

Summary report

Eyhorne Street (TQ 8440 5430)

A 440m length of the CTRL at Eyhorne Street was designated as a targeted watching brief area and investigated in three stages as areas were threatened by construction works.

A series of poorly defined intercutting pits were tentatively dated to the Mesolithic period on the basis of a few pieces of flint. However, these finds are likely to be residual and the features are perhaps more likely to be contemporary with the Neolithic features described below. A pit containing sherds of late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery was excavated. The fill also contained small traces of burnt bone but not in sufficient quantity to be interpreted as a cremation with any certainty.

An 8m wide shallow hollow was excavated, which may also date to the later Neolithic period. A house hollow is one possible interpretation. Three gullies, possibly dating to the late Neolithic period, were also investigated. Two were curving but their irregular plan did not suggest a structural function. Finds from these features were sparse and could be residual.

Two distinct areas contained concentrations of stake holes, cut into what was interpreted as a buried soil. No dating was recovered from any of these features, but the suggested date for the buried soil is Bronze Age.

A number of irregular features were excavated and interpreted as tree throws holes, although some contained flint finds possibly dating to the Bronze Age.

Five middle to late Iron Age pits were excavated on the higher ground to the west of the later Neolithic archaeology. One of the pits contained concentrations of pottery and animal bone. Large pottery groups were recovered from three further pits while a fifth was heavily truncated and contained few finds.