



Archaeological Field Unit

**Iron Age Pitting and Medieval Ridge and Furrow
Agriculture, Caldecote Primary School, Highfields,
Caldecote: An Archaeological Investigation**

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Cambridgeshire County Council

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**Iron Age Pitting and Medieval Ridge and Furrow Agriculture, Caldecote
Primary School, Highfields, Caldecote: An Archaeological Investigation**

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2000

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Caldecote Primary School, Highfields, Caldecote, Cambridgeshire to inform the planning process in advance of the construction of extensions to the existing school building. The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between the 23rd and 26th of October, 2000.

A total of 8 trenches were excavated and five of these contained archaeological features. Subsequently two areas were opened up for excavation around these trenches. A series of pits, some of which produced pottery of Iron Age date. A ditch of likely Iron Age or Romano-British date, three medieval furrows, and a series of postholes of unknown date were recorded. The Iron Age features are likely to be associated with known Iron Age settlement to the northeast, also in Highfields. The ditch is on a similar alignment to excavated examples from the land directly to the south which were of Romano-British date. The medieval furrows were also on the same east-west alignment as those encountered in the excavations on land directly to the south, and also known from aerial photographs of the area.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Caldecote Primary School, Highfields, Caldecote to inform the planning process in advance of an extension of the existing school buildings. The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between the 23rd and the 26th of October 2000.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1** The subject site is located within the grounds of Caldecote Primary School. The site slopes gradually from the northwest to the south and east, the highest point being adjacent to Trench 1, which is 66.46m above Ordnance Datum. The central part of the site adjacent to Area A is 65.64m above OD, where as Trench 5 is at 65.38m OD and adjacent to Trench 7 in the eastern part of the site the level is 65.86m OD.
- 2.2** The subject site was bordered on its northern edge by West Drive, on its eastern edge by Highfields Road. To the west by the school playing fields and to the south by the new Wilcon Homes development which was also subject to archaeological evaluation and excavation prior to development (Oakey 1996, Leith 1997).
- 2.3** Caldecote is situated in an area of Boulder clay. The natural geological layer encountered in trenches 1 to 5 and areas A and B was light yellow Boulder clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.20m to 0.30m below the present day ground surface. The geological layer encountered in trenches 6, 7 and 8 was dark orange sandy clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.65m to 0.80m below the present day ground surface.



Figure 1 Site Location Plan

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3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeology Office (CAO) Brief (Thomas 2000) identified the site as being located within an area of high archaeological potential, particularly with regard to remains dating to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

3.1 Iron Age

Evidence of Iron Age settlement has recently been partially excavated c300m to the northeast of the subject site, however the main foci of this settlement is thought to lie between the subject site and those recent excavations (Kenney forthcoming). Approximately 700m to the south of the subject site, three phases of Iron Age enclosures, a possible track way and various settlement features were excavated, these probably form part of the same Iron Age landscape as the site mentioned above. Also, an Iron Age coin is reported from close by (SMR 3304). The subject site is located between these recorded sites and as such presented a good opportunity to find further evidence of Iron Age activity.

3.2 Roman

The evaluation trenches and excavation areas completed prior to the construction of the Wilcon Homes development in the field immediately south of the subject site revealed a number of ditches forming a field system of Romano-British date. These ditches produced pottery dating to the second to fourth centuries AD. The density of artefacts in the ditches towards the northern part the field (and immediately south of the subject site), suggests that the foci of Roman settlement was probably located towards the northern part of Highfields, Caldecote. Indeed to the north of the subject site recent excavations have confirmed this to be the case. Also, the SMR records the chance find (SMR 0119) of a ditch or pit containing a piece of Samian pottery. Although the map reference is vague this is interpreted as being in the immediate vicinity of Highfields, Caldecote.

3.3 Medieval

Highfields is located approximately 2.5kms north of Caldecote proper, which is centered around the parish church near the Bourn Brook. Recorded in Domesday Book as having a population of fifteen in 1086, Caldecote followed a national trend of increasing agricultural prosperity and growing populations rising to a peak in the 13th and 14th centuries, followed by a dramatic and drastic decline. In 1377, 78 people in the parish contributed to the poll tax, but by 1554 the population had slumped to 9 householders.

A search of the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) revealed little reported archaeological information. Various soilmarks and cropmarks of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture around Highfields have been

recorded from aerial photographs (SMR nos 0192, 11434, 11435). Also, a review of the aerial photographic evidence available for Highfields, Caldecote was undertaken in 1996 as part of preparations for work undertaken directly south of the subject site. This revealed clear evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cropmarks on a broadly east west alignment. Earthworks of putative house platforms are recorded from the southern end of Highfields (SMR 11226, 11225). Evidence of medieval settlement was excavated directly to the south of the subject site, (Leith 1997, see Fig.1).

3.4 Post medieval

The small population recorded during the medieval period persisted so that an estimate of the population in 1728 was fifteen families. Thereafter a gradual rise took place until there were 144 residents in 1851, but agricultural depression in the later 19th century was probably the reason for further decline and it was only when 20th century development in the Highfields, Caldecote area took place that earlier levels were regained. By 1911 the population had reached 160 and thereafter it has risen steadily (Victoria County History 1973, 17).

