

Land use Descriptions for Hunts Hill Farm
Site code: UP-HH89

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Note: this document does not take account of any soil sample or animal bone evidence, this will all need to be brought in the next phase of work.

Because of the way the main date-ranges attained from the ceramics overlap, the periods (that are based on those date ranges) overlap too. For instance Period 5 consists largely of features which could have an LBA or an EIA date (*c* 1000-300BC), whilst Period 6 features could be LBA or EIA or MIA (*c* 1000-100BC) and Period 7 contains features which seem to be definitely EIA (*c* 600-300BC). For example:

P2 EBA 2500-1700BC

P3 MBA 1500-1000BC

P4 MBA/LBA 1500-700BC>>|

P5 LBA/EIA 1000-300BC>>>>>>>>>>>>|

P6 LBA/MIA1000-100BC>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>|

P7 EIA 600-300BC

P8 MIA 300-100BC

**P9 LIA/Roman
100BC-AD400**

Rather than constrict the chronology of the sequence, this in fact has the opposite effect and will allow the reader the flexibility to envisage the site each in a unique way. Pamela Greenwood's knowledge of 'local' or 'native' ceramic typologies, should it be published, would be greatly beneficial in tightening the sequence at Hunts Hill.

In reality the main focus of activity in the northern and central parts of the site seems to properly begin in the LBA and is constant to the end of the Roman occupation. In the southern part of the site activity appears to begin in the LBA and continues to the post-medieval era. There is limited earlier activity although 26 contexts contained pottery loosely dated *c* 4000–50BC, this material is spread across much of the site with slight concentration in the north western part of the site (NB: some of this is possibly not even prehistoric apparently).

Integration of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material should bring to life the sequence of the site.

The aerial photography (AP) shows that much activity outside of the excavated areas. In particular there is an extremely substantial looking rectangular ditched enclosure to the west of the site bisected by the road (the A?). This appears to have much wider ditches than anything excavated at Hunts Hill. It seems clear from the AP that the prehistoric settlements and the 'utilised' landscape continued at least to the west, north west and possibly east of the excavated areas.

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Period 1 Site environment and early prehistoric transient activity

It is undoubtedly the case that the site presented an attractive location from the late Mesolithic onwards, due to the abundance of water on a fertile, but dry land site, situated near to a wetland zone. Such abundance is attested by the occasional areas of naturally deposited clay, and palaeochannels that the excavators recorded. The site lies too far from the present course of the Thames for it to have been a historically feasible water resource (*c* 4.5 kilometres to the southwest).

It is interesting to note that the main north south channel seen in Areas B and C follow the same alignment as the most predominant field boundaries pursue. Perhaps during the earliest periods of activity this was still active and dictated the morphology of the archaeology.

Whilst the site was initially within an area used by such hunter-gatherer groups, it went on to attract later prehistoric farming communities we know to have utilised it in the Bronze and Iron Ages, and enjoyed continuous occupation, or use through the Roman Anglo-Saxon periods and right up to post medieval times. Such activity is attested by the recovered ceramic material, in which all of these periods are represented. There is undoubtedly a greater wealth of activity from the LBA/EIA period onwards than in the earlier periods. Aerial photography of the area to the west shows what could be a cursus monument, and further Neolithic activity at the site is hinted at by the residual worked stone and ceramic material.

In the Roman period the profusion of wells, waterholes and ditches demonstrates that whilst one did not have to dig too deeply, there was a need to dig for a good water supply. Increasingly intensive agriculture and a declining of the local water table are perhaps both factors here?

Lithic and pottery evidence

Flints, and some evidence of flint working represent the earliest human activity at the site. However, no associated features are thought to be contemporary to the Mesolithic or Neolithic flints. The earliest items in the worked flint assemblage are a broken microlith of Later Mesolithic date, an unretouched blade-like flake and a core rejuvenation flake, the latter two both of probable Later Mesolithic to Early Neolithic date. A small blade core and a retouched sickle-like blade probably also date to the Early Neolithic period.

A small flake core and a split pebble core were broadly dated to the Later Neolithic to Bronze Age period. The remainder of the cores were made from large, rough pebbles typical of Bronze Age industries. At least three showed evidence of having been re-used as hammerstones, attesting to flint-working in the area, as well as perhaps to resource stress and that good quality material was at a premium.

There was a high incidence of retouched items in the collection, which included 29 scrapers, mainly heavily-utilised end and side and end types, of a general Neolithic to Bronze Age date. Scrapers are, however, a class of material generally associated with habitation *foci* (Schofield 1987).

There were some residual finds of possible Neolithic pottery. A single sherd in a sand-tempered fabric from [4243] with pinched decoration on the exterior may be part of a

Peterborough Ware Mortlake type bowl. There are also a handful of flint-tempered sherds which may be Neolithic found in [4001] and [6570], although this is not certain. These identifications are very tentative, and at best would indicate very limited evidence of mid to late Neolithic activity.

1 Period 2 Early Bronze Age (c 2500–1700BC)

1.1 Northern activity

There is very little evidence for EBA activity at the site. Stray and residual finds of worked stone implements seen to imply a greater EBA/MBA presence than has been associated with the excavated features.

Refuse pit S100

Pit GP 5764 with earliest pottery on the site, this could be late Neolithic, but is most likely EBA. The pit was situated in the far northwest of the site (Area Cext). It is an isolated feature, perhaps hinting that whatever EBA settlement it relates to, if any might have been situated north of the excavation area where the land drops away slightly. Indeed the AP appears to show quite clearly that there are rounded crop marks (probably roundhouses judging from their size) north and west of the excavated areas.

A EBA barbed and tanged flint arrowhead

It is apparently a residual find within a Roman posthole.

2 Period 3 Middle Bronze Age (c 1500–1000BC)

Note: Period 3 no longer exists as Period 3 and 4 have been merged and are now just Period 4

3 Period 4 Mid to late Bronze Age (c 1500–700BC)

3.1 Northern settlement

As with the EBA, there is little MBA activity at the site, and what there is appears to be focused in the north western part of the site implying that more activity may exist beyond those limits of the excavation.

Post alignment S101

Three posts in a straight line c 18.70m long containing MBA to LBA pottery and possibly making alignment, possibly marking out a boundary or of some other unknown function. The posts are set c 11.50m and c 6m apart and follow roughly the same orientation as the earliest ditches. The alignment seems to lead straight to B145. As with the EBA feature S100, this is situated in the northwest of the site.

post hole GP 6643, post hole GP 6619, post hole GP 6773

This feature is a good candidate for C14 dating.

Roundhouse B145

(Called structure 6701 by excavator)

Postholes arranged in an arc, which if complete would be c 8m in diameter. Pit (probably a large posthole) GP 6571 with dating evidence. Also postholes GPs 6639 6925 6927 6812 and four planned but unnumbered postholes (6929?). Pottery residue has been radiocarbon dated in the assessment and produced a LBA date of c 900BC. This is the earliest roundhouse identified on the site.

3.2 Central settlement

There is some evidence of MBA/LBA occupation in the central part of the site, a rectilinear post-fast building (B100) recorded in the middle/eastern part of the site.

Rectilinear building B100

A possible rectilinear building consisting clusters of postholes, including the following features which contained dating material:

Posthole GP 4266 –possible Deverel-Rimbury

Posthole GP 4268 –possible Deverel-Rimbury

Pit GP 4425 (although this may actually be a posthole as well given that it is only c 0.50m across)

And the following features which had no dating material:

Postholes GPs 4306 4308 4490 4492 4494 4498 4500 (4502 4504) 4506 4508 4576

This building also includes six (?) unnumbered, but planned postholes.

The building measured at least c 10m EW by c 8m NS.

This feature is a good candidate for C14 dating.

4 Period 5 Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (c 1000–300BC)

Occupation really takes off in Period 5. This is reflected in the archaeological record by a huge increase in LBA/EIA finds associated with features.

4.1 Northern settlement

In the north western part of the site a single ditched enclosure (S109) appears to encase several phases of occupation (Roundhouses etc). Later on, perhaps after a period of unrest/war, the enclosure appears to fall out of use, or is expanded with the addition of three further single ditched enclosures (S113) immediately to the east. There is evidence of occupation within the two northern most of the enclosures, the third may have been for livestock? The southern enclosure ditch postdates a roundhouse (as yet unnumbered as context numbers not known) that appears to have been unenclosed. To the east of the enclosures there is further evidence of unenclosed settlement (B102) NOW THOUGHT TO BE ROMAN

(Defensive?) ditched enclosure S109

Ditches GPs 5137 5175 5194 (5199?) 5209

A small enclosure that appears to surrounds various (roughly) contemporary roundhouses and post structures.

Could carry on in use into the MIA?

Possible candidate for C14 dating?

The enclosure may originally have been open to the north as within the large ditch excavated along the northern perimeter there is also a much smaller ditch, although whether this is earlier or later seems unclear. No evidence for an internal bank was recorded, however, traces of a palisade type structure were recorded west of B107 and north of B108 (see below). It is infinitely possible that there was rampart/bank external to the ditches. The enclosure was reused as the site of a Saxon cemetery.

