

**EXCAVATION OF A DOUBLE PIT
ALIGNMENT AT THE THORNBOROUGH
MONUMENT COMPLEX, NORTH
YORKSHIRE**

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CNY	18539
ENY	677
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Parish	2045
Rec'd	06/06/05

**DR JAN HARDING & MR BEN JOHNSON
SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE**

JUNE, 2005

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ABSTRACT

The report describes the excavation of a 350 metre length of the longest double pit alignment known in the British Isles. Work was completed with the aim of providing a detailed and up-to-date assessment of the levels of preservation and the potential significance of the site.

The Southern Double Pit Alignment was discovered as an aerial photograph cropmark near the Southern Henge in 1975. It is over 350 metres long, with pits every 5 metres to 7 metres. The rows of the alignment are between 10 and 11 metres apart. At the northern end are two closely set, parallel lines of what appear to be dug features or trenches, each about 3 metres long.

Geophysical prospection and excavation was undertaken on the monument by the Vale of Mowbray Neolithic Landscape Project in 1994-95 and 1998-99. Only limited geophysics was completed towards the southern end of the alignment. It confirmed a double row of sub-circular features (Harding et al unpub. 1999). The subsequent excavations uncovered 88 pits. These varied in size from 0.75 metres diameter and 0.35 metres deep to 4 metres diameter and 1.8 metres deep. The existence of post-pipes and stone packing suggested that most contained post settings. There was a gap of about 30 metres in the eastern line of pits, where it passed closest to the northern entrance of the Southern Henge. Two of the excavated pits produced the upper half of an inverted Deverel-Rimbury vessel and three sherds of Collared Urn. A total of 59 worked lithics were recovered during the excavation. They comprised 42 flakes, 3 blades, 3 bladelets, 2 cores and 1 core fragment, 3 edge-utilised flakes, 3 edge-retouched flakes, 1 scraper and 1 microlith. The majority of this material was of later Neolithic-early Bronze Age date and type. A radiocarbon date of 3385 ± 38 BP (OxA-11009, 1750-1590 Cal BC) was from a small charcoal fragment in the post-pipe of one pit, while others of 2716 ± 37 BP (OxA-11010, 925-800 Cal BC) and 2761 ± 35 BP (OxA-11033, 1000-825 Cal BC) were from a small fragment of charcoal in the top of a pit's recut.

The fieldwork in 1994-95 was funded by the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Prehistoric Society. The fieldwork in 1998 and 1999 was funded by Mr Robert Staveley of Lightwater Holding Ltd.

1. INTRODUCTION

L1 Location, topography and geology

The study area is based between SE2677-3282 and focused around the Neolithic-early Bronze Age monument complex at SE285795 (centred), which comprises three large henges, a definite cursus and a possible cursus, a long mortuary enclosure, at least nine round barrows, two double pit alignments, contemporary settlement and other features or finds of archaeological significance (Fig 1) These sites are described in Harding and Johnson (2003)

The topography of the landscape is largely flat or gently undulates between 35 and 45 metres OD (Fig 2) However, it rises steeply to the west, between the villages of West Tanfield and Well, to a height of over 135 metres The River Ure lies to the south-west The soils are typical brown earths, with calcareous brown earths to the west, and alluvial gley soils to the north The drift geology is predominantly undifferentiated fluvio-glacial terrace deposits, with undifferentiated river terrace deposits around the River Ure and isolated pockets of till and peat to the east and north respectively The solid geology comprises Lower Magnesian Limestone to the west, Middle Marl through the central areas, and Upper Magnesian Limestone to the east

All the monuments lie on the fluvio-glacial terrace deposits along a slight north-south decline towards the River Ure The primary foci of the monument complex are the three massive henges built 0.75 kilometres apart, along a north-west to south-east axis There would also appear to be contemporary settlement areas, significantly separated from the complex, either by distance or by variations in the local topography

A double pit alignment (Fig 1f, NGR 2870078900 centred) runs for over 350 metres north-north-east to south-south-west, to the west of the Southern Henge across ground which slopes gently from north to south with a slight, but pronounced, ridge of a little over two metres height at around the midway point Round barrows are sited at each end, one on the mid-point of the axis between the Central and Southern Henges, marking out the northern end of double pit alignment (Fig 1n), and one at what is presumed to be the southern end of the monument immediately to the west of the Southern Henge (Fig 1o) A further cropmark double pit alignment is known at Thomborough (Fig 1g, NGR SE2820080230) to the east of the Northern Henge It runs south-west to north-east for a distance of about 132 metres The two lines of pits are about 9 to 10 metres apart and there is a pit every 10 metres or so along these rows These two very similar monuments have been labelled the Southern Double Pit Alignment and Northern Double Pit Alignment

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Regional and national context

Three other double pit alignments are known in the area, all to the south-east Approximately 4 kilometres to the south is a further cluster of Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites, including the henges of Hutton Moor and Cana Bam, twenty round barrows, a single and a double pit alignment, and an elongated enclosure

Further south-east are over 100 known pits, excavated in 1994 and 1995 as part of the A1(M) widening (Tavener 1996) These form distinct concentrations and are associated with the remains of extensive Neolithic settlement They were also associated with a slightly curving double pit alignment (ibid, 184-5) A total of 65 pestholes were discovered within the 50 metres of the motorway corridor, forming two closely-spaced and parallel rows only between 1.8-2.7 metres apart The pits were spaced between 1.2-1.4 metres along each row and were 0.65-1.4 metres diameter and 0.6-1.8 metres deep The monument was dated to 3980 +/-50 Uncal BP (OxA-5577) and the only find was a single worked flint Tavener (1996, 186) also notes two similar monuments found during earlier excavations some 200 metres to the west of the Devil's Arrows The post-pipe of one of the pits produced Grooved Ware pottery and similar contexts the dates of 4234 +/-80 Uncal BP (RCD-1596) and 4314 +/-87 Uncal BP (RCD-1597)