Before enclosure Caldecote had three open fields, of which the most northerly, Dams (or North) field covered much of the area of modern Highfields including the land now occupied by Caldecote Primary School (CRO 296/P8). At the time of enclosure Dams field was common pastureland. The land to the east of the road was divided into enclosures around Highfields farm, owned by Clare College. The area now occupied by the subject site was awarded to Christ's College and is shown on the enclosure awards map of 1855 (CRO Q/RDc 76) as being part of the same field as that now occupied by the land excavated in 1997 (see above). In 1938 the triangular piece of land now occupied by the Caldecote Primary School was separated from the rest of the land to the south for the construction of Caldecote Community School and playing field.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Evaluation

Eight 2.0m wide trenches (1 to 8) totalling 52.80m in length, were located within the area of a proposed school building extension which totalled 1050 square metres. This gave a 10.05% sample of the affected area. Topsoil and modern overburden were removed in the trenches using a wheeled mechanical excavator with a flat bladed ditching bucket to a width of 2.00m. This was carried out under the full time supervision of an archaeologist. Trenches were located to give a representative sample of the available area

4.2 Excavation

Subsequent to and immediately following evaluation two areas (A and B) were mechanically stripped of topsoil by a JCB under archaeological supervision. These areas were placed to further investigate features encountered in trenches 2, 3 and 4 of the evaluation. Area A was 121 square metres and area B was 8 square metres in size.

4.3 After machining each Trench/ Area was photographed. A sample of every archaeological feature was excavated by hand in order to determine date and character. The AFU's single context based recording system was used to record all the archaeological features and deposits, sections were hand drawn at a scale of 1:10 for features, and 1:50 in the case of entire evaluation trench sections. Plans were hand drawn at a scale of 1:50. Samples were taken to aid the recovery of environmental finds. In addition all the spoil heaps from the trenches were scanned for artefacts by eye.

4.4 As part of the post-excavation process, the features recorded during the evaluation and excavation phases of this investigation, have been phased using stratigraphic relationships (see Fig.3 and 4), artefactual evidence and similarities in the character of fills and morphology of features.

4.5 In this report deposit numbers are shown in plain text and cut numbers are in **bold** text.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Evaluation Trenches 1 - 8

Three trenches (2,3 and 4) contained significant archaeological features several of which were Iron Age in date. These trenches required further investigation. A full description of all the trenches can be found in Appendix 1.

5.2 Excavation Results Area A and B

Area A was 11.00m long 11.00m wide and 0.25m to 0.37m deep, and aligned northeast to southwest (see Fig.1). It was located around trenches 3 and 4, which had formed an L-shape in this area (see Fig.2). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.20m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.15m deep. The natural geological layer 3 was a light yellow clay with occasional flint nodules. This was encountered at a depth of 0.20m in the west and 0.35m in the east of Area A.

Area B was 4.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.20m deep, and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.10m