Features within the enclosure

Post alignment S110

(Described as structure 6549 by excavator) lies within ditched enclosure S109.

GP 5139 (post?) pit has dating

GP 5143 posthole has dating

GPs 6315 6550 6551 6552 6553 no dating

Roundhouse B106

(Described as structure 6554 by excavator)

Part of a ring ditch GP 5125, probably a eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench, contains one sherd of LBA/EIA pottery. Diameter of ditch is *c* 11.20m width is *c* 1m and *c* 0.25m deep with a v-shaped profile. The house lies within a ditched enclosure. House appears to have been rebuilt –or at least eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench re-excavated at least once. ESE facing entrance *c* 2m wide.

Also, GPs 5123 ring ditches but with no dating clearly part of the same structure though.

Postholes GPs 5147 5738 6277 6287 6281 no dating but within house so probably related.

Also, posthole GP 5151 which contains IA pottery, but could be a later feature.

Also, pit GP 5149 inside roundhouse, which could be contemporary –this contained loomweight.

Also, posthole GP 5131 (same as 5158?) unplanned, but with LBA/EIA pot.

Roundhouse B107

(Described as structure 6541 or 5084? by excavator)

Either pre- or post- dates the above house, but not clear from records which - probably post-dates it. This house is probably actually EIA rather than LBA/EIA.

Partial pennanular ditch GP 5153 eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench. Ditch would have been *c* 12m in diameter when extant, *c* 0.60m wide. Context sheet missing. Entrance direction unknown, presumed ESE.

Includes postholes GPs 6542 6323 6325 5707 5703 5649 5050 5068 5070 5128 5141 5159 5550 5563 5701 5705 5734 5736 6255 6317 6319 with no dating, postholes GPs 5030 5135 5699 5732 with EIA pottery and postholes GPs 5135 with undated pottery. This building is confused with post alignment S110 (described as 6549 by the excavator) which over/underlies it or may be part of the same activity.

As with B108, there may be the remnants of a palisade along the west side of B107, between the ring ditch and the enclosure ditch.

Four-post structure S204 –should be S1004

(Described as 6543 by excavator)

Located *c* 2m south of B107. Three postholes, one planned but unnumbered and GPs 6544 6546, fourth post not seen(?). *c* 1m apart forming 3 points of a rectangle. No dating, but ascribed to LBA/EIA by proximity to B107 and situation within enclosure S109.

Roundhouse B144

(Described as structure 6554 by excavator?)

A series of undated postholes GP 5068 5159 5550 and two planned but unnumbered postholes. These form an arc which if it were complete would form a circle approximately 8m in diameter. Either pre- or post-dates B107.

Small roundhouse B108

(Described as structure 6566 by the excavator?)

Also within the ditched enclosure, in its north east corner, is a small pennanular ditch GP 5449 with possible opposing openings to the ESE and to the WNW. The ditch is *c* 8m in diameter and *c* 0.80m wide, and is surrounded, oddly, by a ring of posts which surely must be related to the building as they respect the curve of the southern part of the ditch perfectly. There is also a line of six posts immediately north of the ditch (palisade?), which respect the line of the enclosure ditch, although how these relate to the house, if at all is unclear.

There appears to be at least three phases of building and rebuilding here, including another ring ditch GP 5451, the ring of posts (GPs 5161 5163 5165 5167 6351) respecting the outside of the ring ditch GP 5449, the line of posts parallel to the enclosure ditch (GPs 5709 5711 5713 5715 5719 5721) and three 'pits', one roughly in the middle of the house GP 6339, and three in the eastern entrance way GP 5453 6341 and one unnumbered.

Isolated pit S111

A small sub-circular pit in the south of the site GP 4009, *c* 1m diameter and *c* 0.30m deep, contains pottery, but this may be residual?

Isolated pit S112

A small sub-circular pit in the south of the site GP 4005, *c* 0.76m in diameter and *c* 0.12m deep

Later ditched enclosures S113

At some point the ditched enclosure S109 was superseded by three later ditched enclosures to the east. These have been given one land use identity because they share the same ditches as their boundaries and therefore the same context groups.

Made up of ditches GPs 5201 6371 5970 5441 5431.

Additionally, the northernmost ditch (GP5970) was extended westwards with ditch GP 5197 and possibly ditches GPs 6743 6745. Although these ditches contained large quantities of Roman building materials and pottery they do not appear to correspond to the Roman field systems but do seem to relate to the LBA/EIA activity. Could the Roman material originate from unrecorded Roman intrusion through the ditches, such pitting or the later reuse of the same alignment?

North-western ditched enclosure

The north western enclosure, which measures *c* 30m EW by *c* 34m NS, contains B103 (see below).

Roundhouse B103

A pennanular ditch GP 5423, probably a roundhouse drip-gully, contained transitional pottery. The ditch was *c* 12.4m in diameter, *c* 0.55m wide and had a pronounced v-shaped profile *c* 0.25m deep. There was a gap in the eaves eaves drip gully or wall

foundation trench or wall foundation trench, presumably for the entrance porch, which faced ESE and was *c* 3.86m wide.

Associated contexts within the gully are GPs 5581 5621 5583 5585 5586 5588 5590 5596 5598 5600 5602 5604 5606 5608 5610 5612 5613 5615 5617 5619 5631 5633 5635 Many of these features may or may not be related to the house –for instance the two post alignments that may be earlier or later, but 5612 5610 5613 5615 are probably postholes for the porch, and 5619 5585 5586 and 5600 may relate to the central hearth and superstructure.

Ditch GP 5578 probably represents an earlier build of this roundhouse.

North eastern ditched enclosure

The north eastern enclosure, which measures *c* 32m EW by 33.50m NS (although the eastern boundary ditch, if there was one lies beneath a later ditch GP 5806) contains two roundhouses B109 and B110.

Roundhouse B109

GP 5883 a pennanular eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench up to *c* 1.10m wide and *c* 14.45m in diameter, and postholes GPs 5821 and four other unnumbered postholes.

Roundhouse B110

GP5885 a pennanular eaves eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench up to *c*.30m wide and *c* 14m in diameter

Southern ditched enclosure

The southern enclosure, which measures *c* 43m NS by *c* 35m EW, appears to have had an entrance in the south western corner, and seems to have cut through an earlier pennanular ditch of unknown number. The pennanular ditch would have been *c* 15.50m in diameter.

4.2 Activity to the north of the settlement

Post alignment S106

Three post pits GPs 194 196 198 in the extreme north of the site with pottery hint at an EW alignment, possibly a boundary. Two other postholes with no dating evidence GPs 502 and another one of unknown number extend on ether side of the three making a *c* 13m long line.

Isolated pit S187

Rounded pit GP 5758 *c* 0.60m in diameter.

Unenclosed roundhouse B102

A pennanular ditch GP 62, probably the eaves-eaves eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench of a roundhouse, which contained transitional pottery. The ditch was *c* 13m in diameter, up to *c* 0.70m wide and *c* 0.20m deep, and was shallow and bowl-like in profile. There was a gap in the eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench, presumably for the entrance porch, which faced ESE.

Other features with no dating evidence associated with the roundhouse possibly include:

Post pits GPs 64 76 145 338 340

Possible beaten earth floor GPs 465 466

4.3 Activity to the west

To the west of the enclosures part of a ring ditch, surrounded by a double ring of posts (B104), might imply some different function to this area of the settlement (ritual/burial/high status abode?).

Enclosed roundhouse, or barrow? B104

(Described as structure 6678 by the excavator)

A portion of a pennanular ditch GP 6602 (section #190) which indicates a diameter of *c* 7.30m on the extreme north western edge of site contained pottery. The ditch was *c* 0.90m wide and *c* 0.25m deep.

The ditch was surrounded by a double ring of posts which appear to respect the same curve, most have no date, except four GPs 6621 6623 6669 6761 which all have transitional pottery. The undated posts include GPs 6625 6627 6629 6631 6633 6635 6645 6647 6649 6651 6653 6659 6663 6665 6667 6671 6673 6675 6763 6765 6799 6805 6941 6953, and 6655 and 6657 contained intrusive (?) Roman pottery. Pit GP 6613 is probably actually part of the ring of posts, it also contained transitional prehistoric pot. The outer ring of posts when conjectured to a full circle indicates a probable original diameter of slightly over *c* 30m, whilst the inner ring would have been just over *c* 23m in diameter. Palisade?

It may be that this is some form of monument, rather than an enclosed roundhouse, perhaps a funerary barrow or other? The AP shows that B104 appears to be at least in the main part enclosed by an extremely substantial rectangular ditched enclosure of unknown provenance that lies largely to the west of the excavated area, which is bisected by the road. This enclosure appears to have much wider ditches than anything excavated at Hunts Hill. Strangely, although the eastern side of the enclosure does fall within the excavated area, it was not picked up in the excavation?

Possible cremation/pot burial S193

An inverted pot lain within a small rounded cut GP 6591.