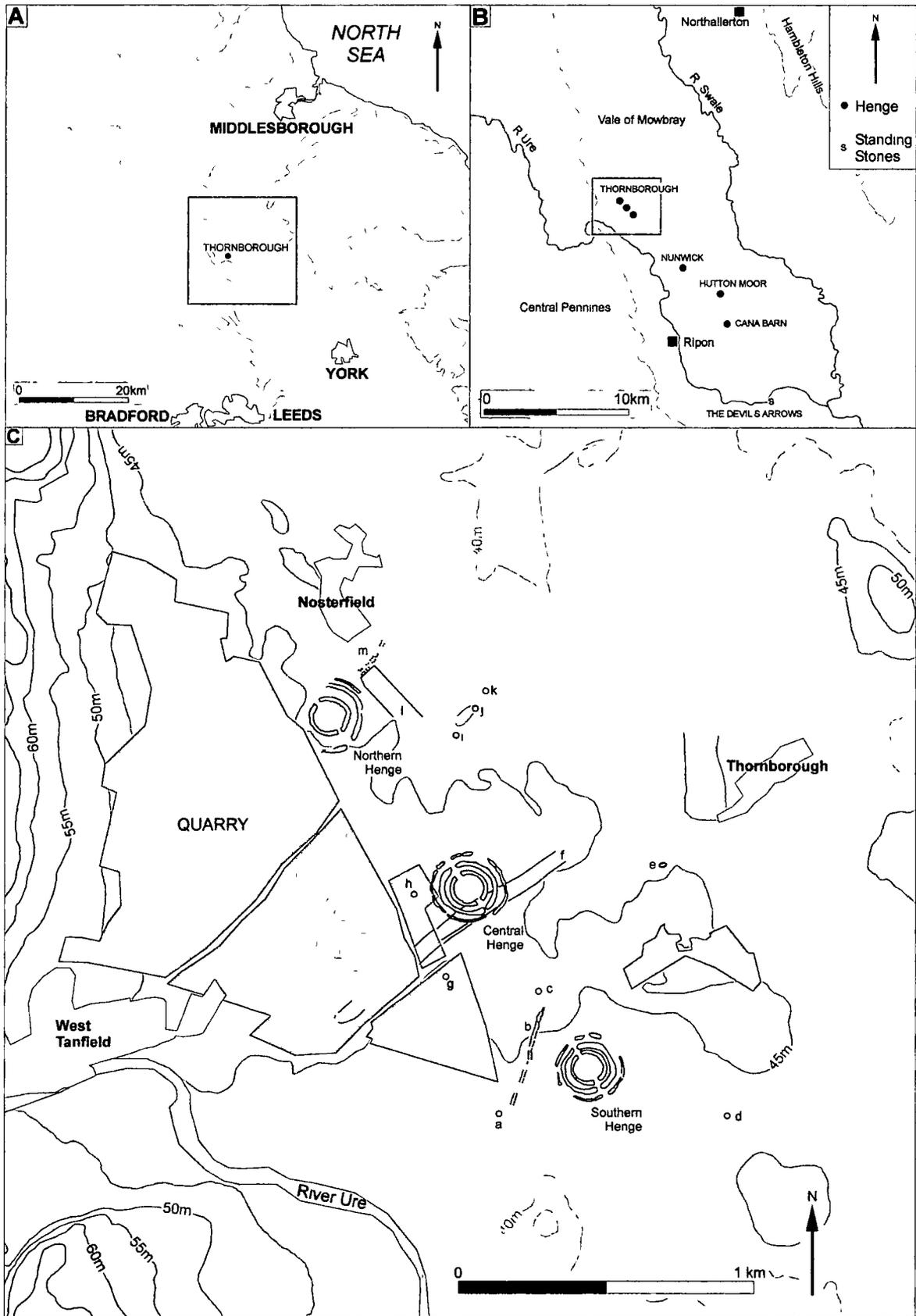


Fig 1 Location map of the Thornborough monument complex

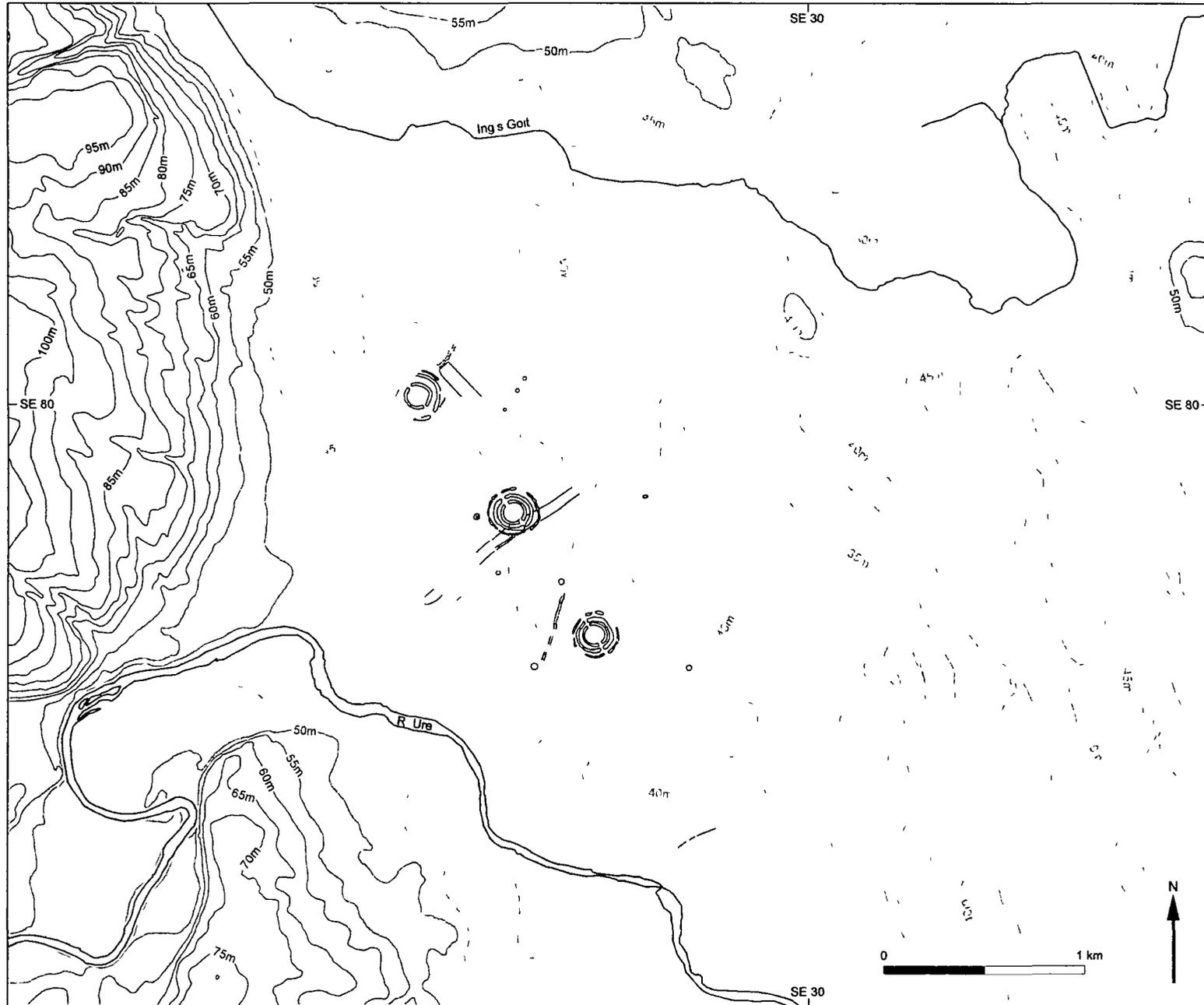


Fig 2 Topography of the study area

2.2 Archaeological history

The Southern Double Pit Alignment was discovered as an aerial photograph cropmark immediately to the west of the Southern Henge in 1975 (St Joseph 1977). From the aerial photographic rectification undertaken by the Vale of Mowbray Neolithic Landscape Project (VMNLP) it appeared that some of the largest pits in the alignment were situated at the top of the gravel ridge which bisects the monument about half-way along its length. In addition, the rectification showed that the alignment was anything but straight — a conclusion later refuted by excavation — and that the monument appeared to narrow at its northern end, in conjunction with an increase in the size of the pits themselves, before opening out again for around 20 metres. Immediately to the north of this, forming the end of the alignment, were 9 paired linear features, each around 3 metres long and spaced approximately 2.5 metres apart, with a narrow gap 1.75 metres wide continuing the line of the alignment.

No other fieldwork has been previously undertaken at the site with the exception of surface collection, by the VMNLP, in the summer of 1994. Fieldwalking produced two Neolithic scrapers from within 30 metres of the alignment. No visible trace of the monument survived at ground level.

