

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS 2 & 3
LITTLE EASTON QUARRY, GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



**Essex County Council
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
February 2012**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS 2 & 3
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ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Client: SRC Ltd

NGR: TL59702250 (Area 2) and TL59442248 (Area 3)

Site Code: LEEA 11

Oasis No: 116221

Dates of Fieldwork: 24 October to 09 November 2011

SUMMARY

Two of a total of five archaeological areas within the Little Easton Quarry scheme, Areas 2 and 3 identified as a result of trial-trenching evaluation carried out in 2000/01, were investigated prior to commencement of the first phase of extraction.

Area 2, targeted upon the findspot of medieval remains found during site evaluation, revealed part of a 11th to 12th century enclosure system defined by ditches. A small number of probably contemporary pits occupied one of the enclosure interiors. These remains may be associated with medieval settlement at Stone Hall to the southwest.

Area 3, focused upon the location of gullies of likely medieval or post-medieval date found during site evaluation, revealed a wider extent of rectilinear enclosures defined by the gullies. However, a number of Late Iron Age ditches, which predated the enclosure gullies, were also identified that had not been detected during the trial trench evaluation. These attest to an earlier phase of landscape management, with relatively large quantities of discarded pottery in their fills suggesting the presence of an occupation site in the near vicinity. The inclusion of probable pre-conquest continental imports amongst this assemblage hints at a relatively high status site, with access to traded goods probably being transported inland along the Iron Age forerunner of nearby Stane Street.

The archaeological remains encountered in both Areas 2 and 3 are parts of more extensive Late Iron Age and Medieval/post-medieval sites in the landscape. Archaeological Areas 4 and 5 (though not Area 1) will be investigated during future quarry phases and are expected to give further insights into the past use and evolution of the Little Easton landscape.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of the archaeological excavation of two areas carried out on land within the Easton Estate in advance of the first phase of quarry construction and extraction. The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of SRC Ltd.

Planning permission for a borrow pit within the western part of the current scheme area, to supply the construction of the adjacent A120 trunk road, was submitted in 2000 (UTT/1651/00CC). Permission for the larger quarry scheme was sought in 2006 (UTT/2051/06/CC and ESS/0065/UTT) and outline permission granted. Detailed approval for the scheme was given earlier in 2011 (UTT/0887/08/CC).

An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for the c.22ha western part of the scheme area and the access road route in 2000 (Heppell 2000). The archaeological potential of this same area was subsequently evaluated by trial trenching in 2000-1 (Hickling 2001). Due to the proposed enlargement of the scheme area, an archaeological chapter was produced for an EIA (Heppell 2006) in support of a revised planning application and a further 34ha to the immediate east of the previously evaluated area was later trial-trenched in 2007 (Robertson 2007).

As areas of established archaeological interest were identified by the various evaluation works (see sections 2.3.6-2.3.7, below), a full archaeological condition was placed on planning consent (ESS/0065/06/UTT) by ECC Planning Dept, following a recommendation given by ECC HEM, in accordance with PPG15: Planning for the Historic Environment (since replaced by PPS5). The ECC HEM brief subsequently issued specified a programme of further work that comprised the open area excavation of a total of five areas (Excavation Areas 1-5). It was later agreed with the LPA not to excavate Area 1, at the south end of the quarry access road, due to need to build-up the ground level to facilitate access off the A120 roundabout.

Areas 2 and 3 are located within the first phase of quarrying and so have been subject to excavation in accordance with the ECC HEM brief and an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (FAU 2011).

It is anticipated that the remaining Areas 4 and 5 will be investigated and reported upon in due course, ahead of further phases of gravel extraction.

Copies of this report will be supplied to SRC Ltd, ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A project summary will be created on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>) and a digital copy of the report will be accessible via the ADS 'grey literature' library (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

The quarry scheme is located 2.5km west of the town of Great Dunmow, in the south-western part of the former Little Easton Airfield on the Easton Estate (TL 598237, centred), and extends across an area of approximately 56 ha (Fig.1). The landscape is gently undulating, but generally slopes south towards the A120. At its northern end the ground lies at c.97m above OD, falling to c.90m at the southern end of the site. The site is currently arable farmland and is bounded by woodland to the south and east, and arable fields to the north and west. A concrete track, a remnant of the World War 2 airfield, runs in a loop through the eastern part of the area and a farm access track crosses the western part. The site is also bisected by a curving watercourse.

The topsoil across the whole of the site is approximately 0.3-0.4m deep and comprises a dark brown-grey clay loam. The natural upper geological deposits vary across the site, but broadly fall into two distinct groups - a pale yellow-brown chalky clay and an orangey-brown clay. These are comparable to those shown on the British Geological Survey maps for the area (British Geological Survey 2007) which show the superficial geology as till with some alluvium. The underlying geology of the area is London Clay.

Archaeological areas 2 and 3 were located within the western part of the quarry scheme area, either side of a track leading to nearby lodge (Fig. 1). At the time of their excavation, Area 3 was under active cultivation and was covered with a young crop of winter wheat, Area 2 was set-aside and was covered with grass.

2.2 Archaeology and History

This archaeological and historical background is based on information contained in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the previous desk-based assessments for the site (Heppell 2000 and 2006).

Concentrations of material and isolated prehistoric remains have been recovered from the wider landscape and include Palaeolithic to early Iron Age implements and activity. In particular, excavations carried out at Frogs Hall Farm c.1km to the west (Ennis 2006) and the Strood Hall (EHER 19455) and Stone Hall (EHER 14480, 45259) excavations carried out in advance of the A120 Trunk Road (Timby *et al* 2007) have demonstrated dispersed prehistoric settlement, cultivation, and mortuary activity taking place nearby.

Other investigations have demonstrated extensive Roman settlement and exploitation/management of resources in the area. Work on the Cambridge to Matching Green Pipeline identified features possibly associated with a villa complex and a Roman Road at Canfield End (EHER 9140). Complimentary geophysics undertaken nearby revealed enclosures, pits and other uncharacterized, but potentially Roman, remains. On the opposite side of the River Roding, the Frogs Hall excavations recorded the presence of burial and crop processing activity as well as agricultural field systems (Ennis 2006). A short distance to the south and southeast of Areas 2 and 3, enclosures of a Roman farmstead were found on the route of the A120 bypass at Strood Hall (EHER 19455; Timby *et al* 2007, 81-94), immediately off the south end of the proposed route of the quarry access road. These remains do not appear to have continued northward into the scheme area.

A small quantity of medieval finds and activity was identified during the 2001 trenching evaluation of the borrow pit scheme area. However, the principal remains of this period were found at Frogs Hall where a number of 12th-13th century pottery kilns were encountered (Ennis 2006; Timby *et al* 2007, 169-75). It has been speculated that the quarry scheme area may have been within carefully managed woodland that these kilns utilised (Heppell 2006). Only 150m to the southwest of Area 3 and 300m south-west of Area 2 is Stone Hall (LBS 353520; HER 4643), a Grade II* listed property with parts of its structure dating to the 14th century. It is likely that the scheme area lay within a medieval deer park and was therefore effectively 'ring-fenced' from agriculture and settlement and was probably a managed woodland, possibly from as early as the 12th century and the creation of the 'Forest of Essex'.

The quarry site lies within the original landscaped grounds of Little Easton Lodge (EHER 9139). Little Easton Estate dates to at least the 14th century when it was in the ownership of the Bouchier family. Little Easton Lodge itself dates to 1594 (ERO T/A 299/1) and seemingly stands on the site of a wooden hunting lodge built for Henry VIII. However, other than tree planting, imposition of a track/driveway and general parkland management, no significant development of the land seems to have taken place until the construction of the

Airfield in 1943 (Heppell 2000). Air ministry drawings 4145/44, dated to 1944, describe the layout of the airfield and detail the former use of much of the quarry site area as a bomb store. Although the individual storage buildings were removed in the 1950s, the looped service track remains.

Specific to the western part of the quarry scheme area, and to Excavation Areas 2 and 3, the 2001 site evaluation (Hickling 2001) identified the presence of pits in Trenches 23, 24, 26, 32 and 34, and ditches in Trenches 35 and 44. The majority of the features identified were undated although, morphologically and based upon their distribution, it is likely that some are Roman and some Post-medieval. However, the pits in Trench 32 (further investigated as Area 2) contained a relatively large amount of early 13th century pottery. The three gullies and pit found in Trench 26 (further investigated as Area 3) were judged to be of possible medieval or post-medieval date.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the investigation was to locate archaeological remains of all dates and periods within the specified excavation areas, and to preserve them by record prior to their destruction by extraction works.

The specific aims of the investigation were to:

- Define the date, nature and longevity of settlement and land-use in the area
- Establish the nature of occupation of this area in comparison to the other sites in the surrounding area.
- Identify and interpret any features relating to the park development.

3.2 Objectives

Research objectives for both the fieldwork and post-excavation study were formulated with reference to *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

4.0 METHOD

As specified by the brief, archaeological excavation was carried out across Areas 2 and 3. Each initially comprised square areas of c.900sq m extent. Area 3 was extended by a

further 300sq m, at the request of the ECC HEM officer, in order to further expose significant remains encountered within it.

The topsoil was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, from each area by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Topsoil and any masking subsoil was removed down onto the top of the natural deposit and onto the top of any archaeological remains present within it. All potential archaeological features were cleaned and hand excavated. Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection, sample collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

Archaeological features were present in both investigated areas. Two shallow, perpendicular ditches and four pits were identified in Area 2, while Area 3 contained four ditches, gullies, several tree- holes and a large modern feature located in the area extension. Further context information is presented in Appendix 1.

The topsoil was consistent across the whole site and consisted of 0.3–0.4m deep dark-brown grey clay pebbly ploughsoil overlaying natural deposits. In Area 2 the natural deposit was a dark orangey-brown clay interspersed with occasional patches of chalk, while in Area 3 it was a pale yellow-brown chalky clay.