4.4 The 'middle' settlement

To the south of the northern settlement another area of occupation (the 'middle' settlement) was recorded. Rounded (B111, B114) and rectangular buildings (B137, B143) were recorded in association with numerous possible granaries (S116, S118 etc). Whether this is contemporary to the northern settlement, or represents a shift in occupation, or a functionally distinct area of the same settlement, is unknown.

Four post structure (possibly six post) S121

A square arrangement of four dated postholes GPs 1083 1085 1087 1089, c 1.5m to c 2.5m, form a possible granary. There are a further two undated postholes, GPs 1124 and an unnumbered but planned one, to the north which may have formed a part of the structure.

Also west of this there is an array of features, all undated, and with no apparent form or order which may relate to this phase of activity, but this is based purely on their proximity and the lack of other activity in the area.

Rectilinear building B101

A possible rectilinear building consisting of clusters of postholes, including the following which contained dating material:

Posthole GP 4416

And the following which had no dating evidence:

Postholes GPs 4341 4437 4439 4441 4443 4445 4447 4449 4457 4459 4461 4463
4465 4467 4484

Building B137

(Described as a ring ditch, structure 4313 by the excavator)

A length of ditch c 15m long and c 0.70m wide GP 4292. Appears roughly L-shaped in plan, although described by the excavator as a ring ditch. It overlies, or in overlain by B101 but may have some contemporary relationship to it? Or may be a distinct building. Also, GP 4435 posthole unplanned.

Building B143

(described as structure 4313 by excavator)

GPs 4311 4596, a ditch and a posthole, also two planned but unnumbered postholes. A rectilinear building of probable LBA/EIA date. Date is based on proximity of other features of that date. No dating material was recovered from the features. The ditch – perhaps an eaves drip gully indicates that the building was at least 15m long, by an unknown width.

Rectangular building B138

A series of postholes GPs 4453 4451 4455 4592 4594 and two unnumbered but planned postholes c 8m EW by c 5m NS. GP 4453 contains prehistoric pottery.

Roundhouse B111

Roughly half way down the site parts of a pennanular ditch GP 4371 of *c* 7.5m in diameter. The ditch was up to *c* 0.60m wide and *c* 0.22m deep with a shallow bowl-like profile. The ditch contained pottery. Within the ditch, numerous undated postholes GPs 4469 4471 4473 4475 4477 4480 4482, and one planned but not numbered posthole, probably pertain to the buildings construction. The roundhouse ditch appears to have an opening to the west, but this seems unlikely and may be the result of over zealous machining.

Curvilinear post fast structure S114

Immediately east of the roundhouse, part of a small rounded post fast structure was recorded *c* 3.40m in diameter. This was made up of five undated and unnumbered postholes.

Four post structure S115

Approximately 4.5m east of the roundhouse, three unnumbered posts of a probable four post structure were recorded. The posts were arranged *c* 2m apart. This may be a granary.

Roundhouse B112

Approximately 11.50m south of the above roundhouse a cluster of undated postholes GPs 4396 4402 4404 and 16 unnumbered postholes probably represent remains of a roundhouse *c* 10.50m in diameter.

Four post structure S116

(excavator's structure no. 4417)

Directly east of the roundhouse, *c* 0.75m from its nearest posthole, four posts GPs 4398 4400 4414 4419 *c* 1.30m apart, represent remains perhaps of the porch of the house, or of a granary.

Rectilinear building B113

Immediately south of this, a cluster of undated postholes GPs 4570 4572 4574 and 19 unnumbered postholes seem to indicate a rectangular structure. It was at least *c* 7.5m NS by *c* 5.60m EW.

Four post structure S117

(Called structure 4372 by excavator)

About 3m south of the rectilinear structure, four posts *c* 1.40m apart (dated GP 4347, undated GPs 4345 4351 4353) make up a possible granary.

Four post structure S118

(excavators structure no. 4551)

About 33.50m north east of the above four post structure, three other four post structures were recorded, in close proximity to each other. Dated postholes GPs 4548 4550 and undated postholes GPs 4392 4394 were located *c* 1.50 to *c* 1.70m apart.

Four post structure S119

About *c* 2.40m south west of the above four post structure, four more postholes GPs 4387 (date) and undated GPs 4383 4385 4389 were located *c* 1.0 to *c* 1.60m apart.

Four post structure S120

(Called structure 4381 by excavator)

About *c* 1.00m south of the above four post structure, four more undated postholes GPs 4374 4376 4378 4380 were located *c* 1.0 to *c* 1.60m apart.

Cluster of postholes S178

An array of postholes covering an area of *c* 20m NS by *c* 12m EW. This probably represents consistent rebuilding on the same area of land, perhaps of several different structures (four-posters/granaries?). GPs 4325 4486 have dating GPs 4317 4318 4321 4323 4327 4331 4333 4365 4367 4406 4408 4410 4412 4488 4512 4514 4516 4518 4520 4522 4524 4526 4528 4530 4532 4534 4536 4538 4540 4542 4590 are undated.

4.5 Southern activity

Numerous large wells were recorded in this area as well as some evidence of an apparently unenclosed habitation.

Waterhole S103

GP 2752 a large rounded waterhole (*c* 6m in diameter x *c* 1.2m deep) contained lots of pottery and the primary fill contained a bit of decayed wood (possibly bark).

Waterhole S104

GP 4052 a large rounded waterhole (*c* 4.5m in diameter x *c* 0.85m deep)

Waterhole S105

GP 2576 (and recut? GP 2903 –probably just slumped in fills) a sub-circular well or waterhole probably LBA/EIA in date 7.5m by 4.5m.

Possible four-post structure S172

Three postholes GPs 2090 2092 2094 situated *c* 1.5m apart. 2090 and 2092 contain prehistoric pot. Fourth posthole missing.

Cluster of activity S162

An array of features west of R100 covering an area *c* 35m EW by *c* 25m NS. Two GPs 2165 2166 contain LBA/EIA pottery. The other features in this ‘cluster’ are a

selection described as ridge and furrow marks (although they do not look that way on the plan) GPs 2125 2127 2129 2123, a 'natural' feature GP 2170, several pits GPs 2032 2055 2065 2121 2132, and a few postholes GPs 2061 2059 2057.

Waterhole S107

A curvilinear feature GP 2844 *c* 2.9m diameter and 3.2m deep with steep sides. Appears to have filled up gradually over time and the various fills contain lots of transitional pottery.

Roundhouse? B105

In the south of the site, clusters of largely undated features were recorded GPs 4084 4086 4088 4090 4092 4094 4096 4102 4104 4152 4154 4156 4158 4160 4164 4178 4180 4182. Amongst the undated features a posthole GP 4007 and a pit GP 4046 contained transitional pottery.

These post perhaps formed a roundhouse of *c* 13m in diameter, or some other structure?

Pit S108

GP 4003 a strangely shaped linear feature, perhaps a pit damaged by ploughing or bioturbation. Contains transitional pottery. *c* 5m long by *c* 1m wide and *c* 0.30m deep. Possibly could be a small ditch or gully for some construction purpose?

5 Period 6 Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age (c 1000–100BC)

Some material from Period 6, the LBA/MIA may end up being joined with Period 5, the LBA/EIA, as there is little to distinguish between the two other than the date range achieved from the recovered pottery which has the same start date, but a later end date.

5.1 Northern settlement

An unenclosed settlement in the north part of the site, could be contemporary to/part of the northern settlement dated to Period 5, or could be later or separate?

Roundhouse B114

A pennanular ditch GP 5881 of c 11.50m in diameter, with an entrance facing ESE c 1.60m wide.

Roundhouse B115

Part of a pennanular ditch GP 5457, c 8.50m in diameter.

Roundhouse B116

Part of an unnumbered pennanular ditch, overlapping with roundhouse GP 5457, c 13.50m in diameter, with internal structural postholes GPs 5873 5301, and 12 unnumbered postholes within the ring ditch.

Roundhouse B117

Pennanular ditch GP 5089 c 12.50m in diameter, with an entrance c 2.70m wide facing east.

Pit S157

GP 214, a rounded pit c 1.6m NS by c 1m EW in plan, contains prehistoric pot with very wide date, but is probably LBA/EIA.

5.2 Southern activity

A cluster of pits and waterholes in the south western part of the site.

Pit S163

A small pit GP 2082

Pit S166

Pit/waterhole v large GP 2628. Date of pot. is anything from LBA-EIA

Pit S167

Pit GP 2630 Date of pot. is anything from LBA-EIA

Pit S169

Pit GP 2642 Date of pot. is anything from LBA-EIA

6 Period 7 Early Iron Age (c 600–300BC)

As with Periods 5 and 6, features that have been attributed to these periods, and to Period 7 are interchangeable between these three periods, they have been 'periodised' according to the pottery date ranges.

6.1 North western enclosure and settlement

This is to the west of the Period 6 and 7 'northern' settlement areas.

Ditched enclosure S122

(Described as structure 6985 by the excavator)

Four ditches GPs 6747 6583 6581 6573 formed a rectilinear enclosure with an area of c 16.2m NS x c 15.9m EW. The enclosure has an entrance at its south western corner, facing south, towards a group of roundhouses and other structures. This was formed by two butt-ended ditches 6583 and 6573. The ditches were up to a metre wide and c 0.25m deep with a shallow bowl like profile. No evidence for an internal bank was recorded. A small ditch GP 6832 extended southwards from the eastern boundary ditch GP 6581 at a slightly different angle.