2.3 Methodology

Three small trenches were opened to the southern end of the alignment in the summer of 1994 and 1995 after geophysical prospection had located faint traces of what appeared to be individual pits (Harding et al unpub 1999). This resulted in the discovery of three features, each given their own series of Context Numbers (beginning 100, 200 and 300). A larger trench 28 metres by 16 metres was opened to the northern end of the alignment in 1998 with its own Context Numbers with the numerical prefix of '8'. In 1999 a trench 30 metres wide and 350 metres long (which included previously opened areas) was excavated in which was recorded the rest of the features described below. This trench also had its own series of Context Numbers, but with a numerical prefix of '9'. In both 1998 and 1999 individual feature numbers appeared after the prefix in order of discovery, eg the twenty-third feature discovered in 1999 was allocated the context '923'.

The 1998-99 trenches were laid out using a Geotronics Geodolite Total Station, based upon the results of aerial photographic rectification. The large 1999 excavation trench was located between the Stewardship Agreement boundary to the north and a track to the south. Its width ensured that the entire alignment was excavated irrespective of any changes in its course. It also ascertained whether any other features were associated in the immediate vicinity of the alignment. The 1994 and 1995 trenches were completely excavated by hand. With the 1998 and 1999 trenches topsoil was stripped by machine as far as the truncated tops of the pits. The surrounding subsoil was also excavated by machine to the depth of the natural gravel. All features were cleaned and excavated by hand. A written, drawn and photographic record was made using the single context system. All these records were then digitised. Finds were located in three dimensions using a Geotronics Geodolite Total Station. Data processing was undertaken using Landscape Survey Systems v6, AutoCAD R14, Jasc PaintShopPro v6 and Microsoft Excel and Word.

3. RESULTS

The three small trenches excavated in 1994-95 located the plough disturbed upper fills of three pits (features 100, 200 and 300), complemented in 1998 by the discovery of the plough disturbed upper fills of a further six features pits (features 817, 818, 819, 820, 821 and 822). In 1999 the removal of the topsoil revealed the plough disturbed upper fills of 93 features (Fig 3), including the nine found during previous seasons. Hence, a total of 87 pits are known from the excavated length of the alignment, with another (feature 923) possibly associated with the monument. Two palaeochannels (features 90004 and 90006) and a railway track (feature 98401) were also discovered. All features had been truncated by ploughing, particularly towards the northern end of the trench.

A total of 59 worked lithics were recovered during the excavation. They comprised 42 flakes, 3 blades, 3 bladelets, 2 cores and 1 core fragment, 3 edge-utilised flakes, 3 edge-retouched flakes, 1 scraper and 1 microlith. Ceramuc material was recovered from two features, 822 and 918. Feature 822 produced three sherds, one with impressed cord decoration, that are presumed to have come from a Collared Um

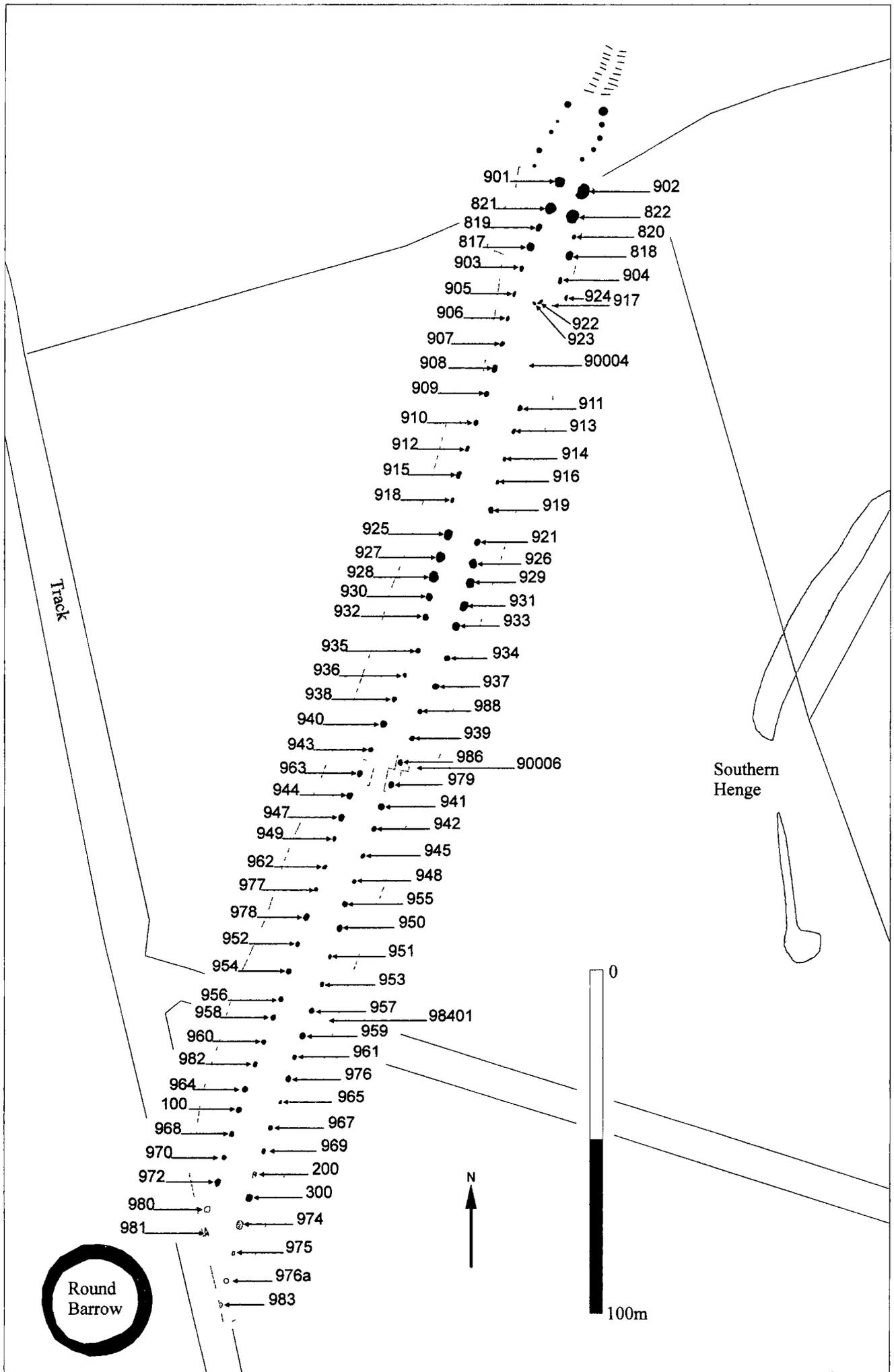


Fig 3 Plan of the 1999 trench

Feature 918 produced 167 sherds, with impressed decoration around the rim, that come from a Deverel Um. These finds are described feature by feature.