Overall, feature legibility was fair to good, with some differences in texture and colour taking time to become apparent with weathering. All features had been truncated by ploughing and subsoil drainage and all were negative features cut into the natural deposit. No archaeologically-significant layers were present. Context numbering continues on from that of the site evaluation work, beginning at 300.

5.1 Area 2

Area 2 was a c.30m x 30m area located immediately east of the access road to a former lodge located east of Stone Hall (Fig.1). It was positioned over evaluation Trench 32, in which medieval remains had previously been found. A low density of further remains, comprising minor ditches and pits, was recorded (Fig.2; Plate 1).

Ditches 312/314/318/322/362 and 356/358/360

NNE-SSW aligned ditch 312/314/318/322/362 was traced for c.28m across the central part of the area. It clearly continued beyond the northern limit of excavation but narrowed and became indistinct at its southern end. Approximately 20% of the ditch was sample excavated in five segments, establishing it to vary between 0.43m-1.26m in width and 0.12m-0.29 depth, being widest and deepest at its northern end (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 2). Its single fill, a mid to dark grey brown compact silty clay, contained early medieval pottery sherds. The ditch was recognised in evaluation Trench 32, although it was interpreted at the time as two adjacent pits 29 and 31.

Ditch 312/314/318/322/362 seemingly cut the end of WNW-ESE aligned ditch 356/358/360. This similarly-proportioned ditch ran off beyond the north-east corner of the excavation area, being exposed for a distance of c.19m. Measuring 0.72-0.95m wide by 0.19-0.35m deep, its sides sloped at approximately 45° angle down to a concave base (Fig. 4, Section 3). The ditch contained a single mid greyish brown compact silty clay fill, which in segment 356 yielded several small pottery sherds dated to 11th to earlier 13th century. Apparently early Roman pottery was retrieved from segment 358, but is presumably residual. Given the similarity and perpendicular arrangement of these two ditches, it is possible that they were in contemporary use and define a fragment of medieval field or enclosure system.

Other features

Pits 300, 302, 304 and 320 were all located within the western part of Area 2 and may be reasonably assumed to lie within, and be contemporary with, one of the enclosures defined by the ditches. 1.4m diameter shallow pit 300 (Fig.4, section 1; Plate 3) contained a black, charcoal-rich, firm clayey silt fill and a finds assemblage comprising a relatively large quantity of early medieval pottery (32 sherds), baked clay, animal bone, several burnt flints and an iron nail. Similarly-sized pit 304 was filled by a light greyish brown friable silty clay (Plate 4), from which only a single fragment of tile was retrieved. Small pit 302, alongside pit 304, had steep sides, flat base and a single light firm grey chalky clay fill 303 (Plate 4) that contained no finds. Small pit/post-hole 320 contained only three sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. It is not clear whether or not these date this feature or were residual in its fill.

It is perhaps significant that no further archaeological remains were found to the east of ditch 312/314/318/322/362.

5.2 Area 3

Area 3 was, after its westward extension, a c.1200 sq m area located on higher ground toward the far western extent of the quarry scheme (Fig.1). It was located in relation to evaluation Trench 26 in which a number of gullies had been found. A moderate density of remains, primarily further parts of the gullies and some previously undetected ditches, were recorded (Fig. 3; Plate 5).

Ditch 340/343/344/364/377

The principal feature was a substantial ditch, possibly gently curving, running NE-SW across the centre of the excavation area. This feature was initially difficult to distinguish against the natural deposit, particularly at its southwest end, as its upper fill comprised re-deposited natural material. Investigated within segments 340, 343, 344, 364 and 377, the ditch was traced for a distance of c.30m. A rounded terminal was identified at its southwest end and the ditch continued beyond the northern limit of Area 3.

At its slightly bulbous terminal (segment 364), the ditch was 2.95m wide by 0.6m deep, had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its single mid orangish brown silty clay fill (365) contained a quantity of Late Iron Age coarseware pottery sherds. Only a short distance northeast, where investigated in segment 343, the ditch measured 2.24m wide by 0.67m deep and had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base (Fig.4, section 5). Its two fills, a mid greyish brown friable silty clay (335) overlain by a mid orangish brown friable silty clay (336), both contained Late Iron Age pottery.

Segment 343, excavated close to the terminal, revealed to ditch to be 2.24m wide and 0.67m deep at this point, with relatively steep concave sides and an undulating base (Fig. 4, section 5; plate 6). A substantial quantity of pottery was collected from its two fills, though a sherd of North Gaulish white ware is probably intrusive from overlying/truncating ditch 334. Fragments of horse and pig teeth were also retrieved.

Adjacent segment 377 was only partially dug, down to 0.3m, to confirm the course of the ditch.

Segment 340 was excavated across the approximate middle of the exposed ditch extent. At this point it was 3.48m wide by 0.87m deep, had irregular steep sides, a flat base and

contained two fills (Fig. 4, section 4). Primary fill 341 was a mid orangish brown-grey compact sandy clay, while the secondary (342) was a mid greyish orange-brown compact sandy clay. Both contained pottery sherds dated to the Iron Age and the upper fill also produced fragments of a possible sandstone whetstone.

At its northeast end, within segment 344, the ditch was 3.0m wide by 0.66m deep, had steep sides, a flat base and contained four fills (345-348) of varied pale to dark grey-brown or yellowish-brown clayey and sandy silts (Plate 7). Quantities of Late Iron Age courseware pottery was retrieved from all of these.

Ditches 351/366 and 334/368

The end of a short length of less-substantial ditch 351/366 cut the terminal of major ditch 340/343/344/364/377. Traced for a length of 5.2m, this north-south aligned ditch was truncated at its southern end by modern feature 391. At its terminal (segment 366), it was 1.4m by 0.43m deep, had gently sloping sides, concave base and contained two fills (Fig. 4, Section 6). Bottom fill 367 was a dark grey soft sandy silt, while upper fill 370 was a mid greyish orange soft clayey silt. Both fills contained Late Iron Age pottery. Further pottery was retrieved from the ditch fill excavated in segment 351.

A similarly proportioned 6.8m length of ditch 334/368 cut the end of in-filled ditch 351/366. However, running on a NE-SW alignment, it as significantly overlay the end of major ditch 340/343/344/364/377 (Fig. 4, Section 6). A rounded terminal was recorded just northeast of segment 334, while modern feature 391 truncated it to the southwest. A test-pit excavated through the fills of 391, further southwest on the projected line of the ditch, showed the modern truncation was 0.62m deep and that it had been completely removed by it. Within segment 334, the ditch was 1.25m wide by 0.37m deep, had gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig 4, Section 5; Plate 6). The bottom of its three fills (337) was a dark greyish black soft silty clay layer with frequent charcoal and ash inclusions that contained a substantial quantity of late Iron Age coarseware pottery sherds. A significant assemblage of North Gaulish imported wares and a small number of burnt animal bone fragments were also retrieved. On top of this burnt debris deposit was a light greyish brown firm silty clay (338), then a light brown-orange firm silty clay (339) very similar to the surrounding natural deposit. Within segment 368, the ditch measured 0.68m wide by 0.22m deep. It had steep sides, a concave base and contained a single mid grey-brown soft sandy silt fill, from which more Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved.

Ditch 306/308/310

Running on a more NNE-SSW alignment than ditch 340/343/344/364/377, minor ditch 306/308/310 crossed the southeast corner of Area 3, extending off beyond its limits (Plate 8). Exposed for a length of 16m, it was excavated within three segments which established that the ditch had gently sloping sides, a concave base and a single consistent dark orangish gray compact sandy clay fill. At its north end, in segment 310, this ditch was 1.37m wide by 0.3m deep. At the south, in segment 306, it was 0.74m wide by 0.23m deep (Fig. 4, Section 11). All three segments contained quantities of Late Iron Age pottery and 306 and 310 fragments of baked clay.

Gullies 324/326/328/349, 382/384, 380/386 and 373/375

Further parts of the gullies originally encountered in evaluation Trench 26 were recorded within the eastern half of Area 3 (Fig.3).

NNE-SSW aligned gully 324/326/328/349 and ESE-WNW gully 382/384 were of similar proportion, with U-shaped profiles, 0.26-0.387m widths and 0.08-0.20m depths (Fig. 4, Sections 7 and 10). These were evidently further parts of evaluation trench gully 04/10. At the time of their investigation 04 and 10 were interpreted as forming a corner. As such, these gullies almost certainly collectively define the southwest extents of an enclosure, the remainder of which extends beyond the excavation area. It is unclear whether the break in between segments 04 and 328 is real. The various elements of this enclosure gully cut both Late Iron Age ditches 340/343/344/364/377 (Plate 9) and 306/308/310. However, no artefacts were retrieved from the single, uniform, mid brownish grey soft sandy silt fill.

Previously investigated in evaluation trench 26 as segments 06 and 08, NE-SW aligned linear gully 380/386 ran from the northeast corner of Area 3 for a distance of 32m until tapering to nothing. It was 0.2-0.3m wide and only 0.05-0.08m deep where excavated. Within segments 380 and 386 the gully had well defined edges and a concave profile (Fig. 4, Section 8). It was filled by a uniform dark grey friable silty clay that did not contain any finds. Although lacking artefact dating evidence, the gully was established to cut gully corner 04/10 (contrary to the evaluation results, which recorded it stopping short of the gully corner).

NE-SW aligned gully 373/ 375 extended into Area 3 from its eastern edge for a distance of c.6.2m. At 0.3m-0.33m wide by 0.08-0.12m deep, and containing a single, uniform mid greyish brown friable silty clay fill (Fig. 4, Section 9), it was similar to the other gullies here. No finds were retrieved from its fill. Terminating just short of intersecting with gully 382/384, it

also lacked any stratigraphic indication of date and could be contemporary with either 324/326/328/382/384 or 380/386.