Structure (two roundhouses?) S123

(Described as structure 7066 by the excavator)

Within the enclosure an array of postholes GPs 6575 6577 6579 6751 6753 6755 6757 6759 6785 6787 (which also had an EBA arrowhead within its fill) 6789 6791 6793 6795 6828 6873 6881 6883 6885 6889 6893 6974 6978 have been grouped together by the excavator as a structure. In reality these probably make up several different structures or areas of activity, as there does not seem to be any coherent pattern. Some of the features described as S123 had Roman pot. within them and so there may be some Roman activity here as well. One can conjecture two (overlapping) roundhouses here by joining up various postholes and pits. The northernmost of these would have been c 8m in diameter, the southernmost would have been c 9.30m.

These postholes had dating: GPs 6729 6789 6787 6789 6753

Small roundhouse B119

(Described as structure 6995 by the excavator)

South of the enclosure, various elements of pennanular drip gullies GPs 6691 6700 6807 6921 and 7257, and postholes and pits GPs 6773 6775 6783 6801 6803 6939 6997 represent the remains of a small roundhouse c 6.7m in diameter. This appears to have been rebuilt, or at least the eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench re-excavated at least three times.

Also unplanned postholes GPs 6777 6779 with IA pottery.

Roundhouse B120

(Described as structure 6970 by the excavator)

Immediately south east of B110 various elements of another roundhouse perhaps of *c* 9m in diameter, although this is speculative. The evidence here appears rather sketchy and comprises of:

Various postholes GPs 6861 6863 6865 6867 6903 6905 6909 6911 6913 6915 7273

And various other features GPs 6606 6871 7259 7261 6824

Roundhouse B121

(Described as structure 6994 by the excavator)

To the northeast of **B120**?, a collection of postholes (GPs 6589 6641 (7231-unplanned) 7235 7237 7239 7241 7243 7245 7247 7249 (7251-unplanned) ditches (GPs 6919 6989 7233) and a pit GP 7229 have been grouped together as a being a structure of uncertain form and function. This may be another small roundhouse, but the morphology is confused. Possibly a ring ditch (drip gully?) enclosing another ring ditch (wall foundation trench?).

Roundhouse B142

Approximately 4m east of B121 part of an undated ring ditch was recorded GP 7277. This would have had a diameter of *c* 9.80m when in use. It could be of any (Iron Age) date.

Isolated pit S186

Situated *c* 70m north east of the enclosure S122, GP 5274 a rounded pit *c* 0.70m in diameter with some EIA pot.

Isolated pit S188

GP 5768 could be EIA or MIA. Lozenge shaped pit *c* 2m long NS by *c* 0.80m wide EW. Near S186.

6.2 Eastern-central settlement

Later phase of activity in this area (could be continued occupation relating to Period 6 and 7 in this area?)

Unenclosed roundhouse B118

(described as structure 467 by excavator)

Post-dates roundhouse B102 as it partly overlies it. Evidence consists of a ring ditch GP 44, a probable eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench *c* 13.50m in diameter with entrance facing to the ESE *c* 3.20m wide. The ditch itself is *c* 0.70m wide and *c* 0.25m deep with a pointy U-shaped profile. The ditch contained some firmly dated EIA pottery.

Possible associated features include undated

Post pits GPs 68 72 464 58 336 70 54 66 74 338 340 344 82 84

And dated GP 477

Unenclosed roundhouse B141

Approximately 25m south of B118, another group of postholes probably represent remains of another roundhouse B141. None of the features are dated and the house could be of any Iron Age date, it has only been placed in the EIA for convenience. Consists of GPs 396 398 400 402 404 412 141 422 424 426 428 430 432 434 623.

South of the roundhouses, an area of four-posted structures –perhaps granaries?

Four post structure S156

(called structure 607 by excavator)

Probably a granary. 4 Posts are set in a square *c* 2m apart. Dated GPs 171 175, undated GPs 6 173. Probably EIA.

Four post structure S160

Probably a granary. 3 Posts are set in a square *c* 2m apart. Undated GPs 185 187 189. Probably EIA. The missing post was probably removed by GP 165 a Roman ditch.

Four post structure S199

(Structure 6567 by excavator)

Probably a granary. Four posts GPs 6171 6173 6175 6177 set square *c* 1m apart. These are all undated but presumed to be EIA.

Five post structure S200

Approximately 17m northeast of S156 an undated five post structure was recorded. Four posts are set in a square *c* 1.5–2m apart with a fifth post set roughly between them (like the 5 on a dice). This is most likely another granary and could be of any (Iron Age) date. It consists of GPs 643 645 647 649 651.

South of the ‘granaries’, ritual area?

Palisade enclosure S124

Roughly in the half way down the site, south of the area of four post structures or ‘granaries’, an array of postholes and other un–interpreted features that appear to have formed a curvilinear enclosure of unknown function, but possibly some ritual activity? The area enclosed would have been *c* 15 to *c* 20m in diameter. Could this be a similar structure to that labelled B104 dated LBA/EIA. Need to find parallels to S124 – but it seems quite similar to Enclosure D at South Hornchurch (Guttmann and Last 2000, 334)

These are GPs 1143 1145 1147 1149 1153 1155 1157 1159 1161 1164 1166 1168 1170 1172 1174 1176 1178 1180 1182 1202 1204 1210 1212 1571 1573 1575 1577 1579

Four of the postholes GPs 1145 1153 1164 1168 contained dating evidence.

6.3 Southern enclosed settlement

In the southern part of the site, an obscurely aligned ditched enclosure that may be contemporary to settlement evidence recorded within it.

Open enclosure S125

A large obscurely aligned ditched enclosure S125, GPs 4110 4123 1001 3093. The ditches follow a NEN pattern, as opposed to most other alignments which are NWN. It encompasses an area some 110m NS by 90m EW, and appears to be open to the north, where no ditch was recorded.

GP 4110 contained fragments of a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint core.

Roundhouse B122

(B122 described as structure 4240 by the excavator)

Within ditched enclosure S125, a well dated pennanular ditch GP 4244 of *c* 15-16m in diameter, with an opening of *c* 4.5m wide facing ESE. The ditch is *c* 1m wide and *c* 0.40m deep with an irregular profile. There is some residual Neolithic pottery within the ditch fills. Within the ditch, undated postholes GPs 4297 4301 4588, as well as several other unnumbered postholes, probably relate to the house itself. Undated GP 4295, described as a hearth was ascribed by the excavators to this building.

Pit S177

Also within the enclosed area an irregular shaped pit GP 4121, probably scarred by later plough damage. This contained some prehistoric pot. loosely dated 1000-300BC.

Unspecified post-fast structure S126

(Described as structure 4304 by the excavator)

Additionally, there are a whole mass of undated postholes covering an area of *c* 8.5m EW by *c* 5.5m NS that lay to the north of B122. These are grouped together as S126.

GPs 4248 4250 4252 4254 4256 4258 4260 4262 4264 4274 4276 4288 4303 (+4343 which has prehistoric pot. dated 4000-50BC)

Also unplanned GPs 4278 4280 4282 4272 4284 4286 4290

This may be a kind of oval roundhouse structure?

Unspecified post-fast structure S127

West of B122, and within enclosure S125, a roughly rectilinear area of *c* 41m EW by *c* 17m NS of postholes, probably of several buildings/structures of indeterminate form or function.

GPs 1308 1337 1357 postholes with dating.

With no dating GPs 1304 1310 1312 1314 1316 1333 1335 1341 1343 1345
1349 1351 1353 1355 1359 1361 1363 1365 1367 1371 1373 1375 1377 1387 1477
1503 1505 1507 1509 1511 1513 1515 1517 1519 1521 1523 1525 1527 1529 1531
1533 1535 1537 1595 1597

Unspecified post fast structure S180

Some m east of S127, two posts GPs 4421 4423, unknown form and function, or completeness.

6.4 Activity south and west of the open enclosure S125

There is also evidence for activity outside the open enclosure S125.

Unspecified post fast structure S161

Approximately 30m to the west of S127 another arrangement of seemingly random postholes covers an area *c* 25m EW by *c* 30m NS. GPs 1419 1485 1489 contained prehistoric pot most likely to be of an EIA date. Other postholes GPs 1421 1423 1425 1427 1429 1431 1479 1481 1483 1487 1491 1493 1495 1587 1589 were undated.

Rectangular building B123

In the southwest of site a possible rectangular building measuring *c* 12m EW by *c* 6m NS. One feature GP 2280 a posthole had EIA pottery. The rest of the postholes were undated GPs 2264 2266 2268 2270 2276 2280 2290 2292 2294 2296 2298 2300 2302 2304(?) 2326 2328 2330 2332.

Small roundhouse B147

Immediately north of B123, a small roundhouse? Made up of GPs 2304 (?) 2306 2308 2310 2312 2314 2316 2337. Would have been *c* 6m in diameter.

