



SOUTH SOMERSET
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH GROUP

**Test Pitting at Parsonage Farm, Sutton Montis
April 2010**

**SSARG Excavation Report No 004
Tony Dickinson
June 2011**

Introduction

The area around Cadbury Castle has been the subject of an extensive campaign of gradiometry survey and a series of regular and targeted test pits. (Tabor 2004). However the area to the south-west of the hill fort, towards Sutton Montis was not included. Geophysical survey of part of this area was carried out between June and October 2008 by members of the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group. The fields surveyed lie to the west of the ribbon development of Sutton Montis from the church southwards. The results of the gradiometry survey are shown on Fig1. A full report is in preparation. (Caldwell) but a preliminary analysis of the linear features is shown on Fig 2. The results show several features which could not be immediately identified. It was therefore proposed to target test pits on some of these in order to better understand the development of the landscape of this part of Sutton Montis. A Research Plan was issued in February 2009 (Randall, 2009) and permission from Natural England obtained.

Location

The targeted area is centred on grid reference ST622 246 and is about 400m from NE to SW and about 200m from east to west. Today it is divided into four fields. The surveyed fields are, from north to south, Butts Close, New Mead and Pittmead. The eastern edges of Butts Close and Pittmead are fringed by the gardens, houses and road of modern Sutton Montis. Between New Mead and Pittmead there is an orchard whose trees are surrounded by metal tree guards making gradiometry impractical. The highest point of the surveyed area is in Butts Close. The land slopes from east to west falling by about 5m, and from north to south falling by about 10m. The east-west slope is uneven, the land falling in a series of 'steps'.

The fields are currently under pasture. The lower-lying ground to the west gives the appearance of a flood-plain. Clearly visible in Butts Close are earthworks, presumably the remains of part of medieval Sutton Montis. This field is bounded to the east by Sutton Montis church (HER52416) and its graveyard, and on the north by the 'Priest 's House' which incorporates medieval fabric (HER 52414). The eastern part of the southern-most field, Pittmead, has clearly visible ridge and furrow, which may be medieval (HER15027), but equally may be associated with a previous orchard.

Excavation Strategy

It was initially planned to dig 13 test pits as shown on Fig 1. (The test pits were labelled with the field name and a number; e.g. Butts Close No.1, shortened to BC1.). Four pits were aimed at elucidating the trackway which appears to run through Butts Close and forks in Pittmead. These pits were BC1, PM 4, PM5 and PM8. Test pit PM6 was targeted on a linear feature in Pittmead which ran parallel to the ditch of the 'trackway'. A pit in Butts Close, (BC2), was targeted at a very straight linear feature running approximately NE/SW through Butts Close and New Mead. Seven test pits were targeted on features and possible enclosures in the lower-lying ground of New Mead and the western part of Pittmead, however the high water table at the beginning of the digging period forced a reassessment and only two pits were actually dug in New Mead, (NM2 and NM3) and three in Pittmead, (PM1,2, and 3). It was initially planned to target a further feature in Pittmead with test pit PM7 but when the

area was resurveyed prior to excavation the feature could not be identified. The test pits were 2m x 2m or 2m x 1m, depending upon the targeted feature and, for convenience, were oriented N/S- E/W.

The excavation of the test-pits was carried out over three long weekends in April 2010, although some preparatory work and recording occurred before and after this period

Excavation and Finds Recording

Each test pit was treated as a separate excavation with its own series of features, contexts, drawings and photographs. All excavated material was sieved at 1cm x 1cm and samples were taken of each significant context. All pottery sherds were examined. Sherds that were potentially diagnostic, e.g. rims, base angles and decorated, were fully recorded. Others were aggregated into periods per context, i.e. Iron Age (IA), Romano- British (RB), Medieval (MED), and post-MED/Modern (MOD). The RB pottery was divided into types (i.e. Black Burnished (BB), Samian (SAM), New Forest (NF), Oxfordshire (OX)). The sherds in each category were counted and weighed. The pottery sherds were generally small and abraded and thus not worthy of illustration.

Except for modern contexts no metal-work or glass was recovered and all bone was fragmentary.

The project archive is currently at the SSARG facilities at Home Farm Sutton Montis but is eventually intended to be deposited with Somerset County Council.

The summary reports for each test pit including context descriptions and finds summaries are annexed

Results and Discussion

Probably the earliest feature encountered was the linear ditch found in test pit BC2 which, as mentioned above runs in a straight line from NE to SW through Butts Close and New Mead. No datable material was recovered from the ditch but its orangey- brown fill and the fact that it is sealed by a layer of alluvium or hillwash containing only early or middle IA pottery indicates that it may be a Bronze Age boundary similar to those identified on Sigwells on the higher ground approximately 2km to the south-east (Tabor 2004,29).

Five test pits (NM2, NM3, PM1, PM2 and PM3) were targeted on apparent enclosure ditches in the lower, western areas of New Mead and Pittmead. These features have common alignments and thus are presumably all part of the same system. No archaeological features were found in test pits PM2 and NM3 and only a shallow, (20cm deep), undated ditch was found in test pit PM3. A ditch approximately 40cm deep was excavated in test pit PM1 and its fill could be dated to the late IA or early RB periods. It had been cut through layers of hill wash with similar dates and had thus been dug and filled in a relatively short period. A ditch approximately 20cm deep and 80cm wide was also found in test pit NM2. There were no datable finds in its lower fills but its upper fill could also be dated to the late IA or early RB periods. It seems likely that the field system shown on the gradiometry in the lower parts of New Mead and Pittmead went out of use towards the end of the IA or early in the RB period.

Five test pits were targeted on the 'trackway' and its associated features running through the eastern parts of Butts Close and Pittmead, (BC1, PM4, PM5, PM6 and PM8). Only part of the width of the trackway ditch (or sunken track way) was found in test pit BC1 and there was no datable material in its fill. similarly only

part of the trackway ditch, approximately 60cm deep, was found in test pit PM4 and again no datable material was found. Nearly the full section of the trackway ditch was excavated in test pit PM5 where it was U-shaped and approximately 1.8m wide and 25cm deep. The ditch appeared to have been re-cut with a more V-shaped profile. Both the initial and secondary fills contained RB pottery. Test pit PM6 was targeted on a linear ditch running parallel to the track way ditch and thus presumably part of the same system. The ditch was found partially within the test pit and was approximately 30cm deep. Its lower fill contained RB pottery including one sherd of 3rd/4thC New Forest ware. Test pit PM8 was targeted on a T-shaped junction between the trackway ditch and a ditch at right angles to it; one of several ditches which seem to terminate at the trackway ditch and are thus contemporary with it or later. The trackway ditch was not located in test pit PM8 but the ditch at right angles to it was. Its initial profile was approximately 130cm wide and 50cm deep. This ditch had been cut through hillwash containing late IA or RB pottery. There was no datable material in its initial fill. The ditch had been re-cut with a slightly more V-shaped profile. The fill of the recut ditch contained RB pottery including one sherd of BB ware with a likely 3rd/4thC decoration. It can thus be concluded the trackway and its associated features were filled in the late RB period or later and, at least in the case of the ditch found in test pit PM8 were also cut in the RB period. It thus seems probable that most, if not all, of the features shown on the gradiometry in the eastern part of Pit Mead are Romano- British.

It is noteworthy that, contrary to expectations, none of the features targeted were medieval although a low level scatter of medieval pottery was found in hillwash layers across the area.

A feature of the whole sampled area was the impact of hillwash and/ or alluvium. Around 60cm of material has accumulated in a series of events which appear to have occurred from the late IA until the medieval periods although no clear spacial or temporal pattern could be determined.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The survey and test pitting campaign has discovered two previously unknown features of the prehistoric and Romano-British landscape; a late IA field system and a Romano- British ditched trackway and associated features. The IA field system complements those found by the South Cadbury Environs Project to the east and west of Cadbury Castle hill fort (Tabor 2004, 88-91), showing that in the late Iron Age the hillfort was surrounded by farmed areas. In order to determine the full extent of the field system it is recommended to extend the gradiometry survey both north and south of the area already examined and in particular to fill the gap between the areas surveyed by SCEPT and SSARG. This would show whether or not these two areas formed part of the same field system. Such an extension to the survey would also show if the trackway is connected to the series of ditches and trackways found by SCEPT funneling towards the SW gate of the hillfort.

The test pits have clearly shown Romano- British activity in the area examined, in particular in Pittmead. However the extent of this activity and any associated settlement is not clear. Further survey work and possible test pitting, especially in the gardens to the east of Pittmead and in fields to the east of the road through Sutton Montis would possibly clarify the situation. There is also Romano-British activity at Castle Farm, South Cadbury (Tabor and Leach, 1996 and excavations carried out in 2009, (Report forthcoming). It seems remarkable that Romano-British settlements grew up below both the north-west and south-east

entrances to the hill fort and that they were both succeeded by medieval villages

The two limbs of the trackway appear to continue south of the surveyed area but their objectives are not known. Further survey work and possible test pitting to trace their continuation would perhaps answer this question.

The present campaign of test pitting has failed to clarify the growth and shrinkage of the medieval village west of Sutton Montis church. A resistivity survey should be carried out in Butts Close aimed at locating the sites of buildings possibly followed by test pitting out aimed at obtaining dating information.

Acknowledgements

The test pit campaign was carried out by members of SSARG with Clare Randall as Archaeological Director. Pottery recording and analysis was carried out by Del Wiggins and Tony Dickinson with the assistance of SSARG members. Preparation of the drawings for publication was carried out by Peter Wright.

