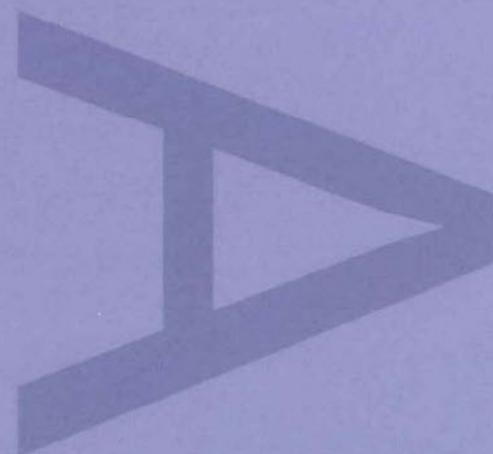
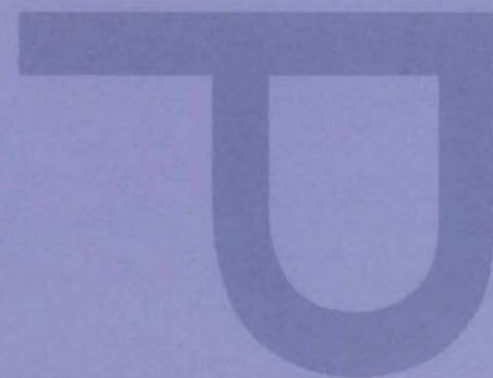


**Assessment of an
Archaeological Investigation
at the Former Royal Sun
Alliance Sports Ground,
Fairway, Raynes Park,
London Borough of Merton**

Site Codes: RSA 08

October 2009



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Assessment of an Archaeological Investigation at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Fairway, Raynes Park, London Borough of Merton

Quality Control

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Assessment of an Archaeological Investigation at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Fairway, Raynes Park, London Borough of Merton

Site Code: RSA08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2300 6890

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. November 2009

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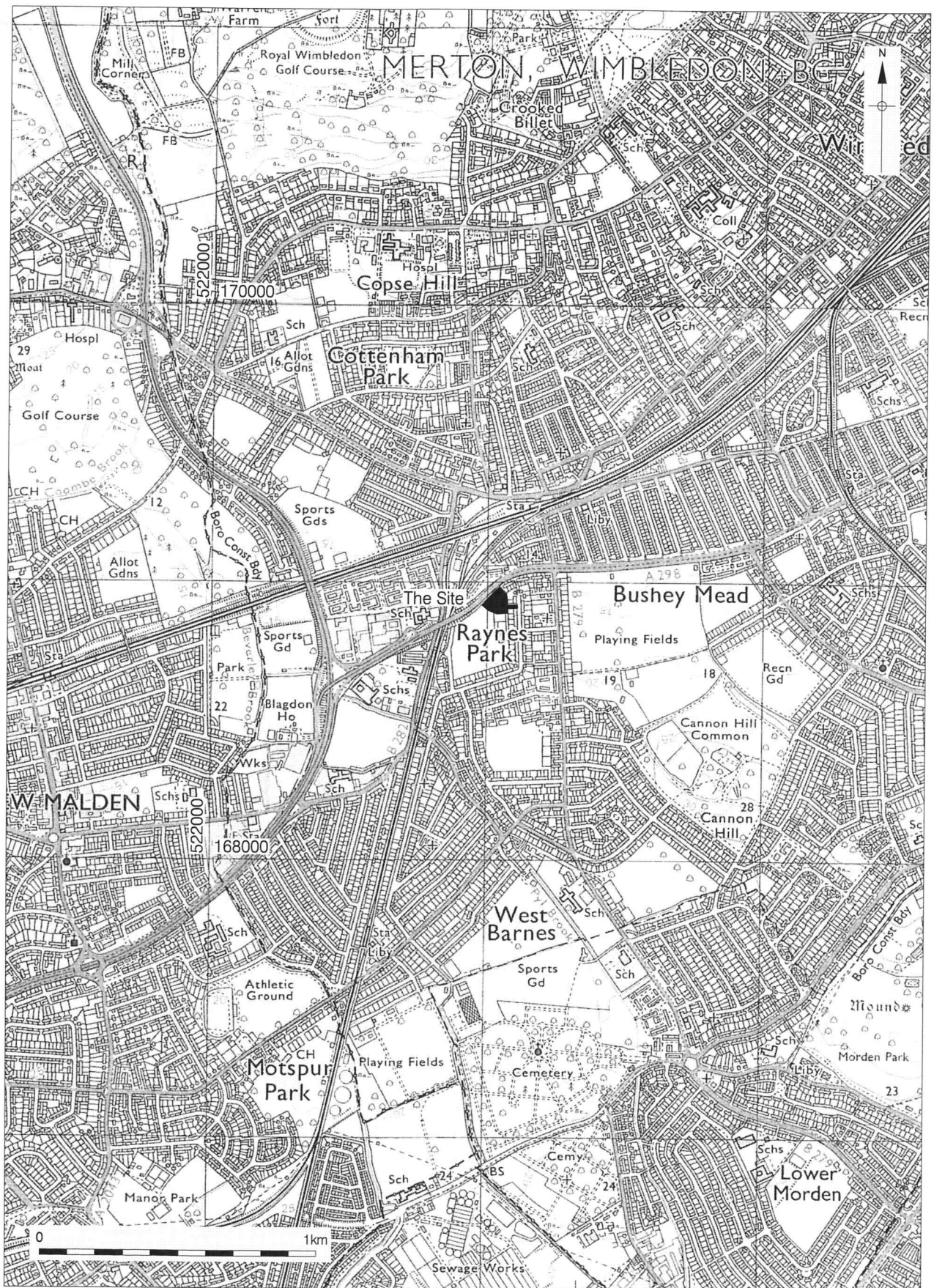
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of archaeological investigations conducted at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Raynes Park, SW20. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2300 6890.
- 1.2 The investigations at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground detailed here consisted of an archaeological excavation and watching brief conducted between the 14th of January and the 22nd of April 2009.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigations at Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground revealed evidence of human activity in the locality ranging from the Late Bronze Age through the Roman and medieval and post-medieval periods up to the present day. A north-west – south-east aligned ditch extended across the site and is believed to represent a prehistoric land boundary. The ditch contained a number of fills rich in cultural material, including a substantial number of sherds of post Deverel-Rimbury sandy flint tempered fabrics comprising shouldered jar rims, bases and perforated plate fragments. A sizable quantity of burnt and struck flint debitage along with some animal bone fragments were also recovered. It appears that over time the ditch silted up and there is evidence for a hedge-row, and tree line being present at least immediately prior to this event. Two postulated livestock enclosures believed to be of Late Bronze Age date, comprising substantial palisade type fencing, were observed adjacent to the ditch, on either side. There was evidence for a tree-line/land boundary shifting over time (containing Roman, medieval and post-medieval material) culminating in a tree-line present on an 1867 OS map, parts of which are still standing outside the site boundary and the remains of which were recorded below the subsoil.
- 1.4 This report outlines the results of the archaeological investigations as a whole and assesses their importance. Recommendations for further analysis are also made, along with proposals for the publication of the results.

2 INTRODUCTION (Figs 1 & 2)

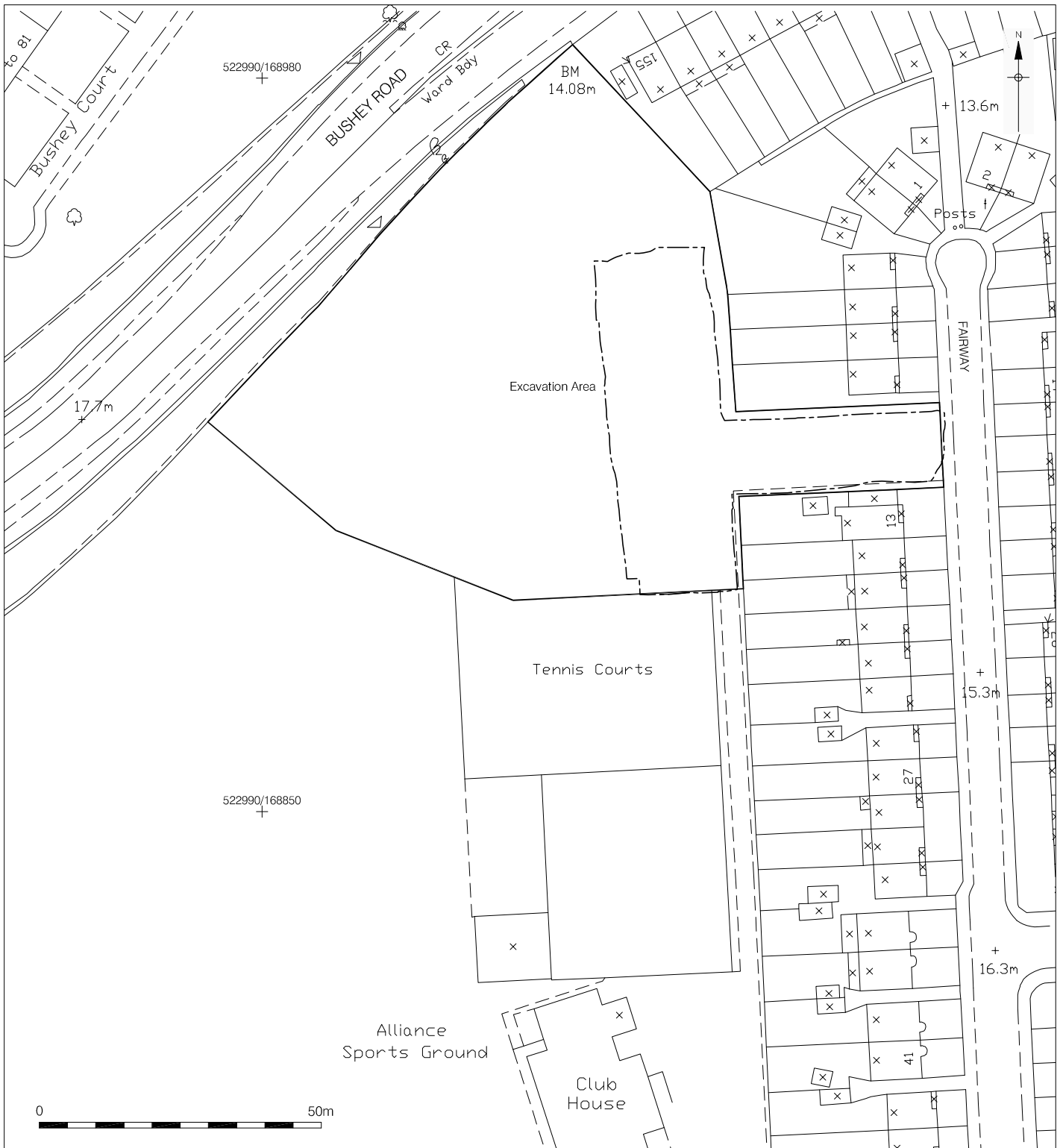
- 2.1 This document details the results and working methods of archaeological investigations conducted at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Fairway, Raynes Park, London Borough of Merton, SW20. The site is centered on National Grid Reference TQ 2300 6890. The work was commissioned by Groveland Estates Ltd and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology under the supervision of Iain Bright and the project management of Mr. Peter Moore.
- 2.2 The site is bounded by Westway Close to the west, the gardens of houses fronting onto Linkway to the south and Fairway to the east, and by Bushey Road to the north. The proposed residential development, approximately 50 units in total, comprises a mixture of 1-4 bedroom apartments and town houses with associated parking facilities and a communal garden at the centre of the site.
- 2.3 After an initial evaluation undertaken in January 2008, an area of excavation measuring 1800m² was opened as agreed with the archaeological monitor, Diane Walls of English Heritage. The archaeological investigations were conducted in two phases, the first between 14th January – 10th February 2009 and the second between the 3rd March – 3rd April 2009. A watching brief was undertaken between 21st – 22nd April 2009.
- 2.4 The archaeological investigations revealed evidence of human activity in the locality ranging from the Late Bronze Age through the Roman and medieval and post-medieval periods up to the present day. A north-west – south-east aligned ditch extended across the site and is believed to represent a prehistoric land boundary. It appeared that over time the ditch silted up and there is evidence for a hedge-row, and tree line being present adjacent to or along the line of it at least immediately prior to this event. Two postulated livestock enclosures believed to be prehistoric in date and comprising of substantial palisade type fencing, were observed adjacent to the ditch, on either side. There was evidence for a shifting tree-line/land boundary between the Late Bronze Age and post-medieval periods culminating in a tree-line shown on an 1867 OS map, parts of which are still standing outside the site.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code RSA08.



