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Archaeology Field Group

Earthworks at Glebe Farm, Tilshead

Site Code TL004

Archaeological Field Evaluation
And
Post-Excavation Assessment



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1.1 Summary

Earthworks on land to the North of Glebe Farm at Tilshead came to the attention of the field group due to the observation and interest by AFG members Michael and Sue Teale who live very close. During July of 2004 Roy Canham, Tom Blake and AFG members met at the site to discuss the best way forward, he suggested two distant lines of enquiry.

The bank of the enclosure is reminiscent of enclosures associated with late Bronze Age and Iron Age farming settlements on Salisbury plain. But it could also have been a medieval or later sheep enclosure, due to its proximity to the drove way across Salisbury plain, which is immediately to the north of the site.

Excavation has shown that both of these assumptions were correct, a Late Prehistoric settlement enclosure was used in later periods as an enclosure for animals.

From secure contexts Late Prehistoric pottery was recovered and probably indicates a settlement. Evidence from the banks suggests that in later times the enclosure was fenced to form an animal holding pen.

1.2 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank, and is indebted to the late Mr Tom Blake, who gave the Archaeology Field Group permission to enter onto his land to carry out an earthwork and geophysical survey, followed by the excavation of ten trenches. Despite his failing health his daily visits to the site, and his in-depth historical knowledge of the Tilshead area, gave great encouragement to everyone involved in these excavations.

The author's would also like to thank the following:

We would also like to thank Bill Blake to allow us to continue the excavation at Glebe farm after the death of his brother Tom.

Michael and Sue Teale for their generosity in allowing access to their home and garden and for providing the excavators with refreshments.

Stella Maddock and Jean Martin for undertaking a desk-based study of the area, which will become an important framework around which this report will be based.

Members of WANHS, Archaeological field group who undertook the field walking and post analysis/assessment.

Former Wiltshire County Archaeologist Roy Canham for his advice, encouragement and assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

1.3 List of Abbreviations

A.F.G.	Archaeological Field Group [WANHS]
H.E.R.	Historic Environment Record [Wiltshire]
N.G.R.	National Grid Reference
N.M.R	National Monuments Record [English Heritage]
S.M.R.	Sites and Monument Records [Wiltshire]
W.A.N.H.S.	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

2 Introduction

This report constitutes the findings from the earthwork, geophysical survey, excavations and post analysis/assessment of the finds recovered.

The earthwork and geophysical survey was undertaken in 2004 and a series of excavations were carried out over 3 bank holiday weekends, 25th-28th March 2005, 26th-28th August 2005 and 15th- 18th April 2006.

2.1 The Site and Location

The site is located immediately towards the north of Glebe Farm at Tilshead, northwest of the church and west of the school (SU 0330 4799).

Tilshead is located on the south western corner of Salisbury Plain in a valley see figure 1. The Till valley like other rivers in the area (Avon and Chilterne Brook) drain roughly north to south. The Village is situated at approximately 100m OD; the land to the northeast and southwest rises to over 150m. Tilshead is approximately 10.5km from Stonehenge to the southeast.

2.2 Description of the Site

The earthworks are located in a small pasture field of approximately 0.6ha. The field slopes towards the south in the direction of brick barns belonging to Glebe Farm and a wall forming part of the Vicarage boundary. Mixed hedgerows form Land boundaries on the remaining sides. At the southern end of the field there are rubble remains and other agricultural debris associated with former barns and farm activities.

The earthworks under study consist of banks and ditches orientated, north south, with a secondary larger bank and ditches running through the northern part of the site, this suggests two separate enclosures.