Thanks are due to Mr Curtin, who owns the fields in which the activities took place, for allowing us onto his fields and for all his help.

References

Caldwell E (Forthcoming)- *Gradiometry at Parsonage Farm, Sutton Montis*

Leach P. & Tabor R. 1996- *The South Cadbury Environs Project Fieldwork Report*. University of Nottingham.

Randall C. (*Research Plan*)

Tabor R. 2004. *The South Cadbury Environs Project, fieldwork Report 2002-2003*. University of Bristol.

Forthcoming *Excavations at Castle Farm 2009*



Fig 1 Gradiometry Results and Test Pit Locations

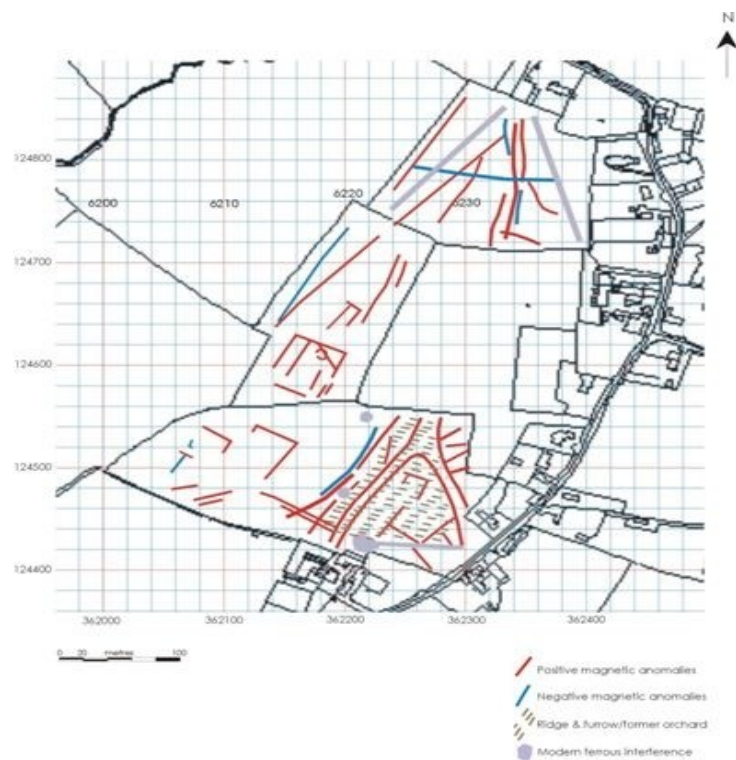


Fig 2 Gradiometry -Initial Interpretation

Field Butts Close

Test Pit BC1

Objective To examine the feature seen on the gradiometry running approximately N-S across the field and apparently a continuation of the ditched trackway seen in Pittmead.

Location- SW Corner-ST62326 24740. Size-2mx2m. 65.74m OD

Excavation Butts Close slopes from the east to the west with two distinct changes in level. The test pit was dug across the easternmost 'step' and was excavated to natural over its complete area. Descriptions of the Contexts are given on Table BC1.1 and the north facing section is shown on Fig BC1.1.

Interpretation. The eastern part of a feature running approximately N-S was located sloping gradually from the eastern to the western edge of the pit. This could represent a ditch of a double ditched trackway continuing that seen in Pittmead or perhaps more likely a sunken trackway cutting into the slope of the field. The fill of the feature (Context 004) contained small stones and sparse fragments of bone and charcoal, but no datable material. Above the fill was a brownish-yellow layer (Context 003) approximately 50cm thick, containing 14 small sherds of Romano- British pottery. Above this was a brownish-yellow layer approximately 30cm thick (Context 002) containing an assortment of pottery sherds (4 modern, 2 medieval and 1 late IA/RB). Contexts 002 and 003 probably represent two episodes of hill wash. Context 001 was the top soil and turf and contained 2 sherds of modern pottery and 1 medieval sherd.

The lack of dating evidence from the fill of the North- South feature (Context 004), is somewhat puzzling implying that it was filled before the RB period when RB material contained in the hill wash of Contexts 003 and 002 was present in the locality. However these latter contexts show that there was Romano-British and Medieval activity on the up-slope part of the field.

Table BC1.1 Butts Close Test Pit No 1- Contexts Summary

Feature	Context	Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and top-soil	Pottery-2x modern - 1x medieval
	002	Firm yellow/brown soil with small flakes of flint debitage, a little burnt stone and heavily abraded pottery. Hillwash.	Pottery;4xmodern, -2x medieval -1xIA
	003	Firm brown/yellow sandy clay with few inclusions Sparse flint and burnt stone. Flecks of charcoal. Hillwash.	Pottery- 6x Black Burnished Late IA/RB -1xgreyware (RB) -7x orangeware (RB)
	004	Similar in composition to 003 but with significant small stones and sparse bone fragments and charcoal. Fill of feature.	None

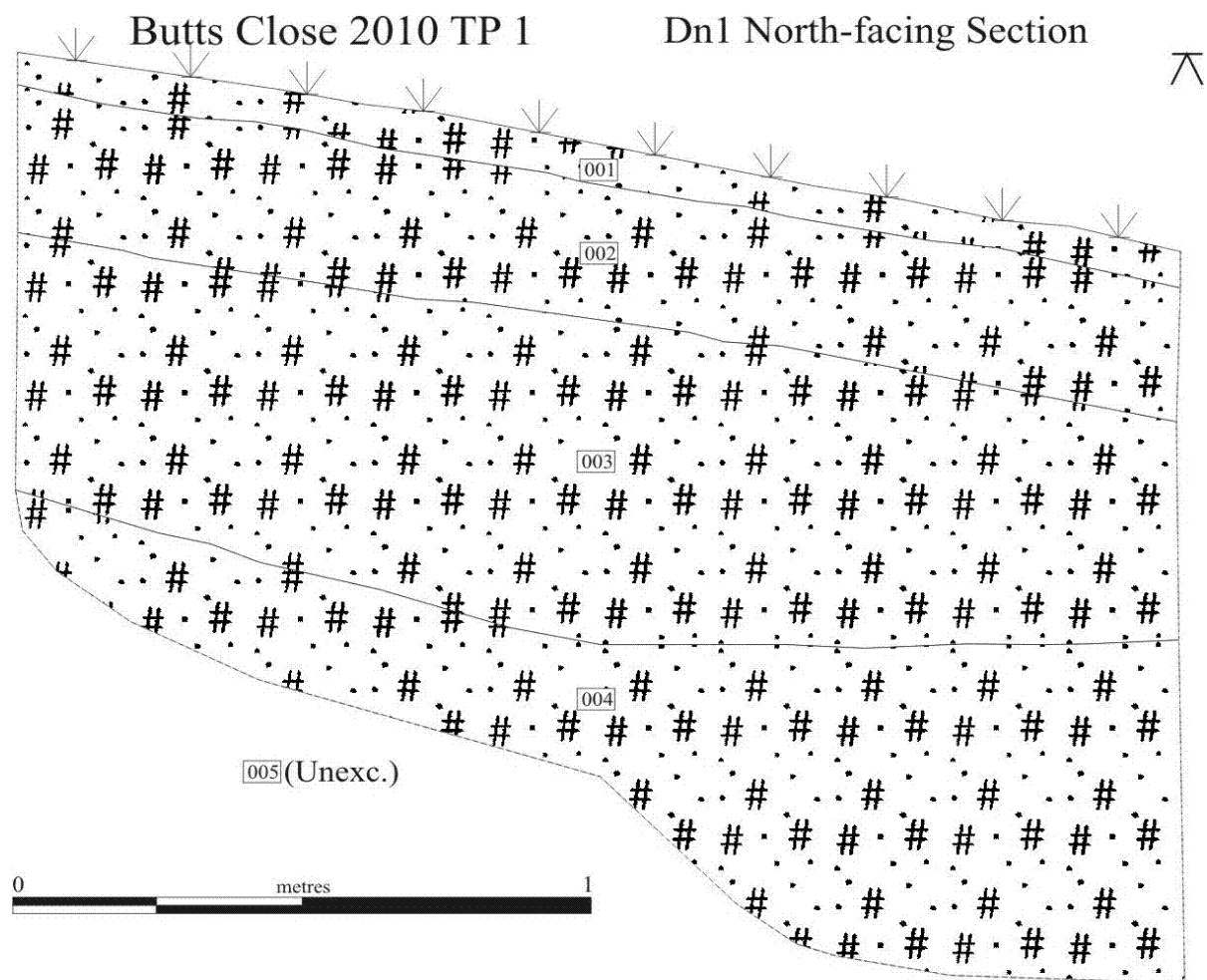


Fig BC1.1 Butts Close Test Pit No 1- North Facing Section

Field Butts Close

Test Pit No. BC2

Objective To identify a linear feature running NE to SW along the NW edge of the field and continuing into New Mead.

Location- SW Corner- ST62299 24798. Size 2mx2m.
64.99mOD

Excavation. After removing the turf and topsoil (Context 001) a c80cm thick layer of light brown sandy silt was excavated (Context 002). This exposed a NE/SW feature approximately 140cm wide and up to c50cm deep cutting into the natural yellow clay. The feature was fully excavated in the northernmost 50cm of the test pit. The south facing section is shown on Fig BC2.1 and the plan is shown on Fig BC 2.2 . The context descriptions are given on Table BC 2.1

Interpretation The lower fill of the feature (Context 004), was a yellow, orangey brown silt containing some flecks of charcoal. However there was no datable material. The upper fill of the feature, (Context 003), was an orangey brown clay silt with some flecks of charcoal and fragments of flint. This contained 4 sherds of early/middle Iron Age pottery and one medieval sherd. The suspicion is that this latter is intrusive. Above the ditch fill, Context 002 contained 3 sherds of medieval pottery and 4 sherds of RB pottery

It seems probable that the feature is of the early Iron Age or earlier. Its precise linearity through Butts Close and Middle Mead is characteristic of Bronze Age boundaries, examples of which have been located on Sigwells, high ground to the south east of Sutton Montis. Context 002 is probably medieval hill wash bringing material from the higher eastern part of the field.