Other features

Four natural features were identified in Area 3, two of which were excavated. All were probably tree throws/holes. Tree-hole 316 was located in the northeast of the site. It measured 1.3m by 1.2m by 0.24m deep and it had an irregular shape, sides and base. It was filled by a dark brownish black friable silty clay (317). Irregular feature 371, 2.0m long by 1.08m wide and 0.3m deep, was situated just west of ditch segment 340. It had a very irregular profile and one dark brownish black friable clayey silt fill 372 (Plate 10). Although a few lumps of baked or burnt clay were found in deposit 317, both excavated features are thought to have been created by burnt plant roots.

Substantial modern cut feature 391 occupied much of the western end of Area 3. With parallel edges c.12m apart, it was seemingly part of an extensive linear feature running NNW-SSE. It was filled with clearly disturbed and re-deposited natural pale yellow-brown clay, with patches/lenses of brown topsoil, which contained occasional brick fragments. Excavation of a test-pit and alongside ditch segment 351 established it to be at least 0.6m deep and that it had removed any earlier remains at this location. The function of this feature is undetermined.

6.0 FINDS by Alan J. Jacobs

A range of artefact types were retrieved from the features excavated within Areas 2 and 3. While most of the assemblages are too small to give meaningful insights into site status and function, the Late Iron Age and Medieval pottery assemblages are both significant and instructive. All of the finds are identified and quantified by context in Appendix 2.

6.1 Prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery by Stephen Benfield

In total, the assemblage comprises 678 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 9,179g. The average sherd weight is 13.5g. Of this, nine sherds weighing 27g can be dated to the prehistoric, 'pre-Belgic', period. The vast majority, 669 sherds weighing 9152g, can be dated to the Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman period.

The condition of the pottery is moderate to fair. Much of the assemblage has some abrasion. Sherd edges are commonly rounded-off and some surfaces have degraded. This is particularly apparent on the sherds dated as prehistoric and on Romanising wares with a fine

sandy/silty fabric which had become quite powdery. The more severe examples of abrasion are noted in Appendix 3. The general abrasion to sherds indicates that most of this results from corrosive effects of the soils on the site. There are a few sherds where damage has been caused by heat or scorching and these are also noted in Appendix 3.

The pottery was divided into fabrics types by eye aided by low power magnification. The identified fabrics are listed and quantified in Table 1. The sherd count and weight has been recorded for each fabric type by context (Appendix 3). The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Essex (Chelmsford) fabric series (Going 1987). Late Iron Age and Roman vessel forms refer to the Colchester, Camulodunum (Cam) type series for Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947). These are supplemented with reference to the vessel forms set out in Thompson (1983).

Fabric code	Fabric name	count	wt/g
<u>Prehistoric</u>			
HMF	Hand made flint	7	14
HMS/F	Hand made sand and flint	2	13
	<i>sub-total</i>	9	27
<u>Late Iron Age-Roman</u>			
<i>Imported wares:</i>			
NOG WH	North Gaulish white ware	13	81
NOG WH 1	North Gaulish white ware	6	36
NOG WH 3	North Gaulish white ware	13	36
<i>Regional & local coarse wares:</i>			
44	Storage jar fabrics (grog-tempered)	80	3540
45	Romanising coarse wares	45	175
47	Sandy grey wares	1	7
50	?South Essex shell-tempered ware	34	344
53	Grog-tempered fabrics	477	4933
	<i>sub-total</i>	669	9152
	Total	678	9179

Table 1. Prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric type

Fabrics

Prehistoric

The prehistoric pottery consists of just a few small, undiagnostic body sherds. The fabrics record the predominant temper, or types of temper present (flint, sand) and further subdivision of these types was considered unprofitable. However, a brief description of the sherds, including the size of inclusions, is presented in the pottery catalogue (Appendix 3).

Late Iron Age

The majority of the pottery contains grog-temper. Grog-tempered ware of this type is the typical pottery fabric type of the Late Iron Age in southern England. The sherds here contain varying amounts of grog, commonly red or black, but including some pale-brown/buff, and are typical of this fabric. The grog-tempered pottery has been divided between two fabric

types: Fabric 53 and Fabric 44. The majority is recorded as Fabric 53 which includes all vessels which are not large storage jars. Some variation in the pottery recorded as Fabric 53 was seen to be present. This includes quantity and colour of grog inclusions, surface colour and perceived sandy or soapy feel of the sherds; also differences of manufacture such as hand or wheel made and sherd thickness. Some of these have been noted in the pottery and have potential relevance in dating, although many are not unquestionably diagnostic. It was also noted that many of the grog-tempered sherds have a slightly sandy feel. Sherds from large storage jars in grog-tempered fabric, commonly with voids from burnt out organic-temper or fragments from surface wiping, have been recorded as Fabric 44. This allows the proportion of these types of vessels among the assemblage to be recorded; which might have chronological significance as large storage jars with grog-tempered fabrics continue into the later 1st century Roman period (Thompson 1983, 259).

A small number of sherds which have sparse grog-temper with predominantly sandy fabrics, or entirely fine sand/silty fabrics, have been recorded as Romanising wares; Fabric 45. This is considered to be a post-conquest development of the Late Iron Age grog-tempered tradition (Going 1987, 9), but a pre-conquest date may also be possible for these sherds. The fabric is most common at Chelmsford during the mid-late 1st/early 2nd century AD, declining rapidly in the 2nd century (Going 1987, table 9).

Significant numbers of shell-tempered ware sherds were also recorded (Fabric 50). This ware probably originates in south Essex and its production is not local to the site. This fabric appears among assemblages in the Late Iron Age and continues in the Early Roman period.

A small quantity of imported North Gaulish fine ware was also recorded. All is in North Gaulish white ware (Fabric NOG WH), with two fabric variants recognised North Gaulish white ware 1 (NG WH 1) and North Gaulish white ware 3 (NOG WH 3). These fabrics are described in Tomber & Dore (1998, 22-24). They appear in Britain in the late 1st century BC and continue into the Early Roman period. Probably all of the beaker sherds are Fabric NOG WH 3, although the fabric of some is quite sandy; also the surfaces are powdery, but this probably results from being affected by the local soil conditions.

Roman

Only one sherd was recorded in a Roman coarse sandy grey ware, Fabric 47. This fabric type is current throughout the Roman period.

Overview of forms

A number of vessel forms corresponding to numbered form types have been identified and are listed in Table 2. In addition, the sherds in Fabric NGO WH 1 (337) are almost certainly from a flagon/lagena, but the form is not identified. Almost all of the vessel forms recorded are also present among the large Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery assemblage from Sheepen, Colchester, dated c.AD 5-61/65 (Niblett 1985, 3). All are form types which appear in the Late Iron Age, although most remain current in the Early Roman period of the mid-late 1st century and later.

Form	Fabric	Context
Cam 30	53	370
Cam 82-85 (Cam ?84)	NGO WH	336
Cam 82-85 (Cam ?84)	NGO WH	337
Cam 113	NGO WH3	337
Cam 117	45	369
Cam 119	53	337
Cam 218	53	346, 365
Cam 220	53	336, 345
Cam 254	50	309, 336, 337, 346, 348
Cam 259	50, 53	337, 346
Cam 266 (Thompson B1-2)	53	337
Cam 270B	44	337
Cam 271	44	336, 342, 365, 367
Thompson B1-1(?)	53	341, 342

Table 2. Recorded numbered vessel forms, by fabric and context

Assemblages from the four main ditches sampled

Ditch segments 340/343/344/364

A significant quantity of pottery was recovered from these excavated ditch segments: 363 sherds (5943g). Almost all of this is Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware (Fabric 53). There is one sherd of imported North Gaulish White Ware (NOG WH) Girth Beaker from ditch 343 (fill 336) which can be dated to period c.15 BC-40 AD. This is from the same vessel as the further sherds recovered from overlying ditch 334 (fill 337). There are few sherds in 'Romanising' ware (Fabric 45) from three contexts (336, 348, 365). These are from beakers or jars. Their fabric suggests a probable post-conquest date. However, the quantity of Late Iron Age pottery suggests these sherds are probably not significantly later than mid 1st century AD. The vessel forms recorded are dominated by jars or bowls, and larger storage jars. These include a number of sherds in Shell-tempered ware (Fabric 50). Of interest are a number of sherds which have been burnt or scorched (fills 341, 342 and possibly 346). One scorched jar, a part pot represented by several joining sherds, is decorated with spaced, vertical incised lines on the shoulder. This decoration has been paralleled in a rapid scan of published material. Overall, the forms and fabrics represented suggest a date of Late 1st

century BC to mid 1st century AD, with the latest dated pottery sherds probably post-conquest.

Ditch segments 334/368

A total of 174 sherds (2040g) were recovered. The pottery includes sherds from a Butt Beaker (Cam 113), Girth Beaker (Cam 84?) and body sherds from a flagon, all of which are most probably imports from North Gaul (Fabric NOG WH). One sherd from the Girth Beaker was recovered from underlying ditch 343 (fill 336) and is presumably intrusive. These vessels are imported from the Late Augustan period and can be dated to after c.15 BC. The Girth beaker and flagon would not be current beyond the mid 1st century, although the Butt Beaker form Cam 113 appears to be current into the Neronian period with examples recovered from military contexts; for example the fill of the fort ditch at Cirencester (Rigby 1982, fig 58, nos. 296, 297). Other Butt Beakers are represented by form Cam 119 in grog-tempered wares. There are also sherds from jars in South Essex? shell-tempered ware (Fabric 50; Cam 254 & Cam 259). A sherd from a cordoned jar/beaker of form Cam 117(?) (Thompson form B5-3?) is in a sandy 'Romanising' fabric (Fabric 45). This form persists into the immediate post-conquest period (Thompson 1982, 199) and might date to the mid 1st century. Overall, forms and fabrics represented suggest a date of Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD, with the latest dated pottery sherds probably post-conquest.