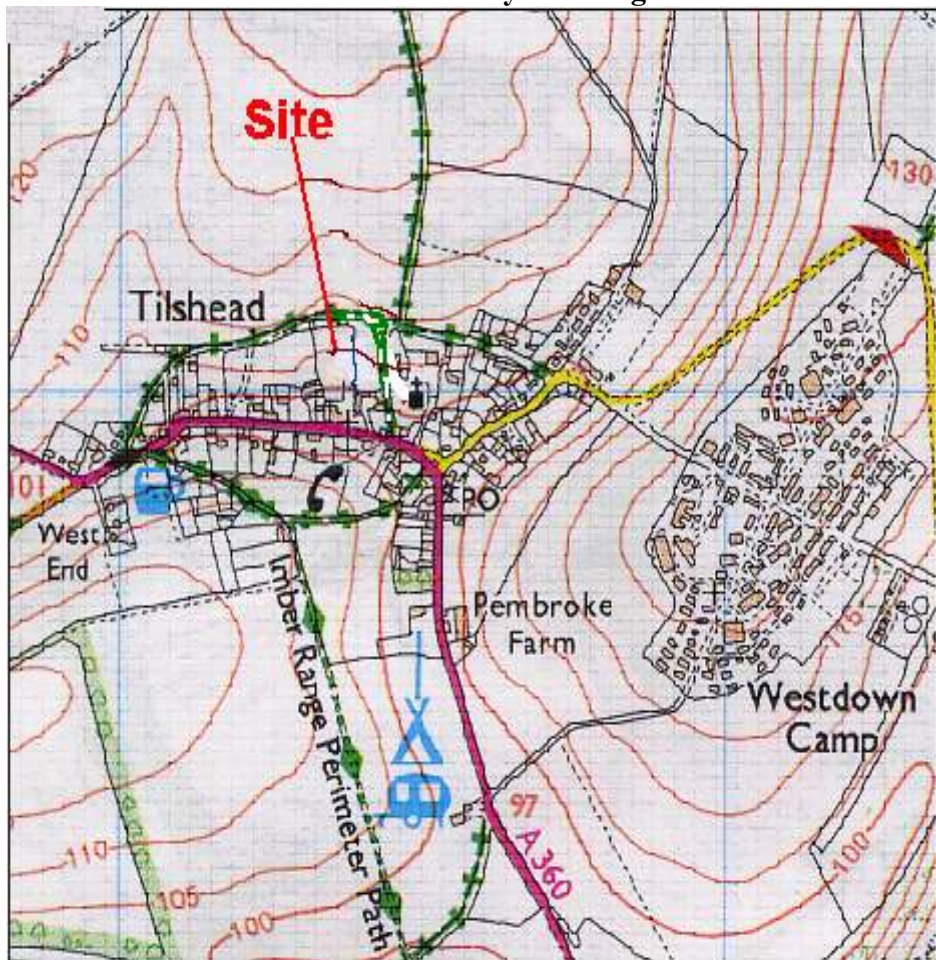
2.3 Geology and Soils

The underlying geology consists of chalk (British Geological Survey South Sheet, 3rd Edition 1979). The soils are known as Andover 1 and Coombe 1, which consist of brown rendzinas and brown calcareous earths respectively. These soils are well drained and occur on chalk slopes and near valley bottoms; the depth of soil tends to increase significantly down-slope.

2.4 Site Location Map Fig. 2



2.5 Location of Study Area Fig. 3



2.6 Research Aims and Objectives

The function and date of the earthworks are at present unknown and as suggested above may be consistent with prehistoric or medieval features. In order to attempt to better understand the origin of the monument a programme of surveying and excavation is necessary. Specifically the aims of the works will be to discover the function, date of construction, period of use and size of the earthworks.

2.7 History of the site, Summary of Previous Investigation at or in the Vicinity of Glebe Farm Tilshead and Entries from Historic Environment Record.

The first step was to be familiar with the history of Tilshead in general by reading the parish history in Vol. 15 of the Victoria County History. Initially the research entailed visits to the Wiltshire Record Office (WRO) and the Archaeology Department to look at maps, WRO catalogues and the Sites and Monuments Record (HER).

What follows is a summary of the findings as they relate to the archaeological feature under investigation.