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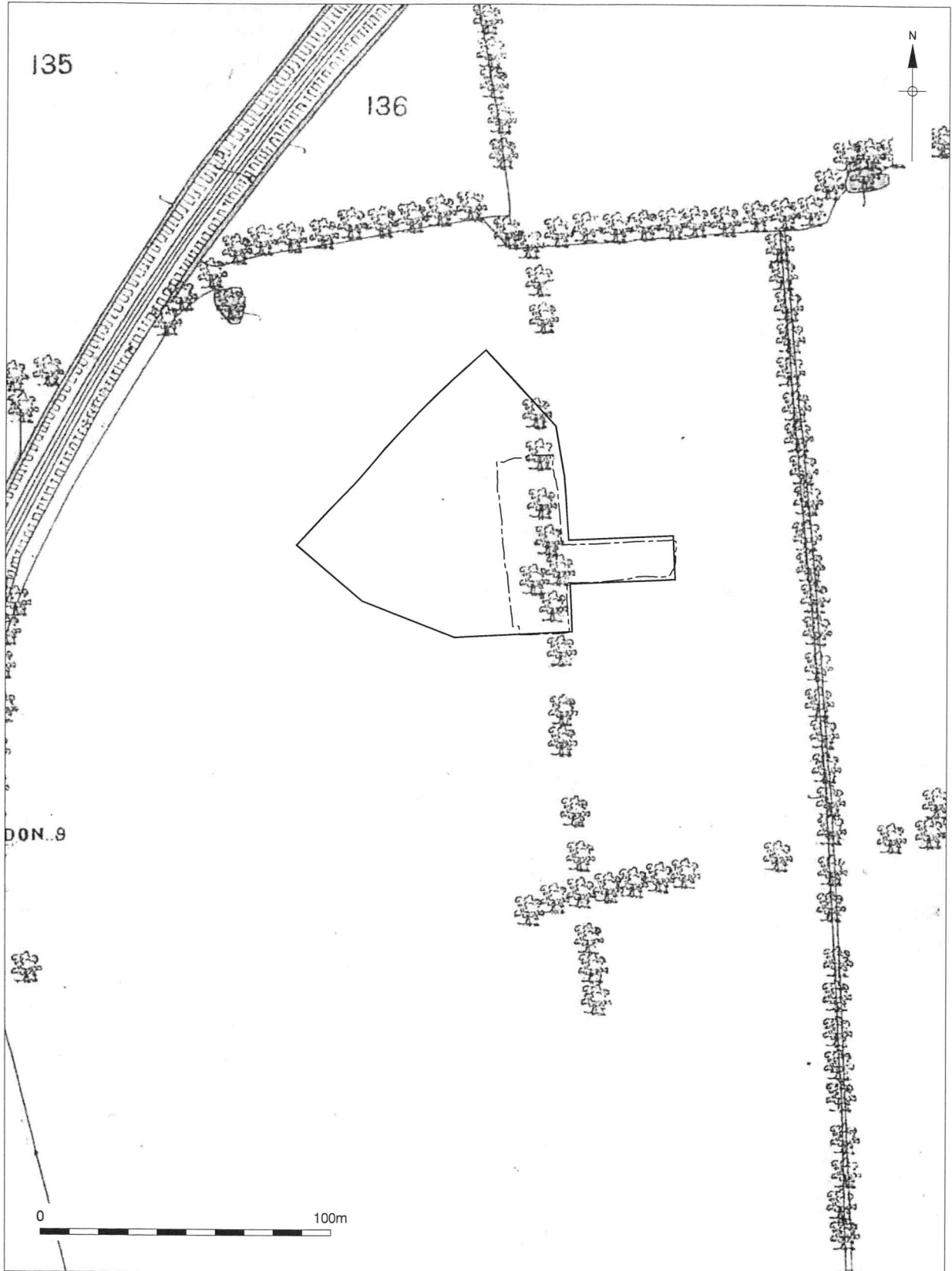
Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4



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Figure 3
Ordnance Survey Map, 1867-71
1:2,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Prior to the archaeological investigations, an archaeological Desk Based Assessment was prepared on the redevelopment area. Although the site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Zone a DBA was prepared to support a planning application for outline planning permission to satisfy objectives detailed in the London Borough of Merton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted in 2003. Outlined below are extracts of the planning background of the site as detailed in the archaeological DBA (Holden 2006):

Archaeology

4.55 Archaeological remains contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They constitute the principal surviving evidence of many aspects of our past and are a finite and non-renewable resource, which is fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. They give us a sense of both national and local identity, and are valuable not only for their own sake, but also for their role in education, leisure and tourism.

4.56 Known archaeological sites can be divided into Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other nationally important sites, and locally important sites. Merton contains three Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Merton Priory; Caesar's Camp; and Morden Park Mound.

4.57 The Ancient Monuments Acts and Planning Policy Guidance Note PPG 16 'Archaeology and Planning' set out Government policy regarding archaeological remains. Some relevant material is also found in PPG 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment'.

POLICY BE.13: ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE EARLY CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AFFECTING SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND THEIR SETTINGS.

(i) THERE WILL BE A GENERAL PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THE PERMANENT PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF ALL SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND THEIR SETTINGS. PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT

WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT SUCH MONUMENTS AND SITES, INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION TO THEM OR WOULD HAVE A HARMFUL IMPACT ON THEIR SETTINGS.

(ii) LOCALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS SHOULD PREFERABLY ALSO BE PRESERVED IN SITU. EXCEPTIONALLY, WHERE REMAINS CANNOT BE PRESERVED IN SITU, THEY WILL BE PRESERVED BY RECORD THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK BY A RECOGNISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROJECT DESIGN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. SUCH PROVISION SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS.

Justification

4.58 The Council considers it is important to prevent potentially valuable archaeological remains and data from being destroyed without record when sites are developed. Merton has been the location of settlement from prehistoric times on and of important industrial developments from early modern times. Consequently, it is likely that there are a number of unexcavated sites across the Borough and past archaeological discoveries and documentary sources can be used to indicate where further evidence may lie buried. The Proposals Map identifies areas of particular archaeological interest which were identified by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, English Heritage in consultation with local archaeological groups. These are known as Archaeological Priority Zones and a list of such zones is included in Schedule 5 of the Plan. This list may change as new information becomes available. All sites on the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) are also a material consideration in the planning process. The Council will consider the use of Article 4 Directions, subject to the Secretary of State's approval, to bring activities that benefit from permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 within the scope of Planning Control in the interests of protecting archaeological remains.

4.59 In the case of sites with archaeological significance or potential, where permanent preservation in situ is not justified, provision shall be made by the developer for an appropriate level of archaeological assessment, investigation and analysis. This should be undertaken by a recognised archaeological organisation before development begins, in accordance with a project design approved by the Council. Such provision shall also include the subsequent publication of the results of the excavation.

4.60 *It is probable, however, that there are other sites of archaeological importance outside these defined Zones. Each case will be treated on its merits and planning conditions and legal agreements will be applied to ensure evaluations and excavations are carried out to a satisfactory standard and archaeological remains are protected.*

4.61 *Merton has been the location of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval settlements and it is likely that there are a number of unexcavated sites across the Borough. The Council considers it is important to prevent potentially valuable archaeological remains and data from being destroyed without record when sites are developed. Developers will be expected to abide by The British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group 'Code of Practice'. The Proposals Map identifies areas of particular archaeological interest which were identified by the Museum of London in consultation with local archaeological groups. It is possible that there could be other sites of archaeological importance outside these defined boundaries. PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning" sets out Government policy regarding archaeological remains. Each case will be treated on its merits and planning conditions and legal agreements will be applied to ensure that excavations are carried out to a satisfactory standard and archaeological remains protected.*

POLICY BE.14: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

BEFORE DEVELOPMENT COMMENCES ON SITE, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE COUNCIL'S SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTE ON ARCHAEOLOGY.

WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS PROPOSED WITHIN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONE, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BEFORE PROPOSALS ARE CONSIDERED. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY ALSO BE APPLIED TO SITES OUTSIDE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONES ESPECIALLY WHERE THEY ARE OVER 0.6 HA OR WHERE THERE IS PROVEN OR KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.

Justification

4.62 *The purpose of such evaluation will be to determine the nature and extent of archaeological remains on the development site and thus to aid the process of decision-making.*

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The 1:50,000 scale British Geological Survey (sheet 270) indicates the study site to be predominantly on Kempton Park Gravel with London Clay outcropping towards the southeast corner. However it should be noted that the archaeological investigations revealed the site to be predominantly underlain with London Clay, the Kempton Park Gravel being barely evident.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is located on a generally flat area of land that slopes gently up from c.14mOD in the north to c.16mOD in the southeast. To the southeast the land forms a low peak known as Cannons Hill with a maximum height of 32mOD.

4.2.2 The site is located some 800m to the east of Beverly Brook, a tributary flowing north into the River Thames. This, in turn, is fed by Pyl Brook that flows in north-westerly direction, passing the subject site c.300m to the southwest, to join Beverly Brook at a point to the west of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 General

5.1.1 Prior to the archaeological investigations, an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was compiled for the redevelopment area. In part the historical and archaeological background and potential of the site was assessed through examination of all archaeological entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) within a 250m radius of the site. In addition, other archaeological, documentary, and cartographic sources were consulted. The archaeological and historical background of the site, as discussed in the DBA, are detailed below (Holden 2006):

5.2 Palaeolithic

5.2.1 A handaxe, 4 inches long, was found in Kingston Road together with 3 cordate axes and a flake.

5.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

5.3.1 In 1997, during an evaluation conducted on Grand Drive, 800m to the south-southeast of the subject site (site code GDD97) deposits of alluvial clay were found together with fragments of later Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint and flint flakes. No evidence of occupation was found therefore it is likely that the artefacts were transported to the site from a nearby occupation site (possibly to the south-west) by water action.

5.4 Roman

5.4.1 The major Roman Road known commonly as Stane Street and connecting London with Chichester, runs approximately 2.5km to the west of the site. Roman bricks are recorded to have been dug out of an ancient arch although the exact location of this feature is unknown and the dating of the material is suspect.

5.5 Saxon

5.5.1 The first documentary evidence for Merton comes to us from the Saxon period. Merton as a place name can be traced to as early as the 7th century, supporting the likelihood of settlement by that date. It is usually translated as 'the farm by the pond' or alternatively as 'Maera's homestead' (www.mertonpriory.org). No material evidence for Saxon activity has been found in the vicinity of the study area.

5.6 Medieval

5.6.1 The Priory of Merton, located approximately 2km to the southwest of the subject site, was founded in 1114 by the Canons Regular of St. Augustine. The Canons of Merton were addicted to hunting and in the fourteenth century were forbidden to keep hunting dogs within their precincts under penalty of being restricted to bread and ale for six feast-days and were later seriously admonished for going about equipped with bows and arrows (Malden, 1977).

5.6.2 West Barnes Farm, located to the southeast of the subject site was originally a grange of Merton Priory. The 1865/7 OS map shows West Barnes Farm to have been located on the north bank of the Pyl Brook and partially surrounded on the west and north side by a water filled moat that was filled by a lock on the Pyl Brook. These buildings may comprise a medieval moated manor.

5.7 Post-Medieval

5.7.1 A number of the Surrey parishes, such as Merton, lacked a nucleated village until the 19th century (Turner, 2004). Merton and West Barnes are depicted on the early 19th century maps published by Cary and Pringle, where the area occupied by the subject site appears as open land.

5.7.2 The 1865/7 Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:2500 map (Figure 3) shows the site in an area of open land bounded by trees with rail lines running close to the north-western corner. A grid of trees within the field is reflected in that immediately to the east. These form the boundaries of the properties on Grand Drive that appear on the OS 1913 edition. Grand Drive is first mentioned in the 1902 edition of Trim's Directory, as

is Raynes Park Golf Club that occupies the subject site with a clubhouse constructed close to the northern boundary.

- 5.7.3 The Raynes Park Golf Club is last mentioned in Kelly's Directory in the 1924 edition. By the 1927 edition, Bushey Road has been constructed and the Alliance Sports Club is first mentioned. The 1933 OS 1:2,500 map shows the subject site as a *Sports Ground* with Bushey Road forming the northern boundary, the eastern boundary formed by new housing along Fairway and the southern boundary formed by line of new housing along Linkway. Three tennis courts are laid out to the south of the Club House; a smaller building is located farther to the south. The eastern side of Grand Drive has been further developed with housing and tennis grounds behind followed by *Prince George's Playing Fields*. More tennis grounds and another sports ground are also positioned to the south of the subject site.
- 5.7.4 A further tennis court is added on the site to the southwest of the clubhouse otherwise there are no changes to the site by the time of publishing the 1952 OS 1:2,500 map. Westway Close now forms the western boundary with housing along its western side and further housing along Linkway to the south.
- 5.7.5 The 1965/67 OS 1:1,250 map demonstrates that the club house was partially demolished and replaced by a new facility positioned over the small building to the south of the tennis courts.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological investigations at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground consisted initially of an evaluation comprising four trenches excavated between the 14th and the 21st January 2008. In all four trenches natural clay was overlain by subsoil and, in turn, topsoil. Although Trench 2 contained no archaeological features, a large ditch was observed running in a north-west to south-east direction in the remaining three trenches. The ditch contained quantities of Late Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint and worked flint debitage, suggesting contemporary activity at the east end of the site. The full details and findings of this investigation are outlined in the evaluation report (Pullen 2008) and are not included here.
- 6.2 Twelve months later archaeological mitigation was undertaken, consisting of the excavation of all archaeological features and deposits located within the eastern half of the site; the area designated as having the most potential for settlement related activity based on the evaluation findings. An area measuring approximately 2,600m² was designated and agreed upon with Diane Walls of English Heritage within which the investigation would take place. The works took place in two phases between 14th January – 10th February 2009 and 3rd March – 3rd April 2009 and were undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Moore 2009).
- 6.3 Prior to the archaeological fieldwork an amount of site clearance was undertaken including demolition of a structure to the north and the removal of concrete and tarmac hard standing over much of the east of the site. After these clearance works the site was stripped down to the archaeological horizon by a 360° mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket.
- 6.4 From the beginning of the fieldwork it was considered a priority to ascertain whether the site represented the western side of a temporary/permanent settlement or if it was part of an agricultural landscape. As such the features uncovered by the ground reduction were surveyed from a baseline onto an overall site plan so as to be able to characterise the nature of the archaeological activity and agree the appropriate sampling strategy. The initial ground reduction revealed that the northern 35m of the strip was heavily truncated by the early twentieth century club house foundations, devoid of earlier features and prone to flooding. As such it was decided at this early

point to write off the area beyond the northern most features identified from the initial clean back. This left an area of 1800m² within which the archaeological investigation would take place.

- 6.5 The excavation was completed in the open under varying extremes of climate including rain, snow and sunshine. Ground conditions on site were poor and the site was prone to heavy flooding and required pumping due to a combination of poor weather conditions and a high water table.
- 6.6 Some weeks after completion of the excavation a watching brief was initiated, upon request of Diane Walls, to monitor ground works undertaken by the contractor. Any archaeological features or deposits were to be fully recorded and located to complete and assist our understanding of the nature of the archaeology on site.
- 6.7 A 5m grid was laid out on site using a Total Station Theodolite (TST). Temporary benchmarks were also established on site with the TST and traversed to different areas of the excavations as and when needed by field staff. The main TBM used throughout most of the fieldwork had a value of 14.70m OD.
- 6.8 All excavated archaeological deposits were recorded on to *pro-forma* context sheets and cut features planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at 1:10 on dedicated polyester-based drawing film. A photographic record was also made as necessary using 35mm colour transparency, black and white negative and digital formats.
- 6.9 The site was given the code **RSA08**.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position within the phased stratigraphic matrix.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1 The machine strip was conducted down to what is believed to be the site occupation level which comprised a weathered natural clay [21] overlying the cleaner clay deposit below [22].

7.2.2 The earlier deposit comprised a firm to moderate mid yellow clay [22]. It was observed in a sondage excavated against the southernmost section of the site at a level of 14.27m OD. The initial machine strip revealed that the natural deposits sloped downhill in a northerly direction. The northern most height recorded for the natural clay was seen in a sondage and recorded at 13.39m OD (see Fig.9).