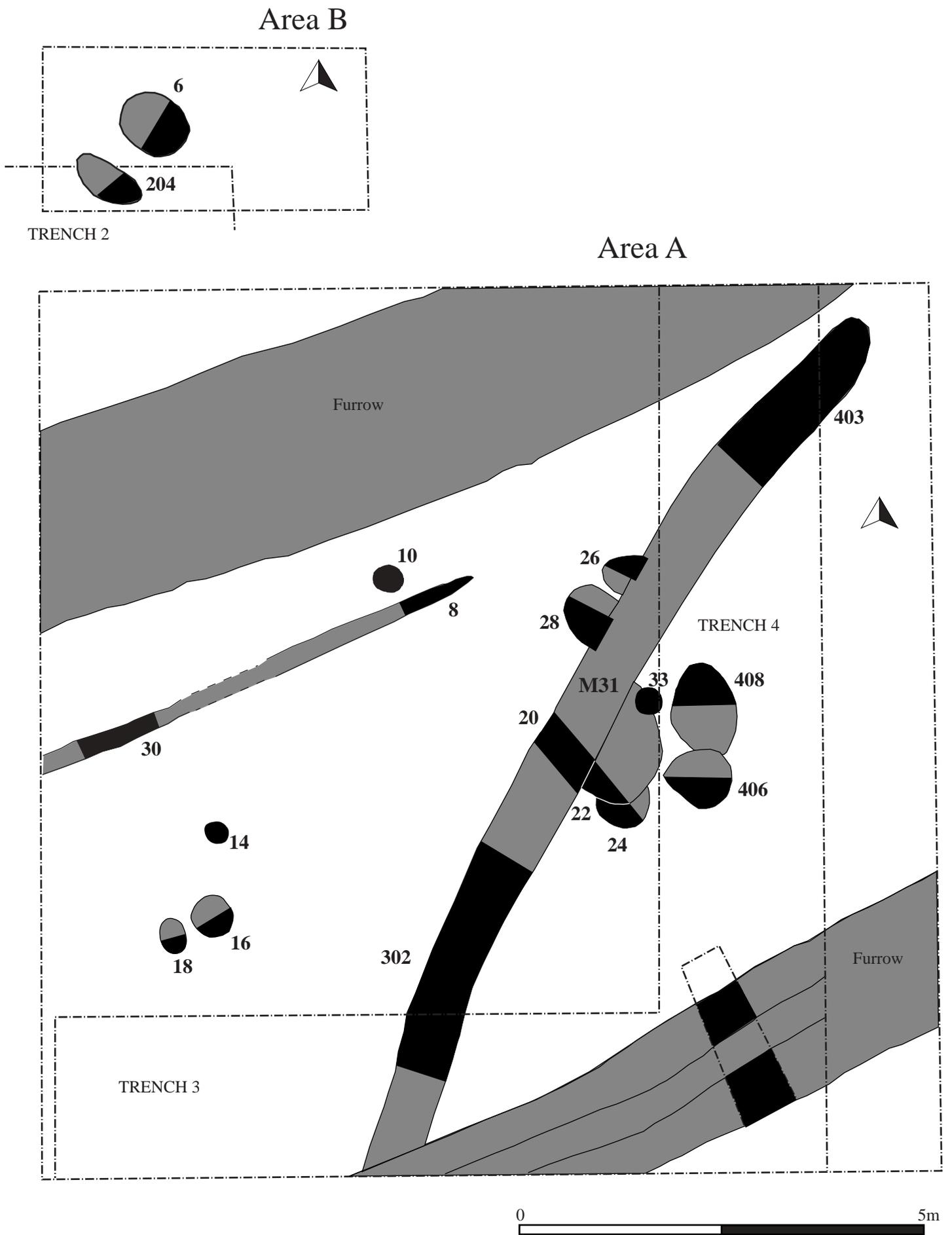


Figure 2 Archaeological features in Areas A and B (black represents excavated parts)

deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.10m deep. The natural geological layers varied from a light yellow clay with occasional flint nodules, to a dark orange sandy clay with occasional flint nodules. Both layers were encountered at a depth of 0.20m.

5.2.1 Phase 1: Iron Age (sub groups I,II)

Sub-group I) **24, 26, 28** and **408** – These pit features all share similarities in fills, and pits **408** and **24** are both truncated by **406** and **22** respectively, which are features assigned to the later sub-group II).

Two pits in the central part of Area A were thought to be Iron Age in date. Pit **22**, contained Iron Age pottery, it truncated pit **24** which is likely to be Iron Age or earlier. Both pits share significant similarities with other pit features in Area A and Area B. Pit **24** has a remarkably similar fill to pit features **26, 28** and **408**, which all contain deposits of yellowish light brown clay and share a similar morphology. Where as, pit **22** shares similar fills to pit **6** in Area B, and pits **204** and **406** in Area A. While not conclusive, similarities in fills between features in such close proximity to one another can often suggest that they are broadly contemporary. As they have become naturally silted up or deliberately backfilled with the same material. Therefore it appears that there are two distinct types of Iron Age pit on the site.

The morphology of all these features suggests they were all too shallow to be quarry pits, therefore a function as domestic rubbish pits or large post holes is more likely.

24, 0.65m length, 0.30m width, 0.16m deep, oval shape in plan, near vertical slightly convex sides, convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 23, Orange-ish light brown clay. Truncated by **22**

26, 0.50m length, 0.35m wide, 0.10m deep, semi-circular shape in plan, steeply sloping sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 25, Orange-ish light brown clay with occasional small pebbles. Truncated by **M31**. No finds recovered.

28, 0.70m length, 0.53m width, 0.12m deep, semi-circular shape in plan, gradual convex sloping sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 27, Orange-ish light brown clay with occasional small pebbles. Truncated by **M31**. No finds recovered.

408, 0.55m wide, 0.26m deep, oval pit shape in plan, convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 407, Orange-ish mid brown clay with occasional large flint cobbles. Truncated by **406**. No finds recovered.

Sub-group II) **406, 204, 6**, and **22** – These pit features share similar fills and pits **6** and **22** both produced Iron Age pottery. Also pits **406** and **22** truncate

pits **408** and **24** respectively, which are assigned to the stratigraphically earlier sub-group I) above.

Pit **6** was located in the centre of area B. It had two fills the upper of which 5 had a high content of burnt material, therefore sample 101 was taken. The presence of bone and burnt material in this feature may suggest a domestic rubbish pit or pit hearth as the most likely interpretations. The primary fill 34 contained a large amount of burnt rounded cobbles of various types of stone, some of which were retained for further analysis. One of these appears to be a rubbing stone, smooth only on one end of an otherwise rough material. The presence of these stones at the base of **6** is for an unknown purpose. However recent excavations c300m to the northeast recorded the presence of a very similar type of pit feature **234** (CAL HF 00), this feature was of similar dimensions, morphology and also contained burnt, rounded cobbles (Kenney forthcoming). Although this offers no further explanation of what purpose these pits had, it suggests that the features on the subject site may be part of the same settlement foci as those discovered a relatively short distance to the northeast.