Hearth S128

Damaged by later ploughing, an area of burning, GP 2077, *c* 0.30m in diameter was excavated with a small amount of EIA pottery.

Unspecified post-fast structure S129

A group of postholes covering an area of *c* 10m EW by *c* 10m NS in the southwest part of the site. No apparent form or function detected. The morphological shape of this group is probably derived from truncation on all sides/lack of recording.

GPs 2228 2237 postholes with dating

GPs 2212 2214 2216 2218 2222 2224 2226 2230 2232 2234

Ditch S171

Lies approximately 32m east of B123, a small straight length (c 5m) of narrow ditch c 0.30m wide. Contained some prehistoric pot potentially EIA to LIA in date. Unlikely to be residual as the ditch is a different alignment to the later ditches.

Pit S168

Pit GP 2640

Pit S165

Pit GP 2595, wide pot. date but IA.

Waterhole S130

As well as LBA/EIA pottery, there was also a Bronze Age flint core or hammer, and flint flake.

Cluster of features S173

In the extreme south of the site, a confused cluster of features, four of which containing EIA pottery. GPs 2452 2454 2459 2461 2463 2470 2474 2476 2478 2492 2494 and three planned but unnumbered features. The cluster covers an irregular shaped area c 8m by 8m.

7 Period 8 Middle Iron Age c 300–100 BC

Defining the MIA activity is problematic as only have 2 features with closely dated MIA pottery, but this appears to be residual in both cases:

Ditch GP 17 (which is most likely Roman)

Grave GP 5282 (which is Middle Saxon)

There are numerous features that contain material that could be LBA/EIA or MIA with date ranges c 1000–c 600 BC or c 600–c 100 BC, these features would be strong candidates for C14 dating if residues exist. Some features placed in Period 6 LBA/MIA could of course actually be MIA.

This is a problem as the excavators identified 3 phases of activity in the MIA and c. half of the roundhouses are attributed to the MIA, as well as enclosures, four-post structures (granaries?) etc.

Unenclosed? roundhouse B134

Part of a ring ditch GP 303, would have been c 14m in diameter if complete. Also postholes GPs 326 263 471 475 440 469 330 which would have made up the internal structure of the house. This roundhouse could be from any part of the Iron Age, pottery date is c 600–43BC. Candidate for C14?

Waterhole, sump or pit? S133

Recorded as being cut by the LIA enclosure (S131) ditch, and (by the excavator) as being MIA in date (but only because it is cut by the LIA enclosure, so it could be any earlier date) was GP 5856 a rounded cut c 1.94m in diameter and 1.44m deep with virtually vertical sides and a wide flat base almost as wide as the top of the feature. An unknown one of its fills contains LIA/Rom pottery dated AD40-400 which may be intrusive and related to the enclosure ditch.

8 Period 9 Late Iron Age and the Roman occupation c 100BC–AD 400

8.1 Northern enclosed settlement

A univallate enclosure in the northern part of the site which enclosed numerous buildings.

Ditched enclosure S131

A rectilinear ditched enclosure was created consisting of GPs 5239 5463 5806 5910 5992 6041 6161. The enclosure enveloped an area of c 50m EW by c 45m NS and had an opening of probably at least c 3m wide facing towards NWN. This consisted of butt-ended ditches, only the eastern element of which was recorded as the western element was truncated by a Roman ditch.

No evidence for an internal bank was recorded, but one probably existed. Pottery derived from the fills of ditches GPs 5806 and 6041 date the feature to sometime before c AD 40–c AD 70 whilst the other ditches contained later Roman pottery. The ditches were up to c 4.5m wide and c 1.80m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and were clearly intended for defensive purposes, probably, given the date, relating to the Roman threat.

Belgic brick (from contexts [5854, 5896]) was recovered from what are perhaps ‘slumped-in’ upper fills of the ditch GP 5910. This was recorded as a pit GP 6369. Belgic brick was also recovered from one of the fills of the enclosure ditch GP 6041, and 5 Belgic bricks were recovered from an unplanned pit GP 6149 within the enclosure. Belgic bricks were also recovered from wells S134 and S135 that were dug through the filled in ditches of the enclosure, and from pit S185 (see below).

Belgic brick is a LIA indicator hence its name, and it is interesting to note that almost all the bricks found at the site are in the area of this enclosure. Undoubtedly at least some of the walls of the buildings within the enclosure were constructed using these bricks.

Additionally, an upper fill [6161] of the enclosure ditch GP 6041 contained a copper alloy coin of Cunobelin.

Well S205

GP 5459, not positively identified on the digitised plan. This contained a Dressel 1 amphora and good plant remains apparently.

Roundhouse B124

In the north east corner of the enclosure, pennanular ditch B124 GP 5262 implies an eaves drip gully or wall foundation trench or wall foundation trench of c 8m in diameter. The ditch was c 0.50m wide and of an unknown depth.

Roundhouse B125

Another curvilinear ditch, B125 GP 5846, c 0.50m wide indicates a ring ditch of c 8.90m in diameter situated slightly north of B124. GP 5846 has no stratigraphic relationship to GP 5262, and is undated so could pre- or post-date GP 5262.

Roundhouse B126

In the southern part of the enclosure B126, dated postholes GPs 5958 6020 6040 and undated postholes GPs 5960 6028 6032 arranged in a curvilinear fashion indicate B126 a roundhouse of c 12.30m in diameter set c 3.50m inside the ditched enclosure.

Rectilinear building B127

B126 is pre- or post-dated by a similarly dated rectilinear structure B127 made up of a foundation ditch GP 5952 and several postholes including postholes GPs 5956 6030 6034 6036 6038. The building was at least 12m long NS and c 6m wide EW.

Rectilinear post fast building B128

Within the enclosure, to the west, a post fast rectilinear structure made up of undated postholes GP 5276 and 9 other undated and unnumbered postholes would have measured c 9.30m EW by at least c 5.25m NS.

Rectilinear post fast building B129

Within the enclosure, to the north east, a post fast rectilinear structure post dating the roundhouses there made up of postholes GPs 5234 5258 5322 5334 5338 5342 5344 5348 5350 5366 5492 5496 5500 5506 5508 5510 5512 5514 5520 5524 5526 and ditch GPs 5842. Also the straight part of ditch GP 5846 (the round part of which is part of B125): this is recorded as one feature but is most likely two ditches that coincide. The building would have measured at least c 16m EW by at least c 8.20m NS. GP 5258 contained some Roman pottery, and GP 5234 contained a large quantity of undated prehistoric pottery (4000-50BC).

Rectilinear post fast building B139

B129 was either preceded by or replaced with by B139 consisting of a wall foundation trench GP 5252 5848 and postholes GPs 5264 5364 5368 5370 5372 5374 5376 5482 5484 5488 5490 5494. B139 is of similar size to B129 measuring c 7m NS by c 16m EW. LIA and Roman pottery were retrieved from GPs 5252 5264. GP 5256 may be part of a foundation trench for an internal wall.

Pit S185

A small rounded pit GP 5254, c 1m in diameter, probably relates to B129 or B139. Contained AD 2nd- or 3rd- century pottery. The pit also contained clay bricks (Belgic brick?) and charcoal and it is suggested by the excavator that this may represent kiln waste. Was B129 or B139 a foundry of some sort?

Rectilinear post fast building B130

Immediately south of this was another post- fast rectilinear building, probably of similar size and date. Made up of postholes GPs 5309 5311 5313 5315 5317 5319 6169.

8.2 Eastern unenclosed settlement

In the north east of the site there is some slight evidence for unenclosed LIA settlement.

Unenclosed roundhouse B132

Remnants of a ring ditch, probably an eaves drip gully. GP 87 contains intrusive Roman pottery therefore probably house is probably of Late Iron Age. Would have been *c* 11m in diameter if complete.

Unenclosed roundhouse B133

South of B132, postholes GPs 110 245 248 259 261 307 309 462 629 631 633 appear to represent remnants of a roundhouse *c* 9.40m in diameter. Probably LIA in date as prehistoric and Roman pottery was present in finds. No ring ditch.

Pit S149

A small rounded pit *c* 0.75m in diameter, consists of GP 26.

8.3 North western settlement

In the north west of the site there is some slight evidence for unenclosed LIA settlement.

Roundhouse B140

(Also described as structure 6970 as is B120)

LIA/Roman roundhouse consisting of GPs 6826 6841 6847 which have a variety of LIA, LIA/Roman and Roman pot. types. Also GPs 6839 6843 6845 6849 6851 6853 6855 6857 6859 which are undated. About 7m in diameter and partially overlies B120.

Isolated pit S197

GP 6809 a oval pit *c* 0.50m in diameter, contained LIA/Roman pot.

Isolated pit S190

GP 5772 rounded pit *c* 0.60m in diameter.

9 Period 10 Roman c AD40-AD400

Features attributed to the Roman period exist in the northern part of the site. Whilst there is Roman pottery from the middle and south of the site, this is likely to be residual within later features. The only possible exception to this is pit S170 (see below).