7.2.3 Areas of natural gravel were observed at either end of the site within respective sondages. Towards the north an orange brown compacted gravel [206] was observed at 12.62m OD, truncated by the early Late Bronze Age ditch [38]. Predominantly located on the west edge of the ditch, the gravel could also be seen on the east side although here it gave way to a light brown, with dark brown staining, natural sandy deposit [207]. The sand bank was recorded at 12.61m OD. Towards the south side of the site a large firmly compacted, well sorted reddish brown gravel deposit [209] could be observed in section [Section 11, Fig 9] at 14.56m OD apparently abutting the natural clay layers. The early Late Bronze Age ditch [38] appeared to be cut into this gravel on the western side. Although there has been some speculation that this could represent evidence of an eroded bank associated with the ditch, it's presence is distinctly lacking elsewhere on site. Although some light amorphous spreads of gravel [210] were observed on the western side of the ditch towards the south of the site it is more likely that all the instances of gravel seen here represent natural outcrops of the Kempton Park Gravel known to be prevalent in this area.

7.2.4 The 'weathered' natural occupation layer [21] was formed of a firm to moderate light greyish yellow clay with pockets of sand and gravel. Across the site occasional to moderate small – medium sub-rounded pebbles were observed within the deposit along with occasional iron staining, charcoal flecking and occasional to moderate rooting particularly towards the eastern side of the site. This layer was observed at 14.37m OD towards the south of the site on the higher ground, sloped down to a level of 12.87m OD at the extreme southern point where the gradient became steeper. Where observed, the thickness of this layer was c 0.17-0.20m. It is thought that the top of this occupation layer was horizontally truncated and that this most likely happened during landscaping for the Raynes Park Golf Club that occupied the site during the first twenty years of the 20th century.

7.3 Phase 2: Forest clearance (earlier phase) (Fig. 4)

7.3.1 The second phase of the site comprises of a number of medium to small shallow cut features with associated fills that likely represent natural events on the site in the form of tree boles, throws and root disturbance. These features may be related to the period when the site was first cleared of trees. Considering the securely dated archaeology present at the site an earlier Late Bronze Age period dating of these events appears to be the most likely

7.3.2 The features that lacked cultural material varied in size from 0.48m – 3.00m in length/width/diameter and depth ranging from 0.12m – 0.38m. They were found at 14.17m OD towards the south of the site and 13.09m OD towards the north. The fills generally consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebble inclusions.

7.3.3 The dating of the features and deposits that, contained cultural material generally in the form of burnt or struck flint, was of limited accuracy. These too have been mainly attributed to tree boles, throws and root action and the associated cultural material recovered is likely to be intrusive.

7.3.4 They ranged in size from 0.36m – 1.90m in length/width/diameter and from 0.08m – 0.29m in depth. The top of the cuts were recorded from levels ranging between 13.40m OD – 14.23m OD. The fills consisted of a mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles.

7.3.5 Two contained non lithic material, in the form of fragments of medieval coarse unglazed roofing peg-tile (Appendix 4) from a tree bole [86] and one small sherd of pottery too small to be dated (Appendix 2) from a different tree bole [159]. These artifacts are intrusive in nature and likely represent later dumping activity occurring within the locality of the site.

7.4 Phase 3: Early Late Bronze Age (Fig. 5)

7.4.1 The single most diagnostic feature of the site is the northwest –southeast orientated ditch [38] that runs from the centre of the southern LOE to the northwest LOE. The profiles recorded show it cutting the weathered natural layer [21], however it is entirely likely that it was originally cut from a higher point that has since been truncated.

7.4.2 Ditch [38] (see also [140], [123] and [217]) was observed running northwest for approximately 53.5m and is predominantly 2.5m wide with a depth measuring between 0.50m – 0.76m. The top of the cut is recorded at 14.37m OD on the southern high ground with the base level at 13.97m OD. Lower down towards the north the cut appears at 13.17m OD with the base at 12.57m OD. The profile of the ditch changed somewhat throughout its course, although for the most part the western edge sloped sharply with a more gradual incline on the eastern edge. It was only towards the centre of the site that both of its sides revealed a more gradual incline, although the original shape returned as the ditch continued north. This suggests that it was maintained over time before the final phase of silting up, with the resulting re-cuts explaining the variations in the profile. For the most part the base of the ditch was narrow and concave.

7.4.3 The primary fill of the cut [90], [122], [147], [203], [204], [208] and [217] varied subtly in nature along the course of the ditch, most likely a product of the downhill movement of the deposits as it silted up. Predominantly the lowest fill of the ditch was a light to mid greyish brown clay with some silt including occasional small sub-angular to sub-rounded flint pebbles, evidence of mineralisation, and charcoal flecking. It measured an average thickness of 0.20m, and its surface was at 13.97m OD to 12.61m OD south – north respectively. The primary fill was largely devoid of cultural material, aside from some fragments of burnt flint and animal bone of indeterminate cattle type (Appendix 5). There was also some evidence for root disturbance. Fills [90] and [147] were of a different nature, located towards the south and comprising a

dark brown silty sandy organic deposit. Appearing quite localised it is likely this deposit was either deliberately dumped here or was transported down by water action.

- 7.4.4 Two of the sondages excavated within the ditch revealed evidence for slumping of natural clay [202] and [205] measuring between 0.10m – 0.20m thick. It appears likely that both these events of slumping occurred shortly after the initial silting up of the ditch as the later fills are clearly seen to abut these deposits in section (Sections 9 & 12, Fig 9). They were at 13.52m OD and 13.17m OD respectively.
- 7.4.5 An additional fill comprising a mid-grey silty clay [88], [89] and [120] appears to overlie the organic fill towards the south side of the site, measuring a maximum thickness of 0.20m. The deposit was observed at 13.93m OD and is only seen towards the south and likely related to the dumping of the organic material. It could represent a buildup of material that has been transported downhill in the same fashion as the underlying deposit. It contained nodules of burnt flint; occasional fragments of sandy coarse flint tempered pottery of Middle to Late Bronze Age date (Appendix 2) and animal bone in the form of a cattle shaft fragment and a metapodial shaft of a large animal, likely representing a red deer (Appendix 5).
- 7.4.6 The next fill, seen in all sondages excavated across the length of the ditch, comprised of a soft to firm greyish brown silty clay [68], [85], [119], [121], [135], [174], and [216]. This was encountered at 14.30m OD on the higher ground towards the south of the site and 12.77m OD on the lower land at the northern end. The thickness of the deposit ranged between 0.18m – 0.60m with the increase appearing towards the lower north end. The fill contained frequent small to medium fragments of burnt flint, occasional flint nodules, occasional charcoal flecking, occasional daub from [119], and evidence of mineralisation. Fill [135] contained a highly fragmented horncore from either cattle or sheep/goat and the remains of a pair of cattle mandibles (Appendix 5). Fills [85], [119] and [135] produced fine sandy, sandy medium flint tempered and sandy coarse flint tempered pot sherds datable to the Late Bronze Age. Fill [119] in particular contained the rim of a post Deverel-Rimbury shouldered jar and a perforated plate fragment the like of which has not been seen in this area before (Appendix 2).
- 7.4.7 The upper fill of the ditch [37], [83], [105], [118], [134], [173] and [215] comprises a soft to moderate reddish greyish brown silty sandy clay containing frequent flint

nodules, flecks of charcoal, moderate to frequent fragments of pot, burnt and struck flint debitage. This fill also displayed evidence of tree root activity. The top fill was seen at a level of 14.37m OD in the southern and 13.17m OD in the northern section with a thickness of between 0.10 – 0.35m. This top fill had been horizontally truncated which had removed the top archaeological horizon across the whole of the site. Fills [37], [83], [105], [118] and [135] all contained fine sandy, sandy medium flint tempered and sandy coarse flint tempered pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age including post Deverel-Rimbury heavily gritted bases in fills [37] and [105], and additionally two rims of post Deverel-Rimbury shoulder jars and a perforated plate fragment from the latter (Appendix 2). The remains of an adult cattle molar were recovered from fill [105], which appeared to be from a mandible of an animal of about 2 years of age (Appendix 5). Fill [83] appeared to contain a Lodsworth Greensand saddle quern stone the type of which is usually datable from as early as the Middle Iron Age until well into the Roman period (Appendix 4). Given its nature close to the surface of the upper fill combined with the evidence for tree root activity within this fill, it is likely that this find is intrusive in nature.

7.4.8 The sheer volume of pottery and flint recovered from the upper fills of the ditch attest to the probability of a settlement being located very close by, most probably to the south/south-east where the land rises away from the lower wetlands to the north. The quantities of burnt flint present within the fills and across the site, do not suggest sizable activity in the immediate vicinity with the flint likely resulting from cooking hearths or other such domestic activities.

7.5 Phase 4: Late Bronze Age (Fig. 6)

7.5.1 The subsequent phase followed after the original ditch had silted up. It appears from tree root evidence and the existence of likely tree boles in this upper fill that the line of the ditch may later have formed an early hedge row or tree line. Hedgerows accompanying linear boundaries were more reliably stock-proof (Pryor 2006: 86). It is archaeologically difficult to demonstrate the existence of ancient hedgerows (Ibid: 70-1), and as such the evidence detailed below, may be the best that can be expected.

7.5.2 The first tree bole [112] was located towards the south end of the site, and truncated the upper fill of the early Late Bronze Age ditch and measured 2.50m by 2.70m and was approximately 0.30m deep. The top of the cut was circular with sharp sides and a flat base and was recorded at a height of 14.20m OD. The fill [111] comprised a

moderately compact dark grey/black silty clay containing frequent fragments of burnt flint, occasional fragments of struck flint and frequent fragments of pottery. The pottery was of a sandy medium flint tempered type datable to the Late Bronze Age forming fragments of a perforated plate (Appendix 2). A similar tree bole [213] was observed towards the north, once again cut into the upper fill of the ditch (Section 12, Figure 9). It measured 1.50m by 1.50m was truncated to the north by an evaluation trench. Its depth was 0.25m at 13.64m OD. The top of the fill of the ditch in this area was noted as being particularly rich in charcoal suggesting that the area of the projected hedge/tree line may have been subjected to burning at some point. The tree bole contained three fills [211], [212] and [214] comprising soft to moderately compacted silty clay. The upper fill contained frequent charcoal flecking; moderate burnt and, struck flint and fragments of pot. The pottery was identified as sandy medium flint tempered dating to the Late Bronze Age (Appendix 2).

7.5.3 Around the same time it appears that two possible structures were constructed adjacent to the silted up ditch, one to the west and one slightly further north and to the east (Figure 6). The structure to the west comprised a series of seven large postholes [129], [131], [127], [152], [150], [143] and [145] ranging in diameter from 0.30m to 0.96m, all approximately 0.15m to 0.20m in depth. They were observed at a level of c13.80m OD and were filled with a moderately compacted light yellowish brown silty sand containing small rounded flint pebbles, occasional charcoal flecking and occasional struck flint. Cuts [127], [129] and [131] appear to truncate the upper fill of the earlier ditch. The arrangement of the postholes formed a crescent shape with an opening to the north. A gully like feature was observed within the shape of the structure, cut from the same level as the postholes and running from the south out the postulated 'entrance' [30], measuring 5.00m in length and up to 0.60m in width with a depth of 0.15m. This feature was likely dug for the purpose of drainage. Fills [29], [126], [151], and [153] all contained worked/struck flint debitage. The second structure located, approximately 12.5m due north east and on the opposite side of the ditch, is of a similar crescent like shape. It comprises of six large postholes [166], [169], [175], [185], [187] and [195] ranging in diameter from 0.58m – 1.12m. A large pit like feature [171] measuring 2.06m by 1.33m was enclosed within the line of the postholes and two further small postholes [162] and [164], were observed immediately west, with diameters measuring 0.20m and 0.28m respectively. All features were located an average level of c13.55m OD. No cultural material was recovered from the fills of these postholes, and they have been phased together with the first structure solely on the basis of similarity. It is posited, given the substantial size of the post holes, that these two structures represent a type of palisade fencing,

possibly designed for the holding of livestock. Sheep handling pens for the Bronze Age have been recognised on other sites across Britain, particularly in the north, and a similar palisade structure has been seen bounding roundhouses for the specific purpose of channelling or penning animals (Toolis 2009).

- 7.5.4 One final feature that has been included with this phase is a medium sized oval pit [139] located on the eastern edge of the main ditch. The pit with, concave sides and base, measured 0.94m by 0.70m by 0.13m deep. The fill [138] comprised a soft mid grey brown silty clay containing moderate charcoal flecking, iron staining, occasional pedologically altered sandy medium flint tempered Late Bronze Age pot fragments (Appendix 2) and occasional struck flint debitage. It is possible that this pit represents a tree bole associated with the probable hedge/tree line.

7.6 Phase 5: earlier Post Medieval (Fig. 7)

- 7.6.1 This phase comprises what appears to be a shifting tree/hedge line/land boundary. As previously stated it is believed that some time after the main boundary ditch silted up a hedge or tree line grew up or was intentionally planted to reinforce the land boundary. An 1867 OS map shows a tree line running in a rough north – south alignment along the eastern edge of the main area of the site (Figure 3). It is proposed that this post-medieval tree line is the continuation of the original land boundary that shifted over the millennia.
- 7.6.2 Evidence for this lies in the form of a series of large irregular/linear features and tree boles [60], [64], [72], [74], [98], [102], [104], [108], [116], [137], [155], [180], [188], [191], [197], [198] with little or no cultural material contained within. The linear features, thought to represent hedge or tree lines, varied in size from 5.00m by 1.50m to 12.00m by 3.00m. The fills generally comprised a mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular flint pebbles and struck flint debitage. The features were seen cutting the weathered natural [21] at levels ranging from 13.54m OD to 14.00m OD. The datable material that was recovered from the associated fills, however, indicated activity in the vicinity of this site from periods post-dating the Late Bronze Age. The fill of a tree bole [59] and of a linear tree / hedge line [97] contained fragments of a hard sandy Romano British pottery type (Appendix 2). In addition a small quantity of abraded Roman tile (including an imbrex fragment) were identified in fills [59] and [103] of a linear gully like feature believed to be the result of tree root activity [104] (Appendix 4). In addition a number of fragments of

coarse unglazed roofing peg-tile were identified from [97] which attest of medieval (1135-1500AD) activity in the area.