Pit **204** (area B) was stratigraphically isolated and produced no finds, therefore dating is tenuous. However, it was sealed below the subsoil 2 and shared a similar fill to nearby pits **22** and **406** (area A). It is possible that this may be an Iron Age feature

6, 0.80m long, 0.72m wide, 0.40m deep, sub circular shaped in plan, near vertical sides, slightly convex base, contained two fills:

Fill 5, Dark blackish brown silty clay, 0.22m deep with frequent charcoal and daub flecks, occasional burnt pottery and occasional flint pebbles. Pottery finds recovered, sample 101 taken.

Fill 34, Mid/dark brown silty clay, 0.27m deep with frequent charcoal flecks, moderate amounts of burnt rounded medium flint cobbles forming a layer at the base of **6**, occasional small chalk and flint pebbles.

204, 0.40m wide, 0.22m deep, oval shape in plan, steep convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 203, greyish mid brown fine grained sand. No finds recovered.

22, 0.70m width, 0.22m deep, semi-circle shape in plan, near vertical sides, flat base, contained one fill. Truncates fill 23:

Fill 21, Dark greyish brown fine sand/ clay with occasional large flint cobbles. Truncated by **20** and **33**.

406, 0.55m wide, 0.17m deep, sub circular pit shape in plan, convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained two fills. Truncates fill 407:

Fill 404, Dark grey clay/ fine sand fill. No finds recovered.

Fill 405, Orange-ish mid brown clay. No finds recovered.

408, 0.55m wide, 0.26m deep, oval pit shape in plan, convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 407,

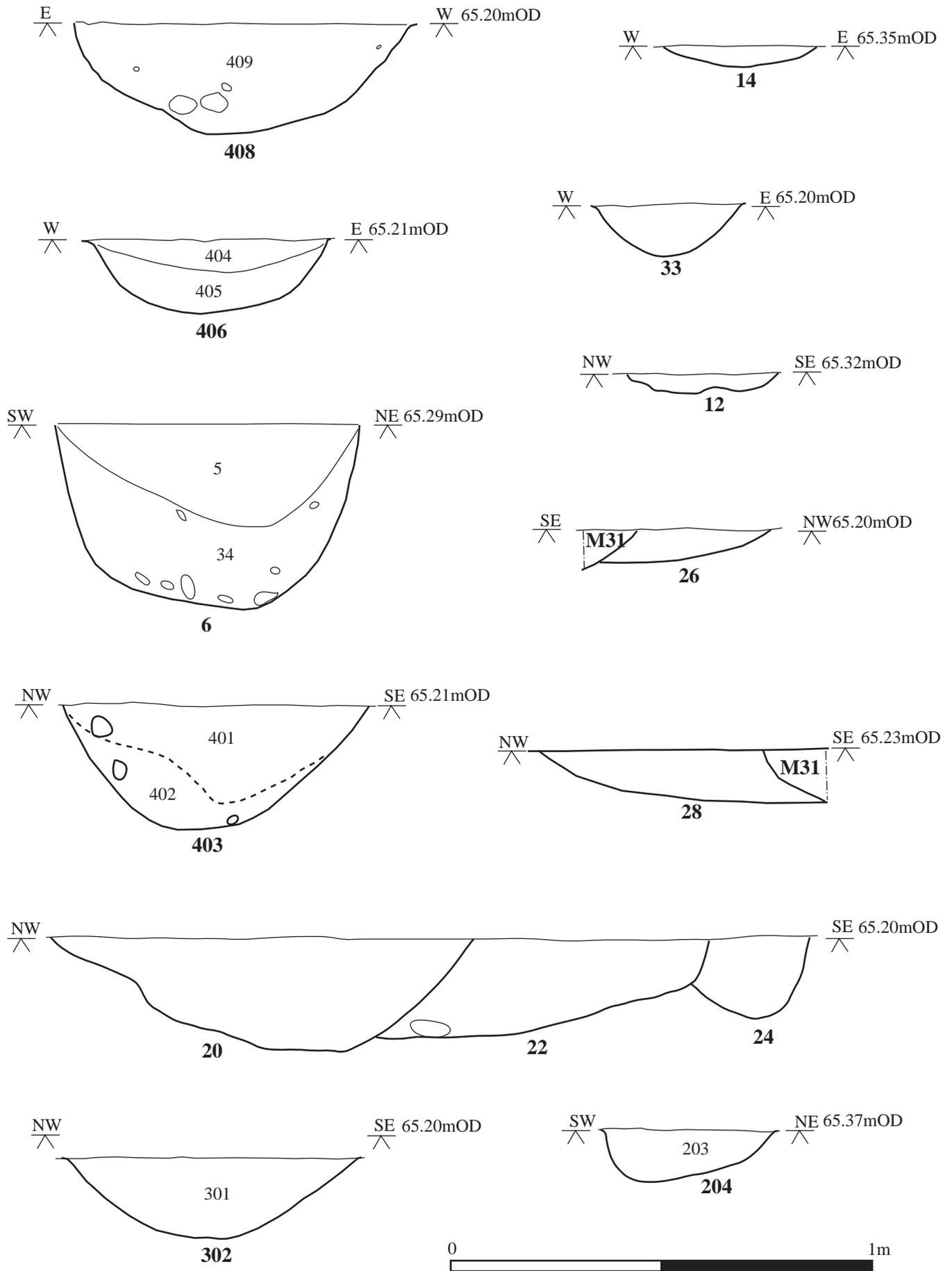


Figure 3 Sections through archaeological features

202, 0.60m wide, 0.30m depth, linear ditch shape in plan, steep convex sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill, 201 mid brown fine grained sand with frequent large cobbles of flint at base. Modern land drain recovered.

