

CHAPTER 2 PHASE 1 — NEOLITHIC

Only one feature — a shallow pit, F470 (fig 10) — produced material dateable to the Neolithic period and that consisted of only one sherd of pottery. Although it is possible that the pottery is residual from an earlier, unrelated context, in view of the amount of Neolithic material found in the vicinity (Longley 1976) a Neolithic phase at Petters Sports Field is not an unreasonable proposition.

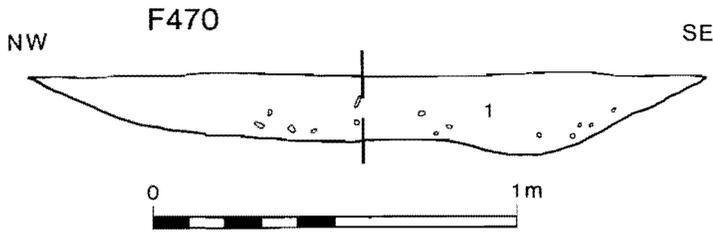


Fig 10 Feature 470, Neolithic pit, section

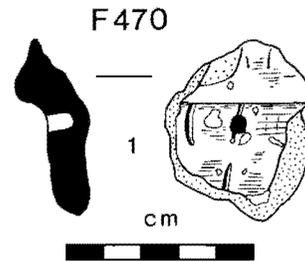


Fig 11 Neolithic pottery sherd from F470

2.1 THE POTTERY (fig 11) by Dr I H Longworth

1. *Mortlake Ware* — fragment from base of rim and neck of a mortlake bowl of well fired dark grey ware tempered with large crushed burnt flint inclusions.

Decoration: Remains of vertical impressed decoration on the rim. On the neck, a deep pit and vertical impressed lines which also extend into the body.

CHAPTER 3 PHASE 2 — EARLY BRONZE AGE

3.1 THE DITCH (F121/302)

F121/302 was a continuation of the ditch found in earlier excavations by Bernard Johnson which produced several urn fragments (1975, 12). Although the pottery found in F121/302 was too fragmentary for close identification, a number of flints were discovered which could comfortably fit into an Early to Middle Bronze Age context. The ditch was aligned in an east-westerly direction and terminated in a large posthole (F123) in Area 1, where it was partly cut by F117. A second posthole (F132) was found sealed below the primary silt, but a longitudinal section of the ditch failed to produce any evidence of other postholes that would have indicated the existence of an internal palisade fence. The ditch fill and profile varied, particularly in Area 1 where it had been cut through brickearth and gravel as opposed to pure gravel (fig 12). In Section 57, where the ditch was cut through pure gravel, the ditch was V-shaped. In Sections 58 and 59 where the subsoil was mixed, the profile was an eroded U-shape, the southern side of the ditch having clearly slumped inwards at some stage. In Area 3 where the natural subsoil was gravel the ditch profile change from a V-shape (Section 213) to a much smaller flat bottomed shape (Section 212). It is possible that the ditch had been left unfinished at this point. The ditch fill in Area 3 was fairly uniform and the two layers identified (F302.1 and 2) only varied noticeably in the proportion of gravel or stones present. In Area 1, the variety of layers could be due largely to the mixed subsoil through which the ditch had been cut. A natural weathering and infilling of the ditch appears to have taken place and there was no indication that the feature had been deliberately backfilled. The ditch probably served as an enclosure to a settlement or perhaps a boundary limiting or forming part of an early field system. There was no evidence to link the postholes and pits to the north with F121/302 although one shallow pit (F135) produced a sherd of prehistoric pottery. The catalogue of the ditch is on Microfiche 9.

3.2 THE FLINTS (fig 14) by Michael Pitts

The limited evidence of flint working on the site was largely confined to the Early Bronze Age phase of occupation. Nineteen of the twenty four flints recovered were found in the fill of the Early Bronze Age ditch (F121), including the only two diagnostic pieces, namely a barbed and tanged arrowhead and a polished edge flake (fig 14). The polish on the edge of the latter — indicated in the drawing by a line of dots — was probably produced during use rather than deliberately; a scraping action is suggested. Both of the implements would be in place in an Early Bronze Age context.

The remaining five flints came from four features (F117, 157, 405 and 431) which were associated with the Late Bronze Age period of settlement. The condition of two of these suggested that they were residual from one or more earlier periods. The catalogue of flints is on Microfiche 11.