7.6.3 Given the date range of the materials uncovered from this phase of tree root activity it seems sound to interpret their presence as representing a shifting land boundary in the form of a hedge/tree line between the Late Bronze Age and the post-medieval periods. Cut [72] appeared to turn in an easterly direction, perhaps forming a medieval boundary that was no longer present by the time of the 1867 map. Although evidence for tree root activity appears to diminish towards the north, this could be attributed to the natural decline of slope that occurs in this area, with the root disturbance not penetrating deep enough through the subsoil to affect the weathered natural below in this area.

7.6.4 Included within this phase is the layer of colluvium [20] present across the whole site, sealing the cuts and fills of all features noted in previous phases. This subsoil consisted of a moderate to soft mid-light brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles. Included within it were fragments of Romano British pottery (Appendix 2), abraded Roman tile, medieval unglazed roofing peg-tile (Appendix 4) and post medieval tile. The watching brief undertaken in the extreme south-west corner of the site uncovered a higher concentration of the Roman, medieval and post medieval CBM fragments within this layer, suggesting that whatever activity was taking place within the vicinity may have occurred further south, possibly south-west, of the area of excavation. It is almost certain that this layer was substantially disturbed over time, possibly during the construction of the Golf Club, and its associated landscaping, in the late 19th – early 20th century.

7.7 Phase 6: later Post-Medieval (Fig. 8)

7.7.1 Further Post-Medieval activity is attested by the presence of ceramic building material present in the colluvium [20], suggesting dumping activity in the area.

7.7.2 The 1867 OS map shows the site to include open fields with a line of trees running in rough north-south alignment (Fig. 3). Although part of this tree line still exists to the south of the site boundary, it does not within the site itself. However evidence for the presence of this tree line exists below ground in the form of heavy root disturbance [55] and [65] and in some occasions the presence of tree stumps and tree roots. The line of the root disturbance runs the entire length of the area of excavation (north –

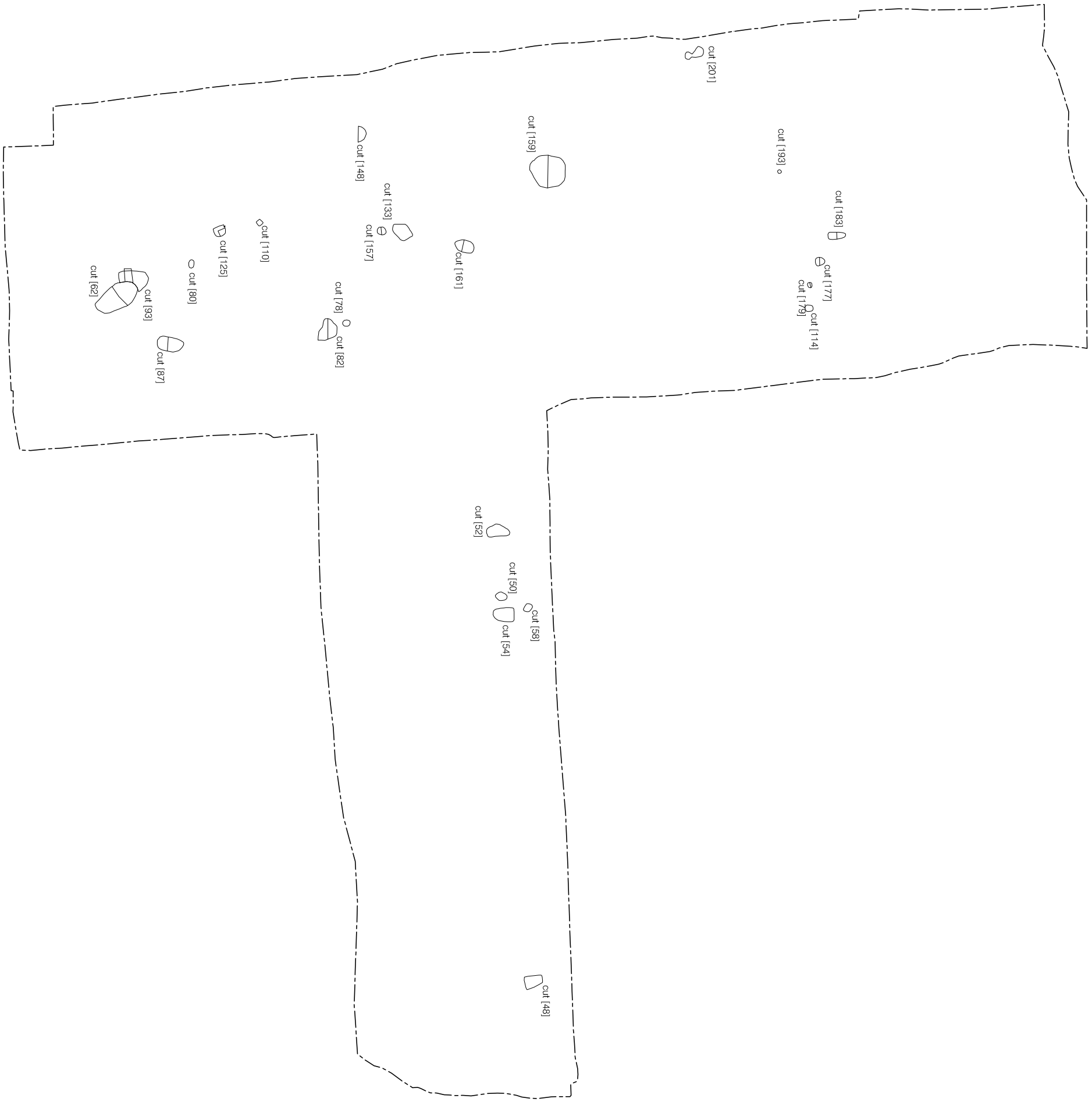
south) with a maximum recorded width of 4.00m. The root disturbance was recorded at a level of 14.05m OD although it was almost certainly present higher up within the subsoil.

7.8 Phase 7: Modern

7.8.1 Modern activity was represented by a number of stake holes [+] located towards the north, almost certainly related to the construction of the Golf Club during the late 19th – early 20th century, an electricity cable [56], and a storm drain [+] running from the site entrance to the east, along the south of the drive way, turning and running south along the eastern side of the main part of the site.

7.8.2 In addition modern ground disturbance was observed at the eastern site entrance [46] (the result of investigative ground works to obtain the location of the storm drain), and immediately south of and adjacent to one of the evaluation trenches [+] and [110]. This was believed to have occurred during the excavation of the evaluation trench the previous year.

7.8.3 Overlying the whole site was a 0.20m thick layer of topsoil [19] comprising friable dark grey brown sandy loamy silt. It is likely the top soil was laid during the 20th century as ground leveling and consolidation for the surface of the sports field. The topsoil was at c14.48m OD.



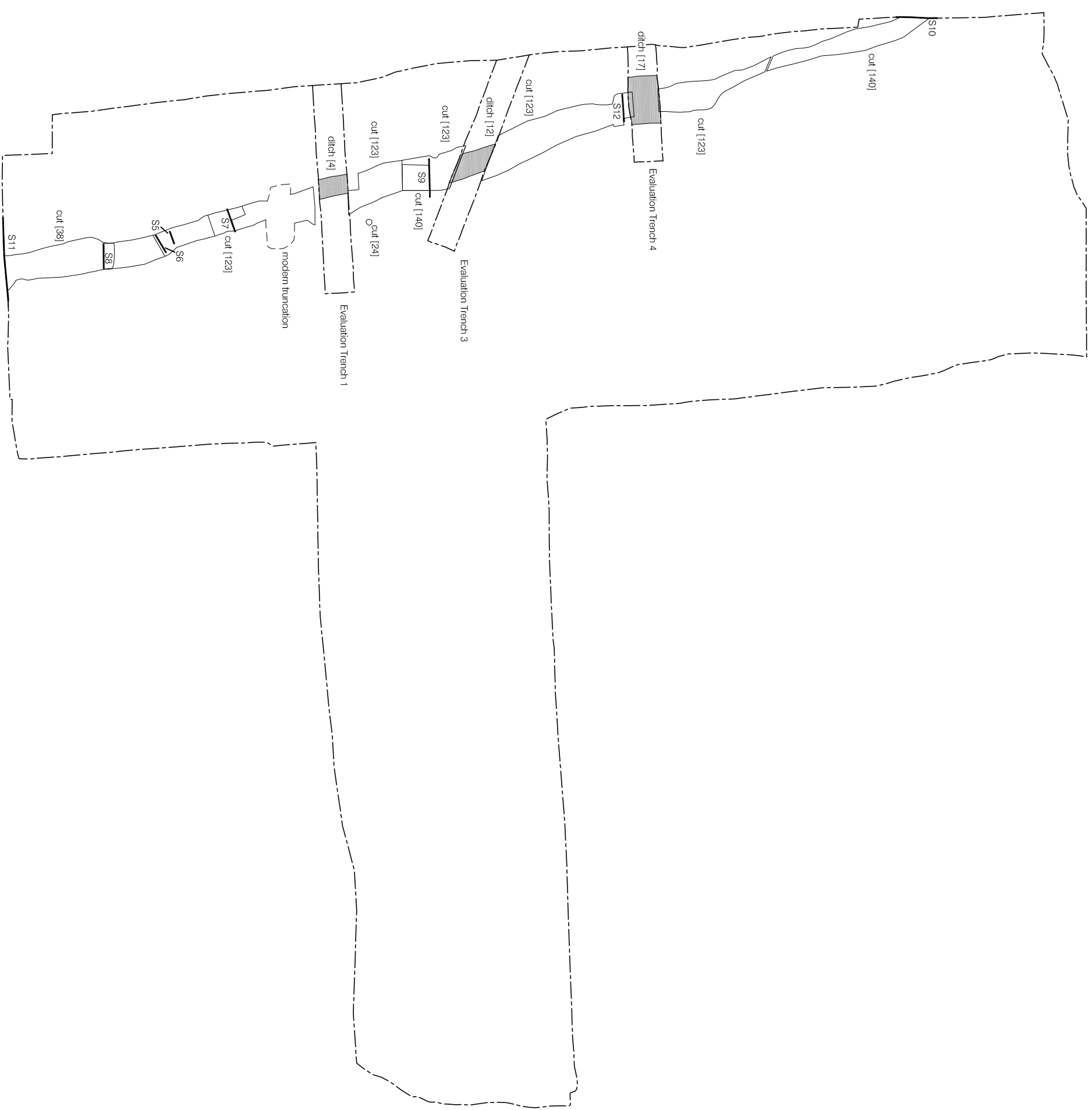
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Figure 4
Phase 2: Tree Clearance
1:250 at A3



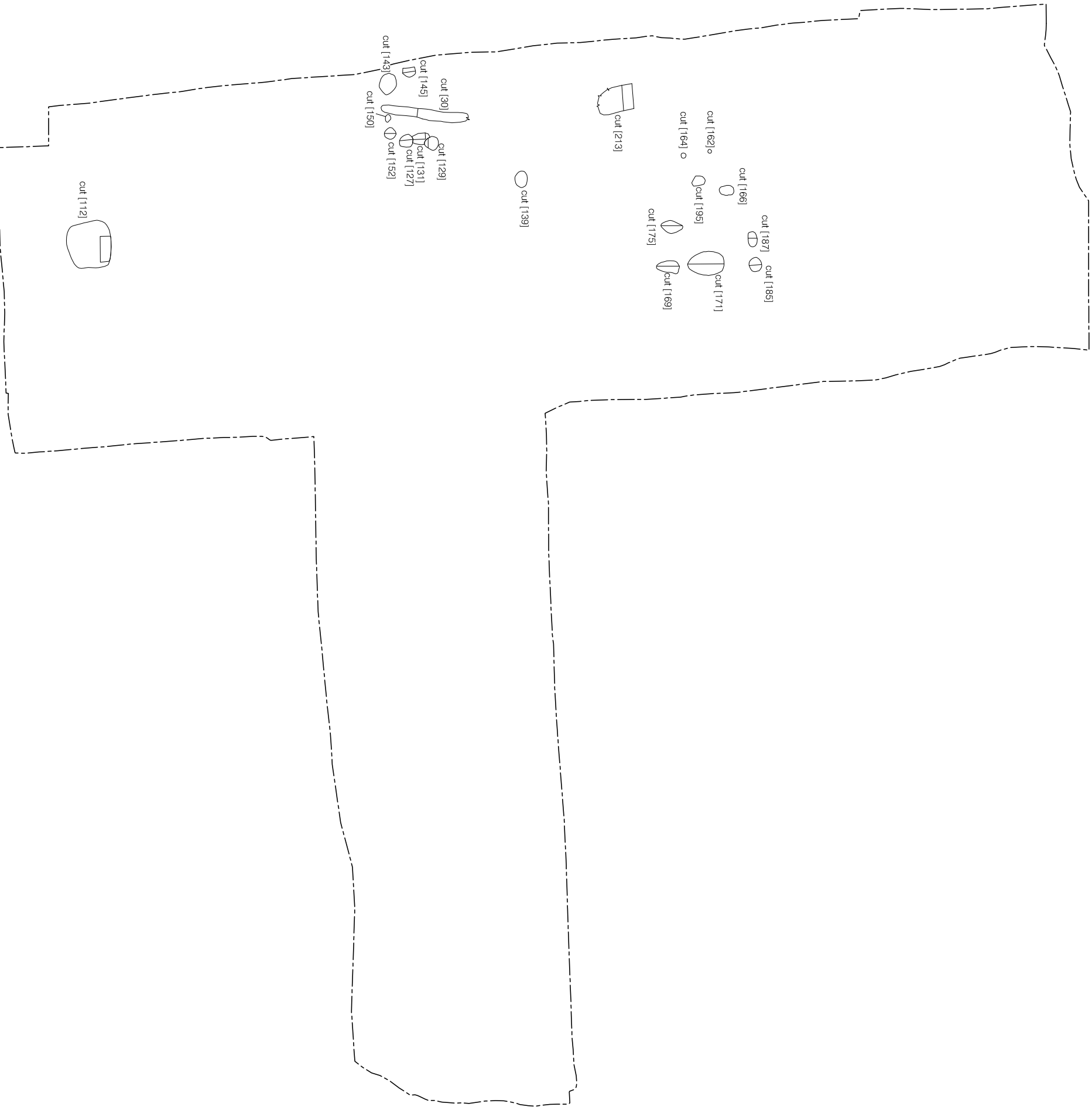
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Figure 5
Phase 3: Early Late Bronze Age
1:250 at A3