Table BC2.1 Butts Close Test Pit No 2- Contexts Summary			
Feature	Context	Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and topsoil	None
	002	Light brown sandy silt with occasional lighter patches and sparse charcoal. Hill wash	Pottery-3xMED -4xRB
	003	Orangey brown clay silt with charcoal flecks and flint. Upper fill of feature.	Pottery-4x early/ middle IA -1xMED
	004	Yellow , orangey brown clay, sand silt Lower fill of feature.	None
	005	Natural- yellow clay	

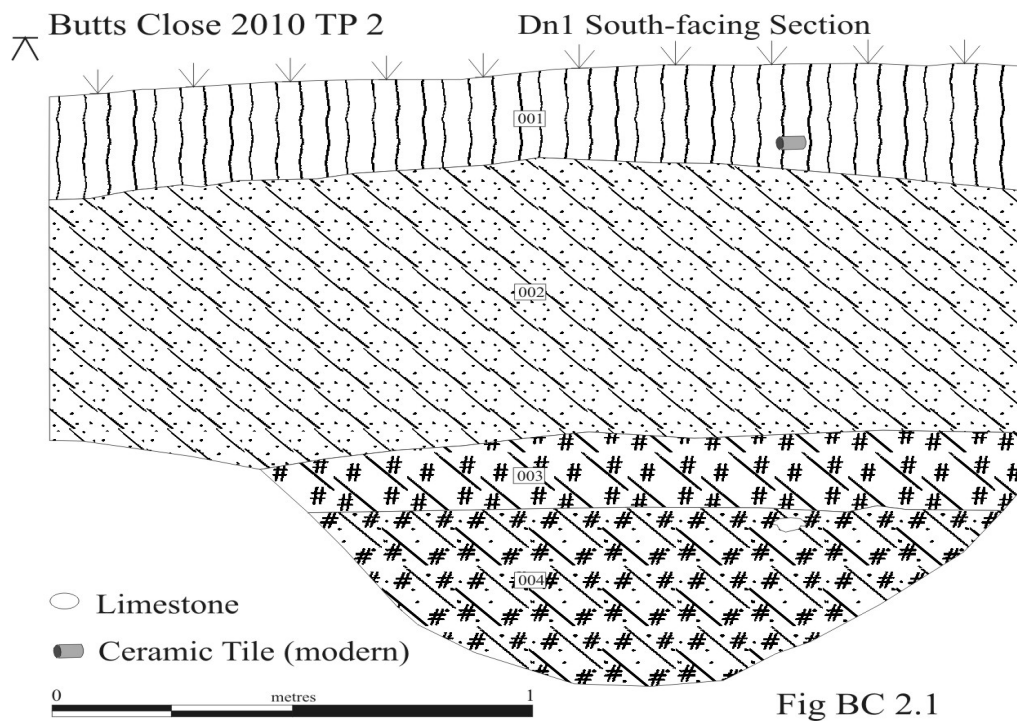


Fig BC 2.1

Fig BC2.1- Butts Close Test Pit BC2- South Facing Section

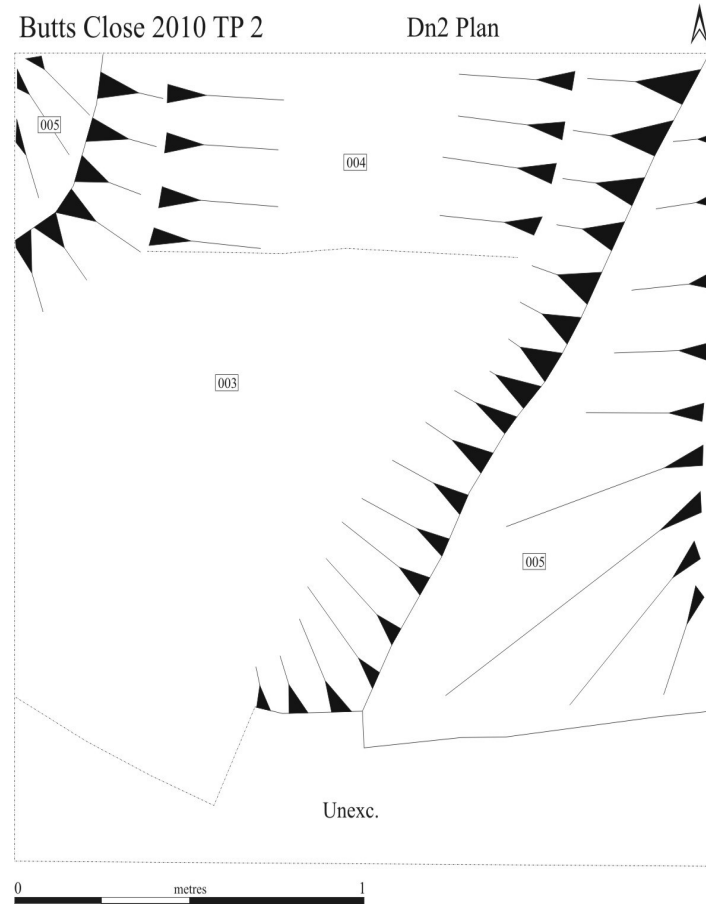


Fig BC2.2- Butts Close Test Pit BC2- Plan

Field New Mead

Test Pit NM.2

Objective To investigate intersection of linear ditches in the lower part of the field running WNW-ESE and NNE-SSW possibly defining an enclosure.

Location- SW Corner-ST62179 24624. Size- 2mx2m. Altitude- 59.30mOD

Excavation. New Mead is a flat, low lying field probably earlier subject to flooding. After removal of the turf and top soil the test pit was excavated over its whole area through three layers of hill wash. This revealed a ditch running approximately WNW-ESE cut into the natural. The eastern 50cm of the test pit was then excavated to natural to examine the ditch fill. The context descriptions are given on Table NM2.1.

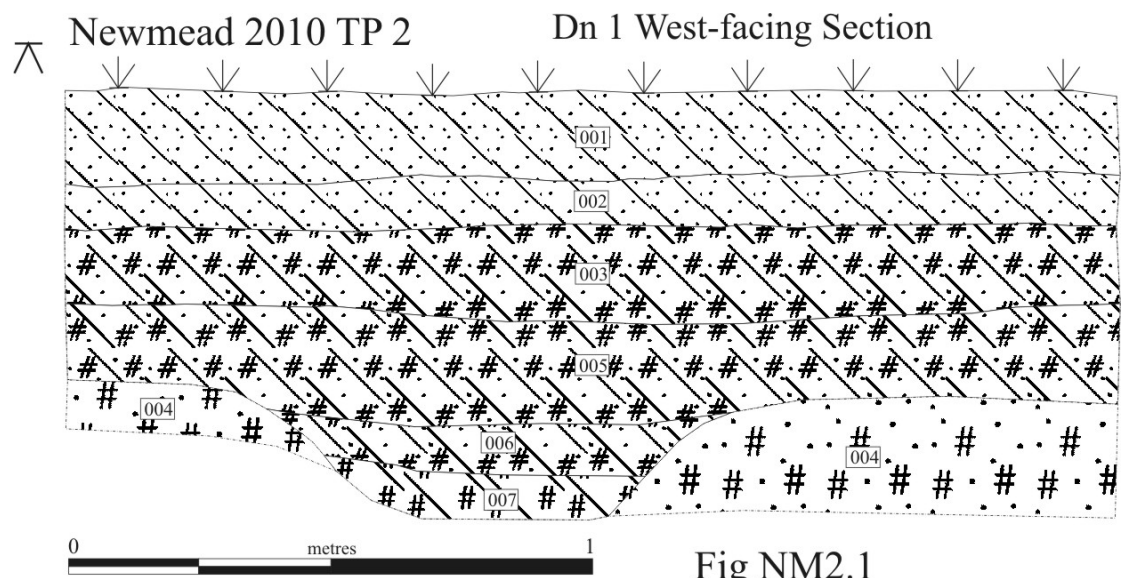
The west facing section of the completed excavation is shown on Fig NM2.1

Interpretation A shallow ditch running WNW-ESE and approximately 1m wide tapering to approximately 40cm wide had been dug into the natural (Context 004). This is presumably one of the targeted ditches. The NNE-SSW ditch was not located. The bottom fill of the ditch (Context 007) was a compact yellow-greenish silty clay with frequent sandstone stones and gravel. This fill contained no pottery. The middle fill of the ditch (Context 006) also contained no datable material. The ditch had been not completely filled when a hill wash event occurred (Context 005). Recovered from this hill wash were two late-Iron Age sherds and six sherds of undatable BB pottery. The absence of later RB pottery in Context 005, although not conclusive, indicates that the final fill of the ditch occurred in the late IA or early RB periods. Above this layer was another layer of hill wash, Context 003, containing 14 sherds of BB pottery. Four of these had x-hatching but were too small to be dated by its orientation. One piece of amphora indicates a late IA or RB date while one piece of a simple out-turned rim was probably of the same period. The topsoil (context 001) contained medieval (1 sherd) and modern (2 sherds) pottery as well as a modern assemblage of coal/slag, unworked flint, iron, glass and ceramic.