Ditch segment 351

The pottery consists of a total of 29 sherds (328g). All of the pottery (apart from one residual prehistoric sherd) is grog-tempered, either Late Iron Age ware or grog-tempered (Fabric 53) or storage jar fabrics (Fabric 44). There is a sherd from a Butt-Beaker form which can be dated to after c.15 BC and a sherd which is probably from a tall jar with a cordoned rim (Thompson 1983, B2-3) which can be dated to the early-mid 1st century AD. Nothing need date later than the early-mid 1st century AD Late Iron Age period.

Ditch segments 306/308/310

The 77 sherds (492g) of pottery recovered are almost entirely grog-tempered (Fabric 53), with some storage jar fabrics (Fabric 44). There is also a small quantity of South Essex? shell-tempered ware (Fabric 50) (Cam 259). A small number of sherds are in 'Romanising' fabrics (Fabric 45) and may be post-conquest (fills 307, 311). Overall, this pottery suggests a Late 1st century BC to mid 1st AD date, with the latest dated pottery sherds probably being post-conquest.

Discussion

There is a small quantity of prehistoric pottery represented by small, abraded flint- and flint with sand-tempered sherds. This is not closely dated, but as the use of flint-temper declines in the transition from the Late Bronze Age into the Early and Middle Iron Age in Essex (Sealey 2007b, 50) this pottery most probably pre-dates the middle Iron Age.

The bulk of the pottery consists of Late Iron Age grog-tempered wares, including grog-tempered large storage jars. The pottery includes imported fine wares, regional imports from south Essex? and regional/locally produced coarsewares. A few sherds are in fine sand or silty fabrics and are probably post-conquest, although there is only one Roman sherd which is in a hard, sandy grey coarse ware. Almost all of this pottery was recovered from ditch fills and so is likely to represent accumulations of pottery over a period of time.

Close dating of much of the coarse pottery within the Late Iron Age period is very difficult. Broadly the grog-tempered wares can be dated to the period c 50/25BC-50 AD. Some appears to be hand made and wheel finished which might indicate an early date. However, the coarseware forms present suggest a date range of late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD to mid 1st century AD. This is dating can also be applied to the small quantity of fine wares which are, or appear to be imports from North-Gaul, although one Butt-Beaker form is current into the Neronian period.

Apart from one sherd, none of the pottery is certainly Roman, although a few sherds in sandy 'Romanising' or Roman type fabrics appear to be post-conquest. These are mostly thin and finely sanded, probably from small jar or beaker forms. However, it can be noted that a small quantity of pottery dated as Late Iron Age from sites along the nearby line of the A120 road is sand-tempered (Biddulph 2007). The only sherds from the site that are in a sandy fabric, and that can be closely dated, are from a jar/beaker of form Cam 117(?) (Thompson form B5-3?). This is a Late Iron Age form, although just current into the post-conquest period (Thompson 1982, 199) and the sherds from this pot are, by contrast, thicker and more coarsely sanded. The shell tempered wares, a fabric type which also continues into the Early Roman period, consist almost entirely of Cam 254 vessels. This is also essentially a Late Iron Age type and which appears scarcely to survive the conquest at Colchester (CAR 10, 478).

The overwhelming dominance of grog-tempered pottery (Fabrics 53 & 44), at over 80% by count and over 90% by weight, with virtually all of the remainder made up either Late Iron Age imports or shell-tempered Iron Age vessels, indicates that the pottery is, or is almost entirely, of Late Iron Age date. The overall composition of the assemblage in terms of the

fabrics (including the North Gaulish imports) also appears similar to that recorded for sites along the line of the A120 dated to the Late Iron Age (Biddulph 2007).

6.2 Medieval Pottery by Helen Walker

A total of forty-five sherds weighing 310g was excavated from four contexts, all in Area 2. The pottery has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16) and entered onto FAU's EFASYS database. Nearly all the pottery comprises early medieval ware, a coarse thick-walled sandy fabric usually with red-brown surfaces, which was produced from the 11th to early 13th centuries. Pit 300 (fill 301) produced several rim sherds including two simple everted rims, one perhaps from a small cooking-pot or jar and a rim with a much larger diameter, which may be from a bowl. There is also a rim with an external bevel which may be from a cooking-pot. All these rim types would have been current from the mid 11th to 12th centuries. However, also from this pit, are sherds of early medieval ware, which are thin-walled and appear to be borderline with medieval coarse ware, the slightly finer successor to early medieval ware, produced from the mid 12th century. Therefore the pottery from this feature is most likely to be 12th century.

A second bevelled early medieval ware rim was found in ditch 318 (fill 319) and may also be 12th century or a little earlier. Ditch 322 (fill 323) produced a thickened everted rim perhaps from a bowl. This type of rim (which has the code B2 in Cunningham's typology) is a later type and indicates a date of c.1200 for this feature. Ditch 356 (fill 357) produced further sherds of early medieval ware with the addition of a single sherd of medieval coarse ware displaying bands of horizontal incised lines, a type of decoration common during the late 12th to earlier 13th century.

This assemblage therefore spans the 11th to early 13th centuries, although all the pottery could have been current during the later 12th century. The pottery was probably made fairly locally and the assemblage appears to be entirely domestic.

6.3 Baked Clay

Baked clay, amounting to 33 fragments (weighing 264g), was retrieved from five contexts. All but one context assemblage derive from Late Iron Age ditches and a possible pit in Area 3. The generally small fragments of Late Iron Age material is reddened and blackened through burning and only two small pieces from ditch fill 337 show flat surfaces. Most, if not all, probably derives from a hearth structure. The small assemblage (5 fragments, 10g) from

Medieval pit 300 in Area 2 is markedly different, being of buff-pink clay with chalk inclusions, well fired.

6.4 Animal Bone

Approximately 67 fragments of animal bone, weighing 285g, were collected from a total of four contexts. A pig tooth and highly fragmented horse teeth were retrieved from the fills of Late Iron Age ditch 343 in Area 3. A further quantity of small leg and other bones and teeth, the majority burnt, came from overlying ditch 334 and suggests that the low quantity of bone present in the excavated late Iron Age features is a result of poor preservation conditions. A slightly more substantial assemblage (10 fragments, 180g) of larger and better preserved bone, including sheep/goat mandible and a horn core fragment, was collected from medieval pit 300, in Area 2.

6.5 Miscellaneous Finds

A total of four worked flints, all primary or secondary flakes, were collected from gully 318 and ditch 334. All are likely to be residual inclusions in their contexts. Three pieces of tabular fine-grained sandstone, from ditch segments 334 and 340 excavated across the major Late Iron Age ditch in Area 3, could be fragments of whetstone. However, their surfaces show no sign of use and it is as probable that these are simply natural glacial material deriving from the boulder clay. Two burnt flints (63g) and an iron nail with square section were found in medieval pit 300. Two small tile fragments (15g) were retrieved from nearby otherwise undated pit 304.

6.6 Environmental Remains

Very small quantities of small charcoal fragments, weighing a total of 10g, were hand-collected from three contexts. The majority of this (8g) derives from burnt debris deposit 337 in Late Iron Age ditch 334. The fragments are all too small for wood species identification.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The excavation of Areas 2 and 3 has confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains at these locations within the quarry scheme area, as indicated by the results of the 2000/01 trial trenching evaluation. However, this work has also established that these remains are both more diverse in date and more extensive than predicted. The significance and meaning of the recorded remains are discussed, by broad chronological period below.

Late Iron Age / Early Roman

The Late Iron Age ditches encountered within Area 3 were unexpected, not having been identified by the trial trenching evaluation. It is likely that these ditches delineated an evolving enclosure system and, as such, attests to a phase of landscape management and exploitation which dates to the first half of the 1st century AD. The relatively large quantity of discarded pottery, predominantly domestic coarsewares, retrieved from the ditch fills suggests the presence of a currently unknown occupation site in the near vicinity. Furthermore, the inclusion of probable pre-conquest continental imports amongst this assemblage hints at a relatively high status site with access to exotic traded goods. The influx of imported exotic goods into the territory of the Trinovantes, most readily indicated by ceramic vessels from regions of the Roman Empire such as Gaul and Italy, is well attested during the late 1st century BC and first half of the 1st century AD. Gaulish finewares, such as the beakers, jars and flagon found at Little Easton Quarry, are found at the Late Iron Age coastal centres of trade and consumption of Colchester Sheepen (Niblett 1985) and Heybridge (Compton forthcoming), at a probable farmstead at Cressing Temple (ECC FAU, in archive) and beyond into the territory of the Catuvellauni (e.g. King Harry Lane and Skeleton Green). A good portion of this trade is likely to have been conducted along the Iron Age forerunner of Stane Street and to have benefited the settlements alongside it; Stane Street is, after all, only c.1km south of Area 3. While the nature of settlement in relation to Stane Street is further discussed elsewhere (Timby *et al* 2007, 141), it is interesting to note that the cremation cemetery excavated at the Strood Hall site included a small number of probable Late Iron Age burials (*ibid.*,117-37). One of these, grave 1855, contained a probable North Gaulish white ware flagon as well as coarseware beakers and a platter. It is tempting to speculate that these earliest graves in the cemetery were associated with the late Iron Age settlement hinted by the Area A3 ceramic material.

Medieval and later

The range of Medieval remains encountered in Area 2 were as predicted by the evaluation, though their density was perhaps lower than expected and the overall extent of the site greater. While most of the pits proved unremarkable and only one provided a definitively early medieval date, they have been established to probably lie within, and be contemporary with, an 11th to 12th century enclosure system defined by modest ditches/field drains. The full extent and function of this enclosure system has not been established, but may perhaps be confined to the dark orangey-brown clay natural deposits alongside the stream that bisects the quarry scheme area.