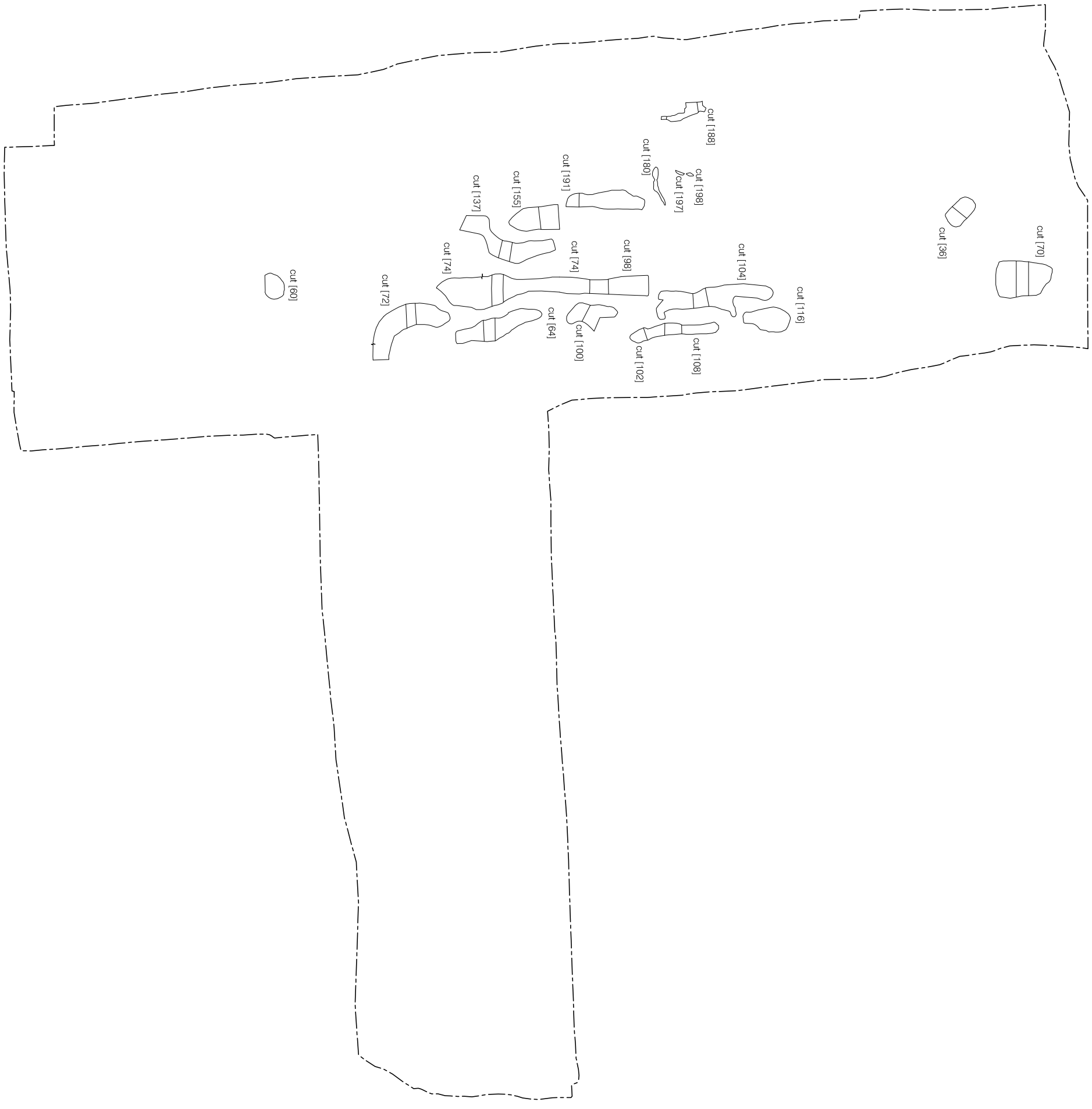
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Figure 6
Phase 4: Late Bronze Age
1:250 at A3

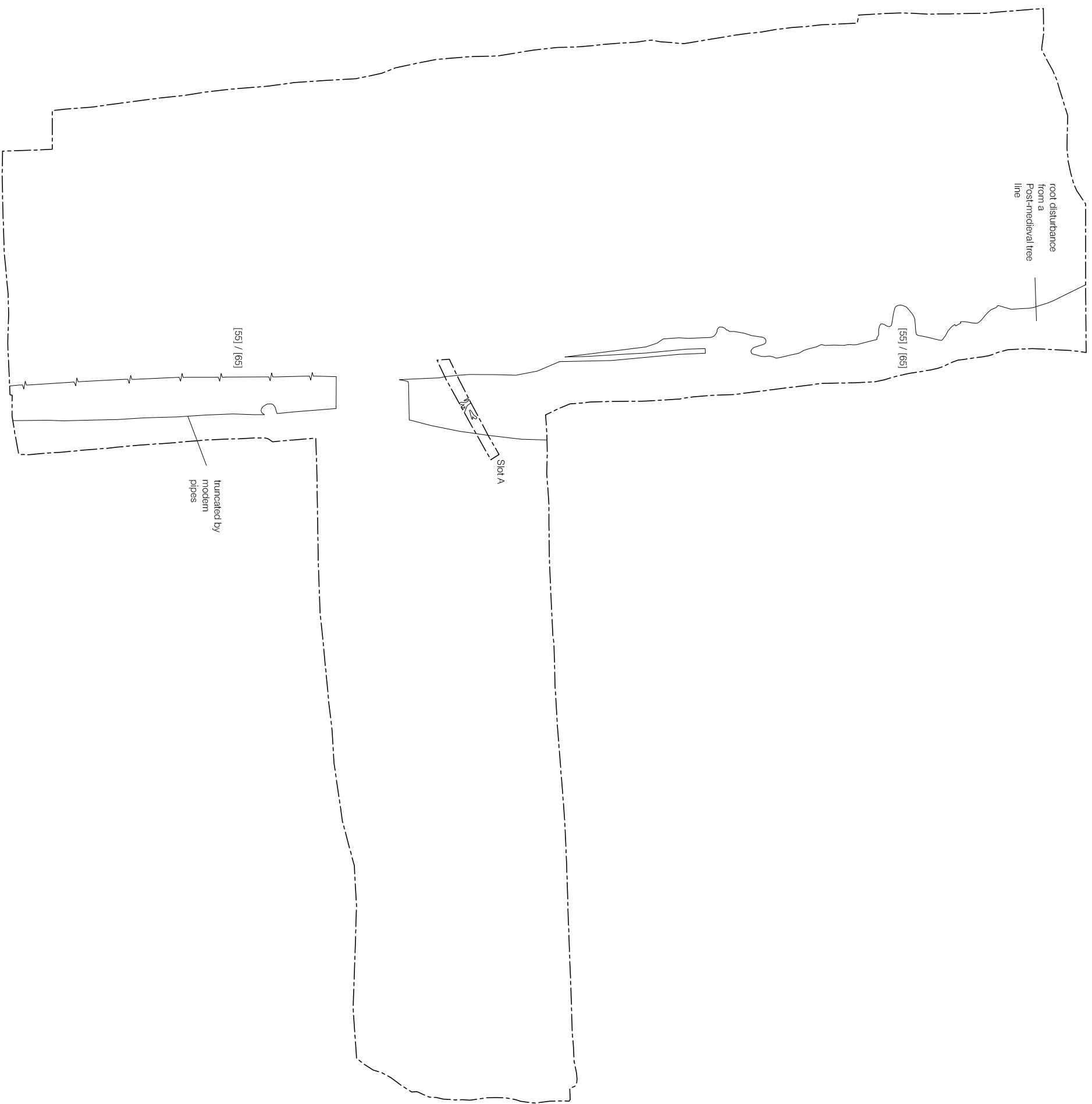
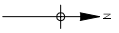


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Figure 7
Phase 5: Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval
1:250 at A3



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523115/168900

0 10m
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Figure 8
Phase 6: Post-Medieval
1:250 at A3

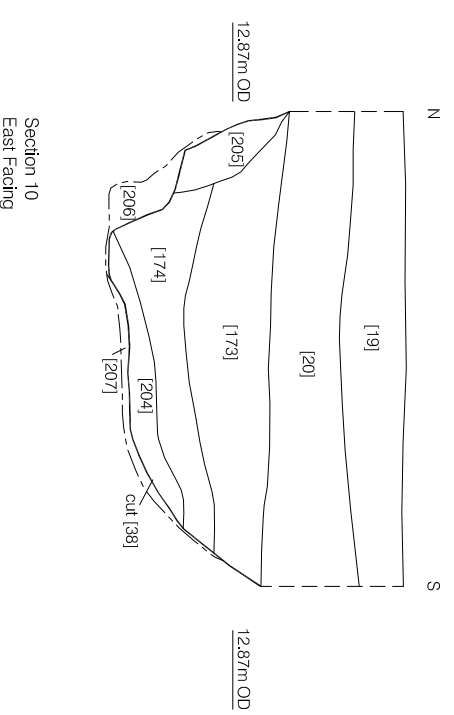
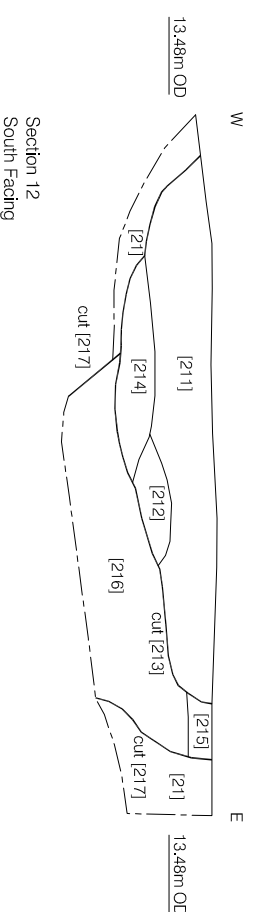
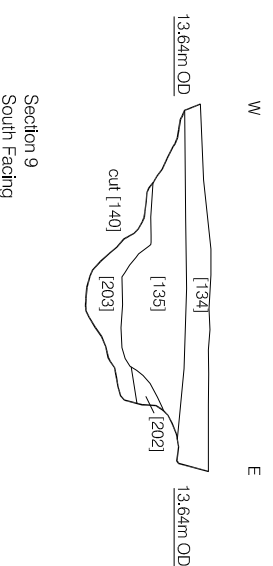
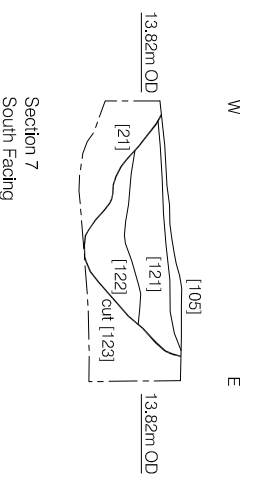
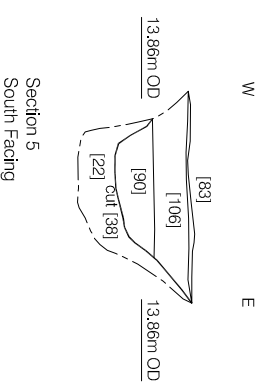
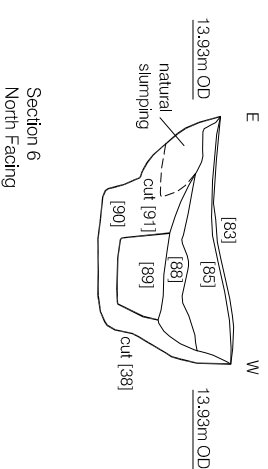
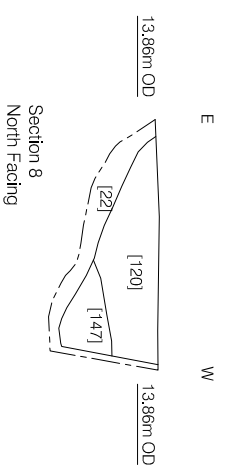
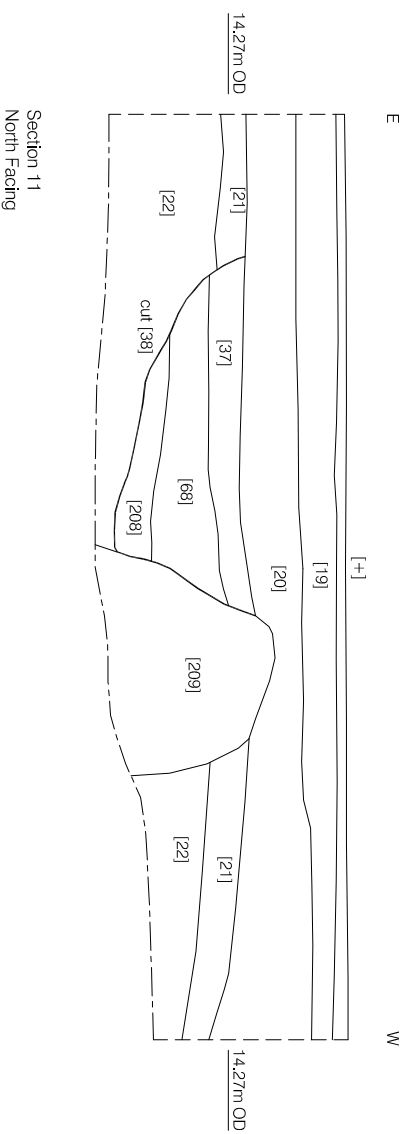


Figure 9
Sections 5 - 12
1:40 at A3

8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8.1 Original research objectives

8.1.1 Specific research objectives were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Moore 2009). A discussion of the information obtained from the archaeological investigations in relation to research objectives follows below.

- *What is the extent of the archaeological resource on this site?*

It is apparent that the archaeological features and deposits were primarily located in or around the immediate vicinity of the north-west to south-east aligned ditch, datable to the Late Bronze Age. The scarcity of finds and perceptible features towards the north and east of the site (with the exception of those datable to the late post-medieval, early modern period) suggest the ditch to be the locus of any activity present on site.

