, 636, 731. The earliest material is associated with the road as well as the kiln and can be dated to the Pre-Flavian period. The second phase of occupation can be dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD but it seems that it is only in the later 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> c AD that a real settlement is initiated. The terminus post-quem of the assemblage is unfortunately more problematical as late Nene Valley products do not have a detailed chronology for the 4<sup>th</sup> AD. However the presence of Harston Red Slipped Wares within the assemblage suggest a Roman occupation until at least 350 AD.

### Assemblage composition

Not surprisingly the majority of the assemblage (39% of the total number of sherds) is composed of products coming from the Nene Valley. Nene Valley Grey wares make up 23.8 % of the total number of Roman sherds while Nene Valley Colour coated wares constitute 13.2 % and Nene Valley Cream Wares (including mortaria) represent slightly less than 3%. In this assemblage the range of forms present for the Nene Valley wares is large and covers the chronological evolution of the industry itself up to the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD: for example some contexts have coarse-ware forms exclusively in colour-coated fabrics (F. 546 [594], F.545 [595], F.546 [599]). The assemblage includes colour-coated beakers, they are either bag shaped, folded, with overslip barbotine or white painted decorations, with underslip barbotine decorations, with 'S' shaped barbotine decoration or with underslip barbotine hunt scene decorations, rouletted, with a funnel neck, a beaded rim or a cornice type rim. The other main form in colour-coated fabric is the jar; some are narrow-mouthed, others are wide-mouthed and some show a frilled cordoned neck (Dannell, Hartley, Wild and Perrin: n.88 Fig.17). The colour-coated dishes are in majority plain-rimmed or with triangular or flat-topped rim, however a small number of dishes are Samian forms imitations: Dragendorff 31, 36 and a possible Dragendorff 36R. The Nene Valley colour-coated group also includes castor boxes, flanged bowls, imitations of the Samian form Dragendorff 38, flagons and jugs. Some more unusual forms are also present like a beaded rim small cup with barbotine intersecting arc decoration (J.R. Perrin, 1999: 249 Fig. 64). The EVEs figure for the Nene Valley colour-coated vessels is 19.03.

The Nene Valley Grey Wares form range includes jars, some with burnished lattice decorations; plain-rimmed dishes, flat topped rim dishes, dishes with triangular rims and imitations of the

Samian forms Dragendorff 36 and Ludowici Tg and flanged bowls. All the Nene Valley Grey wares forms make up an EVEs figure of 30. The Nene Valley Cream wares include mainly mortaria and flagons (4.94 EVEs). The last example coming from the Nene Valley is a nearly complete 'London type ware' bowl (0.85 EVEs) from context F.731 [859c] with incised semi circle shaped decorations and fine-combed lines (Tyers, 1996: n.4 Fig 213).

The other bulk of the assemblage is constituted by shell-tempered wares: coarse wares in shell-tempered fabrics make up 29% of the total number of Roman sherds and fine shell-tempered wares from the kiln assemblage constitute almost 7% of the Roman assemblage. The main forms associated with the coarse shell-tempered fabrics are storage and cooking jars with very few dishes. An origin for the coarse shell-tempered fabrics is difficult to assess. In Whittlesey site they are found in large quantity and for every chronological phase and it seems reasonable to suggest a nearby production centre like the Nene Valley. However for the late contexts (3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD and 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD) an origin in Bedfordshire could also be suggested as the sherds from those later phases are harder and display a range of surface colours (from orange to reddish brown) similar to the ones described for Harrold wares (A. Brown, 1994: 51). For the Pre-Flavian kiln assemblage (6.75% of the total number of Roman sherds and an EVEs figure of 14.49), four main forms have been identified: imitation of the carenated jar Cam 215b with variations on the decoration of the neck (double-cordoned, single-cordoned or double-grooved), imitation of the buttbeaker form Cam 113 with combed and cordoned decorations, a coarse globular grooved jar and a large globular neckless storage jar. The rest of the assemblage is more mixed with however a relatively large percentage of probable local Grey Wares (13.6% of the total number of Roman sherds and an EVEs figure of 18.90). The main forms associated with the Grey Wares are jars, including cooking jars, and dishes. A fabric type serie has not been completed but two main groups of Grey Wares have been recognised: a relatively fine mid grey smooth and calcareous fabric with fine sand inclusions and a coarse sand-tempered mid to dark grey fabric. The coarse Red Wares are in minority (2.49% of the total number of Roman sherds for an EVEs figure of 3.06). The main forms are jars with however an almost complete mortarium (F.731 [859a]) associated with a relatively fine calcareous fabric gritted with flint and pink quartz fragments.