5.2.2 Phase 2: Iron Age/ Romano British (sub-groups III, IV)

Sub-group III - Ditch **M31** (**302**, **403** and **20**), Ditch M31 truncates pit **22** from sub group II and pits **26** and **28** from sub group I.

Ditch **M31** was on a SSW NNE alignment it cut into the natural geology and was sealed by subsoil 2 (see Fig.2). The ditch terminated within the excavation area. It produced no finds despite a 40% sample of it being excavated. However, it was stratigraphically later than pit **22** (phase 1, sub-group II) and pits **26** and **28** (phase 1 sub-group I). The ditch **M31** was stratigraphically earlier than a medieval furrow **410** (phase 3). Its character and alignment were broadly similar to ditches belonging to a Roman field system to the south of the site (Leith 1997). This, coupled with its stratigraphic location suggest that ditch **M31** may be part of that same system.

20 (M31), 0.70m width, 0.27m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, slightly convex sloping sides, slightly irregular on northern side, slightly convex base, contained one fill. Truncates fill 21:

Fill 19, Mid brown fine sand/ clay with occasional flint pebbles. No finds recovered.

302 (M31), 0.70m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch in shape, steep sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 301, Grey-ish mid brown clay. Truncated by **410**. No finds recovered.

403 (M31), 0.73m wide, 0.30m deep, linear ditch terminal end shape in plan, steep sloping sides, flat base, contained two fills:

Fill 401, Mid brown clay with occasional chalk pebbles. No finds recovered.

Fill 402, Mid grey-ish brown clay with occasional chalk pebbles. No finds recovered.

Sub-group IV) - **16**, **18** and **33** are all post hole features, which share remarkably similar fills. Feature **33** truncates pit **22** from sub-group II), giving it a stratigraphically later date to **22**. However it has no relationship in character or stratigraphy to feature **M31** and must therefore be assigned a separate contextual sub-grouping.

16, 0.50m diameter, 0.08m deep, circular shape in plan, gradual sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 15, Orange-ish light brown clay with moderate amounts of small chalk pebbles. No finds recovered.

18, 0.50m length, 0.40m width, 0.08m deep, oval shape in plan, gradual sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 17, Orange-ish light brown clay with frequent small chalk pebbles. No finds recovered.

33, 0.30m diameter, 0.12m deep, circular shape in plan, convex sloping sides, convex base, contained one fill, truncates fill 21:

Fill 32, Orange-ish light brown clay. No finds recovered.

5.2.3 Phase 3: Medieval

Sub-group V - **410** and **412** are two of three medieval furrows recorded (**410** truncates **M31** from sub-group III) in the southern part of Area A, again relative dating these features to a stratigraphically later period.

Two furrow features **410** and **412** had already been identified within Area A during the evaluation of Trench 4 (see above), a third of identical appearance and on the same east-north-east alignment was identified in the northern part of Area A. Although these produced no dating evidence they are on the same alignment as medieval furrows already known from previous excavations in the land directly to the south, and from aerial photographs.

410, 0.50m wide, 0.08m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, convex sloping sides, irregular base, contained one fill, truncates 301:

Fill 409, mid brown fine sand fill with moderate amounts of re-deposited natural clay. No finds recovered.

412, 0.75m wide, 0.10m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, convex sloping sides, irregular base, contained one fill:

Fill 411, mid brown fine sand fill with moderate amounts of re-deposited natural clay. No finds recovered.

5.2.4 Phase 4: Post Medieval

Sub-group VI) - **10**, **12**, **14**, and **8/30** are all stratigraphically isolated and contained no finds therefore any phasing is tentative. However, their appearance is post-medieval, and **8/30** has similarities with other deep post-medieval plough marks previously excavated by the author.

Postholes **10**, **12**, and **14** all share very similar fills and morphology, although none of these shallow features produced any dateable finds, they can all be considered contemporary due to their similarity in form. Gully feature **8/30** also shares an identical fill to the above postholes. This feature also produced no dateable finds, however based on excavation of other examples of similar features, the most likely date of this feature is post medieval and the most likely cause for its existence is as a deep plough mark, also aligned with the plough furrows.

8, 0.26m wide, 0.06m deep, linear gully shape in plan, gradual sloping sides, irregular base, contained one fill:

Fill 7, Dark brown clay with occasional flint pebbles. No finds recovered.