- *What is the nature of the archaeological site present on site?*

Aside of the Late Bronze Age ditch, which appears to represent a boundary for land utilised for agricultural purposes, there appears to be little further evidence for human activity. A series of postholes on the east and west sides of the ditch appear to represent evidence for two small but substantial enclosures. The upper fills of the ditch are rich in cultural material, in particular pottery fragments and struck flint debitage.

- *Is there any evidence of prehistoric settlement activity on the site?*

There appears to be little or no evidence of a prehistoric settlement within the site boundaries. The two small structures observed on either side of the boundary ditch are likely to be related to agricultural activity. Although the substantial quantities of Late Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint, struck flint and animal bone attest to the presence of a settlement of substantial size within the locality, it does not appear to have existed here.

- *Is there any evidence of prehistoric agricultural activity on the site?*

The structures located adjacent to the ditch were small but quite substantial in nature, as evidenced by the size of the postholes. It is therefore possible that these structures formed palisade style enclosures designed to securely hold livestock in a fashion similarly observed on other Bronze Age sites (Toolis 2009). The presence of animal bone within the ditch attests to the notion of the farming of livestock, particularly for use as a food source, within the vicinity at this time.

- *Is there any evidence of later settlement or other activities on the site?*

The presence of Romano British pottery alongside early Roman tile, medieval peg-tile and post-medieval tile suggest that activity, even if only in the form of dumping, continued during these periods in the vicinity. There is also plausible evidence that the Late Bronze Age land boundary was largely respected, with a slight variation of trajectory, up until the post-medieval period and into present day in the form of the residential garden boundaries to the east of the site.

8.2 Additional Research Questions

- How does the apparent longevity of the Bronze Age land boundary compare with that of other Bronze Age boundaries in the South East and can its long survival be explained?
- How does the archaeology on this site change our perception of the archaeological resource of this part of Merton?

9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Paper Records

- Contexts 220 sheets
- Plans 246 sheets
- Sections 10 sheets
- Environmental Sheets 38 sheets

9.2 The Finds

- Pottery 2 boxes
- Lithics 1 box
- Miscellaneous (CBM/daub/animal bone) 1 box

10 IMPORTANCE OF RESULTS AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE

10.1 Importance of the Results

10.1.1 One of the primary objectives of the archaeological excavation was to obtain evidence for the prehistoric settlement activity indicated on the basis of findings of the evaluation, undertaken the previous year. The primary indicator for settlement was the presence of the north-west – south-east aligned ditch and the cultural material contained within it, which was securely dated to the Late Bronze Age. During the course of the excavation it became apparent that the ditch represented a land boundary and indeed that it was well established. Linear boundaries rarely occur as isolated features and are usually spatially associated with a range of contemporary monuments of which settlements are one (English Heritage 1990). Indeed the nature of the cultural material uncovered supports the notion of settlement activity close by, not only the volume and type of pot recovered but also the quantity and nature of the flintwork; the latter not commonly observed outside the expected range for settlement sites (Needham 1987: 111).

10.1.2 The ditch represents a land boundary possibly connected to the laying out of field systems, and the concept of landscape divisions being formalised (Ibid: 135). It is known that agricultural intensification occurred during the Late Bronze Age and sites elsewhere in the region have provided data that indicates the exploitation of red deer, cattle, and sheep/goat (Branch & Green 2006: 14). Indeed animal bone from these species have been recovered from the boundary ditch. Evidence for this and other such agricultural activity has been gathered from local sites at Kingston, Tolworth and Old Malden (ibid). Indeed it has been recognised that the likelihood of surviving archaeological evidence for rural sites and field systems away from the gravel areas is high but that thus far little evidence has been obtained (Bird 2006: 32), raising the level of this site's importance.

10.1.3 The notion of a land boundary, shifting somewhat, but in essence in continuous use from the Late Bronze Age to the post-medieval period through to the modern day is not a new one. It has been recognised that some were maintained over very long periods of time and there are examples of ones which have ended up being incorporated into later parish boundaries. There are also medieval field boundaries which were laid out on dykes which are of purported prehistoric origin (English

Heritage 1990). The Raynes Park site seems to provide evidence for continuous use of a land boundary over nearly three millennia.

10.2 Further work

10.2.1 Research frameworks for both London (Nixon *et al* 2002) and Surrey (Bird 2006) have established a number of key issues and objectives when dealing with archaeology within these regions, a number of these have implications for further work in relation to the site at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground.

10.2.2 Although it is established that the monument-dominated landscapes of the early Bronze Age made way for a series of organised agricultural landscapes, little is known about the core/periphery model when applied to settlements and their related subsistence activities. If the archaeology at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground represents the edges of an occupied landscape in the form of a divided/territorial field system utilised for farming activity, then where does the main settlement area lie? A key framework objective identified for the London region is define complete plans for open settlements, determining where the settlement ends and other activity, such as stock pens and fields begin (Nixon *et al* 2002: 24).

10.2.3 Listed below are the recommendations for future work identified in the specialist assessments (see appendices):

- **Prehistoric pottery assessment**

Interest lies in the likelihood that the assemblage here comprises of a closed, early Late Bronze Age group, and since it can be taken accurately to reflect pottery usage activity in the vicinity during this period, further work can be explored through comparative analyses of the fabrics and forms present.

- **Lithics assessment**

The LBA flint assemblage constitutes a rare example of a securely dated and moderately large group of this type of material for the region. The assemblage should therefore be examined in greater detail, including metrical, technological and typological analyses. It should be published alongside the account of the excavations. The technological strategies used, and the uses to which the assemblage may have been put, its distribution within the ditch, both spatially and stratigraphically should all be considered. The patterns of refitting should be recorded and analysed in order inform on the temporality of production, use and discard.

Burnt flint assessment

The burnt flint should be described for publication, its distribution considered and the material compared with that found on analogous sites.

- **Ceramic Building Material assessment**

No additional work required.

- **Animal Bone assessment**

No further work is warranted but the presence and species of animal bone should be described in any published accounts of the investigations.

- **Slag assessment**

The slag should be more closely analysed to confirm its identification and a description of the material included in the publication text.

- **Environmental assessment**

No additional work required.

10.3 Publication outline

10.3.1 The recommendation is for the archaeological results to be published in the London Archaeologist. An outline for the publication is detailed below:

Archaeological Investigations at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Raynes Park

- Introduction to the Project
- Historical and Archaeological Background
- Archaeological findings
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements
- Bibliography
- Accompanying illustrations

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Philip Dodds of Groveland Estates Ltd for commissioning this project and Diane Walls of English Heritage (GLAAS) for monitoring the works on behalf of English Heritage and the London Borough of Merton. The author would like to thank Denise Mulligan, Matt Harrison, Tristan Adfield, Patrick Cavannagh, Will Johnston, Amelia Fairman, Matt Edmonds, Phil Frickers, Dougie Killock and Alexander Pullen for their hard work, particularly under difficult weather conditions. The author would also like to thank Kevin Reilly for the assessment of the animal bone, Kevin Hayward for assessment of the building material, Mike Seager Thomas for assessment of the prehistoric pottery, Dave Hodson for processing and review of the environmental samples, and Barry Bishop for assessment of the lithics. Thanks also to Robert Nicholson the finds processing, Jenny Simonson for illustrations, Peter Moore for project management and Frank Meddens for post-excavation management and editing of this report.

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Appendix 1: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
RSA08	+			Layer	Modern ground level, concrete, tarmac, services	Modern	7
RSA08	1			Layer	Topsoil	Modern	7
RSA08	2			Layer	Subsoil	Late Bronze Age- Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	3			Layer	Natural Clay	Natural	1
RSA08	4			Cut	Ditch cut	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	5			Fill	Fill of [4]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	6			Fill	Fill of [4]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	7			Fill	Fill of [4]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	8			Fill	Fill of [4]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	9			Fill	Fill of [4]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	10			Cut	Pit	Early Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	11			Fill	Fill of [10]	Early Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	12			Cut	NW-SE Running Ditch [38] [123] [140] [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	13			Fill	Fill of [12]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	14			Fill	Fill of [12]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	15			Fill	Fill of [12]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	16			Fill	Fill of [12]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	17			Cut	NW-SE Running Ditch [38] [123] [140] [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	18			Fill	Fill of [17]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	19		S4, S10, S11	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	7
RSA08	20		S10, S11	Layer	Colluvium/Ground build up	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	21		S4, S11, S12	Layer	Alluvium/Weathered Natural	Prehistoric	2
RSA08	22		S5, S7, S8, S11	Layer	Natural Clay	Natural	1
RSA08	23			Fill	Fill of [24]	Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	24	Post-Ex		Cut	Post-Hole	Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	25			Fill	Fill of [26]	Undated	2a
RSA08	26	26		Cut	Small pit	Undated	2a
RSA08	27			Fill	Fill of [28]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	28	28		Cut	Tree line/land boundary	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	29			Fill	Fill of [30]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	30	30		Cut	Linear feature/Possible gully/drainage	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	31	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	32	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	33			Fill	Fill of [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	34	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	35			Fill	Fill of [36]	Undated	2a
RSA08	36	36		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	37		S4, S11	Fill	Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	38		S4, S11	Cut	NW-SE Running Ditch [123] [140] [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	39	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	41	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	42	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	43			Fill	Fill of [44] = [105]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	44	104		Cut	Gully/small ditch = [104]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	45			Fill	Fill of [46]	Modern	7
RSA08	46	46		Cut	Modern disturbance	Modern	7
RSA08	47			Fill	Fill of [48]	Undated	2a
RSA08	48	48		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	49			Fill	Fill of [50]	Undated	2a
RSA08	50	50		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	51			Fill	Fill of [52]	Undated	2a
RSA08	52	52		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	53			Fill	Fill of [54]	Undated	2a
RSA08	54	54		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	55			Fill	Fill of [218]	Post-Medieval	6

RSA08	56	Post-Ex		Cut	Cut for Modern Electricity Service	Modern	7
RSA08	57			Fill	Fill of [58]	Undated	2a
RSA08	58	58		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	59			Fill	Fill of [60]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	60	60		Cut	Tree bole	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	61			Fill	Fill of [62]	Undated	2b
RSA08	62	62		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2b
RSA08	63			Fill	Fill of [64]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	64	64		Cut	Tree line/land boundary	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	65			Fill	Fill of [218]	Post-Medieval	6
RSA08	66	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	67	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	68			Fill	Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	69			Fill	Fill of [70]	Undated	2a
RSA08	70	70		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	71			Fill	Fill of [72]	Late Bronze Age- Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	72	72		Cut	Tree line/land boundary	Late Bronze Age- Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	73			Fill	Fill of [74]	Undated	2b
RSA08	74	74		Cut	Tree line/land boundary	Undated	2b
RSA08	75	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	77			Fill	Fill of [78]	Undated	2b
RSA08	78	78		Cut	Post-Hole	Undated	2b
RSA08	79			Fill	Fill of [80]	Undated	2a
RSA08	80	80a		Cut	Post-Hole	Undated	2a
RSA08	81			Fill	Fill of [82]	Undated	2a
RSA08	82	82		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	83			Fill	Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	84	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	85			Fill	Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	86			Fill	Fill of [87]	Undated	2b
RSA08	87	87		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2b
RSA08	88		S6	Fill	Organic Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	89		S6	Fill	Organic Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	90		S6	Fill	Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	91	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	92			Fill	Fill of [93]	Undated	2a
RSA08	93	93		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	94	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	N/A
RSA08	95			Fill	Fill of [96] = [92]	Undated	2a
RSA08	96			Cut	Tree bole = [93]	Undated	2a
RSA08	97			Fill	Fill of [98]	Late Bronze Age- Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	98	98		Cut	Tree line/land boundary	Late Bronze Age- Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	99			Fill	Fill of [100]	Undated	2a
RSA08	100	100		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	101			Fill	Fill of [102]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	102	102		Cut	Tree rooting	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	103			Fill	Fill of [104]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	104	104		Cut	Tree rooting	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	105		S7	Fill	Fill of ditch [123]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	106		S5	Fill	Fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	107			Fill	Fill of [108] = [101]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	108	108		Cut	Tree rooting = [102]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5

RSA08	109			Fill	Fill of [110]	Modern	7
RSA08	110	110		Cut	Modern disturbance	Modern	7
RSA08	111			Fill	Fill of [112]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	112	112		Cut	Large shallow pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	113			Fill	Fill of [114]	Undated	2b
RSA08	114	114		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2b
RSA08	115			Fill	Fill of [116]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	116	116		Cut	Tree bole	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	117	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	N/A	
RSA08	118	Post-Ex		Fill	Fill of [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	119	119		Fill	Fill of [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	120		S8	Fill	Fill of [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	121		S7	Fill	Fill of [123]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	122		S7	Fill	Fill of [123]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	123	123	S7	Cut	NW-SE Running Ditch = [38] [140] [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	124			Fill	Fill of [125]	Undated	2b
RSA08	125	125		Cut	Shallow pit	Undated	2b
RSA08	126			Fill	Fill of [127]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	127	127		Cut	Large post hole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	128			Fill	Fill of [129]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	129	129		Cut	Large post hole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	130			Fill	Fill of [131]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	131	131		Cut	Large post hole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	132			Fill	Fill of [133]	Undated	2b
RSA08	133	133		Cut	Small pit	Undated	2b
RSA08	134		S9	Fill	Fill of [140]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	135		S9	Fill	Fill of [140]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	136			Fill	Fill of [137]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	137	137		Cut	Tree/hedge line	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	138			Fill	Fill of [139]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	139	139		Cut	Small pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	140	140	S9	Cut	NW-SE Running Ditch = [38] [123] [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	141			Fill	Fill of [142]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	142	142		Cut	Possible small pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	143	143		Cut	Possible Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	144			Fill	Fill of [143]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	145	145		Cut	Possible Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	146			Fill	Fill of [145]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	147		S8	Fill	Primary fill of [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	148	148		Cut	Possible Pit	Undated	2a
RSA08	149			Fill	Fill of [148]	Undated	2a
RSA08	150	150		Cut	Possible posthole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	151			Fill	Fill of [150]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	152	152		Cut	Possible Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	153			Fill	Fill of [152]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	154			Fill	Fill of [155]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	155	155		Cut	Tree/hedge line	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	156			Fill	Fill of [157]	Undated	2a
RSA08	157	157		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	158			Fill	Fill of [159]	Undated	2b
RSA08	159	159		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2b
RSA08	160			Fill	Fill of [161]	Undated	2a
RSA08	161	161		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	162	162		Cut	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	163			Fill	Fill of [162]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	164	162		Cut	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	165			Fill	Fill of [164]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	166	166		Cut	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	167			Fill	Fill of [166]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	168			Fill	Fill of [166]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	169	169		Cut	Pit	Late Bronze Age	4