Feature 100 was a sub-circular pit 1.43 metres in diameter at its top and 0.73 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 104, and two fills, the basal deposit, 108, a soft sand (10YR5/4) 0.25 metres thick lensing to the east of the pit, below 106, a soft sandy silt (10YR4/4) 0.05 metres thick and also lensing on the east side of the pit. This was overlain by 107, a soft sandy silt (10YR3/2) with a few cobble inclusions, which filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 200 was a sub-circular pit at least 2 metres in diameter (its extents lay outside the trench) at its top and 0.73 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 203, and three fills, the basal deposit, 207, a soft sandy silt (10YR4/3), 0.36 metres thick, below 205, a soft sandy silt (10YR4/4) 0.13 metres thick and thickening to the east side of the pit. This was overlain by 204, a loose sand (10YR3/4) which filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 300 was a sub-circular pit 2.13 metres in diameter at its top and 0.5 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 304, and three fills, the basal deposit, 305, a soft sandy silt (7.5YR3/4) 0.13 metres thick and lensing to the east and west. On the west side of the pit there was 307, a small deposit of soft sandy clay (10YR3/4), 0.43 metres wide and 0.2 metres thick. These fills had been recut by 308, a shallow-sided U-shape to a depth of 0.4 metres. This was filled by 306, a soft silty sand (10YR5/4) with large cobble inclusions, which filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright deliberately removed during a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 817 was a sub-oval pit 1.9 metres long and 1.18 metres wide at its top, and 0.8 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 817, and three fills, the basal deposit, 813, a friable brown sandy silt 0.2 metres thick with some cobble inclusions, below 832, a firm dark brown silt 0.15 metres thick with some cobble inclusions lensing to east and west. This was overlain by 805, a firm red silt, which filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 818 was a sub-oval pit 1.9 metres long and 1.15 metres wide at its top, and 0.6 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 818, and three fills, the basal deposit, 837, a firm brown silty clay 0.12 metres thick with some cobble inclusions, below 814, a firm dark brown sandy silt 0.17 metres thick with some cobble inclusions lensing to east and west. This was overlain by 806, a firm red silt, which filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 819 was a sub-oval pit 1.9 metres long and 1.35 metres wide at its top, and 0.7 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 819, and three fills, the basal deposit, 823, a loose reddish-brown sandy silt which filled the pit to its top. This had been recut to the centre of the pit by 851, a vertical sided flat-based cut to a depth of 0.65 metres. The basal fill of this recut, 825, a friable reddish-brown silt, 0.35 metres thick with large cobble inclusions, was overlain by 808, a firm red silt with cobble inclusions, which filled the recut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 820 was a sub-oval pit 1.65 metres long and 1 metre wide at its top, and 0.6 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 820, and four fills, the basal deposit, 838, a firm sandy clay 0.08 metres thick with some cobble inclusions, below 829, a firm dark red silt, 0.28 metres thick with some cobble inclusions lensing to the east and west. This was overlain by 830, a firm brown-black sandy silt 0.15 metres thick lensing to the east and west. This was overlain by 809, a friable red silt, which filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 821 was a sub-circular pit 3.1 metres in diameter at its top, and 1.63 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 821, and four fills, the basal deposit, 840, a loose silty sand (10YR3/4), 0.41 metres thick, lensing to east and west, was situated below 850 to the centre of the pit,