The 'linear feature' was located by the Royal Commission in the mid-1990s through aerial photography; and the feature is recorded on the County SMR. This database also records details of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments in the surrounding area, including an early medieval entombment within a Neolithic barrow. Records for Tilshead are sparse. In the 1940s separate discoveries were made in Tilshead churchyard of crouched burial, skulls, and pottery fragments allegedly Late Bronze Age. Unfortunately we were unable to trace any corroborating evidence, artefacts, or find any professional validations of these finds. Reports from the nineteenth century details skeleton, some without coffins, being found in, or in the vicinity of the churchyard, but there is no dating evidence.

Various maps were studied including OS, Andrews and Dury, tithe and enclosure awards. The most useful was a local map made in 1808, a few years prior to enclosure, which detailed the properties within the village, owners and occupiers. Comparing this with later maps showed that the 'linear feature' had formed the western and northern boundaries to the Parsonage Orchard, research into the parish records at the record office revealed that this area was part of the vicarage lands sold in the early 20th century.

The earliest reference to a vicarage was to a division of income by the Bishop between the rector and vicar in 1319; and this may well have initiated a division of land between the two parties.

This information was contained in a contemporary Bishop's Register (transcribed and translated in the early 19th century). The directive by the Bishop included a description of property boundaries; but we were unable to correlate these to the nineteenth century Parsonage boundary; and without subsequent documentation to aid this process, cannot say with any certainty that the feature formed an ecclesiastical boundary in the fourteenth century. One of the major problems associated with this research has been trying to differentiate between the various parsonages and vicarages.

According to the VCH the earliest historical record for Tilshead is the Domesday Survey showing Tilshead as a royal estate in the eleventh century. Shortly afterwards the northern part of what is now the present village became the property of Holy Trinity, Caen. An eleventh century custumal stated that the Church of Tilshead was in 'feudo domine', which meant that the church was the property of the Abbey. The North Manor buildings are listed in a lease agreement of 1299, but there were no details of demesne boundaries. It is probable that the Vicarage land had already devolved from the Manor by this date.

The Royal Commission's Survey of Salisbury Plain concluded that the 'linear feature' might have formed the western boundary of an enclosure, with a corresponding boundary on the eastern side of the church. An analysis of the property boundaries on the early nineteenth century map would indicate a boundary further east so forming a sub-circular enclosure centred on the churchyard. But there is little detail specifically

relating to the site under investigation. No excavation or detailed survey work is known to have been carried out on the site.

Basic topographical analysis of the earthworks suggests that the archaeological potential of the site may be high. The earthworks very likely belong to a former enclosure, which has similar characteristics, in terms of size and shape, to prehistoric enclosure sites located elsewhere on Salisbury Plain.

Fig. 4

Description	Our source	Original source	Comments
<p>1. North Tilshead Linear feature – "undated earthworks perhaps associated with the medieval settlement of Tilshead." (This is our bank and ditch)</p>	<p>Sites & Monuments Record SU04NW636</p>	<p>RCHME Aerial photo</p>	
<p>2. Tilshead churchyard a. 5 undated human skulls were found in 1947 when digging a grave. b. "A crouched burial was also found" on digging a grave. "Over 40 coffins-less E/W burials found to the north of the church in the past." See also 5 below</p>	<p>Sites & Monuments Record SU04NW551</p>	<p>a. and b. Rev. W. Freeman, Vicar of Tilshead reported by Guy Underwood in WAM Vol. 52 1947-48 p.392 which adds that they were arranged in a ring facing inwards. One skull with a small round hole in it was retained. The crouched burial was on a piece of land east of the church formerly part of a farmyard "recently added to the churchyard". c. SMR gives sources as 'Tom Blake, Glebe Farm', and 'Guide to Tilshead Church (anon)'. We have found these burials referred to elsewhere d. See 3 below</p>	<p>I wonder if it should have said "west" not "east" and the land referred to is the land taken into the churchyard when the path/track was moved further to the west (from OS maps this was between 1900 and 1939).</p>
<p>3. Tilshead Churchyard Late Bronze Age pottery fragments found while digging a grave in c.1947</p>	<p>Sites & Monuments Record SU04NW150</p>	<p>Rev. W. Freeman, Vicar of Tilshead, reported by Guy Underwood in WAM Vol. 52 1947-48 p.392</p>	<p>Enquiries at Devizes and Salisbury Museums have failed to locate the pottery</p>