The majority of Roman activity is taken up by the extensive digging of ditches (field boundaries etc) and wells. This was probably an area largely used for animal husbandry. Many of the ditches dated as Roman might actually originate in the later LIA and carry on through the Roman period. There also appears to be continued use and modification of the LIA ditched enclosure (S131). This is all as one would expect as the local population is likely to be made up of the same people on either side of the Roman conquest.

There is very little evidence for any Roman buildings having been on the site. Only c 15 features (ditches, pits and wells) produced positively identified Roman building material (almost exclusively Imbrex or Tegulla roofing tile), and little was retrieved from the top and subsoils. These finds were found across a broad area in the north (north western) part of the site. The Roman building material is almost exclusively dated c AD 140-250. When looked at with the associated Roman pottery this seems to imply that a nearby (villa?) Roman building fell out of use in the 3rd or 4th century AD. Any such building was probably sited north, east or west of the northern part of the site.

There are several alignments of posts in the north western part of the site (see S196, S202, S203 below) and many undated postholes in that area that may be of Roman date. These do not smack of building evidence to me, but look more like fence lines.

9.1 Field systems and enclosures

Ditches S136

A complex framework of ditches was recorded at the site, these may form field boundaries, drainage ditches or some other enclosures. These ditches overlie much of the earlier archaeology in the northern part of the site. The following groups make up the various field boundaries, although there is clearly more than one phase of activity, as many ditches appear to bisect existing areas of partition. As stated above some of this may represent pre-conquest activity.

GPs 10 12 17 24 28 30 32 34 89 92 95 97 112 130 134 136 138 153 156 165 204 206 271 281 297 299 301 305 328 332 518 606 621 624 1017 1031 (5118 not planned) 5121 5177 5180 5183 5241 5247 5425 5427 5437 5445 5447 5455 5465 5832 5834 5836 5862 6022 6060 6067 6097 6099 6131 6133 6135 6141 6142 6144 6146 6179 6181 6183 6187 6191 6195 6197 6595 6597 6604 6695 6703 6816 6818 and 6 planned but unnumbered ditches.

Two of these are parallel ditches (GPs 6060 6181 6197) c 3.15m apart that run north to south for at least 120m may have formed some route way through the fields in Roman or later times –possibly joining up with R100 to the south if they are later?

It might be possible to 'phase' these ditches through stratigraphic study of the relationships between them, but this has not yet been achieved.

9.2 Post alignments

Post line S196

(Described as 6679 by excavators)

A line of postholes running in a roughly straight line for a distance of *c* 23m. Probably of 3rd-century date. A variety of Roman pottery was retrieved from GPs 6637 6767 6781 7091, whilst GPs 6707 6771 6797 6945 and one planned but unnumbered postholes were undated. Also, probably other undigitised posts?

Post line S202

(Described as 6696 by excavator)

A line of three posts running from east to west, crosses NS post line S196. All three are undated postholes GPs 6709 6711 6713 but are presumed to be Roman.

Posts in a line S203

Posthole GP 6739 containing Roman pottery, and undated postholes GPs 6731 6733 6735 6737 6741 form a line of posts 3.35m long. There may be some other undated posts in this line to the southwest currently ascribed to the EIA (6828 6571 6978)

9.3 Possible foundry structure

Foundry? S155

GPs 125 128. These look like animal burrows with residual pottery? Could it be something to do with the kiln S201 which is situated right next to it?

Kiln structure S201

GP 122, probably Roman although apparently undated. Could S155 actually be a foundry of some description? Heavily sampled.

9.4 Wells and waterholes

Waterhole or sump S132

Cut into the western ditch of the LIA enclosure S131 after it had filled up was GP 5265 a deep curvilinear cut *c* 4.78m in diameter by *c* 2.88m deep with steep sides and a much smaller diameter base of *c* 1m. A (hollow?) tree trunk (?) was found in the ditch, possibly to hold back the sides and aid in water extraction and lots of twigs.

Waterhole or sump S134

Cut into the south western corner of the LIA enclosure (S131) ditch was GP 5940 a very deep curvilinear cut *c* 4.35m in diameter by *c* 2.32m deep with irregular stepped sides and a small flat base of about 0.50m in diameter. There is Roman pottery from fills fairly low down in the cut, and some loosely dated prehistoric pottery and Belgic brick, but this is most likely residual material deriving from the enclosure ditch fills.

Waterhole, sump or pit S135

Cut into the southern ditch of the LIA enclosure (S131) was GP 5981 a relatively shallow curvilinear cut *c* 2.93m in diameter by *c* 1.47m deep with irregular stepped sides tapering to a small shallow bowl of a base. LIA pottery and Belgic brick from the fills is almost certainly residual material, and dates from the Roman period (AD50–70).

Timber-framed well S137

GP 5413 a large sub-circular well cut with an irregular, steep-sided profile *c* 6.80m NS x *c* 5.80m EW and *c* 2.17m deep. Contained basal elements of a timber-framed well, 2nd- or 3rd-century. Melon bead (?) recovered from fill of this well.

The well was disturbed in antiquity when the corner appears to have been extracted. The well-lining was constructed with a rectangular base frame of small beams [5355], [5356], [5411], and [5579] that were found in situ. Part of the slightly dislodged oak plank lining [5410] and worked wood debris were found lying in the disuse fill of the well.

The base frame beams were jointed at the corners with cross-halving joints and pierced by square through mortices for the corner posts. This type of construction is very well known in urban Roman carpentry in framed structures, such as wells, tanks cisterns and building frames (Goodburn 1991). It is clear from the examined toolmarks that the shoulders of the halvings were cut out in the typical Roman way using a cross-cut saw, but the ends of the beams were cross cut with axes in a more 'rustic' or native style. The beams were hewn to a rectangular cross section, leaving much sapwood and wane, from small half oak logs. The surviving fragments of the post tenons showed that they had also been of oak. The torn grain on the heartwood surfaces of the beams suggests that they had been cleft out rather than sawn which is rare in urban Roman carpentry. Small pieces of cut roundwood and off cuts had been used as leveling chocks under the basal beams.

In the fill of the disused well there were several pieces of worked roundwood, a short radially cleft oak stake, and some narrow barrel-stave-like elements (or possible fence pales?). Some of this material may have been parts of the upper work of the well head such as fencing. Of most interest was a slightly crooked piece of what appears to be an elm branch with a small through mortice cut in it. The function of this item is unclear and it is the only piece of elm wood of Roman date currently known from the London region. As timber of the elm family was much recommended by various classical scholars and is documented archaeologically in use in the Roman northern Mediterranean, it may be the case that there had been a serious elm disease episode during the Roman period in the region. Later the elms were to be very common trees of the flood plain edge woodlands either side of the Thames and much used in

medieval and post-medieval structures in south Essex, such as Hornchurch Chaplaincy.

Currently it would seem that there is very little potential for dating elements from the original build of the well using dendrochronological methods as they are very fast grown with less than 35 rings. This also currently appears to be the case with the chock material and items in the fill. However, closer examination of the surviving material may produce a small number of viable samples and several wood species ID samples will have to be taken to check visual identifications.

Well S138

GP 525 a sub-circular cut with a u-shaped profile containing a timber-framed well.

The timbers which formed the well lining were a little more 'Roman' in aspect (see Wilmott 1982 etc) with more regular, but still varied planks, set on edge, forming a box lining. This survived four tiers high. The corners were jointed with either bridle joints or single dovetails both of which are well known from other Roman London wells. But they were not nailed or pegged, being supported further at the corner with stakes and diagonal corner struts which also seem to have been used as built-in ladders in some cases in London examples. The pattern of jointing is at present uncertain and may not have been as regular as those of typical City of London examples. One of the lining planks seems to have had a female bridle joint and on one end and possibly a male part at the other. The details can be unravelled when the surviving timbers can be examined in more detail and the broken sections rejoined in some cases. All the planking so far closely examined is of oak.

The surfaces of the timbers had suffered some ancient and post-excavation damage by the time some of the material was seen by this writer in 1996 when the method of conversion could not be seen from the tool marks. Most of the timber appears to have been tangentially faced and may have been sawn out, but others appear to have been radially faced and may even have been cleft?

At least some of the planking was reused as it had relict peg holes and in one case the plank had two free tenons set in its edges. Joints like this are known from Roman classical style boats, ships and furniture.

A number of broadly similar, small roundwood stake tips eg. [554], [556] etc, were also found in the well (c 20 survive well wrapped) which may have been part of a well head fence or part of wattle shoring used during construction of the well? A selection of this material should be drawn and the material sampled both for species and age to attempt to characterise their origin. Such analysis can be very useful for reconstructing early woodmanship practices such as coppicing on a short rotation or salvaging mixed branch wood or hedge prunings. Occasionally even orchard prunings have been found used for wattle work in Roman London containing exotic species such as Stone Pine.

The tangentially faced planking so far closely examined clearly derives from very fast grown young oaks with less than 40 rings. These must have derived from fairly open managed woodland or possibly hedgerow locations where trees typically grow fast in girth. The radially faced planking derives from larger, slower grown trees that may have grown in less managed conditions possibly a pocket of wildwood.