a very loose sandy silt, 0.3m thick with large cobble inclusions. These fills were overlain by 836, a friable, dark red-brown sandy silt lensing to east and west. This fill was overlain by 811, a firm, yellowish-red sandy silt which filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 822 was a sub-circular pit 3.65 metres in diameter at its top, and 1.33 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 822, and three fills, the basal deposit, 847, a brown sandy silt, 0.3 metres thick, lensing to the east and west, below 843, a friable brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick with large cobble inclusions. This fill was overlain by 810, a friable red silt which filled the pit to its top. This deposit contained three sherds of a ceramic vessel. The sherds had an internal, dark-grey surface and a mid-brown external surface with a dark-grey fabric containing numerous small and medium dolerite grits. The wall thickness varied between 10 and 13 millimetres. A single sherd had traces of an impressed cord decoration. The vessel is thought to be of early Bronze Age date and was probably a collared urn. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 901 was a sub-circular pit 3.06 metres in diameter at its top, and 1.01 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90108, and three fills, the basal deposit, 90106, a firm slightly sandy silt (7.5YR4/2), 0.38 metres thick, lensing to the east and west, below 90105 to the centre of the pit, a firm, sandy silt (7.5YR3/4), 0.27m thick with large cobble inclusions. These fills had been recut to a maximum depth of 0.63 metres by 90104, a shallow-sided flat-based V-shape. This was filled with 90101, a stiff silt (7.5YR4/4), which filled the recut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 902 was a sub-circular pit 3.2 metres in diameter at its top, and 1.2 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90211, and five fills, the basal deposit, 90209, a firm sandy silt (10YR3/3), 0.17 metres thick, lensing to the east and west, below 90206, a firm, sandy silt (7.5YR3/3), 0.27m thick with some cobble inclusions. These fills had been recut, to the base of the pit, by 90212, a shallow-sided V-shape, steepening to vertical sides and a flat base. The basal fill, 90207, in the bottom of the recut, a stiff silt (10YR3/4), with large cobble inclusions 0.39 metres thick, was overlain by 90205, a stiff silt (10YR3/3) 0.18 metres thick and lensing to the west side of the pit. These fills, and the upper parts of 90209, were overlain by 90201, a stiff slightly sandy silt (10YR3/4) with large cobble inclusions, which filled the recut to its top. The first phase of this feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 903 was a sub-circular pit 0.63 metres diameter at its top, and 0.44 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90304, and three fills, the basal deposit, 90303, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) 0.2 metres thick lensing up the sides of the pit. This fill was overlain by 90302, a loose silty sand (10YR3/3) with some cobble inclusions to a depth of 0.14 metres. Overlying this fill and filling the pit to its top was 90301, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2). This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 904 was a sub-oval pit 1.45 metres long and 0.83 metres wide at its top, and 0.24 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90403, and two fills, the basal deposit, 90402, a firm sandy silt (10YR3/2) 0.09 metres thick with some cobble inclusions. This fill was overlain by 90401, a friable sandy silt (10YR2/2), with some cobble inclusions, which filled the pit to its top. One late Neolithic-early Bronze Age flake was found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 905 was a sub-circular pit 0.85 metres diameter at its top, and 0.1 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90502, and one fill 90501, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/1) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. It is possible that this is a heavily truncated post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 906 was a sub-oval pit 0.87 metres long and 0.76 metres wide at its top, and 0.19 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90602, and one fill, 90601, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/1) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. It is possible that this is a heavily truncated post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 907 was a sub-circular pit 0.85 metres diameter at its top, and 0.12 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow V-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 90702, and one fill, 90701, a loose silty sand (10YR3/2) with some cobble inclusions, that filled the pit to its top. It is possible that this is a heavily truncated post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 908 was a sub-circular pit 1.2 metres diameter at its top, and 0.05 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90802, and one fill, 90801, a loose silt (7.5YR3/4) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. It is possible that this is a heavily truncated post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 909 was a sub-circular pit 1.45 metres diameter at its top, and 0.25 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 90904, and two fills, the basal deposit, 90902, a soft clay (7.5YR4/2) 0.13 metres thick, with some cobble inclusions, overlain by 90901, a loose sand (7.5YR4/4) that filled the pit to its top. It is possible that this is a heavily truncated post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 910 was a sub-circular pit 0.65 metres diameter at its top, and 0.5 metres deep, with steep sides and an irregular flat base. It consisted of a cut, 91002, and three fills, the basal deposit, 91004, a loose silt (5YR2.5/3) 0.13 metres thick, with some cobble inclusions, below 91003, a loose silt (5YR3/3) 0.15 metres deep. This was overlain by 91001, a very soft silt (5YR3/4) that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 911 was a sub-oval pit 1.63 metres long and 0.91 metres wide at its top, and 0.25 metres deep, with moderate sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 91102, and one fill, 91101, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 912 was a sub-oval pit 1.5 metres long and 0.65 metres wide at its top, and 0.49 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 91204, and three fills, the basal deposit, 91004, a loose sandy silt (5YR3/3) 0.15 metres thick, below 91202, a loose sandy silt (5YR3/3) 0.2 metres deep and lensing to the east and west. This was overlain by 91201, a soft slightly sandy silt (7.5YR2.5/2) that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 913 was a sub-oval pit 1.65 metres long and 0.95 metres wide at its top, and 0.43 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 91305, and three fills, the basal deposit, 91304, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) 0.11 metres thick lensing to the east and west, below 91303, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) 0.14 metres deep and lensing to the east and west. This was overlain by 91301, a friable silt (2.5YR2.5/1) that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 914 was a sub-oval pit 1.86 metres long and 1.18 metres wide at its top, and 0.44 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 91404, and three fills, the basal deposit, 91403, a loose sand (10YR3/4) 0.15 metres thick, below 91402, a loose silt (10YR4/4) 0.14 metres deep with large cobble inclusions. This was overlain by 91401, a friable silt (5YR4/3) that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 915 was a sub-rectangular pit 1.89 metres long and 0.98 metres wide at its top, and 0.47 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 91404, and three fills, the basal deposit, 91503, a loose slightly silty sand (5YR3/4) 0.2 metres thick, below 91502, a loose slightly sandy silt (5YR3/3) 0.14 metres deep with large cobble inclusions. This was overlain by 91501, a soft silt (7.5YR3/3) that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 916 was a sub-oval pit 1.51 metres long and 1 metre wide at its top, and 0.47 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 91604, and two fills, to the east 91603, a loose sandy silt (5YR3/4), overlain by 91601, a friable sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with large cobble inclusions. One late Neolithic-early Bronze Age bladelet was found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 917 was an irregular pit 1.2 metres long and 1 metre wide at its top, and 0.18 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 91702, and one fill, 91701, a firm silty sand (7.5YR4/2) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. It is possible that this is a heavily truncated post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 918 was a sub-rectangular pit 2.02 metres long and 1.03 metre wide at its top, and 0.47 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 91803, and two fills, the basal deposit, 91802, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with cobble inclusions 0.34 metres thick, overlain by 91801, a friable silt (7.5YR3/3) that filled the pit to its top. This deposit contained 167 sherds, weighing 2810 grams, from a single ceramic vessel. The external surface varied from dark-grey to grey-brown with some patches of buff-brown, whilst the internal surface was dark-grey to mid-brown. Numerous medium (3-6 millimetre) and many large (6-9 millimetre) angular dolerite fragments were present within the fabric, along with a few small quartz grains, and mica grains within the clay matrix. Wall thickness varied between 10 and 12 millimetres. The interior had a carbonised accretion to within 20 millimetres of the rim, whilst the exterior had a carbonised accretion on only the uppermost 20 millimetres of the vessel. The form of the vessel appeared to have been a straight-sided, or bucket-shaped, jar, although few body, and no base, sherds were present. The plain rim (of which 28 sherds, or near-rim sherds survived, weighing 655 grams in total), was near vertical and slightly in-turned, with a low, raised cordon 35 millimetres wide on average and between 2 and 3 millimetres high at its centre, below the rim exterior. A single row of impressed jabs, 25 to 33 millimetres below the rim, 4 to 5 millimetres in diameter and with centres 40 to 45 millimetres apart, follow the line of the cordon. These extend almost through the wall of the vessel, but were clearly not intended to penetrate the wall, as in one instance the wall was pierced and a small piece of clay was luted onto the internal surface to seal the hole. One rim sherd had two small patches of a shallow impression, possibly from a coarse rope or mat, and probably a chance acquirement when the vessel was newly formed. The exact size of the vessel was difficult to establish given the lack of base and significant large body sherds, however it is suggested that the rim was at least 500 millimetres in diameter. It was thought during excavation that there were two ceramic fabrics present, one to the east and one to the west side of the pit, although these are attributable to differential firing of the fabric, and it is likely that the vessel was complete when inserted into the pit, and presumably inverted, with the lack of base sherds being attributable to the destruction of the vessel by ploughing. This interpretation is thought to fit best with the observed pattern of deposition. The vessel belongs to the class of Bronze Age Deverel Urns, in which the row of point decoration below the rim is a diagnostic trait. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 919 was a sub-oval pit 2.22 metres long and 1.17 metre wide at its top, and 0.56 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 91904, and three fills, the basal deposit, 91903, a loose slightly silty sand (7.5YR2.5/3) 0.17 metres thick, overlain by 91902, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with large cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. These fills had been cut to a depth of 0.56 metres by recut 91905, a steep-sided flat-based cut, that was filled with 91901, a firm slightly sandy silt (5YR2.5/2) that filled the recut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

On excavation feature 920 was considered not to be archaeological in nature.

Feature 921 was a sub-oval pit 2.65 metres long and 1.6 metres wide at its top, and 0.7 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 92105, and four fills, the basal deposit, 92102, a stiff sand (7.5YR2.5/3) 0.18 metres thick, was overlain to the centre of the pit by 92104, a loose sand (5YR4/3) with large cobble inclusions 0.23 metres thick, and to the edges of the pit by 92103, a firm sand (5YR4/3) 0.28 metres thick and lensing up the east and west. These fills were overlain by 92101, a firm silt (5YR3/4) that filled the pit to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright. It was fully excavated.

On excavation feature 922 was considered not to be archaeological in nature.

Feature 923 was sub-oval pit 0.53 metres long and 0.32 metres wide at its top, and 0.15 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 92303, and two fills, the basal deposit, 92302, a cobble layer 0.08 metres thick overlain by 92301, a friable silt (7.5YR3/3). The function of this feature and its association with the pit alignment is unclear. It was fully excavated.