10, 0.35m diameter, 0.05m deep, circular shape in plan, gradual convex sloping sides, irregular flat base, contained one fill. No finds recovered.

Fill 9, Dark brown compacted fine sand with occasional pebbles.

12, 0.35m diameter, 0.05m deep, circular shape in plan, gradual convex sloping sides, irregular flat base, contained one fill.

Fill 11, Dark brown fine sand with occasional small flint pebbles. No finds recovered.

14, 0.35m diameter, 0.06m deep, circular shape in plan, gradual sloping sides, irregular slightly convex base, contained one fill.

Fill 13, Dark brown compacted fine sand with occasional chalk pebbles. No finds recovered.

30, 0.60m length, 0.25m width, 0.04m deep, linear gully shape in plan, gradual sloping sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 29, Dark brown fine sand with occasional chalk pebbles. No finds recovered.

5.2.5 Modern

A 19th century land drain was identified adjacent to **410** on the same east-north-east alignment, it can be assumed that the ridge and furrow earthworks were still visible at the time this was laid down, as the furrow was re-used for this later drainage system. Two other 20th Century land drains were identified on a northwest-southeast alignment these were clearly cut through the subsoil 2.

6 DISCUSSION

Although 4 phases of activity have been identified, the most significant are phases I and II. Phase I shows that pits were being dug in the Iron Age into which small quantities of cultural material accumulated. Phase II includes the pit features **6** and **22** which add to an emerging picture of the limit of Iron Age settlement activity within the Highfields, Caldecote area. The function of these pits remains unknown, however, the most likely purpose is for the disposal of domestic rubbish, and possibly as large postholes for wooden structures. The similarity between pit **6** (Area B) and pit **234** (CAL HF 00), from the recent excavations by the AFU c300m to the northeast, which is discussed above (see 5.2.2 Excavation results Area B) is of significance. It suggests that both excavations are likely to be part of the same Iron Age settlement, the results at the subject site may confirm the southern limits of this settlement focus. This could add weight to the idea that the most concentrated part of the Iron Age settlement lies as yet unexcavated between the subject site and the excavations to the northeast (Kenney– forthcoming).

The presence of ditch **M31** on a north-south alignment suggests the continuation of Roman field systems, identified to the south (Area 5 CAL HF 96, Leith 1997 and Fig 1). The settlement focus during the Roman period probably lies in the northern part of Highfields, Caldecote (Kenney – forthcoming).

The remains of ridge and furrow on both this and earlier excavations to the south indicates continuity of land use for agriculture at least until the medieval period.

7 CONCLUSION

This site contains significant evidence of Iron Age pitting activity possibly associated with a more concentrated settlement focus now thought to lie immediately northeast of the subject site. Such settlement may not have a focus of ‘concentrated’ activity anywhere and it is possible that what exists to the northeast of this site is a dispersed settlement, consisting of scattered dwellings and open areas some of which may include associated horticultural beds, animal husbandry areas, agricultural processing and industrial areas. Ideas about settlement patterns are an important research topic for Iron Age sites such as this and even the larger proto-urban settlements from this period sometimes termed Oppida are not towns in the classical sense. Oppida cover “very large areas_ _ _ the entire enclosed area was not settled, but settlement seems to have been dispersed, or focussed on a number of discrete nuclei within the complexes” (Woolf 1993). Further work within the current Highfields, Caldecote area may help to confirm the validity of either of the above ideas.

In a wider sense it appears the subject site is located either in or just on the southwestern periphery of an Iron Age settlement and to the south of the Romano-British settlement which is now thought to lie in the northern part of Highfields, Caldecote (Kenney - Forthcoming). Therefore any future ground disturbing work within the immediate vicinity of the subject site is likely to encounter significant archaeological remains, particularly to the immediate northeast where the main focus of an Iron Age settlement may be located.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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identified the pottery and to Aileen Connor who managed the project. The author also worked on the site.

The project was carried out and the report prepared in response to a brief written by Andy Thomas from the County Archaeology Office (Development Control), who visited and monitored the site.

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CRO 296/P8

Caldecote Tithe Map 1851

CRO Q/RDc 76

Caldecote Inclosure Map c 1855

APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION RESULTS

1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 5.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.30m to 0.35m deep and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1).

The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.10m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.35m deep. The natural geological layer 3 was a light yellow clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.25m in Trench 1.

Trench 1 contained no archaeological feature.

1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 4.90m long 2.00m wide and 0.20m to 0.25m deep and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.10m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.10m deep. The natural geological layer 3 was a light yellow clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.20m in Trench 2. Trench 2 was subsequently extended to form area B (see below).

1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 7.20m long 2.00m wide and 0.20m to 0.45m deep, and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.20m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.15m deep. The natural geological layer 3 was a light yellow clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.20m in the west and 0.35m in the east in Trench 3. Trench 3 was subsequently extended to form area A (see below).

1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 11.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.25m to 0.35m deep, and aligned northeast to southwest (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.15m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.10m deep. The natural geological layer 3 was a light yellow clay with occasional flint nodules. This was encountered at a depth of 0.25m in Trench 4. Trench 4 was subsequently extended to form area A (see below).