No datable finds were made in the lower and middle fills of the ditch. However its sealing by probable late IA or early RB material indicates that it was also probably dug in the Iron Age and thus that many, if not all of the enclosures seen on the gradiometry in New Mead are of Iron Age date. The contents of the hill wash layers shows that there was also late IA or RB activity in the vicinity, probably on the higher ground to the east of New Mead.

Table NM2.1 New mead Test Pit No. NM2 Context Summary

Feature	Context	Description	Findings Summary
	001	Turf and Topsoil	Pottery-2x MOD -1x MED Miscellaneous- MOD
	002	Slightly orangey,yellow-brown layer of sandy silt	None
	003	Yellowish, brown layer of sandy silt with sparse charcoal and burnt stone. Hillwash	Pottery- 13xBB -1x amphora (late IA or RB)
	004	Orangey yellow sandy clay. Natural	None
	005	Yellowish-brown layer of sandy clay silt. Hillwash	Pottery- 2x late IA -6x BB
001	006	Slightly orangey yellow-brown slightly sandy clay silt. Upper ditch fill	None
001	007	Yellow greenish silty clay. Lower ditch fill	None



FigNM2.1- Test Pit New Mead 2-West Facing Section

Field - New Mead

Test Pit No NM3

Location- Grid Reference SW Corner-ST62191 24614. Size 2mx2m.
59.26mOD -

Objective To identify a NW-SE linear feature seen on the gradiometry cutting the corner of a putative enclosure

Excavation The test pit was dug over its complete area through topsoil and layers of hillwash until water seepage prevented further excavation. Context summaries are given on Table NM 3.1 and the test pit section is shown on Fig NM 3.1

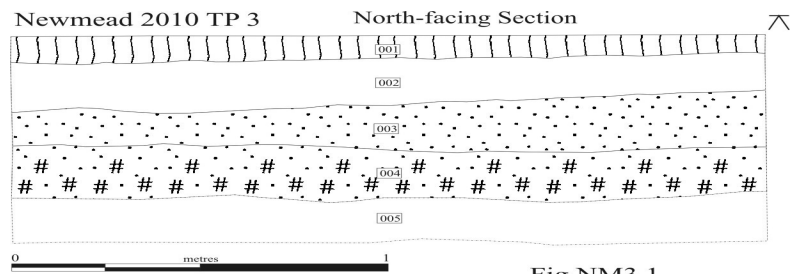
Interpretation Excavation was halted at a depth of about 80cm because of the water table. The targeted linear feature was not located. The lowest layer reached (Context 005) contained several pieces of un-worked flint and some flecks of charcoal but was not datable. The layer above this (Context 004) similarly contained flint and charcoal but was undatable. Above this layer was Context 003 which, in addition to charcoal and flints, contained 1 sherds of early-middle IA pottery and 1 BB sherd. Above this was Context 002, a probable former ploughsoil containing 1 sherd of RB pottery, 2 medieval sherds and modern material.

The targeted linear feature was not located and the hill-wash or alluvium (Contexts 003, 004 and 005) cannot be accurately dated.

Table NM3.1 New Mead Test Pit 3 Context Summaries

Feature	Context	Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and Topsoil	None
	002	Grey yellow-brown layer	Pottery-1xMOD 2xMED 1x RB Miscellaneous-MOD
	003	Yellow-brown sandy layer. Sparse charcoal. Hillwash	Pottery-1x E/M IA -1x BB Flint- not worked
	004	Grey-yellow sandy clay layer with iron pan, stones and sparse charcoal. Hillwash	None
	005	Orange, yellow grey layer with sparse charcoal. Hillwash	Flint-not worked

Fig NM3.1- Test Pit New Mead 3-North facing Section



Field-Pittmead

Test Pit PM1

Objective To examine possible features in the lower area of the field.

Location-Grid Reference SW Corner-ST62120 24500. Size 2mEWx 1mNS. Altitude 57.76m OD

Excavation. The test pit was excavated to natural (Context 010) in a 60cmx 50cm sondage in the SW corner and at the bottom of Feature 001. Excavation was stopped at the layer over the natural (Context 009) over the rest of its area. The summary context descriptions are given on Table PM1.1. The plan is shown on Fig. PM1.1 and the west facing section on Fig. PM1.2

Interpretation A U-shaped ditch, (Feature 001), running ENE-WSW and approximately 40cm wide and 30cm deep had been dug through two layers of hill wash (Contexts 004/005 and 009). The lower fill of the ditch (Context 007), contained no datable material. The upper fill (Context 006) contained 3 small sherds of late IA or RB pottery. The ditch had been dug through two layers of hillwash. The lower (Context 009) contained a flint scraper and 2 small sherds of probably late Iron Age pottery. The upper layer, (Context 004/005), also contained two sherds of probably late Iron Age pottery. Above Context 004/005 was a layer of mid-brown soil with no archaeological finds (Context 003). Contexts 002 and 001 were respectively a burnt area, probably the remains of a bonfire, and a topsoil containing modern material and 1 sherd of medieval and one sherd of IA pottery.

The ditch had been dug through hill-wash containing probably late IA pottery was thus itself of this period or later. The upper fill also contained late IA or RB pottery indicating that the ditch was probably filled during the RB period

Table PM1.1 Pittmead Test Pit No1- Context Summaries

Feature	Context	Context Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and Topsoil	Miscellaneous MOD Pottery-5x MOD -1x MED -1xIA
	002	Mid-brown loamy silt layer with frequent cinders and slag	None
	003	Mid-brown sandy silt layer	None
	004/005	Orangey-yellow silt layer with burnt stone and charcoal. Hillwash	Pottery- 2x late IA or early RB
F001	006/008	Yellow-brown grey with orange flecks. Upper fill of ditch	Pottery- 3x late IA or early RB
F001	007	Pale grey silty clay. Lower ditch fill.	1x animal tooth
	009	Pale grey silty clay with sparse burnt stones Hillwash	Pottery- 2x late IA or RB
	010	Pale grey mottled yellow gritty silty clay. Natural	None