On excavation feature 924 was considered not to be archaeological in nature

Feature 925 was a sub-circular pit 2.9 metres diameter at its top, and 0.95 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 92505, and four fills, the basal deposit, 92503, a stiff sand (10YR5/6) 0.1 metres thick lensing to the east and west, below 92502, a friable silt (10YR4/6) with large cobble inclusions 0.15 metres thick. These fills were overlain to the centre and base of the pit by 92504, a firm silt (7.5YR3/4) with large cobble inclusions 0.2 metres thick, and above this by 92501, a friable silty sand (7.5YR4/4) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. Three Neolithic flakes and one Neolithic blade were found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 926 was a sub-oval pit 3.55 metres long by 2.3 metres wide at its top, and 1.2 metres deep, with shallow sides steepening to a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 92609, and seven fills, the basal deposit, 92608, a loose sand (10YR4/3) 0.35 metres thick, overlain to the centre of the pit by 92606, a firm silty sand (7.5YR3/2) with large cobble inclusions 0.32 metres thick, to the west of the pit by 92604, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) with large cobble inclusions 0.3 metres thick, and to the east of the pit by 92605, a firm slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) with large cobble inclusions 0.35 metres thick. At the centre of the pit these fills were below 92603, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/4) 0.3 metres thick. This was overlain by 92602, a friable sandy silt (7.5YR3/4) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top, and above this at the centre of the pit, 92601, a loose silt (2.5YR3/4) 0.1 metres thick. One Neolithic edge-utilised flake was found in the pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 927 was a sub-circular pit 2.1 metres diameter at its top, and 1.5 metre deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 92708, and five fills, the basal deposit, 92707, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) 0.3 metres thick and lensing to the east and west. The latter had been recut by 92705, a stepped U-shaped cut, with a narrow, steep-sided flat base, to the full depth of the pit. This was filled by 92706, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) with large cobble inclusions 0.5 metres thick, which was overlain by 92704, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) 0.6 metres thick. Above was 92701, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. A charcoal lens, 92703, 0.03 metres thick was situated between 92704 and 92701 to the east side of the pit. Three flakes (one Neolithic, one late Neolithic-early Bronze and one of any period) and one Mesolithic microlith were found in the pit. The first phase of this feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 928 was a sub-circular pit 2.5 metres diameter at its top, and 1.3 metre deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 92809, and four fills, the basal deposit, 92804, a stiff slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with numerous large cobble inclusions 0.75 metres thick. This was overlain to the east and west of the pit by 92803, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) 0.2 metres thick and lensing to the east and west. These fills had been recut by 92807 a moderately steep-sided flat based cut, to a depth of 0.9 metres. This was filled by 92802, a firm silt (7.5YR3/3) with some large cobble inclusions 0.7 metres thick, and above this, by 92801, a loose silt (7.5YR3/3) with some cobble inclusions that filled the pit to its top. Three flakes (two of any period and one late Neolithic) and one core (from any period) were found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 929 was a sub-oval pit 2.7 metres long by 1.65 metres wide at its top, and 0.85 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 92910, and four fills, the basal deposit, 92907, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/2) 0.3 metres thick, lensing to the east and west, below 92903, a firm, slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/3), that filled the pit to its top. This fill had been recut, to a maximum depth of 0.7 metres, by 92911, a shallow sided V-shape which steepened to its flat base. This was filled with a firm, slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/3), very similar to 92903, to a depth of 0.3 metres. The topmost fill, 92901, was a firm sandy-silt (7.5YR3/3), filling the recut to its top. One flake (of any period) and one late Neolithic-early Bronze Age edge retouched flake were found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 930 was a sub-circular pit 2.4 metres diameter at its top, and 0.83 metres deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. It consisted of a cut, 93010, and four fills, the basal deposit, 93005, a firm sandy-silt

(7 5YR4/2), 0.15 metres thick, lensing to the east and west, below 93005 in the centre of the pit, a stiff, silty sand (7 5YR 3/3) that included large rounded cobbles, and 93008 to the edges of the pit, a loose sandy silt. These fills had been recut by 93003, a shallow sided U-shape with a flat base, to a maximum depth of 0.4 metres, which was filled with a firm, sandy silt (7 5YR 3/3), which filled the recut to its top. Nineteen flates (two of late Neolithic-early Bronze Age and the rest from any period) and one Neolithic bladelet were recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 931 was a sub-circular pit 1.7 metres diameter at its top, and 0.70 metres deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. It consisted of a cut, 93110, and four fills, the basal deposit, 93104, a firm slightly sandy silt (7 5YR4/3), 0.15 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit to east and west, and containing a number of large rounded cobbles to its centre. This fill had been recut by 93109, a shallow V-shape with an irregular flat base, to a maximum depth of 0.8 metres, which was filled with 93103, a firm, sandy silt (7 5YR 3/3), beneath 93101, a stiff sandy silt (7 5YR 3/3). A small deposit, 93102, 0.25 metres wide and only 0.02 metres deep, of soft reddish-black (10YR 2.5/1) silt may be the remnant of an old turf line. One Neolithic core fragment was recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 932 was a sub-oval pit 2.5 metres long by 2 metres wide at its top, and 1.6 metres deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. It consisted of a cut, 93208, and three fills, the basal deposit, 93205, a loose sandy silt (7 5YR3/3), 0.25 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit to the east and west. This fill had been recut by 93203, a steep sided V-shape with a flat base, to a maximum depth of 0.9 metres, filled with 93204, a firm, sandy silt (7 5YR 3/3), with many large rounded cobble inclusions to a depth of 0.45 metres, and above this 93201, a firm sandy silt (7 5YR 3/3) which filled the recut to its top. Two flakes (one of any period and one late Mesolithic-early Neolithic), one edge utilised flake (from any period) and one blade (from any period) were found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 933 was a sub-oval pit 2.2 metres long by 1.3 metres wide at its top, and 0.82 metres deep, with steepish sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 93310, and four fills, the basal deposits, 93305, a loose silty sand (10YR2/2), 0.18 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit to the east and west. This fill was overlain at its centre by 93308, a loose, sandy silt (10YR 2/2) with many large rounded cobble inclusions to a depth of 0.23 metres. These fills had been recut by 93309, a shallow V-shape, steepening to its flat base, to a maximum depth of 0.82 metres, filled with 93302, a loose, sandy silt (7 5YR3/3) to a depth of 0.22 metres, and above this 93301, a loose, sandy silt (7 5YR4/3) which filled the recut to its top. One flate (from any period) and one Neolithic edge-retouched flake were recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 934 was a sub-oval pit 2.5 metres long by 2 metres wide at its top, and 0.55 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 93407, and three fills, the basal deposit, 93403, a firm sandy silt (10YR3/3), 0.13 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit to the east and west. This fill had been recut by 93406, a shallow U-shape, to a maximum depth of 0.4 metres, filled with 93402, a firm silt (2 5YR3/1) with large rounded cobble inclusions, to a depth of 0.4 metres, and above this 93401, a firm, slightly sandy silt (7 5YR3/3) which filled the recut to its top. One flake (from any period) was recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 935 was a sub-circular pit 1.36 metres diameter at its top, and 0.47 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 93509, and four fills, the basal deposits, 93506 to the south, a firm sandy silt (7 5YR3/3) with some large cobble inclusions, 0.18 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit to the south, and 93501 to the north, a firm sandy silt (7 5YR3/3) with some large cobble inclusions, 0.47 metres thick, lensing up the side of the pit to the north. These fills were overlain to the centre of the pit by 93503, a firm, sandy silt (7 5YR3/3), with a few large rounded cobble inclusions to a depth of 0.35 metres. These fills had been recut by 93510, a steep sided V-shape with a flat base, to a maximum depth of 0.23 metres, and filled with 93502, a firm, slightly sandy silt (7 5YR3/2) to a depth of 0.23 metres. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 936 was a sub-oval pit 1.7 metres long by 0.98 metres wide at its top, and 0.79 metres deep, with steep sides and an irregular U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 93607, and four fills, the basal deposit, 93606, a loose silty sand (10YR3/3), being 0.20 metres thick. This fill was overlain by 93605, a loose, silty sand (10YR3/3), to a depth of 0.21 metres. Above this and filling the pit to its top was 93603, a loose silty sand (10YR3/3). The latter and the very top of 93605 at the centre of the pit were recut by 93608, a steep sided U-shaped cut, to a maximum depth of 0.46 metres. This was filled with 93601, a loose, silty sand (10YR2/2). One late Mesolithic-early Neolithic bladelet was found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright that has been deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 937 was a sub-oval pit 2.22 metres long by 1.91 metres wide at its top, and 0.56 metres deep, with steep sides and an irregular flat base. It consisted of a cut, 93709, and three fills, the basal deposit, 93706, a firm silty sand (7.5YR2.5/2) 0.16 metres thick. This fill was overlain by 93705, a firm sandy silt (10YR3/3), to a depth of 0.33 metres. It was recut by 93710, a steep sided U-shaped cut, to a maximum depth of 0.37 metres. This was filled with 93701, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR2.5/2), which contained a few large cobbles. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a substantial timber upright deliberately removed in a second phase of activity. It was fully excavated.