1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was 5.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.40m to 0.55m deep, and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.15m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.20m to 0.35m deep. The natural geological layer 3 was a light yellow clay with occasional flint nodules. This was encountered at a depth of 0.40m to 0.55m deep in Trench 5.

Three furrows on a southwest-northeast alignment **502**, **504** and **506** were identified cutting into the natural geology and sealed below the subsoil 2. A 19th century land drain on the same alignment truncated furrow **502**.

502, 0.60m wide, 0.10m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, convex sloping sides, convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 501, Mid brown fine sand fill with moderate amounts of re-deposited natural clay. No finds recovered.

504, 0.70m wide, 0.12m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, convex sloping sides, irregular base, contained one fill.

Fill 503, Mid brown fine sand fill with moderate amounts of re-deposited natural clay. No finds recovered.

506, 0.30m wide, 0.08m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill.

Fill 505, Mid brown fine sand fill with moderate amounts of re-deposited natural clay. No finds recovered.

1.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was 5.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.50m to 0.70m deep, and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.15m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.25m deep. The natural geological layer 4 was a dark orange sandy clay with occasional flint nodules. This was encountered at a depth of 0.60m in Trench 6.

Trench 6 contained no archaeological features.

1.7 Trench 7 and 7B

Trench 7 was 4.00m long 2.00m wide and 0.85m deep, and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.50m deep. The natural geological layer 4 was a dark orange sandy clay with occasional flint nodules. This was encountered at a depth of 0.65m to 0.75m in Trench 7.

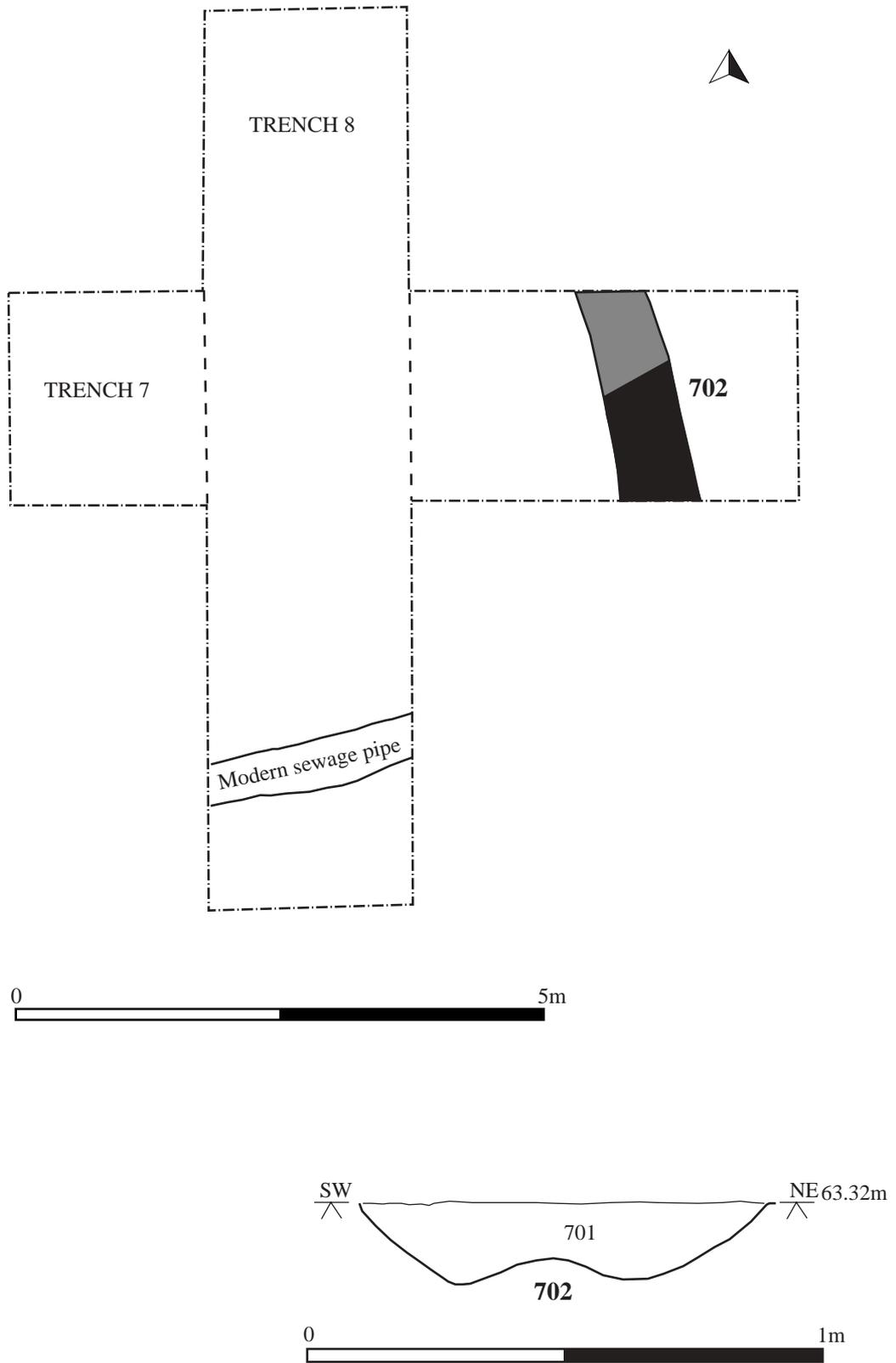


Figure 1 Archaeological features in Trenches 7 and 8

One ditch **702** was identified cutting into the natural geology (see Fig.2). This was on a north-south alignment, and appeared to be filled by subsoil 2, suggesting it may be a recent feature. The fill 701 was distinct from those found in other features on the subject site, which may in itself indicate that it derives from a different period.