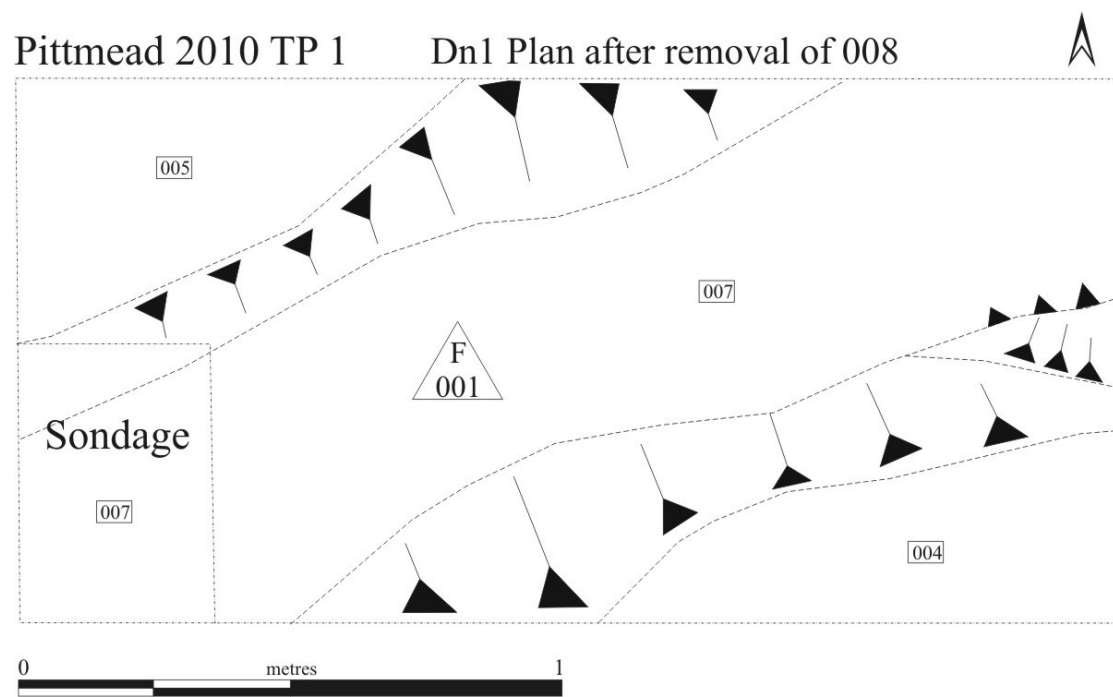


Fig PM 1.1 Test Pit Pitt Mead 1- Plan

Pittmead 2010 TP 1 Dn2 West-facing Section

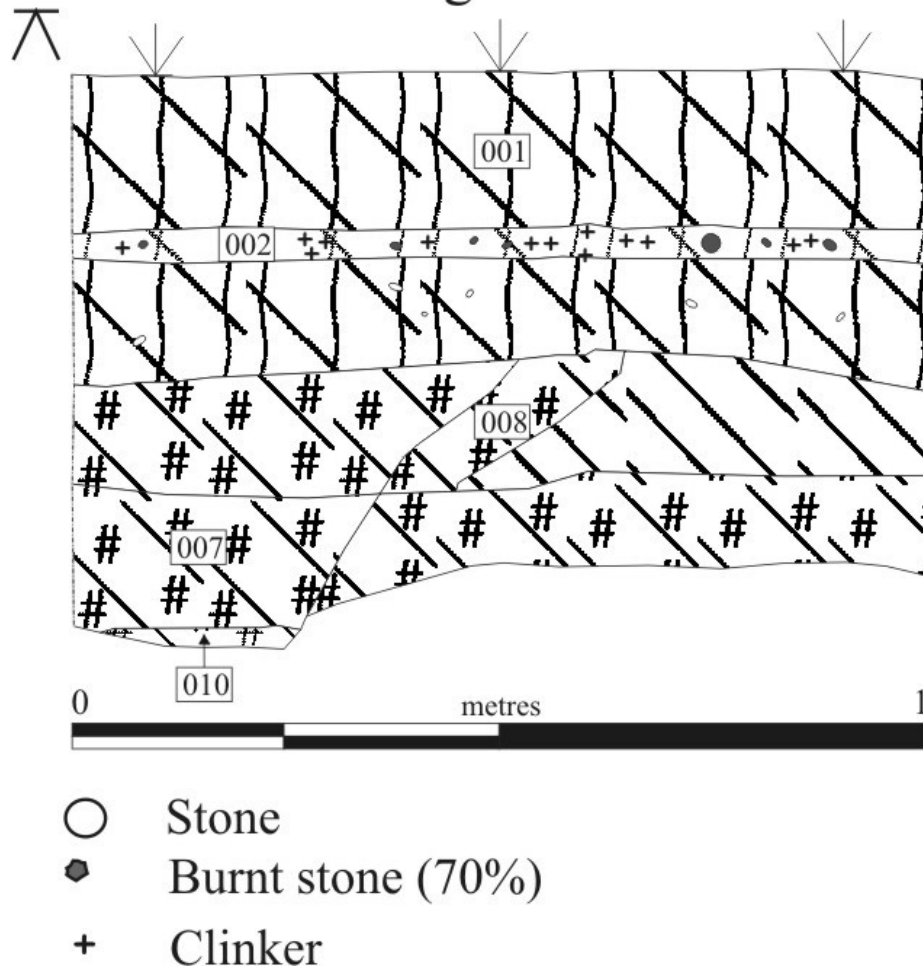


Fig PM1.2- Pitt Mead Test Pit 1-West Facing Section

Field Pittmead

Test Pit No. PM2

Objective To examine features in the lower part of the field.

Location -Grid Reference SW Corner ST62140 24533. Size-1m EW x 2m NS. Altitude 57.86mOD

Excavation-The test pit was dug to probable natural at a depth of about 920cm over its whole area.

Interpretation. No archaeological features were found.

Field Pitt Mead

Test Pit No. PM3

Objective To examine features in the lower part of the field.

Location- Grid Reference SW corner-Size 1m EW x 2m NS.
Altitude-57.91m OD

Excavation The test pit was dug to probable natural over its whole area except for a small quadrant in the NW corner. The contexts are summarised on Table PM3.1. The east facing section is shown on Fig. PM3.1 and the plan on Fig. PM3.2

Interpretation The edge of a possible ditch (F003) was located in the NW corner of the test pit. (Context 008). No archaeological finds were found and so this possible ditch could not be dated. The ditch was under a layer of hill-wash (Context 006) which contained a few flecks of charcoal but no archaeological material. Context 006 was below a further layer of hill wash (Context 004) in which a chert scraper was found. Contexts 004 and 006 had been cut by a shallow gully (Context 007), (30cm wide and 6cm deep) running approximately N-S. No finds were made in this gully. Above Context 004 was a layer of old plough soil containing modern material. Contexts 002, 004 and 006 had been cut by a narrow, machine dug trench 15cm wide, running NNE to SSW containing a plastic field drain.

Apart from a chert scraper from a layer of hill wash no pre-modern material was found and thus it is not possible to date the earlier features or to determine with confidence whether they are natural or not.

Table PM3.1 Context Summary

Feature	Context	Description	Finds Summary
	001	Topsoil and Turf	Pottery- 2x MOD
	002	Yellow- brown soil	Pottery-3xMOD Various- MOD
F001	003	Fill of trench for field drain	Pottery-1xMOD
	004	Yellow- brown silt with iron flecks- Hillwash	Chert Scraper
	005	Lump of charcoal	None
	006	Layer of yellow-sticky clay with iron and charcoal flecks	None
F002	007	Lens of grey sticky clay with iron inclusions	None
F003	008	Heavy gray clay with iron inclusions. Possible edge of ditch	None

Pittmead 2010 TP 3 Dn1 Plan

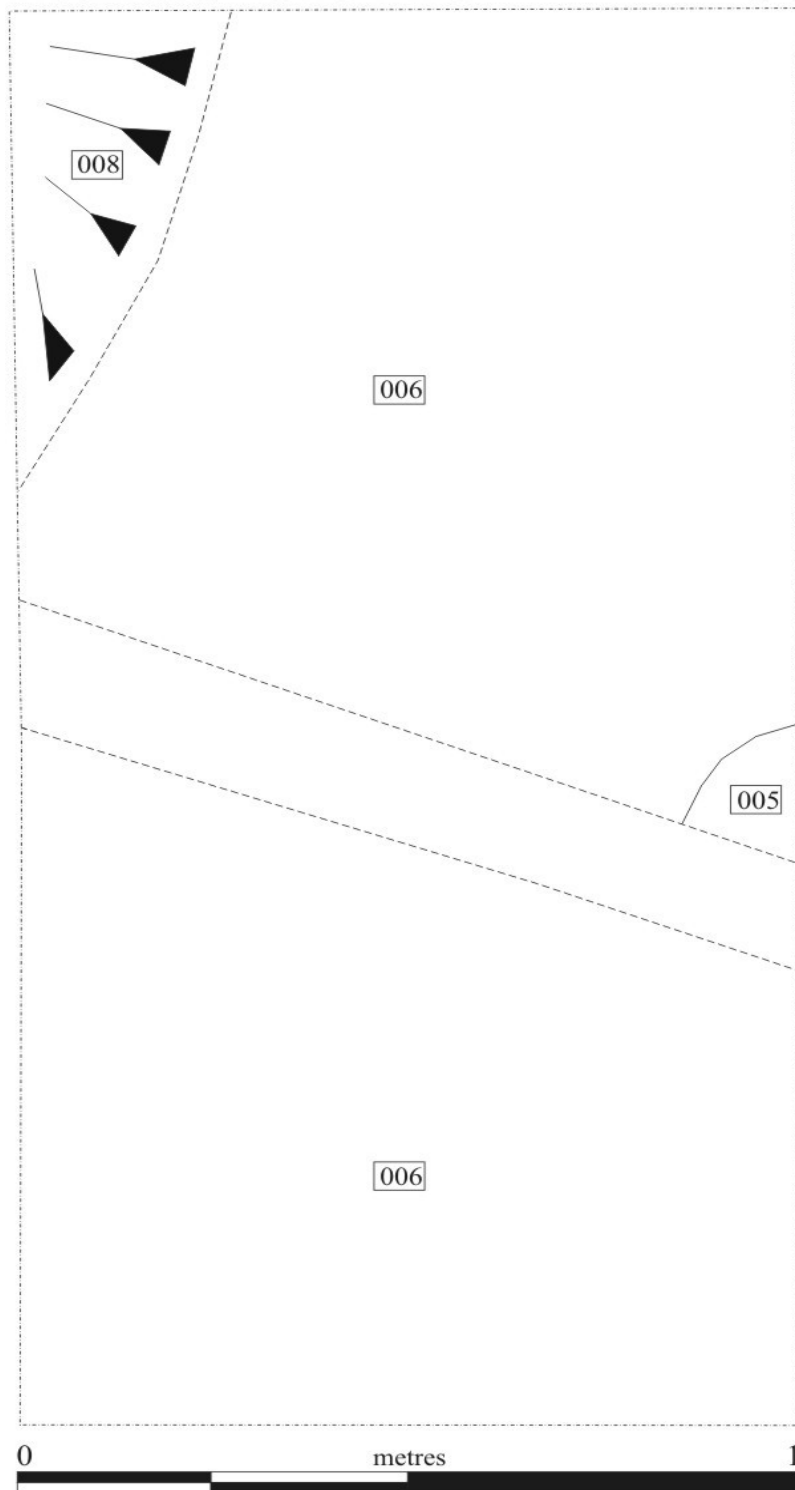


Fig PM3.2 Test Pit Pit Mead 3-Plan

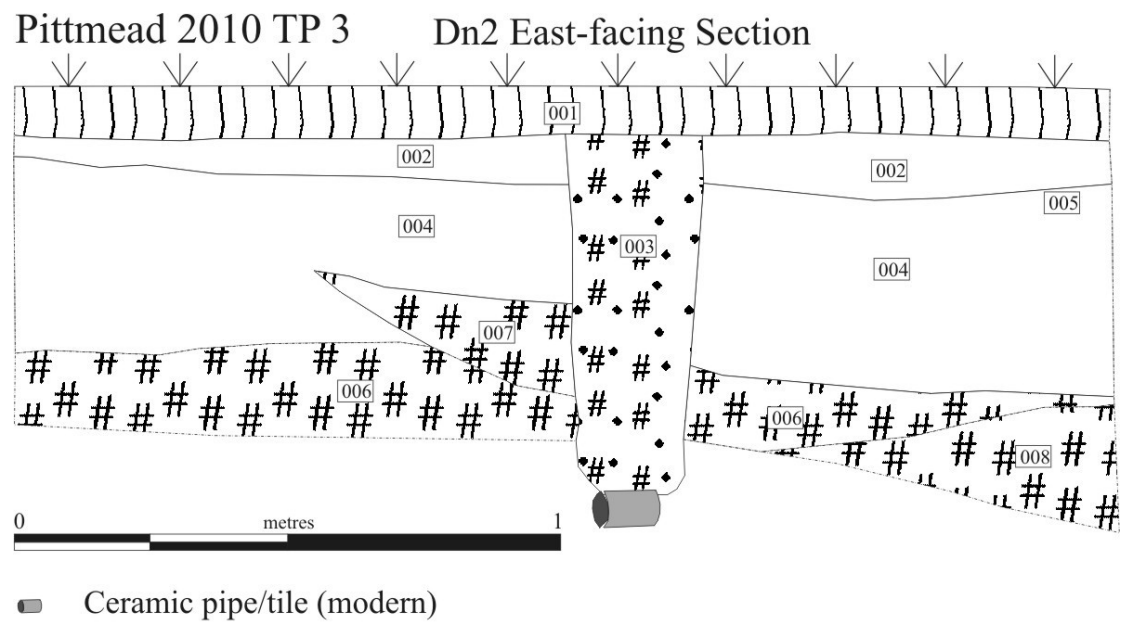


Fig PM 3.1

Field Pittmead Test Pit PM4

Objective To date the north-south track-way ditch and to determine its relationship with with a linear feature apparently meeting it at a right angle.