In Area 3, the investigation of the gullies of likely medieval or post-medieval date found during the site evaluation has revealed a wider extent of rectilinear enclosures defined by

these features. With no dating evidence retrieved from their fills, the only chronological indication is that they post-date the Late Iron Age landscape features.

Some or all of these medieval or potentially-medieval, enclosure ditches, gullies and pits could conceivably be associated with medieval settlement at Stone Hall to the southwest. If so, they may be part of a general spread of indicators of agricultural activity and exploitation extending at least as far from the hall as the stream that bisects the quarry scheme area.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The fact that the Late Iron Age period remains in Area 3 were not detected during the 2000/01 trial trenching is perhaps not surprising in retrospect. The low density and irregular patterning of the trenching deployed (Fig.1) provided an insufficient sample across this western part of the quarry scheme area. This was compounded by the similarity of many of the upper fills of the ditches to the surrounding natural deposit, perhaps caused by deliberate infilling with material from remnants of adjacent upcast banks, which made feature identification extremely difficult within the narrow confines of the single-width trenches. This resulted in the non-recognition of the presence even of major ditch 340/343/344/364/377 in Trench 26. Indeed, it is noted that some of the ditches were still hard to distinguish within the wider extent of Area 3 until the surface had been cleaned and weathered. While feature legibility was less of an issue in Area 2, determination of site extent based on the evaluation results was still problematic. Clearly, potentially only a small part of these two sites have been investigated.

These issues of poor feature legibility and determination resulting from low / irregular trenching sampling are unlikely to be as pronounced for Areas 3 and 4, as these are located on more favourable geology and within that part of the quarry scheme area more comprehensively evaluated in 2007. It is likely that the predicted nature and extent of these identified sites will be more reliable. Sites 4 and 5 (though not Site 1) will be investigated during future quarry phases and are expected to give further useful insights into the past use and evolution of the Little Easton landscape.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
300	2	Pit	Circular, 1.4m x 1.34m x 0.26m deep	Medieval
301	2	Fill of 300	Dark grey black firm clayey silt	Medieval
302	2	Pit	Oval, 0.67m x 0.37m x 0.16m deep	Modern
303	2	Fill of 302	Light grey firm chalky clay	Modern
304	2	Pit	Oval, 1.4m x 0.64m x 0.1m deep	Modern
305	2	Fill of 304	Light greyish brown friable silty clay	Modern
306	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 16m+ x 0.74m x 0.23m deep	LIA
307	3	Fill of 306	Dark orangish grey compact sandy clay	LIA
308=306	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 16m+ x 1.03m x 0.26m deep	LIA
309=307	3	Fill of 308	Dark orangish grey compact sandy clay	LIA
310=306	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 16m+ x 1.67m x 0.3m deep	LIA
311=307	3	Fill of 310	Mid orangish grey compact sandy clay	LIA
312	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 28m+ x 0.43m x 0.12m deep	Medieval
313	2	Fill of 312	Dark grey brown firm silty clay	Medieval
314=312	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 28m+ x 0.61m x 0.25m deep	Medieval
315	2	Fill of 314	Dark grey brown firm clayey silt	Medieval
316	3	Pit/tree throw	Oval/irregular, 1.3m x 1.2m x 0.24m deep	Modern
317	3	Fill of 316	Dark brownish black friable silty clay	Modern
318=312	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 28m+ x 0.76m x 0.29m deep	Medieval
319	2	Fill of 318	Mid brown friable silty clay	Medieval
320	2	Pit	Circular, 0.45m x 0.45m x 0.13m deep	LIA
321	2	Fill of 320	Mid brown friable silty clay	LIA
322=312	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 28m+ x 0.72m x 0.2m deep	Medieval
323	2	Fill of 322	Dark-mid brown firm silty clay	Medieval
324	3	Gully	Curvilinear, aligned NE-SW, 10m+ x 0.38m x 0.18m deep	Post-med?
325	3	Fill of 324	Dark greyish brown soft sandy clay	Post-med?
326=324	3	Gully	Curve-linear, aligned NE- SW, 10m+ x 0.35m x 0.2m deep	Post-med?
327=325	3	Fill of 326	Dark greyish brown soft sandy clay	Post-med?
328=324	3	Gully	Curve-linear, aligned NE-SW, 10m+ x 0.26m x 0.08m deep	Post-med?
329=325	3	Fill of 328	Dark greyish brown soft sandy clay	Post-med?
334	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 7m+ x 1.25m x 0.37m deep	LIA
335	3	Fill of 343	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	LIA
336	3	Fill of 343	Mid orangish brown friable silty clay	LIA
337	3	Fill of 334	Dark greyish-black soft silty clay, bottom fill, charcoal-rich	LIA

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
338	3	Fill of 334	Light greyish brown firm silty clay, middle fill	LIA
339	3	Fill of 334	Light brown/orange firm silty clay, top fill	LIA
340	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 34m+ x 3.48m x 0.87m deep	LIA
341	3	Fill of 340	Mid orangish brown/grey compact sandy clay, bottom fill	LIA
342	3	Fill of 340	Mid greyish orange/brown compact sandy clay, top fill	LIA
343=340	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 34m+ x 2.24m x 0.67m deep	LIA
344=340	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 34m+ x 3m x 0.66m deep	LIA
345	3	Fill of 344	Mid greyish brown firm clayey silt, bottom fill	LIA
346	3	Fill of 344	Dark/mid grey friable clayey silt, middle fill	LIA
347	3	Fill of 344	Mid yellowish brown friable clayey silt, middle fill	LIA
348	3	Fill of 344	Pale/mid mottled brown grey friable sandy silt, top fill	LIA
349=324	3	Gully	Curvilinear, aligned NE-SW, 10m+ x 0.34m x 0.19m deep	Post-med?
350=325	3	Fill of 349	Dark greyish brown soft sandy clay	Post-med?
351	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned N-S, 4.6m+ x 0.8m x 0.22m	LIA
352	3	Fill of 351	Dark grey soft sandy silt	LIA
355	3	Finds	Pottery from ditch surface near segment 344	LIA
356	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE, 19m+ x 0.95m x 0.35m deep	Medieval
357	2	Fill of 356	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay	Medieval
358=356	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE, 19m+ x 0.84m x 0.36m	Medieval
359=357	2	Fill of 358	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay	Medieval
360=356	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NW-SE, 19m+ x 0.72m x 0.19m	Medieval
361=357	2	Fill of 360	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay	Medieval
362=312	2	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 28m+ x 1.26m x 0.22m deep	Medieval
363	2	Fill of 362	Dark greyish brown compact silty clay	Medieval
364=343	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 34m+ x 2.95m x 0.6m deep	LIA
365=336	3	Fill of 364	Mid orangish brown silty clay	LIA
366=351	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned N-S, 4.6m+ x 1.4m x 0.43m	LIA
367=352	3	Fill of 366	Dark grey soft sandy silt	LIA
368=334	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 7m+ x 0.68m x 0.22m	LIA
369	3	Fill of 368	Mid grey brown soft sandy silt	LIA
370	3	Fill of 366	Mid greyish orange soft clayey silt	LIA
371	3	Treethrow	Irregular, aligned N-S, 2m x 1.08m x 0.3m	Modern
372	3	Fill of 371	Dark brownish black friable clayey silt	Modern
373	3	Gully	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 6.2m+ x 0.33m x 0.12m	Post-med?
374	3	Fill of 373	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	Post-med?
375=373	3	Gully	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 6.2m+ x 0.3m x 0.08m	Post-med?
376=374	3	Fill of 375	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	Post-med?
377=343	3	Ditch	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 34m+ x 3.15m x 0.3m+ deep	LIA
378	3	Fill of 377	Dark/mid mottled orange-grey soft clayey silt	LIA

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
379	3	Fill of 377	Mottled mid grey/orange soft silty clay	LIA
380	3	Gully	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 32m+ x 0.3m x 0.08m deep	Post-med?
381	3	Fill of 380	Dark grey friable silty clay	Post-med?
382	3	Gully	Linear, aligned NW-SE, 16m+ x 0.37m x 0.16m deep	Post-med?
383	3	Fill of 382	Mid brownish grey soft sandy silt	Post-med?
384=382	3	Gully	Linear, aligned NW-SE, 16m+ x 0.29m x 0.08m deep	Post-med?
385=383	3	Fill of 384	Mid brownish grey soft sandy silt	Post-med?
386=380	3	Gully	Linear, aligned NE-SW, 32m+ x 0.29m x 0.05m deep	Post-med?
387=381	3	Fill of 386	Dark grey friable silty clay	Post-med?
388	3	Fill of 391	Bottom fill in test-pit , mid greyish brown firm silty clay	Modern
389	3	Fill of 391	Middle fill in test pit, mottled brown grey firm silty clay	Modern
390	3	Fill of 391	Top fill in test pit, mottled light grey brown soft silty clay	Modern
391	3	Cut	Linear feature, aligned NNE-SSW, 17m+ x 12m x 0.62m deep	Modern