Feature 938 was a sub-circular pit 1.1 metres diameter at its top, and 0.39 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 93806, and three fills, the basal deposit, 93805, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) 0.09 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit. This fill was overlain by 93804, a stiff silty sand (10YR3/3) to a depth of 0.12 metres. Overlying this fill and filling the pit to its top was 93801, a stiff sandy silt (10YR3/3) with large cobble inclusions. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 939 was a sub-oval pit 1.21 metres long by 0.74 metres wide at its top, and 0.23 metres deep, with irregular sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 93904, and two fills, the basal deposit, 93902, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR2.5/1), with numerous large cobble inclusions, 0.18 metres thick and lensing up the sides of the pit. This fill was overlain by 93901, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/1), to a depth of 0.05 metres. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 940 was a sub-oval pit 1.15 metres long by 1.62 metres wide at its top, and 0.48 metres deep, with shallow sides and a U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 94003, and two fills, the basal deposit, 94003, a loose sandy silt (10YR2/2) with numerous large cobble inclusions was 0.18 metres thick. This fill was overlain by 94001, a loose silty sand (10YR3/3) to a depth of 0.28 metres. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 941 was a sub-circular pit 1.68 metres diameter at its top, and 0.65 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 94106, and two fills, the basal deposit, 94101, a friable silt (7.5YR3/2) 0.2 metres thick, lensing up the sides of the pit to the east and west. This fill was recut by 94102, a steep sided U-shaped cut to a depth of 0.45 metres. This was filled by 94103, a soft silt (7.5YR3/2) with a few large cobbles to the top of the pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 942 was a sub-oval pit 1.26 metres long by 1.02 metres wide at its top, and 0.37 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow V-shaped base. It consisted of a cut 94102 and one fill, 94101, a loose silt (10YR2/2) with a few large cobble inclusions to the centre of the pit. One late Neolithic-early Bronze Age flake was found in this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. This feature was fully excavated.

Feature 943 was a sub-oval pit 2.05 metres long by 1.35 metres wide at its top, and 0.38 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 94303, and two fills, the basal deposit, 94302, a friable silt (7.5YR4/3) with a few large cobble inclusions to the centre of the pit, being 0.16 metres thick and lensing to the edges of the pit. This was overlain by 94301, a friable silty sand (7.5YR4/2) 0.22 metres thick. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 944 was a sub-circular pit 1.52 metres diameter at its top, and 0.19 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 94402, and one fill, 94401, a firm silt (7.5YR3/2). One Neolithic flake was recovered from this pit. It is unclear whether this feature held a

timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 945 was a sub-oval pit 1.04 metres long by 0.79 metres wide at its top, and 0.25 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 94502, and one fill, 94501, a loose silt (10YR2/2). It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. It was fully excavated.

On excavation feature 946 was considered not to be archaeological in nature.

Feature 947 was a sub-oval pit 1.48 metres long by 0.98 metres wide at its top, and 0.45 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 94702, and one fill, 94701, a loose silt (7.5YR3/2) with some large cobble inclusions. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 948 was a sub-oval pit 1.14 metres long by 0.66 metres wide at its top, and 0.54 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 94803, and two fills, the basal deposit, 94802, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/3) with some cobble inclusions, 0.22 metres thick and lensing up the sides of the pit. Overlying this was 94801, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/3) with some large cobble inclusions. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 949 was a sub-oval pit 1.12 metres long by 0.74 metres wide at its top, and 0.29 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 949702, and one fill, 94901, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2) with some large cobble inclusions. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 950 was a sub-oval pit 1.60 metres long by 1.19 metres wide at its top, and 0.39 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 95002, and one fill, 95001, a firm silt (10YR3/3) with some large cobble inclusions. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 951 was a sub-oval pit 1.33 metres long by 0.88 metres wide at its top, and 0.4 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 95103, and two fills, the basal deposit, 95102, a firm silty clay (7.5YR4/1) with some cobble inclusions, 0.15 metres thick and lensing up the sides of the pit, and above this 95101, soft silt (5YR3/1) with angular cobble inclusions, 0.25 metres thick. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 952 was a sub-circular pit 1.03 metres diameter at its top, and 0.35 metres deep, with steep sides and an irregular flat base. It consisted of a cut, 95003, and two fills, the basal deposit, 95202, a soft silt (7.5YR3/2), 0.22 metres thick, and above this 95201, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with some large sub-angular cobbles, 0.17 metres thick. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 953 was a sub-oval pit 1.04 metres long by 0.78 metres wide at its top, and 0.39 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 95302, and one fill, 953001, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The feature was fully excavated.

Feature 954 was a sub-oval pit 1.52 metres long by 0.88 metres wide at its top, and 0.49 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and an irregular U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 95402, and one fill, 95401, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The feature was half-sectioned.

Feature 955 was a sub-oval pit 1.74 metres long by 0.97 metres wide at its top, and 0.59 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 95503, and two fills, the basal deposit, 95502, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2), 0.38 metres thick, and 95501, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2), 0.21 metres thick. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 956 was a sub-oval pit 1.8 metres long by 1.64 metres wide at its top, and 0.56 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 95604, and three fills, the basal deposit, 95603, a soft silty sand (7.5YR4/2), 0.14 metres thick and lensing up the sides of the pit. This was overlain by 95602, a soft silt (5YR2/5), 0.21 metres thick. The uppermost fill, 95601, was a firm slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/2), 0.26 metres thick with some cobble inclusions. One late Neolithic-early Bronze Age flake was recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 957 was a sub-oval pit 1.8 metres long by 1.4 metres wide at its top, and 0.55 metres deep, with steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 95703, and three fills, the basal deposit, 95704, a soft sand (10YR5/6), 0.06 metres thick. This was overlain by 95702, a friable silt (7.5YR4/1), 0.17 metres thick and lensing up the sides of the pit. The uppermost fill, 95701, was a soft silt (5YR3/3), 0.45 metres thick with some large cobble inclusions. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 958 was a sub-oval pit 1.8 metres long by 1.4 metres wide at its top, and 0.4 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 95803, and two fills, the basal deposit, 95802, a friable silty sand (7.5YR4/1), 0.28 metres thick. This was overlain by 95801, a soft silt (5YR3/4) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 959 was a sub-oval pit 1.75 metres long by 1.29 metres wide at its top, and 0.53 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut 95902 and one fill, 95901, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with some cobble inclusions, that filled the cut to its top. One flake (of any period) was recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 960 was a sub-oval pit 1.39 metres long by 0.89 metres wide at its top, and 0.49 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 96002, and one fill, 96001, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) with some cobble inclusions, that filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 961 was a sub-oval pit 1.1 metres long by 0.73 metres wide at its top, and 0.29 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 96002, and one fill, 96001, a loose sandy silt (7.5YR3/3) that filled the cut to its top. Two flakes (one of any period and one Neolithic) and one late Neolithic-early Bronze Age edge-utilised flake were recovered from this pit. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 962 was a sub-oval pit 1.55 metres long by 0.97 metres wide at its top, and 0.52 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 96203, and two fills, the basal deposit, 96202, a friable sandy silt (7.5YR3/3), with some small cobble inclusions, 0.21 metres thick and lensing up the sides of the pit. This was overlain by 96201, a soft silt (7.5YR4/3) with some small cobble inclusions that filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 963 was a sub-oval pit 1.98 metres long by 1.47 metres wide at its top, and 0.37 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 96302, and one fill, 96301, a soft silt (5YR3/2), that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The feature was fully excavated.