RSA08	170			Fill	Fill of [169]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	171	171		Cut	Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	172			Fill	Fill of [171]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	173		S10	Fill	Upper Fill of [38] = [118]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	174		S10	Fill	Fill of [38] = [120] & [135]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	175	175		Cut	Shallow pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	176			Fill	Fill of [177]	Undated	2a
RSA08	177	177		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	178			Fill	Fill of [179]	Undated	2a
RSA08	179	179		Cut	Tree throw/rooting?	Undated	2a
RSA08	180	180		Cut	Tree rooting	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	181			Fill	Fill of [180]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	182			Fill	Fill of [183]	Undated	2a
RSA08	183	183		Cut	Tree bole	Undated	2a
RSA08	184			Fill	Fill of [185]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	185	185		Cut	Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	186			Fill	Fill of [187]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	187	187		Cut	Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	188	188		Cut	Tree throw/rooting?	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	189			Fill	Fill of [188]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	190			Fill	Fill of [191]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	191	191		Cut	Tree/hedge line	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	192			Fill	Fill of [193]	Undated	2a
RSA08	193	193		Cut	Posthole	Undated	2a
RSA08	194			Fill	Fill of [195]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	195	195		Cut	Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	196			Fill	Fill of [197]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	197	195		Cut	Tree rooting	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	198	195		Cut	Tree rooting	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	199			Fill	Fill of [198]	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	200			Fill	Fill of [201]	Undated	2a
RSA08	201	201		Cut	Tree throw/rooting?	Undated	2a
RSA08	202		S9	Fill	Slumping within ditch [140]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	203		S9	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [140]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	204		S10	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	205		S10	Fill	Slumping within ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	206		S10	Layer	Natural Gravel	Natural	1
RSA08	207		S10	Layer	Natural Sand	Natural	1
RSA08	208		S10	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [38]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	209		S11	Layer	Natural Gravel	Natural	1
RSA08	210	Post-Ex		Layer	Gravel spread	Natural	1
RSA08	211		S12	Fill	Fill of [213]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	212		S12	Fill	Fill of [213]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	213		S12	Cut	Pit	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	214		S12	Fill	Fill of [213]	Late Bronze Age	4
RSA08	215		S12	Fill	Fill of [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	216		S12	Fill	Fill of [217]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	217		S12	Cut	NW-SE Running Ditch = [38] [123] [140]	Early Late Bronze Age	3
RSA08	218	Post-Ex		Cut	Tree rooting	Late Bronze Age - Post-Medieval	5
RSA08	219			Fill	Fill of [56]	Modern	7
RSA08	220			Fill	Fill of [175]	Late Bronze Age	4

Contexts 1 – 18 assigned during evaluation (Pullen 2008)

Appendix 2: Prehistoric Pottery Assessment

By Mike Seager Thomas

The Raynes Park excavations yielded 4,144 grams of fragmented and mostly abraded prehistoric pottery (54 grams are of later date). It is dominated by a single fabric suite comprising a small range of mostly sandy flint-tempered fabrics, which are associated locally with the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age post Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition.

A handful of plainware feature sherds (thin bodied simple shouldered jars and possible convex-sided vessels — e.g. context [37]) and the small range of fabrics, both characteristics of earlier, rather than later phases of the tradition, suggest an early LBA date for the assemblage of around 1000 cal BC (cf. Barrett 1980; Needham 1996). Four sherds only (from contexts [37], [105] & [120]) look as though they might be of a different prehistoric date (MBA), but one of these is associated with another common LBA pottery form (the perforated plate) and all four fall within the known parameters of London's LBA pottery.

Most likely therefore the assemblage comprises a closed, early LBA group, and it is here that its principal interest lies, since it can be taken accurately to reflect pottery using activity in the vicinity during this period, which can be explored usefully through comparative analyses of the fabrics and forms present.

The assemblage's condition appears to result from the friable nature of the sandy fabrics and the pedology of the site, rather than post depositional disturbance, and the context assemblages — in particular [37] and [105], which yielded sizable groups — probably provide a reliable indicator of the date of the feature fills that yielded them. Its size and composition also herald the possibility of further sizable deposits nearby.

Locus		Weight in grams	Comments/ dating evidence	Spot date
context	other			
8		55	Sandy flint-tempered PDR fabrics (<i>hereafter</i> FQ). Fingertip impressed rim of PDR shouldered jar	LBA
14	Trench 3	61	FQ	LBA
20		7	Hard sandy fabric	?RB

37		1,643	FQ. Possible perforated plate in coarse flint-tempered fabric (<i>hereafter</i> CFQ). Rim of PDR shouldered jar; perforated plate fragment	LBA
37	95/215	73	FQ	LBA
37	95/225	386	FQ & fine sandy PDR fabric (<i>hereafter</i> Q). PDR heavily-gritted base	LBA
59		11	Hard sandy fabric	?RB
83		8	FQ	LBA
85		19	FQ	LBA
97		36	Hard sandy fabric	?RB
105		793	FQ, CFQ & Q. 2 rims PDR shoulder-jars; PDR heavily-gritted base; perforated plate fragment	LBA
111		441	FQ. Perforated plate fragment	LBA
118		98	FQ	LBA
119		162	FQ. Rim of PDR shouldered-jar; perforated plate fragment	LBA
120		22	CFQ	MBA or LBA
125		1	Too small to identify	ND
133		0	Not pottery — charcoal	ND
134		7	FQ	LBA
135		128	FQ	LBA
138		6	FQ (pedologically altered)	LBA
158		1	Too small to identify	ND
211		236	FQ	LBA
Total weight		4,194 grams		

Barrett, J. 1980. Pottery of the later Bronze Age in Southern England, *Proc Prehist Soc* 46, 297–319.

Needham, S. 1996. Chronology and periodisation in the British Bronze Age. *Acta Archaeologica* 67, 121-40.

Appendix 3: Lithics Assessment

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

The archaeological investigations resulted in the recovery of 163 pieces of struck flint. This report quantifies and describes the material, discusses its significance and recommends any further work that might be necessary to realize the material's research potential.

Quantification and Distribution

	Decorification Flake	Rejuvenation Flake	Chip	Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade	Blade-like flake	Retouched	Core Tool	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Total
No.	22	1	2	74	5	6	3	4	1	13	32	163
%	13	1	1	45	3	4	2	2	1	8	20	100

Table 1: Quantification of the Struck Flint

A total of 163 pieces of struck flint were recovered (Table 1; Appendix 1). The majority, 147 pieces, came from contexts provisionally dated to the Later Bronze Age with most of these, 126 pieces, coming from the large ditch (context [38] and equivalents) that traversed the site.

Raw Materials

The assemblage is manufactured from flint; it varies somewhat in colour and texture, with the vast majority being made from a fine-grained translucent brown, black or grey flint containing frequent cherty inclusions. Also present are a few pieces made from 'Bullhead Bed' flint and opaque cherty flints. Remaining cortex indicates that both smooth worn pebbles and larger thermally fractured nodular chunks had been employed. The pebbles are typical of those from the Pleistocene gravel deposits found in the vicinity, whilst the less-abraded nodular chunks may have been obtained from outwash deposits found in the tributary rivers flowing from the North Downs, such as the Hogsmill to the west or the Wandle to the east.

Condition

The assemblage is predominantly in a good (sharp) or only slightly chipped/abraded condition. A certain degree of residuality/redeposition may be evident but the bulk of the

assemblage appears to have experienced only minimal post-depositional damage and was probably recovered from close to where it was originally discarded.

Description

Some indications of pre-Bronze Age activity are provided by a small number of blades, competently produced flakes and two blade cores (from contexts [97] and [134]). These would be most typical of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries although no typologically diagnostic implements from these periods were identified.

The bulk of the flintwork is characteristic of later prehistoric industries dating to the later second or first millennia BC. It can only be described as crudely produced and much of it appeared to arise from little more than randomly flaking pieces of raw material until either sufficient flakes had been detached or, as frequently seemed to happen, they disintegrated. Flakes represent over half of the assemblage and nearly a quarter of these have cortex covering over half of their dorsal surfaces. The flakes are irregular in form but tend to be thick and squat with wide striking platforms, often set at very obtuse angles, and visible points of percussion, often retaining incipient Hertzian cones from failed attempts at removing the flake. The flakes mostly have pronounced bulbs of percussion and hinged or stepped distal terminations were commonly encountered, indicating the use of hard hammers for detachment. They often have multidirectional and deep angular dorsal scars, demonstrating a lack of control over flake removal and a failure to maintain repeated flake production from any single platform. There were also many mis-struck flakes that failed to detach properly, including many with thermal ventral surfaces or which had broken along previous incipient cones of percussion. The cores likely to belong to this phase of activity were small, all weighing under 100g, and had been irregularly and often minimally reduced, opportunistically employing any suitable surface to detach flakes. Some of these cores have a number of small flake removals, suggesting they may have been intended for use directly as core tools, such as scrapers or denticulated pieces. The high proportion of conchoidal chunks probably represents further cores that disintegrated, either due to inherent thermal flawing or through careless reduction. Retouched pieces are limited to a denticulated side scraper from context [120], a refittable edge-retouched flake from context [14] and two steeply retouched flakes from the same context, these probably representing irregular scrapers.

Discussion

A small component of the assemblage is suggestive of small-scale activity at the site during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period, the size of this assemblage and the lack of diagnostic implements suggesting little more than low-key and transient activity. No features of this date

were identified and most of these pieces were recovered from late Bronze Age contexts, where they had presumably been residually incorporated. A possible exception to this is suggested by the four pieces recovered from undated pit [133]. These were all likely to be of pre-Bronze Age date and they may tentatively suggest a Neolithic date to the feature, although their condition and the differences in raw materials could still be more suggestive of residual incorporation.

The bulk of the assemblage consists of a crude and opportunistically produced flake and core tool industry that can be confidently dated to the later second or first millennium BC, and which is likely to be contemporary with the Late Bronze Age activity recorded at the site.

Several features of this date contained single or small quantities of struck flints and reflect opportunistic flint working occurring in and around the site. Of particular interest is the substantial assemblage recovered from the large ditch. These pieces are generally in a good condition and the presence of refittable pieces indicates that they were deposited into the ditch shortly after their manufacture and as it was infilling. They indicate that flintworking and tool use took place close to the open ditch and that the ditch was subsequently used as a dump for the waste from these activities. Variations in the densities present, differences in raw materials, potential refittability and their typological profiles suggests that the flints may have been deposited in a number of separate episodes, rather than as an homogeneous mass.

Significance

The assemblage from the large ditch comprises a closed, well dated and, for the period, relatively large example of a later prehistoric flintworking industry. Although some advances have been made, the definition of the specific typological and technological changes in struck flint industries through the late second and the first millennia BC is still poorly documented and understood. Furthermore, the nature and significance of struck flint production and use have been little explored and there has been even less emphasis placed on understanding the social consequences of flintworking during these periods. Later prehistoric flintworking is usually considered to be opportunistically undertaken, with readily available raw materials casually struck and sharp edges procured, as and when a task required it. There is generally little evidence for preparing or curating worked flint and, once the task was completed, the material was usually disposed of informally. Consequently, the struck flint from these periods is usually found in small quantities and scattered amongst the contemporary settlements and field-systems. Assemblages of flintwork of this date have been recovered from a number of sites in south London, mostly concentrated around the headwaters of the River Wandle in the Carshalton area as well as along certain stretches of the Thames, such as at Kingston or

north Southwark. For the most part, however, such flintwork tends to be recovered in small quantities from numerous and often scattered features, with negative implications for the integrity and contemporaneity of the overall assemblages.

The quantities recorded here suggest a much more intensive use of struck flint. The assemblage here, particularly that from the large ditch, therefore provides a welcome opportunity to consider in detail an integral assemblage dating to the later years of flintworking in this country.

Recommendations

This assessment has highlighted the significance of the lithic assemblage, particularly that from the large ditch which has provided a relatively large and well-dated lithic assemblage of Late Bronze Age derivation. It is therefore recommended that the assemblage be examined in greater detail, including employing metrical, technological and typological analyses, and published alongside the account of the excavations. It should include considerations of the technological strategies used, the uses for which the assemblage may have been intended, and the material's distribution within the ditch, both spatially and stratigraphically, alongside patterns of refitting in order to elucidate the temporality of production, use and discard.

Burnt Stone Assessment

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

An assemblage of burnt stone fragments weighing just over 37kg was recovered during the archaeological investigations. This report quantifies and describes the material, assesses its significance and recommends any further work required for it to achieve its full research potential. It was recovered from a small number of features, most of which have been dated to the earlier Late Bronze Age. A full catalogue detailing its distribution within individual contexts is presented in the burnt stone table.

Quantification

A total of 655 pieces of otherwise unmodified burnt stone weighing 37,099g were recovered from 23 separate contexts (see burnt stone table). This represents a significant quantity of burnt stone the largest quantities from any single context being 14,112g with 6 separate contexts producing more than 1kg, with one exception all derived from the boundary ditch, the exception [111] representing a pit.

Description

Although some of the material from individual contexts was variably burnt, as would be consistent with incidental burning arising from hearth use, the bulk of the material was more heavily and uniformly burnt, consistent with it having been deliberately and systematically fired, a suggestion that would be supported by the high quantities present. Virtually all of the burnt material consisted of flint with a small quantity of quartzite sandstone also present. The latter could potentially have represented fragments of querns although no worked or smoothed surfaces were noted. The flint, where identifiable, consisted of smooth-worn, rounded or chatter-marked pebbles and cobbles, as would have been present in the local alluvial Quaternary terrace deposits (Gibbard 1986).

The material was very fragmentary due to the effects of burning but even where pebbles that were more complete had survived these tended to be small and rarely exceeded 50mm in size. The fragments varied considerable in size, although the largest weighed less than 120g and they averaged 56.6g.

Amongst the burnt flint assemblage were similar pieces that had either not been burnt or had only been heated to the degree that the burning had not visibly affected the flint. The material recorded here, concerns exclusively that which had been visibly burnt. The degree to which this had occurred did vary but the majority of pieces had been intensively burnt, resulting in the flint becoming uniformly grey-white and severely fire crazed, whilst the quartzite had turned red or, in some cases, white and very friable.