Description	Our source	Original source	Comments
<p>4. Skeleton found whilst digging the foundations of the school</p>	<p>a. Miss L.H Johnson, (daughter of Rev. J.H. Johnson, vicar of Tilshead), c.1900 as recorded by C.V. Goddard in 'Wiltshire Notes & Various' Book 22 in WANHS Library Ref. DM (58). J. G. Mavrogordato in 'Notes on the medieval history of Tilshead' 196? Referring to Miss L.H. Johnson's notes he'd seen in WAS library.</p>	<p>Miss Louisa Holden Johnson, (daughter of Rev. J.H. Johnson, vicar of Tilshead). She sent her notes to C.V. Goddard in 1900 and he recorded them in 'Wiltshire Notes' Book 22 in WANHS library. She described her notes to Goddard as being information from her father. Not clear which school she was referring to. She describes the skeleton as being "with iron and nails". Mavrogordato says this burial wasn't properly recorded or investigated.</p>	<p>Date of discovery? 1900 or before. Which school?</p>
<p>5. "Many" skeletons north of the church described as "some. ... Without coffins" found when earth removed for the enlargement of the north aisle. One was found under the buttress, which was being underpinned. SEE ALSO 2 ABOVE.</p>	<p>a. Rev. J.H. Johnson 'Notes on Tilshead' 1866 in WANHS Library Box 8 Mss 936 b. Miss L.H Johnson, (daughter of Rev. J.H. Johnson, vicar of Tilshead), c.1900 as recorded by C.V. Goddard in 'Wiltshire Notes' Book 22 in WANHS Library Ref. DM (58). c. J. Mavrogordato in 'Notes on the medieval history of Tilshead' 196? Referring to Miss L.H. Johnson's notes he'd seen in WAS library. He says '40' not 'many'. AND SEE 2 ABOVE</p>	<p>a. Rev. J.H. Johnson in a handwritten manuscript notebook entitled 'Notes on Tilshead' 1866 in WANHS library. It reads: "...when the earth was moved for the enlargement of the north aisle where it was supposed no interments had ever taken place, many skeletons were found – some appeared to have been buried without coffins, the chalk being cut out to the form of the bodies. One was found under the buttress." ALSO: b. Miss Louisa Holden Johnson, (daughter of Rev. J.H. Johnson, vicar of Tilshead). She sent her notes to C.V. Goddard in 1900 and he recorded them in 'Wiltshire Notes' Book 22 in WANHS library. She described her notes to Goddard as being information from her father. They read "In digging the new foundations they came upon several skeletons of very tall men buried without coffins and apparently at the same time."</p>	<p>b. Louisa Johnson also says "Before this time it was believed that no burials had ever taken place north of the church with the exception of those unbaptised. When the vicar decided it was necessary to begin interments there, the feeling amongst the poor was very bitter and the opposition at first was great. They said they would rather bury their dead in their gardens than on the north side of the church. It was thought that the objection arose from some criminals having been executed and ignominiously buried without a service."</p>

Description	Our source	Original source	Comments
6. Traces of interments under the kitchen floor of the old Parsonage (which was situated to the west of the church and is no longer there).	Two handwritten manuscripts by Rev J.H. Johnson – one is in a notebook about the parish 1865-70 included in WSRO 823/16, the other in a notebook entitled 'Notes on Tilshead' dated 1866 in WANHS Library Box 8 Mss 936	Two handwritten manuscripts by Rev J.H. Johnson – one is in a notebook about the parish 1865-70 included in WSRO 823/16, the other in a notebook entitled 'Notes on Tilshead' dated 1866 in WANHS library. (Miss L.H. Johnson's notes (see above) describe this as a skull.)	
7. “Bronze Age crouched inhumation and an Early Medieval inhumation cemetery containing circa 40 individuals, were discovered in 1947 in a field to the east of the church. The excavations suggest that there were both Pagan Saxon and Christian Saxon cemeteries. The Saxon finds suggest that Tilshead had a Saxon church or chapel.”	NMR SU 04 NW 22 as shown on the English Heritage Web site “Pastscape” (www.pastscape.org).	“Field Investigators Comments” and WAM Vol. 52 1947-48 p.392 G. Underwood.	A very misleading mixes up of dates, finds, and locations leading to a totally unsubstantiated interpretation. They need telling!