702, 0.80m wide, 0.16m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, sloping flat sides, irregular slightly convex base, contained one fill
Fill 701, Greyish light brown fine sand fill with occasional small flint pebbles.

Trench 7B was 2.20m long 2.00m wide and 0.85m deep, and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.50m deep. The natural geological layer 4 was a light yellow clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.65m to 0.75m deep in Trench 7B.

Trench 7B contained no archaeological features.

1.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was 8.50m long 2.00m wide and 0.60m to 0.75m deep, and aligned northeast to southwest (see Fig.1). The topsoil 1 was a dark brown fine sand layer 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, a light brown clay layer with moderate amounts of flint and chalk pebbles was 0.50m deep. The natural geological layer 4 was a dark orange sandy clay. This was encountered at a depth of 0.75m in Trench 8.

Trench 8 contained no archaeological features.

Appendix 2 - Context List

Trench/ Area	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type	Master No
All	1	-	-	Topsoil layer	-
All	2	-	-	Subsoil layer	-
1-6, Area A and B	3	-	-	Clay natural	-
7, 8 and Area B	4	-	-	Sandy clay natural	-
Area B	5	6	-	Pit Fill	-
Area B	6	-	5	Pit cut	-
Area A	7	8	-	Gully fill	-
Area A	8	-	7	Gully cut	-
Area A	9	10	-	Post hole fill	-
Area A	10	-	9	Post hole cut	-
Area A	11	12	-	Post hole fill	-
Area A	12	-	11	Post hole cut	-
Area A	13	14	-	Post hole fill	-
Area A	14	-	13	Post hole cut	-
Area A	15	16	-	Post hole fill	-
Area A	16	-	15	Post hole cut	-
Area A	17	18	-	Post hole fill	-
Area A	18	-	17	Post hole cut	-
Area A	19	20	-	Ditch fill	M31
Area A	20	-	19	Ditch cut	-
Area A	21	22	-	Pit fill	-
Area A	22	-	21	Pit cut	-
Area A	23	24	-	Pit Fill	-
Area A	24	-	23	Pit cut	-
Area A	25	26	-	Pit fill	-
Area A	26	-	25	Pit cut	-
Area A	27	28	-	Pit fill	-
Area A	28	-	27	Pit cut	-
Area A	29	30	-	Gully fill	-
Area A	30	-	29	Gully cut	-
Area A	M31	-	-	Master No for ditch	-
Area A	32	33	-	Post hole fill	-
Area A	33	-	32	Post hole cut	-
Area B	34	6	-	Pit fill	-
Trench 2	201	202	-	Land drain fill	-
Trench 2	202	-	201	Land drain cut	-
Trench 2	203	204	-	Pit fill	-
Trench 2	204	-	203	Pit cut	-
Trench 3	301	302 (M31)	-	Ditch fill	M31
Trench 3	302 (M31)	-	301	Ditch cut	M31
Trench 4	401	403	-	Ditch fill	M31
Trench 4	402	403	-	Ditch fill	M31
Trench 4	403	-	401, 402	Ditch cut	M31

Trench/ Area	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type	Master No
Trench 4	404	406	-	Pit fill	-
Trench 4	405	406	-	Pit fill	-
Trench 4	406	-	404, 405	Pit cut	-
Trench 4	407	408	-	Pit fill	-
Trench 4	408	-	407	Pit cut	-
Trench 4	409	410	-	Furrow fill	-
Trench 4	410	-	409	Furrow	-
Trench 4	411	412	-	Furrow fill	-
Trench 4	412	-	411	Furrow	-
Trench 5	501	502	-	Furrow fill	-
Trench 5	502	-	501	Furrow	-
Trench 5	503	504	-	Furrow fill	-
Trench 5	504	-	503	Furrow	-
Trench 5	505	506	-	Land drain fill	-
Trench 5	506	-	505	Land drain cut	-
Trench 7	701	702	-	Ditch fill	-
Trench 7	702	-	701	Ditch cut	-

Appendix 3 - Finds List

Context	Finds category	Date/description	Quantity	Weight
5	Pottery	Iron Age	7 sherds	28g
21	Pottery	Iron Age	7 sherds	16g
34	Stone	Burnt stone	2 stones	404g
34	Stone	Burnt 'mortar/ rubbing' stone	1 stone	621g
34	Bone	Animal	1 piece	8g



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