Location- Grid Reference SW Corner. ST362192 124440-
-Size 2m x2m.-Altitude- 61.73m

Excavation

The test pit was excavated over its whole area to a depth of approximately 50cm to the surfaces of contexts 003,004 and 005. (See Figs . PM4.1). Contexts 004 and 005 were not excavated. Excavation of context 003 and those beneath it in the north-west quadrant then continued to natural at a depth of 100cm. Descriptions of the contexts are given on Table PM4.1 The plan is shown on fig PM4.2and the south-facing section on Fig.PM4.1

Interpretation

A ditch (F001) running approximately north-south had been cut through a layer of hill-wash (context 004) into the natural. Only the eastern edge of the ditch was within the confines of the test pit. No datable finds were recovered from the ditch fill (contexts 003,006 and 007) or from the hill wash, context 004, through which it was cut. Above context 004 was a layer of hillwash, (context 002), containing 19 sherds of late IA or RB pottery and one medieval sherd. The topsoil contained a collection of material including late IA or RB, medieval and modern pottery.

It seems likely that the test-pit had located the eastern edge of the north-south ditch of the track-way but not the feature at right angles to it. In the absence of datable finds the track-way ditch itself could not be dated.

It is however clear that there was late IA or RB and medieval activity in the vicinity.

Table PM4.1-Pitt Mead Test Pit No 4- Context Summary

Feature	Context	Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and Topsoil	Various MOD material
	002	Hillwash-yellowish,orangey-brown Some charcoal. Hillwash	Pottery - 1 x MED jug handle - 12x BB - 1 x RB greyware - 5 x indet. RB - 1 x indet Flint x 4 pieces
001	003	Upper Fill of Ditch Orangey brown, sandy clay silt with moderate stone (1-2cm) and rare charcoal	Flint x 2 (unworked)
	004	Hill-wash layer under 002-not excavated. Yellow, greenish grey compact sandy, clay silt	No finds
	005	Hillwash under 002. not excavated. Yellowish,brown, sandy, clay silt.	No finds
001	006	Middle ditch fill, under 003. Yellowish,reddish brown, sandy clay silt. Rare charcoal.	No finds
001	007	Lower ditch fill under 006. Yellowish, orangey brown sandy, clay silt.	Flint x 2 (unworked)

Pittmead 2010 TP 4 Dn2 Plan

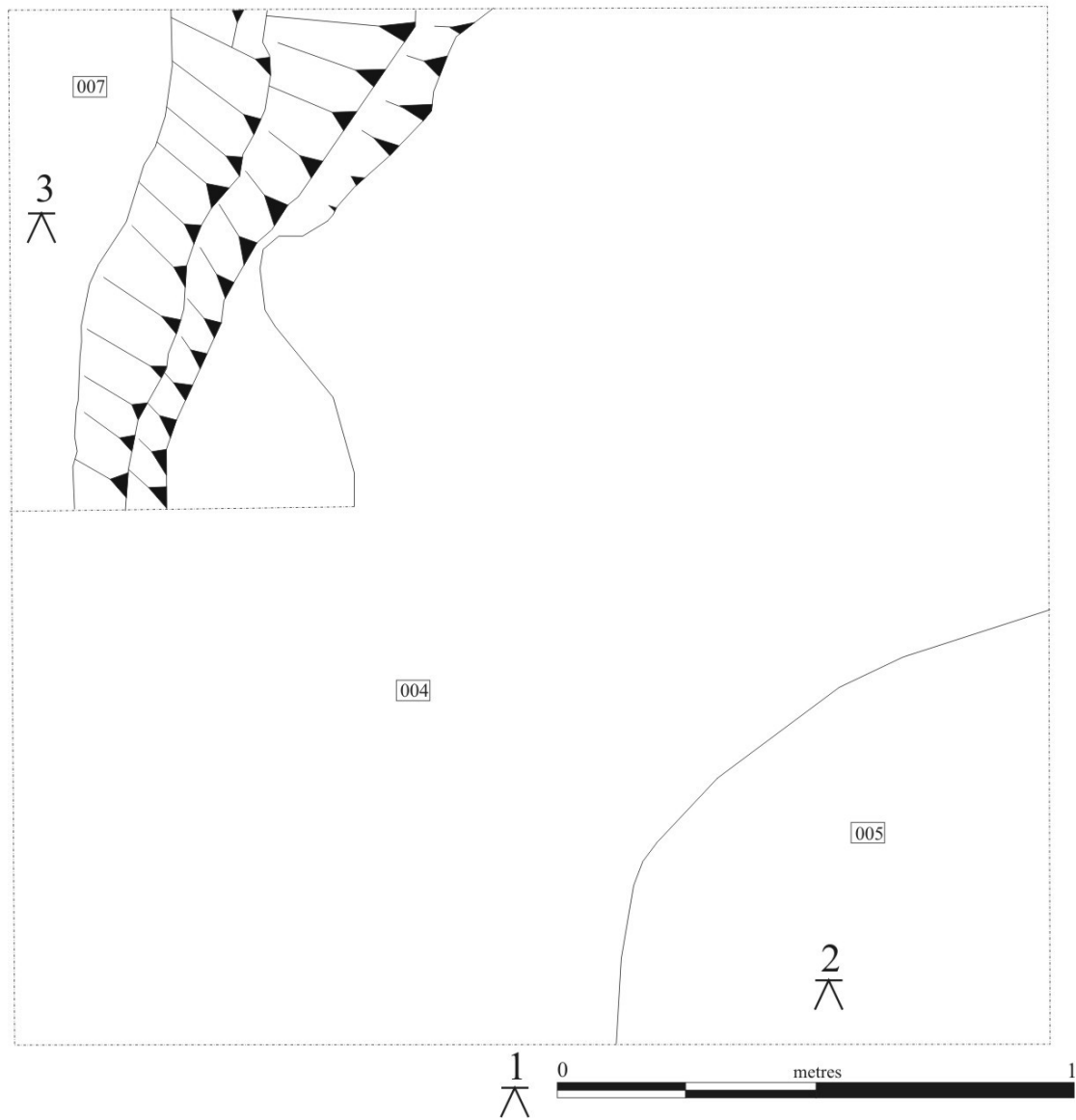


Fig PM4.2-Test Pit Pitt Mead 4- Plan

Pittmead 2010 TP 4

Dn3 South-facing Section

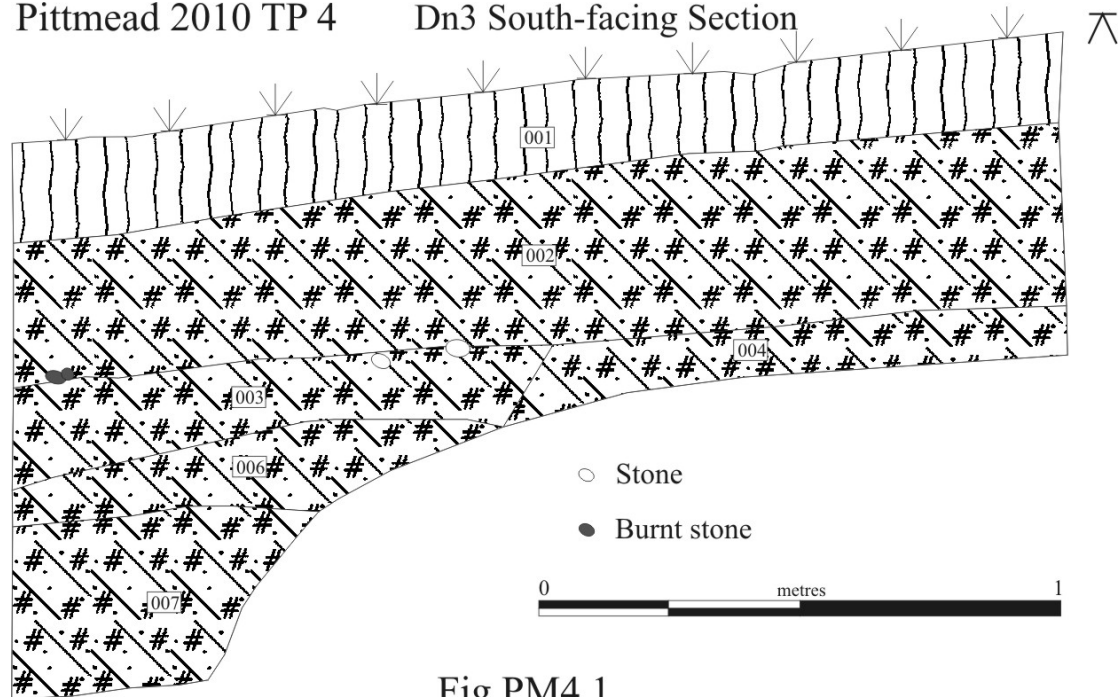


Fig PM4.1

Field Pitt Mead

Test Pit No. PM5

Objective To examine the NE/ SW edge ditch of probable trackway.