3 The Earthwork Survey

References to the site held at the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record office show the feature has been mapped from air photo reconnaissance carried out by English Heritage across Salisbury Plain. No evidence for a function and date of construction for the earthworks exists.

The earthworks are clearly visible on the ground and on aerial photographs, consisting of large banks and ditch running east to west across the northern part of the site; this appeared to continue into the neighbouring properties.

This feature can be seen in the school grounds to the east and on aerial photographs continuing for at least 400m. A further set of banks and ditch leave this feature in a southerly direction for a length of 60 metres and then turning 90 degrees and running for 45 metres in an easterly direction, thus forming 3 sides of an enclosure.

3.1 The Geophysical Survey

As a preliminary to the evaluation work at Glebe farm, Tilshead a geophysical survey was undertaken, greatly helped by personnel from the 9th regiment RLC.

Conditions for the geophysical survey were not conjunctive for good results. The ground cover consisted of medium length grass, interspersed with clumps of stinging nettles, thistles, brambles as well as large amount of rotting wood.

The areas to be surveyed were divided into 8 x 20 metre squares; grids were laid out using tapes and triangulation. Two types of geophysical survey were carried out.

Resistance

Twin-prod resistance Geoscan RM15 meter was used in all the 8 squares. The meter was set to take 2 readings per metre along traverses 1 metre apart.

Magnetometer

The magnetometer used was a Bartington 601-2 twin fluxgate gradiometer. This machine has two separated detectors 1m apart, so allowing two traverses to be done at the same time.

It was set to take 4 Readings per metre at a pace of 1.0 m/s lines spaced at 1m intervals.

Conclusion

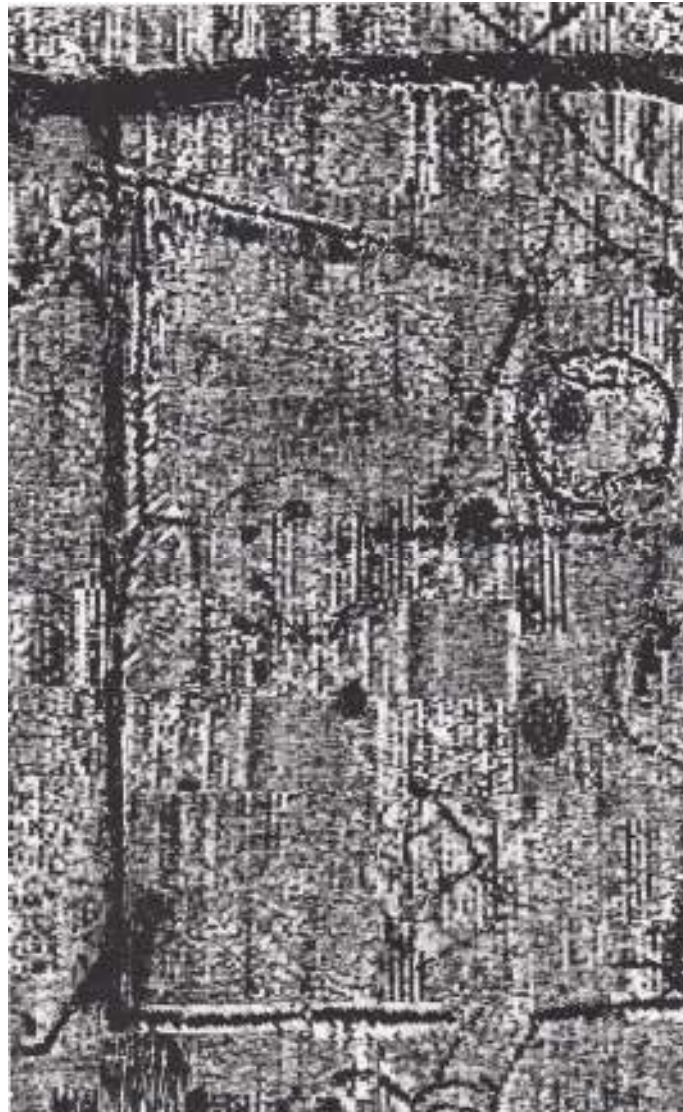
The results of the geophysical survey have confirmed an extensive and complex series of anomalies that confirms the existence of linear ditches, pits and curvilinear features.