It is likely that the roundwood will be found to have derived from a form of managed woodland, possibly growing along side lager timber trees or 'standards' as was common in later medieval times in the region.

Further work is required on this material but suitable dendrochronological samples from the radially faced planking may be found. These could be cut after any further recording is completed. Two samples were apparently taken in the late 1990's and may still be in viable condition for study (from planks [540] and [571]).

Well S139

GP 6210 a large sub-circular waterhole with a slightly stepped/shallow bowl type profile *c* 2.50m in diameter and *c* 1.30m deep. Probably 2nd- or 3rd-century in date.

Well S140

GP 5216 a *c* 4.60m diameter sub-circular cut with irregular sides at *c* 45 angle, *c* 1.52m deep. Probably 2nd- or 3rd-century in date.

Well S141

GP 5786 a *c* 3.60m diameter sub-circular cut with irregular sides at *c* 45 angle, *c* 2.10m deep. Probably 2nd- or 3rd-century in date.

This well had a partially surviving timber lining quite different to any of those described above. The timber well lining elements were all rather decayed but appear to have comprised a hollowed oak log lining, with some earth fast staves of oak set on end in a partial arc around the dugout shaft. A small oak roundwood stake was also found in the well fill. There may be some numbering problems with a few remaining timber elements that could be from this well. These can hopefully be resolved by more detailed examination of the dubiously labelled items and site photographs which have not yet been closely examined. The details of the burnt daub found in the well may also be relevant.

Well S142

GP 272 a *c* 4.80m diameter sub-circular cut with smooth sides at *c* 45 degree angle, *c* 1.80m deep. There was a sherd of 2nd- or 3rd-century pottery in one of the upper secondary fills although the feature may be earlier.

Well S143

(called structure 7069 by excavator)

GP 7011 a well of 2nd- 3rd- century date. Context sheets are blank, but there are decayed timber remains

Well S154

A very large well cut through a ditched enclosure (ditch GP 28). Measured *c* 3.5m in diameter, probably about 2m deep although the section collapsed before it could be recorded.

9.5 Pits etc

Pit S153

An oblong shaped shallow pit GP 85 measuring *c* 3.5m EW by *c* 1.25m NS.

Pit S170

Pit GPs 2560 2689. Contains a small amount of LIA/Roman pottery, might actually be earlier or later than Roman in fact.

Pit S182

A strange linear feature *c* 5m long by *c* 1m wide, described by the excavator as a pit. No detail as to its depth.

Pit S184

A rounded pit GP 5214 *c* 1.00m in diameter and *c* 0.40m deep.

Isolated pit S189

Lozenge shaped pit GP 5770 *c* 1.60m EW by *c* 0.80m NS.

Pit S191

Pit GP 5946 *c* 0.80m in diameter.

Isolated pit S194

GP 6615, a kidney bean shaped pit with small amount of LBA/EIA and Roman pot. Therefore, dated as Roman, but the Roman pot. could be intrusive, or the prehistoric pot. residual. Approximately 1.5m EW by 1m NS.

Isolated pit S195

GP 6617, a rounded pit with small amount of LBA/EIA and Roman pot. Therefore, dated as Roman, but the Roman pot. could be intrusive, or the prehistoric pot. residual. Approximately 1.75m EW by 1.5m NS.

Isolated pit S198

GP 295 a large sub-circular pit *c* 6m in diameter and *c* 1.25m deep. No finds, but presumed to Roman due to proximity and comparison with other features in this area.

9.6 Cremations

Cremation S150

Possible cremation GP 38. North east part of site.

Cremation S151

Possible cremation GP 42. North east part of site.

Cremation S152

Possible cremation GP 50. North east part of site.

Cremation S159

Possible cremation GP 279. North east part of site.

Cremation S192

Possible cremation GP 6092. North central part of site.

Later evidence: Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval

The focus of Saxon, medieval and later activity seems to have been predominantly in the south part of the site, where pottery was recovered, mainly from the numerous field boundary ditches. Much of these field systems seem to originate in the early to mid Saxon period, with pottery dated to *c* AD400-*c* AD900 or *c* AD450- *c* AD900 from many of the lower ditch fills, and later pottery from the upper fills.

Much of the evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in this southern part of the site may have been lost during mechanical removal of the topsoil, however, there are some prehistoric features, and an abundance of prehistoric pottery was recovered as residual material within Saxon/medieval features.

10 Period 11 Anglo-Saxon c AD 400–AD1066

The Saxon evidence appears slight, but a lot of Saxon pottery was found within the top fills of earlier (usually Roman) features, attesting to a greater Saxon presence than the attributed features may at first indicate. Most of the pottery used to date the Saxon features is early, or possibly early to mid Saxon (probably 6th-century or later: c AD 550–750, or c AD 550–650). Whilst there is the possibility of late Saxon activity at the site, much of this activity has been attributed to the early Norman period instead (see below).

10.1 Cemetery

Cemetery S144

A row of eight possible graves were recorded in the north of the site, although no bone was found within them. However, a number of these contained an iron blade like object in a similar position, and one produced a red and white cube-shaped bead. Residual prehistoric pot, early or mid Saxon pot and intrusive post-medieval pot was also recovered from these features.

GPs 5204 5272 5282 5307 5417 5419 5421 and one planned but unnumbered cut.

Interesting that there is a Saxon cemetery within the LBA/EIA enclosure S109, the earthwork would have perhaps still been a prominent feature on the landscape (see Semple on the re-use of prehistoric earthworks PhD thesis, also Springfield Lyons site in Essex: Buckley and Hedges, ECC, occ. paper no. 5, and the Mucking site) The burials respect the line of the western ditch of the enclosure and of a later, Roman, ditch.

Pit S183

Described as a pit GP 5145. Rounded in plan c 1m in diameter. Situated immediately next to cemetery, so possibly another grave in fact?

10.2 Saxon farming

Ridge and furrow S145

In the middle part of the site there may be ridge and furrow. GPs 167 1033 1136 4315 4496 4546 are probably truncated plough furrows, and GPs 1007 1126 4238 4108 may be boundary or drainage ditches surrounding the fields. The fills of GPs 1007 4108 4238 4496 contained small amounts of Saxon, Roman and prehistoric pottery, although this is most probably all residual material. This may originate during the Saxon period.

Waterhole S181

In the area of the ridge and furrow S145, a feature described as a large pit was recorded GP 4568. This was ovular in plan and had irregular concave sides and a then a stepped break of slope with steeper sides which tapered to a blunt point in the base.

It measured *c* 1.40m by *c* 1m in plan at the top and was *c* 0.70m deep. It seems likely that this was perhaps waterhole. The primary and secondary fills contained early to middle Saxon pottery dated AD 450–900.

Ditch S179

A length of ditch *c* 14.50m long EW, and *c* 0.60m wide GP 4363. Contains some residual prehistoric pot. and some Saxon pot. but could be later than Saxon as it cuts across two of the furrows of S145. Also recovered was a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flint.

11 Period 12 Later medieval c AD 1066–present day

11.1 Later medieval

Early Norman Hall House B131

(Excavator's structure no. 3142)

In the south of the site the foundations of a large building were recorded. This was described by the excavators as a Hall House. It is apparently respected by the field systems which appear quite different to either side. The foundations contained pottery with a common date range of c AD 1000 – c AD1225 or c AD1100 – c AD1225 suggesting that the building was built during the post-conquest period.

The lines of the exterior walls indicate a roughly L-shaped plan with three main compartments within the building divided by internal walls. The excavated upright timber frame could have supported masonry or earthen upper walls. The largest of these is the northernmost room which measures c 16m EW by c 4m NS. The room to the south of this measures c 14m EW by c 3m NS. The smallest room is the southernmost which measures c 5m EW by c 4.50m NS. This room appears to have been bisected to form two or possibly four compartments. There appears to be a covered area to the east of the small room, possibly a lean-to or open ended stable?