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
U/S	-	1	22	GROG pottery; rim sherd, abraded. Bowl?	LIA
301	300	23	200	Medieval pottery: early medieval ware; everted rim sherds, perhaps from bowls and cooking pots, plus misc. body sherds	Mid 11th to 12th C
		9	60	Medieval pottery: early medieval ware, borderline medieval coarse ware	12th to early 13th C
		10	180	Animal bone; fragments, inc. sheep/goat mandible, horn core	-
		5	10	Baked clay; small buff/pink chalky clay fragments. Possibly daub.	-
		2	63	Burnt flint; burnt nodule and smaller fragment	-
		1	7	Fe nail; square, 40mm long, end missing	-
305	304	2	15	Tile; small un-diagnostic fragments.	-
307	306	16	106	GROG & greyware pottery; rim and body sherds, abraded	M 1st cent AD
		6	12	Baked clay; coarse, burnt, no surfaces. Possible hearth fabric or daub.	-
309	308	28	256	GROG, greyware and shell-tempered pottery; rim and body sherds, abraded	E/M 1st cent
311	310	35	146	GROG, greyware and shell-tempered pottery; rim and body sherds, some abraded	M 1st cent AD
		11	99	Baked clay; coarse, burnt, no surfaces. Possible hearth fabric or daub.	-
		3	1	Charcoal; small hand-collected fragments	-
317	316	3	27	Baked clay; coarse, burnt, no surfaces. Possible hearth fabric or daub.	-
319	318	4	19	Medieval pottery: early medieval ware; cooking-pot, plus body sherds	Later 11th to 12th C
		1	11	Worked flint; primary flake, poss some retouch	-
321	320	3	11	Romanising greyware pottery; rim and body sherds	M 1st cent AD
323	322	2	16	Medieval pottery: early medieval ware, rim and body sherd	c.1200
335	343	3	10	GROG pottery; body sherds	LIA
		4	8	Flint tempered pottery; abraded	Prehist?
		1	2	Animal bone: pigs tooth fragment	-
336	343	33	455	GROG & greyware pottery; rim, body and base sherds. Also 1 sherd North Gaulish white ware	E/M 1st cent AD
		32	89	Animal bone; highly fragmented ?horse teeth and jaw bone	-
337	334	31	148	North Gaulish white ware pottery; rim and body sherds. Beaker, flagon, ?jar	LIA
		145	1878	GROG & greyware pottery; rim and body sherds, inc. bowl , beaker	LIA
		2	6	Flint-tempered pottery; small, abraded	Prehist
		22	14	Animal bone; small bone and tooth fragments, mostly burnt	-
		12	121	Baked clay; coarse, two fragments with flat surfaces. Possible hearth fabric or daub.	-
		1	175	Worked stone; tabular fine sandstone fragment. Possible whetstone	-
		3	15	Worked flint; flakes, one primary, two secondary	-

		6	8	Charcoal; small hand-collected fragments	-
341	340	21	303	GROG pottery; rim, body and base sherds	LIA
342	340	55	530	GROG pottery; rim and body sherds, abraded	LIA
		2	4	Flint-tempered pottery; abraded	Prehist
		2	451	Worked stone; tabular fine sandstone fragments. Possible whetstone?	-
345	344	29	190	GROG pottery; rim and body sherds	LIA
346	344	70	1236	GROG pottery; rim, body and base sherds	LIA
347	344	9	108	GROG pottery; body sherds, abraded	LIA
348	344	67	1235	GROG & romanising greyware pottery; body and base sherds, abraded	LIA
		2	5	Baked clay; small fragments, burnt, no surfaces	-
		1	1	Charcoal; small hand-collected fragment	-
352	351	31	322	GROG pottery, rim, body and base sherds	LIA
		1	10	Flint-tempered pottery; abraded	Prehist
355	Finds spot	6	51	Shell-tempered pottery, body sherds	LIA/ER
357	356	6	9	Medieval pottery: early medieval ware, body sherds, all from same vessel	11th to 12th C
		1	6	Medieval pottery: medieval coarse ware; decorated body sherd	Late 12th to earlier 13th C
359	358	8	28	Grog & sandy greyware pottery; body sherds, some abraded, residual?	E Rom
365	364	78	1897	GROG pottery, rim, body and base sherds, abraded. 2 romanising greyware sherds.	E/M 1st cent AD
367	366	9	180	GROG pottery, rim and body sherds, abraded. 1 romanising sherd	M 1st cent AD
369	368	6	59	Romanising greyware pottery, body sherds,	M 1st cent AD
370	366	2	60	GROG pottery, body sherds, abraded	LIA
388	391	2	17	GROG & ?shell tempered pottery, body sherds, abraded, residual	LIA
389	391	3	7	GROG pottery, body sherds, residual	LIA
		2	230	Unworked stone; adjoining pieces of ferruginous sandstone. Glacial erratic?	-
390	391	1	7	GROG pottery, body sherd, residual	LIA

APPENDIX 3: PREHISTORIC, LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY DATA

Note: SV=same vessel

ctxt	F no.	type	Fab.	no.	wt/g	description/notes	form	period	spot date
US			53	1	22	rim, prob. from a bowl	B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
307	306	ditch	53	8	58			LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
307	306	ditch	53	1	8	rim, undercut	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
307	306	ditch	44	2	21		SJ	LIA/Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
307	306	ditch	45	4	11	thin sandy fabric, wheel made		LIA/Rom	M1-L1C AD
307	306	ditch	45	1	3	small rim, undercut, sandy fabric	J/Bk	LIA/Rom	M1-L1C AD
309	308	ditch	50	9	112	rim, b-sherds	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M1C AD
309	308	ditch	45	1	2	beaker rim	Bk	LIA/E Rom	M1-L1C AD
309	308	ditch	53	12	90	black surface, thin, wheel made	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
309	308	ditch	53	4	33	oxidised surface, thin, wheel made	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
309	308	ditch	53	1	7	hand made, SJ sherd(?)	SJ	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
311	310	ditch	50	1	18	base	J	LIA/Rom	L1C BC-M1C AD
311	310	ditch	45	5	18	simple everted rim, b-sherds, grey, powdery, fine sandy fabric	Bk	E Rom	M1-L1C AD
311	310	ditch	45	1	2	thin, sandy, sparse black grog		LIA/E Rom	M1C AD
311	310	ditch	53	1	6	cordoned, wheel made	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
311	310	ditch	53	26	103	misc sherds, black surface, some organic-temper (44)	B/J/SJ	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
321	320	pit	45	3	11	everted rim, b-sherds, sandy fabric, some red grog(?)	J/B	LIA/E Rom	M-L1C
335	343	ditch	HMF	4	7	small sherds, common S-M/L flint		preh	preh
335	343	ditch	53	3	9	hand made, some grog		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	NOG WH	1	5	girth beaker, combed vertical lines, fine sandy cream/pink fabric, yellow-orange surface, (same as (337))	Cam 82-85	LIA/E Rom(?)	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	50	1	24	rim	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	44	4	199	rim, b-sherds, comb dec.	Cam 271	LIA/E Rom	
336	343	ditch	53	1	21	angular rippled shoulder	Cam 220	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	53	1	50	shoulder from large cordoned vessel (jar/flask(?)) dec. with fine rouletting between horizontal grooves, black surface wheel made		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	53	18	75	misc sherds, black surface		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	45	2	4	sandy grey with sparse red grog		LIA/E Rom	M1-L1C AD
336	343	ditch	53	3	62	base, oxidised, orange		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
336	343	ditch	53	1	10	sandy, hand-made, some dark grog(?)		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	NOG WH 1	6	36	white pipe-clay fabric, prob. from a flagon	Fl	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	NOG WH 3	13	36	Butt Beaker	Cam 113	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
337	334	ditch	NOG WH	9	67	girth beaker, combed vertical lines, fine sandy cream/pink fabric, yellow-orange surface, (same as (336))	Cam 84(?)	LIA/E Rom(?)	L1C BC-M1C AD

ctxt	F no.	type	Fab.	no.	wt/g	description/notes	form	period	spot date
337	334	ditch	NOG WH	3	9	Butt Beaker, almost certainly part of other Cam 113 and not separate vessel, but fabric slightly different colour	Cam 113	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
337	334	ditch	45	2	8	beaker/jar base	J/Bk	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
337	334	ditch	44	21	1018	grog-temp, some comb dec.	Cam 270B(?)	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
337	334	ditch	HMF	1	2	small sherds, sparse S-M/L flint		preh	preh
337	334	ditch	HMF	1	4	small sherds, common S-M flint, traces of prob. faint, small stab dec.		preh	preh
337	334	ditch	50	9	57	rim, b-sherds, base	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	1	21	body sherd with two post-firing small, pierced holes			L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	50	1	18	rim	Cam 259		L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	2	11	Butt-beaker rim	Cam 119		L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	2	7	Butt-beaker rim	Cam 119		L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	82	507	misc. sherds, most dark surface		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	3	17	oxidised		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	2	42	rim sherds from shouldered bowl with bead rim	Cam 266(?) B1-2(?)	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	1	7	cordoned bowl/jar with post-firing small, pierced hole	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
337	334	ditch	53	9	115	misc rim sherds from min of 4 pots	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
341	340	ditch	53	5	124	rim and shoulder from bead rim jar with incised vertical lines dec. on shoulder (same as 342) Scorched/ burnt	J B1-1(?)	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
341	340	ditch	53	16	179	misc. b-sherds, black/brown surfaces		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
342	340	ditch	HMS/F	1	3	oxidised, common sand and small flint		preh	preh
342	340	ditch	HMF	1	1	common S-M/L flint		preh	preh
342	340	ditch	53	4	121	rim and shoulder from bead rim jar with incised vertical lines dec. on shoulder (same as 341) Scorched/ burnt	J B1-1(?)	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
342	340	ditch	53	1	64	large, dark body sherd, Scorched/ burnt		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
342	340	ditch	44	6	171	grog-temp, comb dec. b-herd	Cam 271	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
342	340	ditch	53	38	154	misc. b-sherds		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
342	340	ditch	53	2	4	rim small J/B	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
342	340	ditch	50	1	6			LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
345	344	ditch	53	23	146	misc. b-sherds, wheel made, black surface		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
345	344	ditch	53	2	19	ripple shoulder sherds, black surface	Cam 220	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
345	344	ditch	53	1	13	jar/bowl with small bead at base of neck	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
345	344	ditch	50	2	14	prob. shell (poss. 44)		LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
346	344	ditch	50	1	18	rim	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M1C AD
346	344	ditch	53	1	106	rim-shoulder, bowl, poss. surface scorched but not clear	bowl	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
346	344	ditch	53	1	64	body/shoulder, body abraded, poss. heat damage or scorched but not clear	Cam 218	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
346	344	ditch	53	1	40	rim/shoulder	Cam 259	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD

ctxt	F no.	type	Fab.	no.	wt/g	description/notes	form	period	spot date
346	344	ditch	53	11	469	base and sherds in one bag, prob. SV, wheel made, black surfaces	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
346	344	ditch	53	16	199	misc. thick-ish sherds, some hand made/ wheel finished	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
346	344	ditch	53	35	249	misc. mostly moderately thin sherd, one poss. scorched/ burnt orange inside	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
346	344	ditch	44	1	14	orange, sandy	SJ	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
346	344	ditch	53	1	91	Externally thickened rim from large vessel, black surfaces, hand made/ wheel finished	SJ(?)	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
347	344	ditch	44	6	92	oxidised, SJ/LSJ	LSJ	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
347	344	ditch	53	3	11	misc. b-sherds		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
348	344	ditch	53	21	721	SV. base, b-sherds (no rim) from large J/B brown-grey surfaces, wheel made	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
348	344	ditch	44	4	302	misc. storage jar sherds inc. base sherd	LSJ	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
348	344	ditch	50	2	19	rim, b-sherd	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M1C AD
348	344	ditch	53	23	106	misc. b-sherds		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
348	344	ditch	45	13	25	SV(?)thin sherds, some grog		LIA/E Rom	
348	344	ditch	53	3	43	misc. oxidised sheds		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
348	344	ditch	53	1	9	jar/bowl rim, undercut, black surface		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
352	351	ditch	HMS/F	1	10	common sand & flint s-m		preh	preh
352	351	ditch	53(?)	2	98	thick, flat base, hand made, rare small red/orange grog frags.	J/B	IA/LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
352	351	ditch	53	3	44	oxidised base, rare red grog, prob. Butt Beaker	B-Bk	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
352	351	ditch	53	1	13	shoulder with cordon, tall jar with cordon(?)	B3-2(?)	LIA	1C AD
352	351	ditch	53	19	73	misc rim, b-sherds, base sherds,	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
352	351	ditch	53	1	7	oxidised		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
352	351	ditch	44	2	83	b-sherds, one comb dec. SJ/LSJ	LSJ	LIA	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
355	(340?)	ditch surface	50	6	51	SV? shell dissolved		LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
359	358	ditch	47	1	7	sandy grey fabric		Rom	M1-4C AD
359	358	ditch	45	4	12	sandy , some sparse red grog, one comb dec.		LIA/E Rom	M-L1C AD
359	358	ditch	53	3	7	red grog temp sherd, two frags.		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
365	364	ditch	44	1	504	simple beaded rim and shoulder dec. with angle incised cuts grey silty fabric with sparse dark burnt organic frags/daub,	Cam 271	LIA(?)	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
365	364	ditch	44	4	491	part of base & with remains of 4 small post-firing holes, misc other base sherds one with small post-firing hole	LSJ	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
365	364	ditch	44	23	491	misc sherds	LSJ	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
365	364	ditch	45	2	12	beaker sherds, rouletted dec. sandy fabric, some fine red grog	Bk	LIA/E Rom	M-L1C AD
365	364	ditch	53	1	5	beaker(?) rim, everted, bead at base, large dia	Bk	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
365	364	ditch	53	45	373	misc rim, b-sherds, base sherds, inc prob. Cam 218 shoulder, also neatly finished footing base	Cam 218	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
365	364	ditch	53	1	4	oxidised		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
367	352	ditch	44	6	154	LSJ, comb dec.	Cam 271	LIA/E Rom	L1C BC-M/L1C AD

ctxt	F no.	type	Fab.	no.	wt/g	description/notes	form	period	spot date
367	352	ditch	53	2	14	base		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
367	352	ditch	45	1	9	rim, sandy fabric	J/B	LIA/E Rom	M-L1C AD
369	368	ditch	45	6	58	SV, jar with small, rounded everted rim, groove around body, fine sand-temper, rare black grog/burnt organic	Cam 117, B5-3	LIA/?E Rom	M-L1C AD
370	366	ditch	53	1	48	b-sherd	J/B	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
370	366	ditch	53	1	11	deep dish/bowl rim	Cam 30(?)	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
388	391	linear	50(?)	1	7	sandy, hand-made(?) with some voids	J	LIA	L1C BC-M/L1C AD
388	391	linear	53	1	9	dec. with scored lines, sandy	J/B?	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
389	391	linear	53	3	7	small sherds		LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD
390	391	linear	53	1	7	sandy	J/B?	LIA	L1C BC-M1C AD

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

Contained in one A4 wallet folder:

Primary archive:

- Context register (3x A4 sheets)
- Context sheets (92x A4 sheets)
- Plan register (2x A4 sheet)
- Section register (2x A4 sheet)
- Photo register (2x A4 sheet)
- Colour photographs (50 prints from digital images)

Research archive:

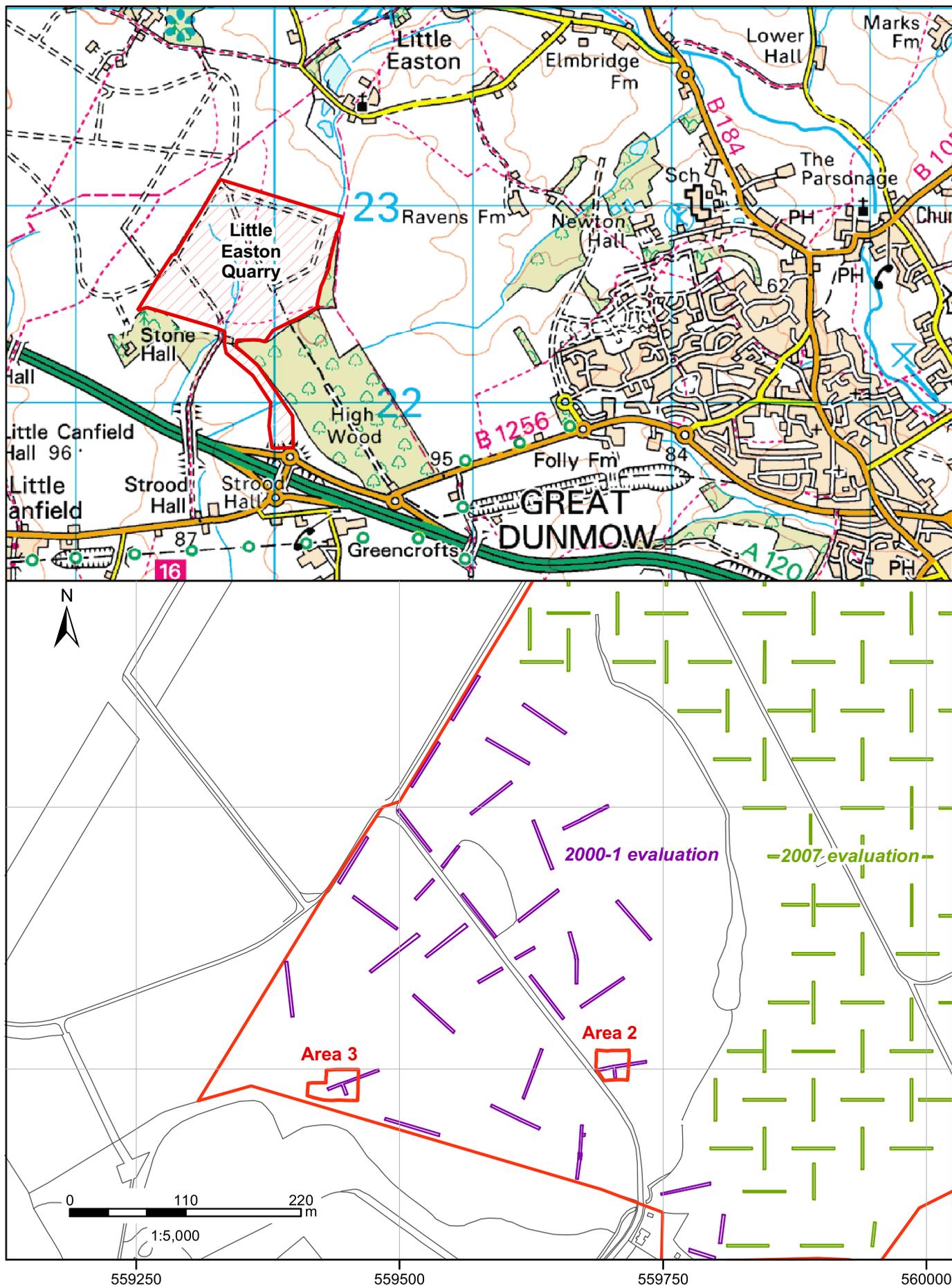
- Client report (1 bound, 1 unbound copy)
- Archaeological brief
- Written Scheme of Investigation
- Finds reports and tables
- CD-Rom (containing digital reports, photo images, drawing files, etc)

Held separate from folder:

- 2 x Boxes of finds
- 3 x Large sheets of section drawings (pencil on drawing film)
- 3 x Large sheets of site plans (pencil on drawing film)

APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY

Site name/Address: Areas 2 & 3, Little Easton Quarry, Great Dunmow, Essex	
Parish: Little Easton	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL59702250 (Area 2), TL59442248 (Area 3)	Site Code: LEEA 11
Type of Work: Area excavation	Site Director/Group: L. Miciak, ECC FAU
Date of Work: 24/10/11 - 09/11/11	Size of Area Investigated: 2100 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	OASIS No: 116221
Final Report: EAH summary	
Periods Represented: Late Iron Age, Medieval, Post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Two of a total of five archaeological areas within the Little Easton Quarry scheme, Areas 2 and 3 identified as a result of trial-trenching evaluation carried out in 2000/01, were investigated prior to commencement of the first, western, phase of extraction.</p> <p><u>Late Iron Age</u> A number of Late Iron Age ditches, some inter-cutting, were found in Area 3. These attest to landscape management in the first half of the 1st century AD. Relatively large quantities of discarded pottery in their fills suggest the presence of an occupation site in the near vicinity. The inclusion of probable immediate pre-conquest continental imports amongst this assemblage hints at a relatively high status site, with access to traded goods that were probably being transported inland along the Iron Age forerunner of nearby Stane Street.</p> <p><u>Medieval and ?later</u> Part of a 12th century enclosure system defined by ditches was recorded in Area 2. A small number of probably contemporary pits, occupied one of the enclosure interiors. Gullies of likely medieval or post-medieval date were also investigated in Area 3. These defined a fragment of rectilinear enclosure system that overlay the Iron Age ditches here. Some or all of these remains may be associated with medieval settlement at Stone Hall to the southwest.</p> <p>Archaeological Areas 3 and 4 (though not Area 1) will be investigated during future quarry phases.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Heppell, E. 2000, ECC FAU rep. 630 (DBA assessment)	
Hickling, S. 2001, ECCFAU rep. 630 (trial trenching evaluation)	
Robertson, A. 2007, ECC FAU rep.1751 (trial trenching evaluation)	
Author of Summary: M. Atkinson	Date of Summary: 23/02/2012



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Fig.1. Location of Areas 2 and 3

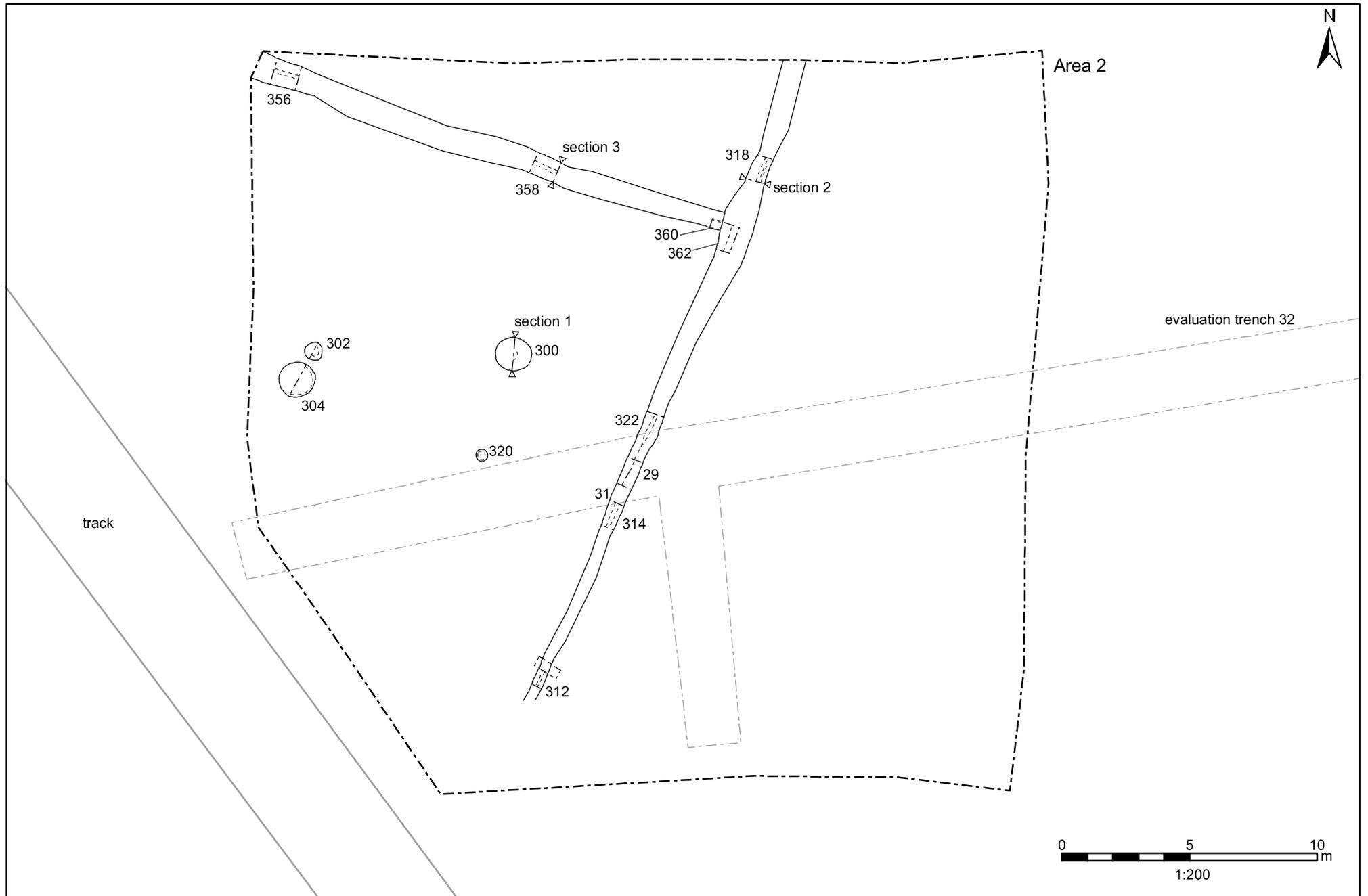


Fig.2. Area 2

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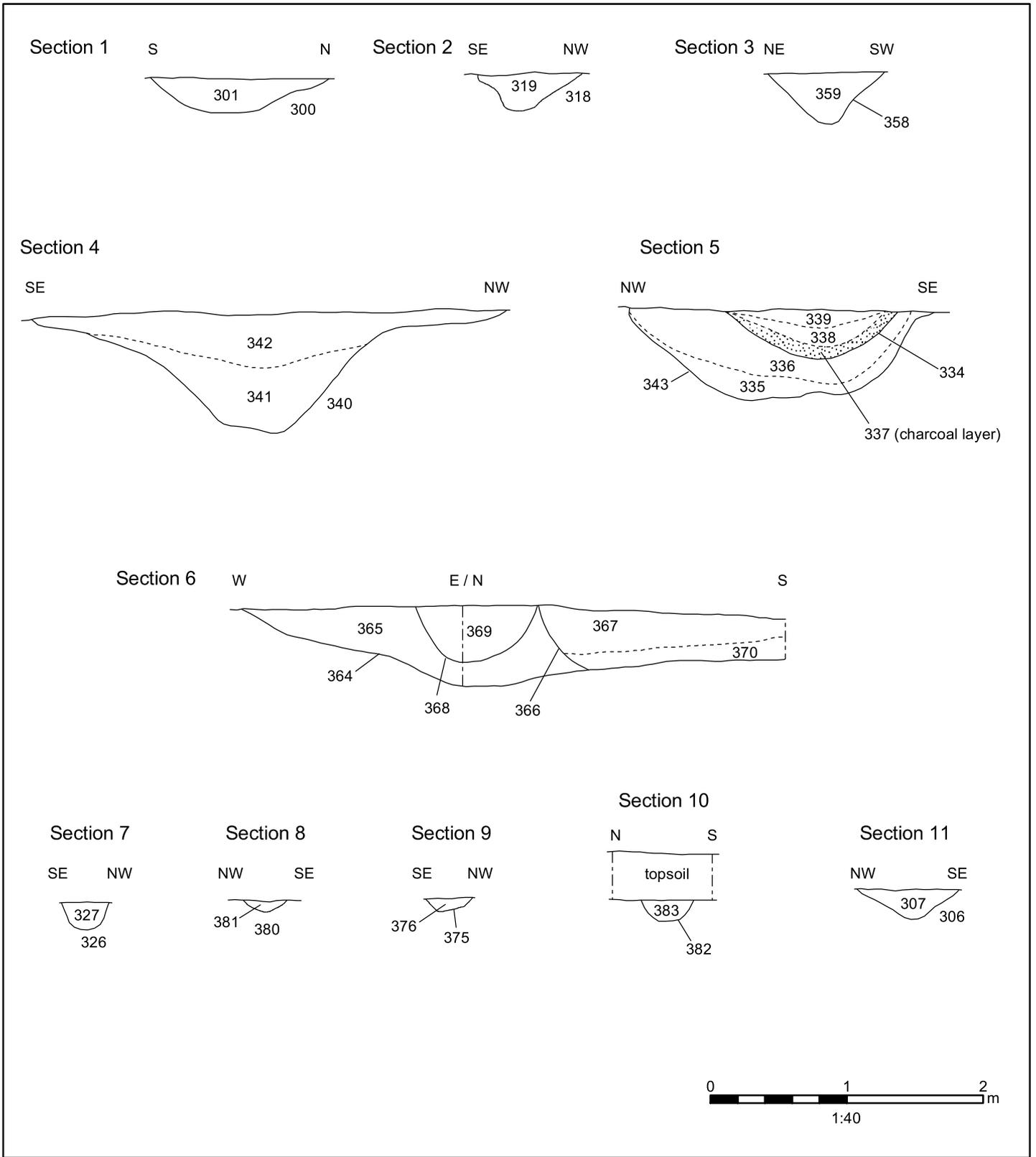


Fig.4. Sections 1 - 11



Plate 1. Area 2 general view, looking northwest



Plate 2. Ditch 318, Area 2 (0.5m scale)



Plate 3. Pit 300, Area 2 (1m scale)



Plate 4. Pits 302 and 304, Area 2 (1.5m scale)



Plate 5. Area 3 general view, looking southwest



Plate 6. Ditches 334 & 343, Area 3 (1.5m scale)



Plate 7. Ditch 344 and gully 349, Area 3 (1.5m scale)



Plate 8.
Ditch 310 *et al*
(1m scale)



Plate 9. Gully 324 over ditch 344, Area 3 (0.5m scale)



Plate 10. Tree hole 371, Area 3 (1m scale)