It was also apparent from the results that these anomalies probably carry on into the adjacent properties.

Early indications from these geophysics anomalies suggest occupation of the site for a considerable length of time.

The layout compares with early mapping and aerial photography and evidence seen on the ground.

Fig. 5. Print out of the Amalgamated Magnetometer and Resistance Results



This geophysics print out clearly shows the large ditch running east to west, the ditches of the rectilinear enclosure to the south of the large feature are visible. Other features apparent are Round features (Houses), Pits or burnt areas, and other curvilinear and linear features also the entrance into the rectilinear enclosure is clear at the bottom of the print out. Most of the features were visible on the resistance print out, caused by levelling of the ditches by back filling of this feature with flint nodules and other stones.

4 Excavation Methods and Techniques

To achieve the research aims it was decided to lay out ten trenches across the main areas, where the geophysical survey suggested ditches and other features might be located.

Trenches of varying sizes were excavated by hand and were dug down to the uppermost surviving levels of archaeological significance, or until natural deposits were reached. The trench locations are marked on figure 6 and are identified by their trench numbers 1 to 10.

All discrete features were excavated to a degree sufficient to establish the extent, character and where possible to date the feature.

An appropriately qualified archaeologist monitored all intrusive groundwork's.

A unique site code (TL004) was agreed with Wiltshire County Archaeological department prior to the commencement of the excavation.

All features and deposits were recorded using The Archaeological Field Group *pro forma* recording systems, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique number.

All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated, and all plans and sections were annotated with OD heights.

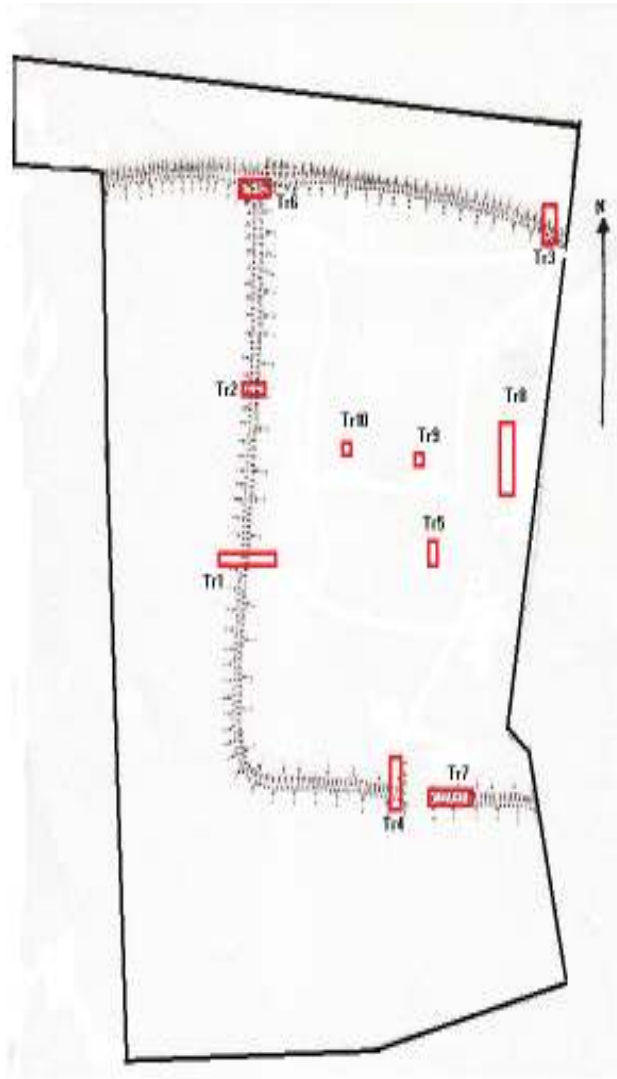
A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained throughout the excavations using a digital camera.