GPs

2470.0	2714.0	2724.0	2726.0	2728.0	2730.0
2732.0	2734.0	2736.0	2737.0	2738.0	2742.0
2744.0	2746.0	2754.0	2756.0	2758.0	2760.0
2762.0	2764.0	2766.0	2768.0	2772.0	
2774.0	2778.0	2782.0	2787.0	2801.0	2803.0
2805.0	2807.0	2811.0	2813.0	2933.0	2939.0
2943.0	2945.0	2947.0	2948.0	2956.0	2960.0
2962.0	2966.0	2984.0	2986.0	2988.0	2989.0
3000.0	3008.0	3053.0	3063.0	3065.0	3068.0
3071.0	3073.0	3075.0	3077.0	3079.0	3095.0
3099.0	3101.0	3102.0	3105.0	3107.0	3109.0
3111.0	3113.0	3117.0	3119.0	3121.0	3125.0
3127.0	3135.0	3137.0	3139.0	3141.0	3144.0
3146.0	3148.0	3150.0	3152.0	3154.0	3156.0
3158.0	3160.0	3162.0	3164.0	3166.0	3168.0
3170.0	3172.0	3174.0	3176.0	3178.0 (also contained a late	
Mesolithic microlith)		3184.0	3186.0	3188.0	3190.0
3192.0	3194.0	3196.0	3198.0	3200.0	3202.0
3204.0	3206.0	3208.0	3210.0	3212.0	3214.0
3216.0	3218.0	3220.0	3222.0	3224.0	3226.0
3228.0	3230.0	3232.0	3234.0	3236.0	3238.0
3240.0	3242.0	3244.0	3246.0	3248.0	3250.0
3252.0	3254.0	3256.0	3258.0	3260.0	3262.0
3264.0	3266.0	3268.0	3270.0	3272.0	3274.0
3276.0	3278.0	3280.0	3282.0	3284.0	3286.0

3288.0	3290.0	3292.0	3294.0	3296.0	3298.0
3300.0	3302.0	3304.0	3306.0	3308.0	3310.0
3312.0	3314.0	3316.0	3318.0	3320.0	3322.0
3324.0	3326.0	3328.0	3330.0	3332.0	3334.0
3336.0	3338.0	3340.0	3342.0	3344.0	3346.0
3348.0	3350.0	3352.0	3354.0	3358.0	3360.0
3364.0	3366.0	3368.0	3370.0	3372.0	3374.0
3376.0	3378.0	3380.0	3382.0	3384.0	3386.0
3388.0	3390.0	3392.0	3394.0	3396.0	3398.0
3400.0	3402.0	3404.0	3406.0	3408.0	3410.0
3412.0	3414.0	3416.0	3418.0	3420.0	3422.0
3430.0	3432.0	3434.0	3436.0	3438.0	3440.0
3442.0	3444.0	3446.0	3448.0	3450.0	3452.0
3454.0	3456.0	3458.0	3460.0	3462.0	3464.0
3466.0	3468.0	3470.0	3472.0	3474.0	3476.0
3478.0	3480.0	3482.0	3484.0	3486.0	3488.0
3490.0	3492.0	3494.0	3496.0	3498.0	3500.0
3502.0	3504.0	3506.0	3508.0	3510.0	3512.0
3514.0	3516.0	3518.0	3520.0	3522.0	3524.0
3526.0	3528.0	3530.0	3532.0	3534.0	3536.0
3538.0	3540.0	3542.0	3544.0	3546.0	3548.0
3550.0	3552.0	3554.0	3556.0	3558.0	3560.0
3562.0	3564.0	3566.0	3568.0	3570.0	3572.0
3574.0	3576.0	3578.0	3580.0	3582.0	3584.0
3586.0	3588.0	3590.0	3598.0	3602.0	3604.0
3606.0	3608.0	3610.0	3612.0	3614.0	3616.0
3618.0	3620.0	3622.0	3624.0	3626.0	3628.0
3630.0	3632.0	3634.0	3636.0	3638.0	3640.0
3642.0	3644.0	3646.0	3648.0	3650.0	3652.0
3654.0	3656.0	3658.0	3660.0	3662.0	3664.0
3666.0	3668.0	3670.0	3672.0	3674.0	3676.0
3678.0	3680.0	3682.0	3684.0	3686.0	3688.0
3690.0	3692.0	3694.0	3696.0	3698.0	3700.0
3702.0	3704.0	3706.0	3714.0	3716.0	3718.0
3720.0	3722.0	3724.0	3726.0	3728.0	3730.0
3732.0	3734.0	3736.0	3738.0	3740.0	plus many
unnumbered but planned features					

Additionally, within the context archive boxes, there has been a good deal of work already done –by the excavator on this building. This takes the shape up multiple ‘sub-structure’ groups for various parts of the building and features surrounding the building. At the next stage this material needs to be looked at more closely (Box 21).

Ditched enclosure S147

The hall house (B131) may have been within a ditched enclosure at one time, (before or after the road?). Ditch GP 2678 appears to run along the western side of the building c 6.0m away. It seems to begin to curve around the north of the building but this stretch is only partly recorded. This may form an enclosure with other ditches GPs 1009 2578.

Road or track way R100

Apparently leading to and continuing past the Hall House and timber framed building are two parallel ditches GPs 1013 1011. These are *c* 3.50m to *c* 5.5m apart and may have been drainage ditches on either side of a road or track way. Although the recorded plan data and relationships are confused, it appears that ditches GPs 2676 2472 and 2427 may be the southerly extension of GP 1011. GP 2427 also contained a Late Neolithic worked flint.

No evidence for a road surface itself was found, although this may have been lost during machining. The western ditch GP 1013 appears to be interlinked with ditch GP 2067, which curves away to the west. Perhaps two roads met here in a T-junction. The double ditches may have formed the boundary between two or more estates of land. The shapes of the fields to the east and west of the road are quite distinct from one another (is this possible evidence for two different types of plough or land use? See Hoskins p 74 *The making of the English landscape*, 1988 version)

Two other parallel ditches which run between the projected roadside ditches GPs 2646 2648 (undated) *c* 0.50m to *c* 1.0m apart may represent an earlier or later path or route way.

Pit S174

Immediately south of the hall is a large rounded pit GP 2799, measuring *c* 2m by *c* 1.5m.

Pit S175

To the southeast of the hall is a large rounded pit GP 2974, measuring *c* 2m by *c* 1.7m.

Pit S176

To the east of the hall house, some 9m away a large rounded pit GP 3061 *c* 3m in diameter. There was also some LIA/ROM pot and a Bronze Age flint core/flake from the fill of this pit.

Pit S164

Situated *c* 41m southeast of the hall house, but within the enclosure ditch S147, Pit GP 2558

Timber framed building B135

About 16m north of the Hall House, a rectilinear timber framed building was recorded. Only one posthole (GP 1236) contained some Roman pottery which is almost certainly residual. All other postholes (GPs 1234 1238 1242 1298 1551 1553 1555 1557 1559 1561 1565 1567 1569 1591 1593 and one planned but unnumbered posthole) are undated. It seems likely that this structure is contemporary with the Hall House which lies on a similar orientation and respects the road (see R 100 below). There is also little other evidence for Roman activity in this area.

The building would have measured *c* 8.5m NS by *c* 10m EW and was perhaps one large room with sleeping areas in three corners divided off from the main room by

screen walls. Construction was perhaps earth fast upright post supporting walls, of plank and stave set on timber base plates or earthen construction, and roof structure.

Rectangular Building B146

In the southwest of the site, a rectangular timber framed building measuring *c* 16m NS by *c* 9.50m EW. The building is composed of postholes and probable beam slots that perhaps supported a timber, masonry or composite superstructure. GPs 2379 2381 2385 2393 2395 2397 2399 2405 2407 2409 2421 and three planned but unnumbered postholes. There are also some other postholes that could be attributed to this building although they do not appear to fit into the plan, and there is some prehistoric pottery so the building may overlie a much earlier confused feature. The building probably dates to between AD1150 and AD 1225 based on pot. from beam slot GP 2385, there is also residual Roman and prehistoric material.

Building B136

Approximately 15m northeast of B146 lies another possible building. This consists of a number of postholes GPS 2502 2504 2506 2510 2512 2514 2516 2518 2520 2522 2524 2526 2528 2530 2534 2536 2550 2552 2556. The building probably dates to between AD1150 and AD 1225 based on pot. from GP 2536 although there was some (residual) pot. in GP 2522. The building measures *c* 10m long by *c* 4.5m wide and is oriented NW to SE.

11.2 Post-medieval

Field systems S148

A complex framework of field boundary and drainage ditches exists in the southern part of the site. A small part of the field system(s) may date from the later Saxon/Norman period, but most appear to derive from the later medieval/post-medieval. There are undoubtedly numerous separate phases of activity here. Ditches with dateable material that make up the field system(s) include:

GPs 1003 2067 2070 2079 2162 2345 2349 2359 2427 2345 2435 2437 2441 2457 2484 2540 2566 2568 2578 2427 2652 2685 2933 3093 3095 3137 3141 3148 3178 4048 4050 4113 4194 (which also contained a late Mesolithic or early Neolithic worked flint)

Ditches without dating include: GPs 1005 1007 1011 1013 1075 1274 2001 2008 2010 2014 2016 2072 2088 2100 2103 2115 2117 2164 2177 2208 2220 2245 2353 2361 2472 2508 2538 2542 2564 2571 2573 2580 2582 2584 2586 2589 2593 2603 2620 2646 2648 2676 3045 3051 3592 3600 4003 (which contained a Bronze Age flint core) 4009 4013 4060 4066 (which contained a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age worked flint) 4068 4211 4213 4217

Also several planned but un numbered ditches.

Late intrusion S158

Probably a post-med drain GP 265 contains residual LBA/EIA pot.

Field system S146

In the north-western part of the site three ditches GPs 6599 5443 5439 are probably medieval or post-medieval in date, two contained residual Roman material. They follow a NNE trajectory which does not seem to correspond to any of the other Roman features, and the Saxon graves also follow a different alignment, so these ditches are likely to be of a later medieval date.

12 Bibliography

Guttmann, EBA, and Last, J, 2000, A Late Bronze Age Landscape at South Hornchurch, Essex, *Proc Prehist Soc* 66, 319–359