Location Grid Reference SW Corner-ST62201 24460. Size-2mx2m . Altitude 61.10mOD

Excavation The test pit was excavated over its whole area though three layers of subsoil and hill wash to the top of the fill of a ditch (F001) running approximately NE-SW. The northernmost half of the test pit was then excavated to natural. The contexts are summarised on Table PM5.1 and the south facing section shown on Fig PM5.1.

Interpretation A NE/SW ditch (F001) approximately 2m wide and 60cm deep had been dug through a layer of hill wash (Context 008), into the natural clay. The earliest fill of the ditch (Context 006) was found only on the western edge of the ditch and is either a slump of material into the ditch or an initial fill that was re-cut. Context 006 contained 2 small sherds of Samian ware and two small sherds of BB. It is thus clearly RB and possibly 1st/2ndC. The next fill of F001, Context 009, the lower fill of the re-cut ditch, contained only one sherd of Samian. The middle fill of the ditch Context 005 contained 47 sherds of RB pottery, (BB, greyware and orangeware). Most sherds were un-datable but two sherds had simple upright rims and two had everted rims, possibly indicating a 1st/2nd C date. The upper fill of the ditch, (Context 004), contained 9 sherds of BB including 3 with simple upright rims again indicating a 1st/2ndC date. It can be concluded that the ditch was filled in the RB period and probably dug in the 1st/2nd C.

Above the ditch was a layer of sandy silt hillwash, (Context 003), containing 25 sherds of RB pottery, mainly BB but with 5 sherds of Samian. This layer was clearly laid down in the RB period. Above this was another layer of hillwash (Context 002), also containing RB pottery. The topsoil (Context 001) contained a mixture of RB (10 sherds), Medieval (2 sherds) and Modern (4 sherds) pottery. These hillwash contexts clearly indicate RB activity in the vicinity.

Table PM5.1 Pittmead Test Pit No. PM5.1- Context Summaries

Feature	Context	Context Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and Topsoil	Miscellaneous MOD Pottery -7x BB - 3x orangeware (RB) -1xMED -4x MOD
	002	Orange-brown layer of sandy silt. Hillwash	Pottery- 1x MED -15x BB -6x orange (RB) -1x grey (RB)
	003	Yellow-orange brown layer of sandy silt. Hillwash	Pottery-17xBB (incl. 1x'dog-dish') -5x Samian -3x grey (RB)
F001	004	Yellow, orange brown silt. Upper fill of ditch	Pottery-9xBB (incl3x simple upright rims)
F001	005	mid-brown, sandy Clay loam. Mid fill of ditch.	Pottery-14x orangeware (incl 1 very everted rim) -27x BB -1x Samian -4x grey (RB)
F001	006	Dark, yellow brown sandy silt. Initial fill of ditch	Pottery- 1x Samian -2x BB
	007/008	Yellow orange clay silt.	None
F001	009	Yellow-grey clay silt. Lower fill of ditch	Pottery-1x Samian

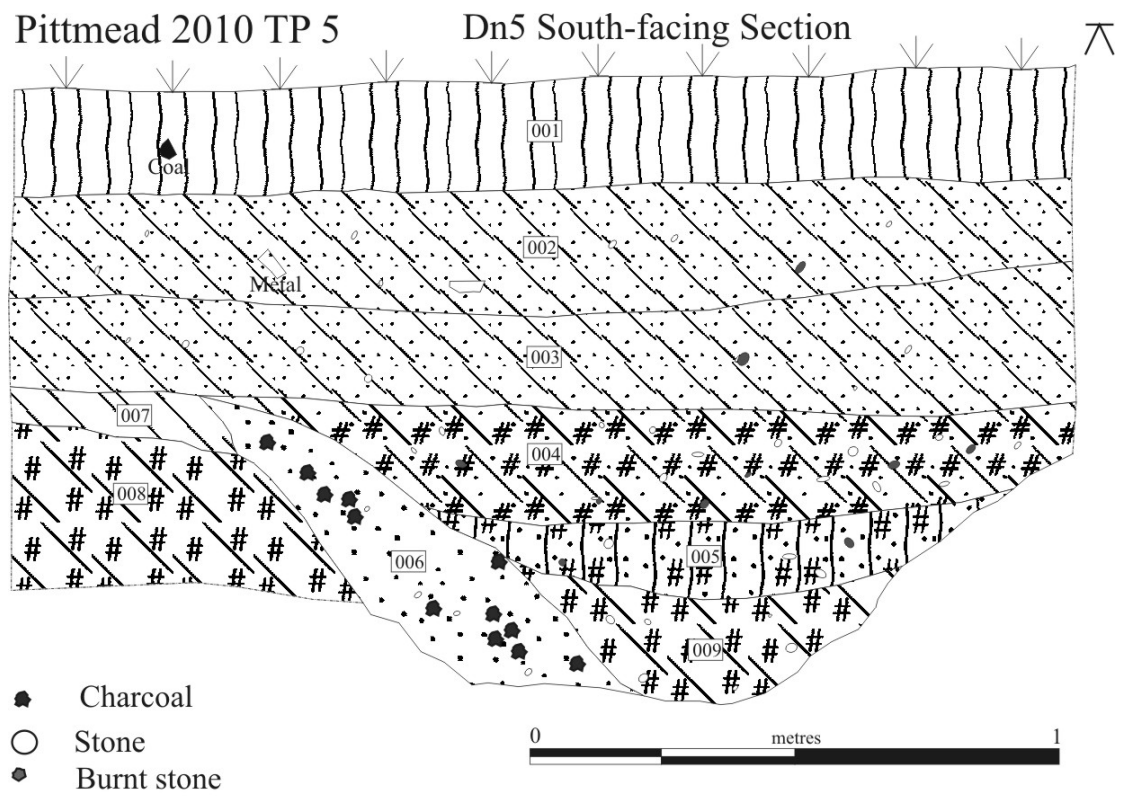


Fig PM 5.1

Fig PM5.1 South Facing Section

Field Pittmead- Test Pit PM6

Objective. To identify and date a junction of linear feature (ditches) running NE/SW and NW/SE

Location. Grid Reference SW Corner- ST362229 124440. Size 2m EW x1m NS.

Excavation The test pit was dug to natural over its whole area. The context summaries are given on Table PM5.1 and the north-facing section is shown on Fig PM6.1

Interpretation. A ditch, (F001), running approximately NE/SW had been cut into a clayey silt which may be a prehistoric hillwash or natural (Contexts 008 and 004/ 005). The fill of the ditch (context 007) contained 6 sherds of RB pottery including one of 3/4thC New Forest ware. Above the ditch fill was a layer of hillwash (Context 003) containing RB pottery, including 2 sherds with very everted rims and 1 sherd with obtuse X-hatching, indicating a 3/4thC date.

F001 is probably the NE/SW ditch identified by the geophysics. Its fill seems to be late RB. The NW/SE feature on the geophysics was not located. After the ditch had been filled the area had been covered by a layer of hill wash (context 003) containing significant amounts of RB but no later pottery indicating RB activity in the area.

Table PM6.1 Pitmead Test Pit PM6 Context Summary

Feature	Context	Context Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and Topsoil	Miscellaneous MOD Pottery-1xMOD
	002	mid yellow-brown sandy silt	Miscellaneous MOD Pottery- 2x BB -5x MOD
	003	yellow, brown sandy silt	Pottery-21x BB (incl. 2 very everted rims and 1 obtuse X-hatched -3/4C) -2x greyware (RB) - 1x orangeware (RB)
	004/005	Orange,grey clayey silt	None
F001	006	Slightly reddish grey brown clayey silt lens in upper fill of F001	None
F001	007	Yellow grey brown sandy clayey silt. Lower fill of ditch F001	Pottery- 2x BB -2x greyware (RB) 1x orangeware (RB) 1x New Forest
	008	Pale slightly yellowy green fine clayey silt	None
F001	009	Yellowy green clayey silt	None

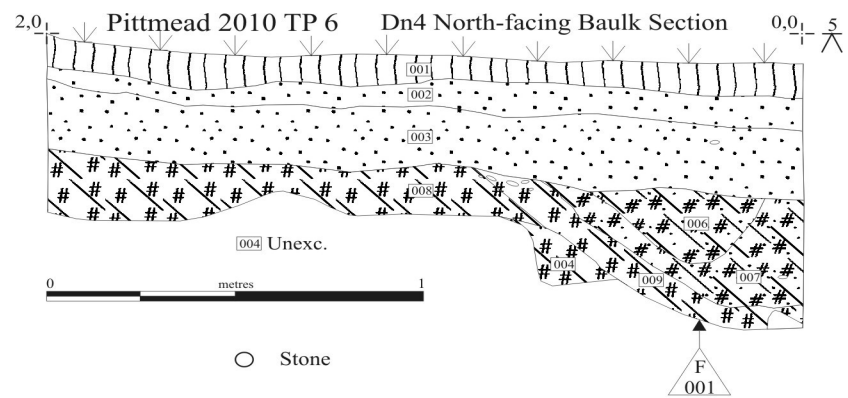


Fig PM6.1

Fig PM6.1 North Facing Section

Field Pittmead

Test Pit No PM8

Objective To identify the dates and relationships between the eastern ditch of the 'trackway' running NW/SE and a ditch abutting it at right angles from the NE.