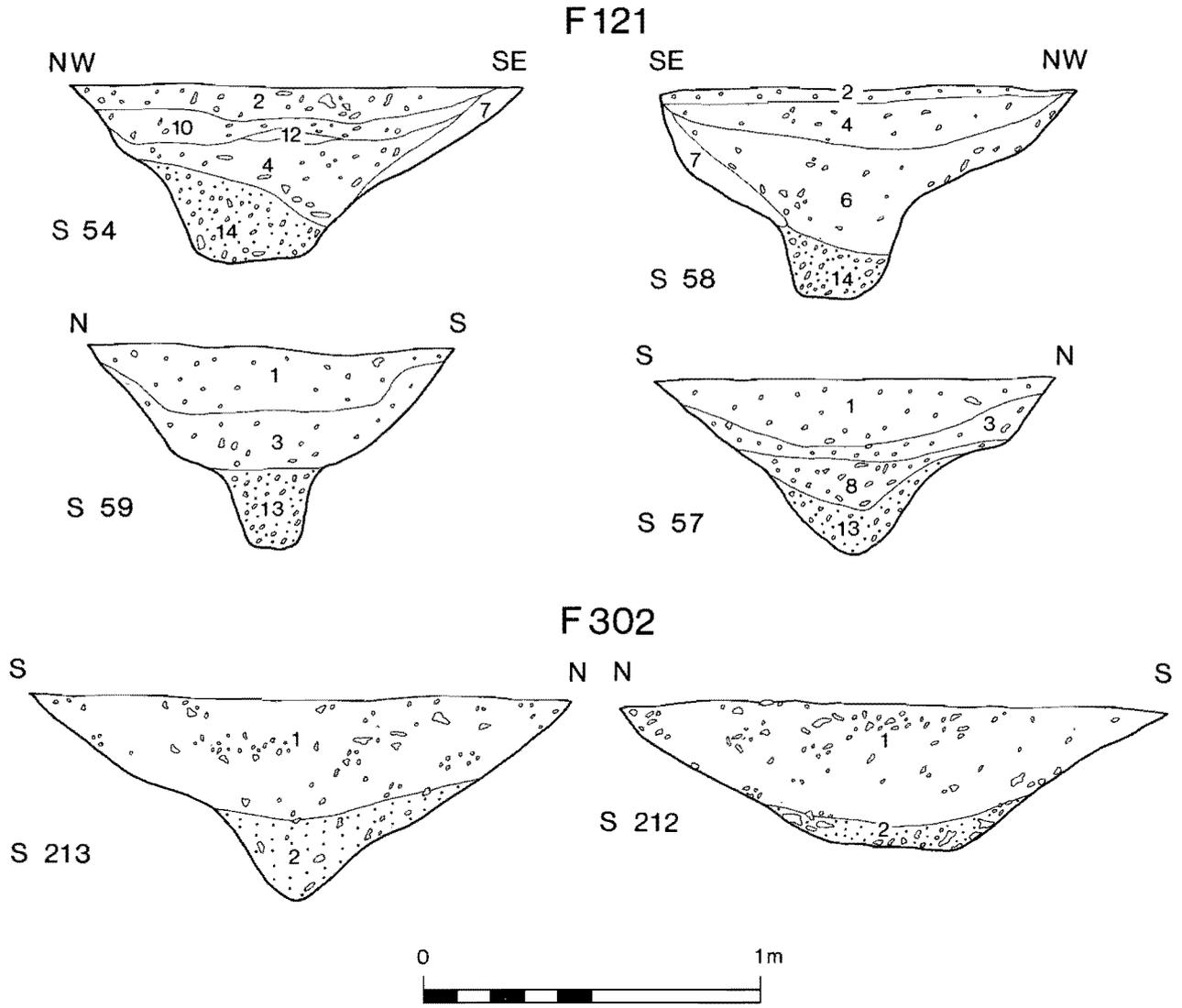


Fig 12 Early Bronze Age ditch F121/302, sections

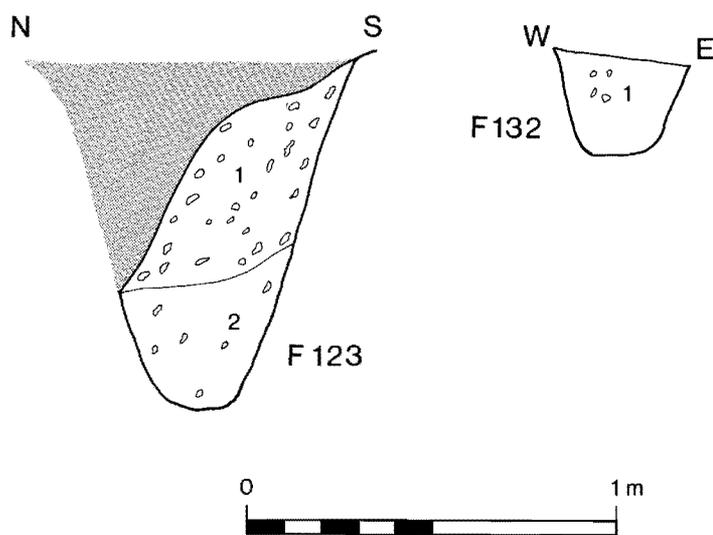


Fig 13 Early Bronze Age postholes Fs 123 and 132, sections — shaded area of F123 indicates the part of the fill that was removed by excavator before the distinction between F123.1 and F121 had been recognised

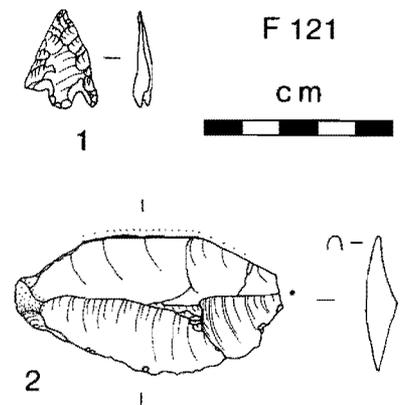


Fig 14 Flint objects *Drawn by M Pitts*