The remaining part of the assemblage is made up of imported or Romano-British fine wares. Samian was the most common continental import with 1.8% of the total number of Roman sherds. Most of the Samian come from Central Gaul (1.21% of the total number of Roman sherds and 67.5% of the total Samian sherds for an EVEs figure of 2.42). Plain forms are in preponderance with a clear dominance of dishes (Dragendorff 18/31, 31, 31R and 36 and Walters 79) and cups (Dragendorff 33 and 35). One of the Dragendorff 33 (F.809 [989d]) is stamped: MOSSIM as well as one of the Dragendorff 31R (F.686 [858]): LAXIVCISF. Four bowls Dragendorff 37 also come from the Central Gaulish kilns; one of them shows a reparation lead rivet in situ (F.809 [989c]) and one mortarium Dragendorff 45 has been identified. 28.2% of the Samian come from East Gaul (0.5 of total number of Roman sherds for an EVEs figure of 0.47). Again the plain forms dominate with the Dragendorff 31 and Walter 79 for the dishes, Dragendorff 33 for the cups and the forms Dragendorff 38 and 37 for the bowls. Two East Gaulish Dragendorff 31 are stamped: one from F.599 [675a] with an incomplete stamp (M\_X) and one with an illiterate stamp from F. 558. The last origin for the Samian is South Gaul (0.07 % of the total Roman sherds, 4.2% of the Samian sherds for an EVEs figure of 0.1). Two dishes Dragendorff 15/17 have been identified as well as a bowl Dragendorff 37. Other continental

imports include a green glazed bag shaped beaker from context F.507 [552c] with underslip floral barbotine decorations from Cologne area (Dr. K. Greene, pers. comm.), three beaker sherds possibly from Trier (F.765 [912], F.769 [917] and F.809 [1003]), one handle fragment of an amphora Dressel 20 from the Baetica province (F.832 [1016]).

16 sherds (0.2% of the total number of Roman sherds for an EVEs figure of 0.26) have been identified as Harston wares, they all are abraded but 10 of them seem to be red-slipped. The forms include jars, dishes, bowls including a possible form n.10 fig.10 (G. Lucas, 1999) and a possible beaker. A mortarium from a possible Mancetter origin has been identified in F.732 [860]. The last Romano-British ware noticed within the assemblage comes from Oxfordshire kilns. Only two examples have been identified: a beaker in a Red Slipped fabric (F.548 [600]) and a bowl in a non-slipped fabric ('darksoil' [607]).

## Discussion

The earliest Roman occupation on the site seems modest and mainly focused on the primary road. Very little material was recovered from this earliest phase and mainly from the roadside ditches (F. 556 [609], F.565 [632], F.650 [878]); it can be dated to the early Pre-Flavian period. Few ditches (Paddock 2 F.651 [747], F.614 [750]) could also belong to this earliest phase but unfortunately there is very little material and it is mainly shell-tempered pottery.

After what seems to be a short length of time, a pottery kiln chamber (F. 830 [1012]) was built into the western roadside ditch of the primary road. Round in shape, its original, western flue ([1061]) was later closed off and replaced with a new flue on the eastern side. The chronological evidence from the wasters, later used to backfill the kiln, suggest a date in the late Pre-Flavian for the use of that kiln. As mentioned above four types of forms were found within the backfill, however the main production seems to be an imitation of the form Cam 215b in a wheel-thrown, well fired, hard, and smooth, beige to pink shell-tempered fabric. As, other than the ones in the kiln, no wasters have been found on site, there is not strong evidence for a large-scaled or long-term production for this kiln. Despite the road and the small kiln, there is no clear evidence for a large domestic occupation during this early phase. A square building (F.656 [764] to [772]) could possibly be part of an early settlement but, again, there is very little pottery from this building (7 abraded sherds of shell-tempered fabrics).

For the subsequent phase of occupation (late 1<sup>st</sup> c AD/ 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD) the material is denser but again does not suggest an extremely vigorous occupation. However a pit assemblage (F. 731 [859]) is particularly interesting. The pit F. 731 contains an episodic depositional group. Composed of 344 large and unabraded sherds (5.14% of the total number of Roman sherds for a remarkable EVEs figure of 11.69), this pit was in use between 80 and 150 AD. The first two upper layers ([859]a and b) contain jars in Nene Valley Grey ware and Cream ware that would suggest a date in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD. The following layer ([859]c) contains a Nene Valley 'London type' bowl while the lowest layer 9 ([859]d) contains earlier forms such as a burnished platter with lattice decorations inside.

This phase of occupation is also noticeable thanks to the presence of continental imports such as the almost complete green-glazed bag-shaped beaker from Cologne (F. 507) or South Gaulish and Central Gaulish samian wares. The Central Gaulish fragments show a fabric similar to the phase 6 identified in Lezoux (140-190 AD, Bet et alii, 1989). Most of the samian fragments were found as residual in later contexts which indicates a long curation, usual in the Fens.