Feature 964 was a sub-oval pit 1.8 metres long by 1.25 metres wide at its top, and 0.4 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and an irregular U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 96402, and one fill, 96401, a soft silt (5YR3/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The feature was fully excavated.

Feature 965 was a sub-oval pit 0.76 metres long by 0.48 metres wide at its top, and 0.08 metres deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 96502, and one fill, 96501, a loose silt.

(5YR2/3) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to its heavy truncation, the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The feature was fully excavated.

Feature 967 was a sub-oval pit 1.72 metres long by 1.34 metres wide at its top, and 0.33 metres deep, with shallow sides, steepening towards a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 96702, and one fill, 96701, a soft silt (7.5YR3/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The feature was half-sectioned.

Feature 968 was a sub-oval pit 1.6 metres long by 1.2 metres wide at its top, and 0.4 metres deep, with moderate, irregular sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 96802, and one fill, 96801, a soft silt (7.5YR3/3) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The feature was half-sectioned.

Feature 969 was a sub-oval pit 1.54 metres long by 1.05 metres wide at its top, and 0.29 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 96902, and one fill, 96901, a firm slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/1) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. The feature was half-sectioned.

Feature 970 was a sub-oval pit 1.53 metres long by 1.17 metres wide at its top, and 0.35 metres deep, with moderate irregular sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 97002, and one fill, 97001, a firm slightly sandy silt (7.5YR3/1) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. The feature was half-sectioned.

Feature 972 was a sub-oval pit 1.98 metres long by 1.31 metres wide at its top, and 0.41 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 97202, and one fill, 97201, a firm silt (7.5YR2.5/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The flat base of the feature does, however, suggest the former existence of an upright. It was fully excavated.

Feature 973 was a sub-oval feature, presumed to be a pit, 2.2 metres long by 1.65 metres wide at its top. It was unexcavated.

Feature 974 was a sub-oval feature, presumed to be a pit, 2.8 metres long by 1.98 metres wide at its top. It was unexcavated.

Feature 975 was a sub-oval feature, presumed to be a pit, 1.32 metres long by 0.85 metres wide at its top. It was unexcavated.

Feature 976 was a sub-oval pit 1.89 metres long by 1.52 metres wide at its top, and 0.19 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow V-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 97602, and one fill, 97601, a soft silt (7.5YR2.5/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The feature was half-sectioned.

Feature 977 was a sub-oval pit 1.18 metres long by 0.93 metres wide at its top, and 0.62 metres deep, with steep sides and an irregular flat base. It consisted of a cut, 97703, and two fills, the basal deposit, 97702, a loose silt (7.5YR2.5/2), with some small cobble inclusions, 0.2 metres thick. This was overlain by 97701, a loose silt (10YR2/2) with some small cobble inclusions that filled the cut to its top. One Neolithic scraper was recovered from this pit. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 978 was a sub-oval pit 1.67 metres long by 1.33 metres wide at its top, and 0.42 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 97803, and two fills, the basal deposit, 97802, a soft slightly clay silt (10YR3/2), with some cobble inclusions, 0.19 metres thick. This was overlain by 97801, a firm sandy silt (7.5YR4/4) with some cobble inclusions that filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 979 was a sub-oval pit 1.76 metres long by 1.01 metres wide at its top, and 0.46 metres deep, with shallow sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 97902, and one fill, 97901, a

loose silt (7 5YR2 5/2) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones, or a clear post pipe. The feature was fully excavated.

Feature 980 was a sub-oval feature, presumed to be a pit, 1.82 metres long by 1.49 metres wide at its top. It was unexcavated. One late Mesolithic or late Neolithic core was found as the surface of the feature was cleaned.

Feature 981 was a sub-oval feature. It was partly situated beyond the southern extent of the trench. It is presumed to be a pit, and a length of 2.5 metres by a width of 1.48 metres was visible at its top. It was unexcavated.

Feature 982 was a sub-oval pit 1.46 metres long by 1.03 metres wide at its top, and 0.25 metres deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 98202, and one fill, 98201, a loose sandy silt (7 5YR3/1) that filled the cut to its top. It is unclear whether this feature held a timber, due to the lack of cobble packing stones or a clear post pipe. The feature was fully excavated.

Feature 983 was a sub-oval feature. It was partly situated beyond the southern extent of the trench. It is presumed to be a pit, and a length of 2.42 metres by a width of 1.83 metres was visible at its top. It was unexcavated.

Feature 984 consisted of three deposits comprising the line of an old railway track that ran from south-east to north-west across the trench. The basal deposit was a stiff clay (7 5YR6/6), which was overlain by a gravel and stone layer, with an upper deposit of clinker and burnt coke.

Feature number 985 was not assigned.

Feature 986 was a sub-oval pit 1.85 metres long by 1.5 metres wide at its top, and 0.3 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It consisted of a cut, 98602, and one fill, 98601, a friable silt (7 5YR3/1), with some cobble inclusions, that filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

Feature 987 was a sub-oval feature, presumed to be a pit, 1.48 metres long by 1.19 metres wide at its top. It was unexcavated.

Feature 988 was a sub-oval pit 1.64 metres long by 1.33 metres wide at its top, and 0.46 metres deep, with moderately steep sides and a shallow U-shaped base. It consisted of a cut, 98802, and one fill, 98801, a friable silty sand (7 5YR3/2), with some cobble inclusions, that filled the cut to its top. This feature is interpreted as a post-hole for a timber upright. It was half-sectioned.

The overall interpretation of these features is that they comprised an alignment of paired posts that stretched in excess of 350 metres. There is, however, distinct variety in the morphology of the features. Broadly, the alignment can be divided into five distinct sections, namely:

- Section 1: 901, 902, 821, 822, 819, 820, 817, 818, 903, and 904
- Section 2: 905, 906, 907, and 908 (and the corresponding lack of features to their east)
- Section 3: 909, 911, 910, 913, 912, 914, 915, 916, 918 and 919
- Section 4: 925, 921, 927, 926, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932 and 933
- Section 5: the remainder of the alignment

Section 1 comprises the largest pits in the alignment (821, 822, 901 and 902), and all the pits (with the exception of 903) are substantial, averaging 2.24 metres in diameter and 1 metre depth, with steep sides, flat bases and good evidence for post-packing. Three of the ten post-holes (819, 901 and 902, three of the largest) were recut. Section 2 comprises four features that are possibly not post-holes as the average 0.12 metres in depth, and contain no clear evidence of post-packing. Section 3 comprised ten features averaging 1.76 metres in diameter and 0.45 metres deep, with steep sides, flat bases and good evidence for post-packing. Only one of these features, 919, had evidence of having been recut. Section 4 comprised ten substantial features averaging 2.52 metres in diameter and 1.05 metres deep, with steep sides, flat bases and good evidence for post-packing. Seven of these features contained evidence of having been recut (927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932 and 933). Section 5 consisted of 52 features, averaging 1.5 metres in diameter and 0.4 metres deep. At least 40% of these features contained no conclusive