Distribution

Burnt stone was recovered from a small number of features across the site (see burnt flint table). The majority came from the boundary ditch with smaller quantities deriving from

natural tree bole features and occasional pit cuts. The larger quantities of burnt flint present at the site suggest that the deliberate heating of stone was a regular occurrence. The purposes that lie behind both the creation of the burnt stone and its deposition remain poorly understood, although the deliberate heating of often-large quantities of stone is frequently documented at prehistoric sites. There are the classic burnt mound sites, which most frequently belong to the Bronze Age and bear few of the characteristics noted here. Other explanations for its production have been forwarded. Perhaps the most favoured one it being connected with cooking activities. Its scale suggests communal efforts, perhaps associated with feasting or ceremonial practices. Other explanations regard it as the residues from saunas (Barfield and Hodder 1987) and a variety of industrial processes, such as leather making or wool processing have also been put forward to account for its generation (e.g. Hedges 1975; Barfield and Hodder 1987; Barfield 1991; Jeffery 1991; Dunkin 2001).

Significance and Recommendations

The quantity of burnt stone recorded indicates that, whatever its purpose, it represents a significant activity that was taking place at the site. It is therefore recommended that through consideration of the burnt flint's distribution and contextual associations, both stratigraphic and with other finds categories, and comparison with analogous sites and assemblages, an account of the burnt stone and its possible functions and significance is compiled and included in any published account of the excavations.

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Burnt Flint table

Context	No of Pieces	Weight	Colour	Notes
(8)	5	144g	White/Grey Blue	
(14)	2	16g	White	
(37)	239	14112g	90% White/Grey Blue 10% Orange/Deep Red	
(59)	3	357g	White	Mild burning
(61)	5	248g	White	
(83)	31	2620g	90% White/Grey 10% Red/Orange	
(85)	4	229g	White	
(97)	1	6g	White	
(101)	1	10g	White	
(103)	1	8g	White	
(105)	127	7657g	90% White/Grey 10% Red/Orange	
(111)	87	4552g	80% White/Grey 20% Red/Orange	1 piece of slag present (<5g)
(119)	49	1521g	90% White Grey 10% Red/Orange	
(120)	2	106g	White/Grey Blue	
(121)	10	474g	White with Orange tingeing	
(122)	2	155g	Orange	
(124)	4	163g	White	Mild burning
(132)	17	361g	White	
(134)	9	642g	90% White/Grey 10% Red/Orange	
(135)	41	2904g	White	
(136)	4	83g	White	
(211)	11	731g	White/Grey	
TOTAL	655	37,099 g		

Appendix 4: Building Material Assessment

By Dr Kevin Hayward

Introduction and Aims

One box of ceramic building material, daub and stone (nine bags) (1.6kg) were retained from the excavation at Raynes Park, South West London.

This material was assessed in order to:

- Identify (under binocular microscope) the geological character and (if possible) geological source of the quern stone from [83].
- Identify (under binocular microscope) the character and form of the ceramic building material.

Methodology

The building material was examined using the London system of classification with a fabric number allocated to each object. The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 – x10 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

The Quern stone

a) 3120 Lodsworth greensand 1 saddle quern stone [83]

Lithological Description

Fine to medium grained green glauconitic rich sandstone. 1-2cm wisps of black chert which represents the infill of trace fossils. These harder chert fragments facilitated the grinding of foodstuffs.

Geological Source

Lodsworth Greensand (Upper Greensand) has a restricted geographical and geological distribution in the Pulborough-Lodsworth area of West Sussex (Peacock 1987). It was widely used throughout the Wessex area (first as saddle quern) from as early as the Middle of the Iron Age until well into (as Rotary quern stone) the Roman period. However its use in the London area is rare although it has been identified in Roman occupation layers around Heathrow (Hayward pers. obs.).

Its identification in the lower fill of a Bronze Age ditch would be very unusual. Given the presence of Roman ceramic building material and pottery elsewhere on this site it seems more likely that it was intrusive.

Ceramic Building Material

a) Roman

Fabrics 2452; 3023; 3004; *Red silty fabric*

A small quantity of abraded Roman tile (including an imbrex fragment) 177g was identified in the fills of tree boles [59; 71] colluvium [20] and fill of small gully [103]. The sandy 2452; 3004 and iron oxide 3023 fabrics are all common mid first to second century London attest to some presence of Roman activity/dumping in the area.

b) Medieval

2271; 2272; 2586

Seven fragments of coarse unglazed roofing peg-tile were identified in the fill of tree bole [86] and fill of tree line/land boundary [97] features and Colluvium [20]. These fabrics attest to medieval [1135-1500] activity/dumping in the area.

Daub 3102

Finally, two contexts, a fill of the tree line [71] and fill of Bronze Age ditch [119] contain small fragments of Daub.

Distribution

Context	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material	
20	6	50	1800	1180	1800
59	8	50	160	55	160
71	2	-1500BC	400	-1500BC	400
83	1	-500BC	400	500BC	400
86	1	1130	1240	1130	1240
97	6	1180	1600	1180	1600
103	1	50	200	50	200
119	5	-1500BC	1666	-1500BC	1666

Summary

- Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited to a small quantity of daub in the fill of the Bronze Age Ditch [119] and an outside chance that the Lodsworth greensand quern stone from the upper fill of a Bronze Age ditch [83] is not intrusive.
- Roman activity is limited to very small abraded quantities of early Roman tile and imbrex associated with the fill of tree features [59] [71] and a possible Roman quern stone from [83].
- Medieval activity is limited to some early roofing tile fabrics 2271 and 2272 from the tree bole [86] and tree line boundary feature [97]. The colluvial layer [20] has a mixture of Roman and medieval peg tile.

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Appendix 5: Animal Bone Assessment

By Kevin Rielly

Introduction

A large trench revealed an extensive ditch running downhill and north-south, intercut by a few pits and possibly associated with a series of irregular cut features. The latter may well be natural, while the contents of the ditch and pits suggest a late Bronze Age date. It is assumed that this was the remains of a field system associated with a Bronze Age settlement most probably situated uphill of these features i.e. to the south.

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

Description of faunal assemblage

There were just 9 fragments, all in a rather poor state of preservation and heavily fragmented. Apart from a sheep-size rib from one of the irregular features, all the bones were from Late Bronze Age (LBA) deposits. These can be divided into those in the central part of the site and those towards the south (uphill) and therefore closer to the conjectured settlement.

Centre of site

Fill [135] of the LBA ditch provided a highly fragmented horncore, which could be cattle or sheep/goat, as well as the remains of a pair of cattle mandibles, with the adult third molar just erupting. This would suggest an age of about 2 years (Schmid 1972).

Southern site

Bones were recovered from the primary fill of the ditch [147] and from 3 other fills [14], [105] and [120]. Contexts [14] and [147] each provided an indeterminate cattle-size

fragment and [105] the remains of a cattle adult molar. The latter tooth appears to be from a mandible of about the same age as that described from [135]. In [120] there were two bones, a cattle shaft fragment and a metapodial shaft of a large animal, most closely resembling a red deer.

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

This assemblage has little to no potential value. Soil conditions have undoubtedly affected the quality and quantity of bones recovered. There is little doubt that this collection is not representative of the originally dumped material, the prevailing conditions mitigating against the survival of less robust parts of the body as well as the bones from smaller animals.

It can be said that the local populace used and ate cattle and, possibly, red deer. In addition, at least one animal was culled at or by about 2 years of age. The more common trend both in the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age was for a concentration of youngsters mixed with older individuals i.e. a subsistence strategy killing off most youngsters before their first winter and maintaining the remainder for secondary products such as milk and/or traction (see Serjeantson 217; Maltby 1981, 179 and Maltby 1995, 53). However, each of these sites did tend to produce a few 1 to 2 year animals, perhaps representing natural wastage or the occasional cull.

Any conclusions mentioned here could be included in the next stage of the site analysis/write-up. Otherwise, no further work on the bones can be recommended.

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Appendix 6: Slag Assessment

By Frank Meddens

Three contexts in Phases 3-4 produced a small quantity of material which has been identified as undiagnostic slag, indicative of iron working, but not identifiable as to the process which produced them. These comprise context [37] 4 pieces (203g.) from a ditch fill, [71] with (40g.) from a tree bole, and [111] (12g.) from a pit cut.

As these contexts have been assigned an early Late Bronze Age date, iron working, though possible, appears unlikely. Either the slag therefore constitutes later contamination of these contexts or a misidentification of the material. Further review of the pieces should therefore take place and the material should be discussed in the proposed publication text.

Appendix 7: Environmental Sample Assessment

By David Hodson

The bulk palaeo-environmental samples taken at Raynes Park, Merton were processed by floatation of 10 litres sub-samples taken from each. Tables 1 and 2 detail the materials recovered from the samples.

Nearly all included fragments of carbonized wood in the flots or residues, both the quantities and fragment sizes were extremely small. Other than small quantities of fire cracked flint, slag, coal / coke, a single iron nail and prehistoric pottery none of the samples produced any other residues.

The burnt flint which came from the residues is summarised in table 3. All of the flint residue is extremely small and fragmented. None of the samples produced any struck flint.

Samples <9> (context 71), <10> (77), and <25> (124) had small amounts of slag. Samples <10> (context 77), <16> (89) and <25> (124) also provided small amounts of coal or coke. These are all more modern intrusions. Sample <9> (context 71) produced a single metal nail of late 20th century origin.

Samples <8> (context 68), <12> (83), <24> (105) and <38> (211), along with the unnumbered sample taken from context (23) produced small amounts of pre-historic pottery; all of late Bronze Age date.

The presence of charcoal from the various contexts in the sequence indicates nearby anthropogenic activity; however that much was already clear from the material recovered in the other finds categories.

A total of 8 of the flots and 29 of the residues produced included very small charcoal fragments. Six of the samples were demonstrably contaminated with early modern to modern materials. The charcoal being poorly preserved, occasional and fragmented as well as the admixture of a smaller proportion of the samples assessed with intrusive later material leads

to the conclusion that the material has been extensively moved around following its initial deposition. As no useful archaeobotanical evidence was recovered and although a detailed assessment of charcoal was not conducted because of the frequency and fragmentation of this material the recommendation is that no further quantities of these samples should be processed nor should identification of any of the charcoal be proceeded with.

<14>	(86)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<15>	(88)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<16>	(89)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<17>	(95)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<18>	(97)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<19>	(101)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<20>	(103)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<21>	(111)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<22>	(121)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<23>	(122)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<24>	(105)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<25>	(124)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<26>	(134)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<27>	(135)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<28>	(138)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<29>	(147)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<30>	(153)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<31>	(29)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<32>	(158)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<33>	(168)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<34>	(189)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<35>	(203)	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<36>	Column Sample of contexts (19) (20) (173) (174)												
<37>	Column Sample of contexts (37) (68) (208)												
<38>	(211)	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(23)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Bioarchaeological remains from Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Raynes Park, Merton (Site Code: RSA-08) – Residues

Sample Number	Context Number	Volume Processed (litres)	Charred		Waterlogged		Monocotyledonous plant remains	Animal Bone	Animal Bone (Burnt)	Fish Bone	Snail remains	Oyster remains	Coal/ coke
			Wood	Seeds	Wood	Seeds							
<1>	(47)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<2>	(55)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<3>	(59)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<4>	(61)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<5>	(63)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<6>	(35)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<7>	(37)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<8>	(68)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<9>	(71)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<10>	(77)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<11>	(79)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<12>	(83)	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<13>	(84)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<14>	(86)	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<15>	(88)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<16>	(89)	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<17>	(95)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<18>	(97)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<19>	(101)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<20>	(103)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<21>	(111)	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<22>	(121)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<23>	(122)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<24>	(105)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<25>	(124)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<26>	(134)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<27>	(135)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<28>	(138)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<29>	(147)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<30>	(153)	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<31>	(29)	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<32>	(158)	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<33>	(168)	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<34>	(189)	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<35>	(203)	15	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<36>	Column Sample of contexts (19) (20) (173) (174)												
<37>	Column Sample of contexts (37) (68) (208)												
<38>	(211)	20	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(23)	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key	Individuals
1 =	1 to 25
2 =	26 to 50
3 =	51 to 75
4 =	76 to 100
5 =	101 +

Appendix 8: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: precon1-65940

Project details

Project name Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground

Short description of the project 1.3 The archaeological investigations at Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground revealed evidence of human activity in the locality ranging from the Late Bronze Age through the Roman and medieval and post-medieval periods up to the present day. A north-west - south-east aligned ditch extended across the site and is believed to represent a prehistoric land boundary. The ditch contained a number of fills rich in cultural material, including a substantial number of sherds of post Deverel-Rimbury sandy flint tempered fabrics comprising shouldered jar rims, bases and perforated plate fragments. A sizable quantity of burnt and struck flint debitage along with some animal bone fragments were also recovered. It appears that over time the ditch silted up and there is evidence for a hedge-row, and tree line being present at least immediately prior to this event. Two postulated livestock enclosures believed to be of Late Bronze Age date, comprising substantial palisade type fencing, were observed adjacent to the ditch, on either side. There was evidence for a tree-line/land boundary shifting over time (containing Roman, medieval and post-medieval material) culminating in a tree-line present on an 1867 OS map, parts of which are still standing outside the site boundary and the remains of which were recorded below the subsoil.

Project dates Start: 14-01-2009 End: 10-02-2009

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes RSA08 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Monument type BOUNDARY DITCH Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds POT Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds LITHIC IMPLIMENT Late Bronze Age

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON RAYNES PARK Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Fairway

Postcode SW20

Study area 0.70 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 2300 6890 51.4052656246 -0.231422098978 51 24 18 N 000 13 53 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 14.00m Max: 16.00m

Project creators

Name of PCA
Organisation

Project brief Groveland Estates Ltd
originator

Project design Peter Moore
originator

Project Peter Moore
director/manager

Project supervisor Iain Bright

Type of Groveland estates Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Groveland Estates Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive RSA08
ID

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID RSA08

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked
stone/lithics'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive ID RSA08

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked
stone/lithics'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project

bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Assessment of an Archaeological Investigation at the Former Royal Sun Alliance Sports Ground, Fairway, Raynes Park, London Borough of Merton
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Iain Bright
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Description	Assessment Report
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Entered by	Frank Meddens (fmeddens@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	19 October 2009
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13 OASIS:

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