Location Grid Reference SW Corner ST62284 24496. Size 2m x 2m. Altitude 64.55mOD

Excavation The test pit was dug over its whole area through the topsoil (Context 001) and subsoil (Context 002/004/014) to reveal the top of a NE/SW feature (F001). The eastern-most 1.0m of the trench was then excavated to natural to clarify the section of F001. The northern-most 60cm of the test pit was then excavated to natural. Finally a distinct lens of material in the fill of the Feature (Contexts 012 and 013) was excavated in the SW quadrant of the test pit.

The contexts are summarised on Table PM8.1. The plan of the excavation is shown on Fig PM8.1 the west facing section is shown on Fig PM8.2

Interpretation The earliest contexts showing clear signs of human activity are contexts 006, a 60cm thick layer of mid/dark brown silt containing 2 sherds of early/mid IA pottery and 2 sherds of late IA or RB pottery and context 007 a similar silt with more yellow gravel containing 4 sherds of late IA/RB pottery.. Contexts 006 and 007 are probably a hill wash but could possibly be the fill of a wide ditch bounded on the south by the natural contexts 005, 010, 009 and 011, and extending beyond the limits of the test pit to the north.

A ditch, F001 had been cut through context 006. The earliest fill of this ditch, (Contexts 016 and 017), contained no datable material. The ditch had been re-cut and the lower fill of this second cut, context 008, contained 16 sherds of BB, 3 sherds of greyware and 1 indeterminate sherd. The upper fill of F001, Context 003 contained 16 sherds of BB, 3 of greyware and one indeterminate sherd. Unfortunately only one sherd could be more precisely dated, a sherd of 3/4thC X-hatched BB. One piece of modern pottery was also found in the fill, but this must be intrusive. Above the ditch fill and context 006 was a further layer, context 002/004/014, approximately 25cm thick containing 60 sherds of RB pottery including one sherd each of New Forest and Oxford wares, and one early/mid IA sherd. This layer contained no MED or MOD pottery and thus was probably laid down in the late RB or pre-medieval periods. The top-soil contained the usual miscellany of modern material but also 4 sherds of late IA or RB and one sherd of MED pottery. It is clear that there was significant RB activity in this area throughout the RB period.

It seems probable that the ditch F001 was the feature running NE to SW seen on the gradiometry. The final fill of this ditch is RB but it might have been dug earlier and re-cut. The targeted NW/SE ditch of the track-way was not located.

Table PM8.1**Pittmead TP8 Context Summary**

Feature	Context	Context Description	Finds Summary
	001	Turf and topsoil	Miscellaneous Mod Pottery-4x lateIA/RB 1x Med -1xMOD
	002 (004/014)	Brown silt layer	Pottery-16x BB 1x grey(RB) 1x red (RB) 1xE/M IA 3xindet. RB
F001	003	Dark brown silt with flecks of burnt material. Upper ditch fill	Pottery 1x MOD 1x grey (RB) 1x red/orange (RB) 1x E/M IA 3x indet. (RB)
	004	Brown silt with sparse yellow gravel (as 004 & 014)	Pottery 31x BB 1xNF (3/4C) 1xOx (3/4C) 2x grey (RB) 2x orange (RB)
	005	Stony compacted gravel (Natural?)	None
	006	mid/dark brown silt	Pottery- 2x early/mid IA -2x late IA/RB
	007	Brown silt with yellow gravel. Sparse charcoal flecks and burnt stone	Pottery -4x BB
F001	008	Clay silt Lower ditch fill	Pottery-16xBB -3x grey (RB) -1x indet
	009	Yellow/ grey silty clay with limestone gravel Natural- below 005	None
	010	Mid-brown clayey silt with limestone	None

		gravel. Natural- below 005	
	011	Yellowy-brown clayey silt	None
F001	012	Dark brown silt lens in SW corner. Ditch fill	Pottery-4xBB -1x grey (RB)
F001	013	Dark-brown silt (under 012)	Charcoal pieces Pottery-13xBBincl 1 similar to Ilchester Vol1 No529, Fig 79) -5x grey (RB) -1x indet (RB)
	014	Dark brown silt with gravel and burnt stone (As 002 &004)	Pottery-7xBB(incl. base as Ilchester Vol1 Fig 78 no.429
	015	Brown silt- no stones	None
F001	016/017	Brown silt with sparse gravel. Ditch fill	None
	018	Hard yellow clay. Natural	None

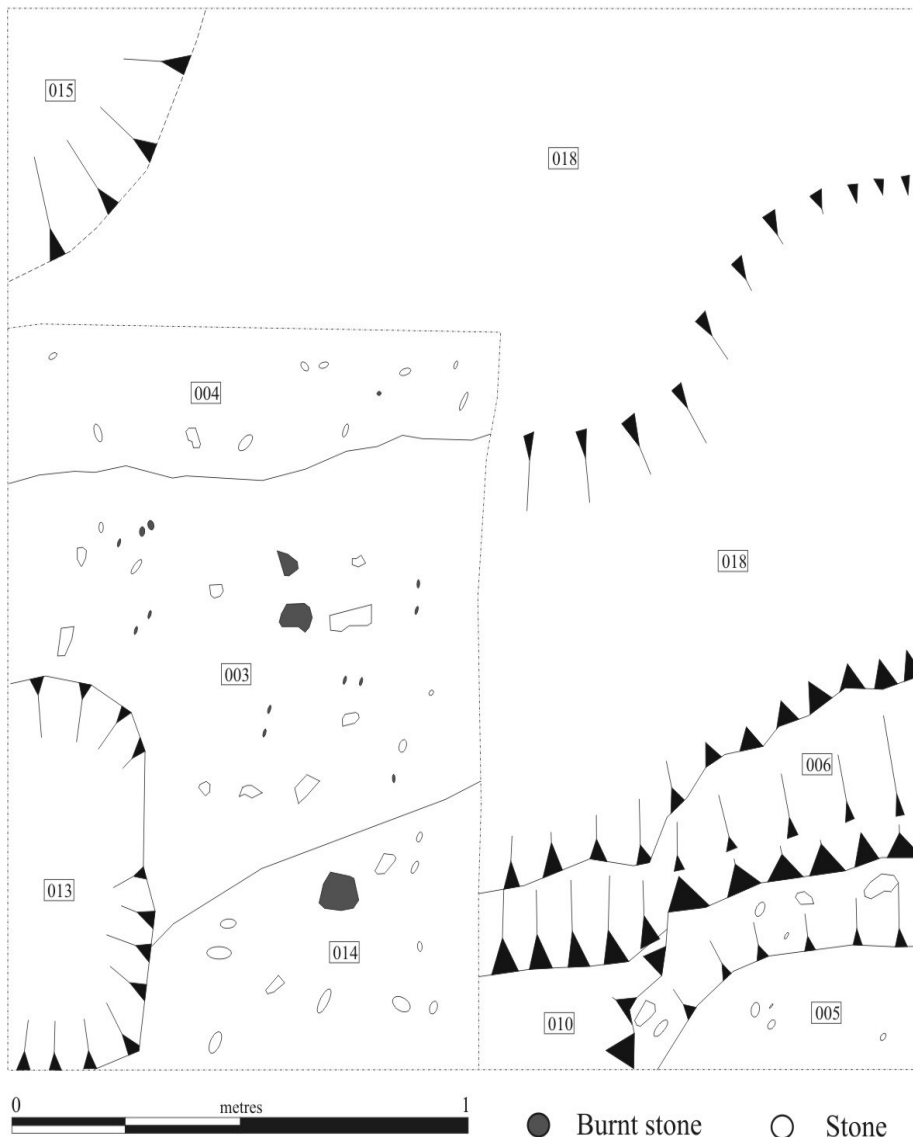


Fig PM 8.1 Plan

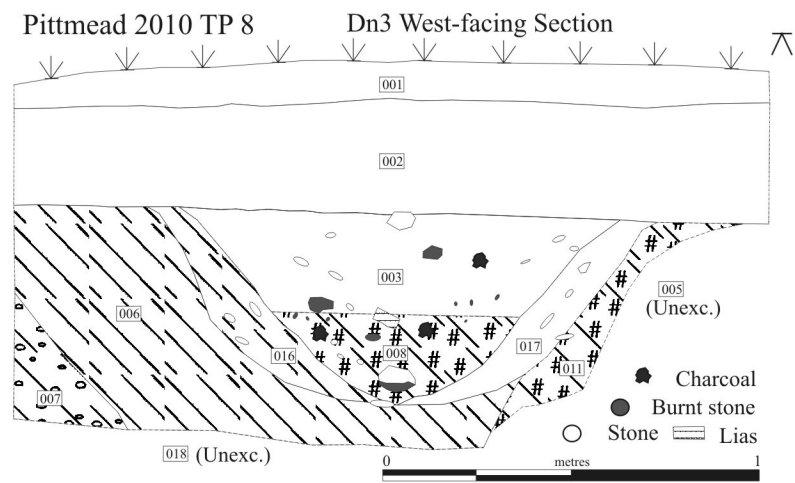


Fig PM 5.1
Fig PM8.2 West Facing Section