The activity substantially increased sometime in the late 2<sup>nd</sup>/ 3<sup>rd</sup> AD. The density of occupation is much more apparent, especially in the large quantity of Nene Valley Colour Coated and Grey Wares recovered from the site. F. 636 [733] pottery assemblage represents the beginning of this phase with a large majority of Nene Valley Grey and a Nene Valley Cream ware complete flagon dated late 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD (Perrin, 1999: 316 Fig.66). Very few Colour Coated fragments were recovered from this feature (4 sherds). However Nene Valley colour-coated wares are not absent from this phase: F. 825 [999] contains several colour-coated beakers, especially one close to the form Gillam 51 dated late 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and one close to the form Gillam 78 dated 170-210 AD. The unique fragment of amphora imported from the Baetica Province comes from this phase of occupation (F. 832).

The occupation seems to be maintained up to the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD. Some Nene Valley colour-coated vessels present late characteristics: the quasi-systematic presence of coarse ware forms (especially the 'dog bowl') in colour-coated fabrics and a generally coarser quality of the fabric and finish. Few sherds of Oxfordshire red/brown slipped wares were also found. Chronologically Harston wares remain the best indicator of a late activity on site. There is no strong evidence to suggest further occupation than 350/360 AD. In conclusion this assemblage is of local origin. If some diversity in the supply is clear up to the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD, the Nene Valley products achieve great prominence compare to any contemporary wares when the Roman settlement extends.

### *Conclusion and recommendations*

Further work is highly recommended for this assemblage. It should include:

- Full and detailed quantification of the pottery assemblage. This should include quantification by fabric and form based on weight, sherds count and EVEs (Estimated Vessels Equivalent).
- Better definition of vertical stratigraphy and stratigraphical sequence.
- Fabric type serie especially for the kiln material (it could be useful for comparing with other immediately Post Conquest assemblages from the Fens) and for the Nene Valley material in order to discern what quantity of material comes from Stanground production site.
- Spatial analysis to understand the functionality of the fieldsystem, paddocks, etc...
- Taphonomy

## 7) Small finds assessment *Adrian Challands*

### *Summary*

The small finds, other than the prehistoric finds, are few in number and are mostly of Roman date. None of the small finds are of great significance or rarity. As the majority of the copper-alloy small finds are coins ( for dates see appendix below ), the value of the coin assemblage maybe in its potential for feature dating. Recommendations for the treatment and analysis of the Whittlesey Brick Pits small finds that are contained in the text below and the catalogue.

### *The small finds*

The small finds from Whittlesey have been isolated in-groups according to their metallic composition and are quantified below :

Type	Number
Copper alloy coins	46
Copper alloy artefacts	16
Lead and pewter	17
Iron	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

**Table 3:** Objects according to metallic types.

Only two small finds are not Roman, catalogue number <1537> which is medieval and <1562> which is post-medieval.

Metal	Writing	Dress	Toilet	Commerce	Building	Tools
<i>Cu</i>	1	11	1			
<i>Pb</i>			1	2	1	
<i>Fe</i>					12	2

**Table 2:** Objects by function

### *Recommendations*

As a group the population of objects is too small to be meaningful for site utilisation projections. The iron should be X-rayed and re-analysed to determine use. The coins require full interpretation, although the population is too small to produce comparative statistics. The catalogue lists action to be taken with individual and groups of artefacts.

Catalogue Number	Sub category	Date
1542		c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1544		c. 31 BC or c. up to c. AD 64
1545	A	AD 268 – 270
1545	B	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1545	C	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1546		3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1549		3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1550	A	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
1550	B	late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	C	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	D	AD 364 – 378
1550	E	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	F	AD 330 – 335
1550	G	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1550	H	late 2 <sup>nd</sup> / early 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	J	late 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1550	K	last quarter of 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1550	L	AD 287 – 293
1550	M	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	N	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	P	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	Q	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	R	late 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1550	S	c. AD 270 – 273
1550	T	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1550	U	AD 324 – 330
1551	A	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1551	B	AD 324 – 330
1552		first ½ of 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD
1553		last ½ of 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1554		c. mid. 2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
1556		c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1557		c. AD 265 – 270
1558	A	post - medieval
1558	B	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1558	C	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1558	D	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1558	E	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1558	F	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1558	G	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1558	H	c. 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD
1558	J	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD
1558	K	AD 198 - 217
1558	L	2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD
1559		AD 287 – 293
1560		AD 324 - 330

**Table 2:** Coin dates

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