Finds were treated in accordance with the principles and practices set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001).

All archives and all artefacts will be deposited at the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes as requested by the landowners.

At the completion of the work, all trenches will be reinstated using the excavated soil.

Fig. 6 Location of Trenches



Glebe Farm, Tilshead
Plan of location of trenches
Drawn by Lynn Amadio

5 The Recorded Archaeology from the Trenches

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 8 metres in length and was originally 1.0 metre in width, the eastern side of the trench was increased by 0.50 metres to facilitate better understanding of the bank and ditch construction.

This trench was located mid-way along the western side of the rectilinear enclosure and was positioned across the bank and ditch of this feature.

After the removal of the turf, the overburden was revealed (101), which was a friable brown silty soil, containing numerous pieces of flint, chalk and fine gravel. Finds recovered from this context were all post-medieval in date, which included pottery, roof tile and iron objects.

Directly under the topsoil, two ditches and a bank were revealed. The ditch [102] on the western side of the bank ran in a north to south direction. This feature [102] appeared to be medieval in date but was re-cut probably in the early post-medieval period, it was 1.78 metres in wide and 1.43 metres in depth, with sharp sloping sides and a flat base, it was filled by two distinct individual fills, (103) was a thick layer of mid-brown silty clay, with contained the occasional sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, iron objects, animal and bird bones including, 2 complete canine skeletons (see figures 8 and 9). The bottom was filled with a thin deposit (104) of chalk and pea gravel, which is likely to be derived from hill-wash and represents a colluvial action; it contained only 4 sherds of medieval pottery. The surface of the ditch had a narrow depression cut into the underlying chalk; this feature is likely to be water-formed, rather than man-made.

The bank [105] was composed of chalk blocks, flint nodules interspersed with a chalky soil (106), and the surface was covered with a compacted layer of flint, pebbles and fine dark greyish gravel, which had been deliberately laid to strengthen the bank.

A posthole [107] was found on the top of the bank, measuring 0.25 metres x 0.34 metres in depth, it contained only 1 fill (108) which was a greyish - brown silty clay interspersed with CBM, stones and flint. This posthole was not precisely datable but was probably medieval or post medieval in origin, it might relate to a fence or hurdles which could have been built on the top of the bank to keep sheep from escaping from the enclosure.

The second ditch [109] on the eastern side of the bank was not apparent on the ground or from aerial photographs, but geophysics showed this second ditch as a separate linear feature running parallel to the bank. This ditch was 1.23 metres wide and 1.23 metres in depth, the side were sloping and the base flat, it contained three fills (110) was composed of a friable silty clay, dark brown in colour, with burnt flints, flint flakes also a possible blade, animal bones and sherds of Iron age pottery were also recovered. (111) Was a firm chalky sandy clay, dark grey in colour, with numerous flecks of charcoal, fragments of burnt flint and animal bones, a shaped bone tool, 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery was also recovered which included early Neolithic and fragments of Beaker pottery. (112) The floor or base of the ditch appeared to have a diagonal spread of gravel, which appears to have been deliberately laid.



Fig. 7. Trench 1, under excavation.



Fig. 8. Post hole [107] Trench 1



Fig. 9. Canine skeleton Trench 1



Fig. 10 Canine skull Trench 1



Fig. 11. Trench 1, showing both excavated ditches.

Fig. 12. Plan of Trench 1

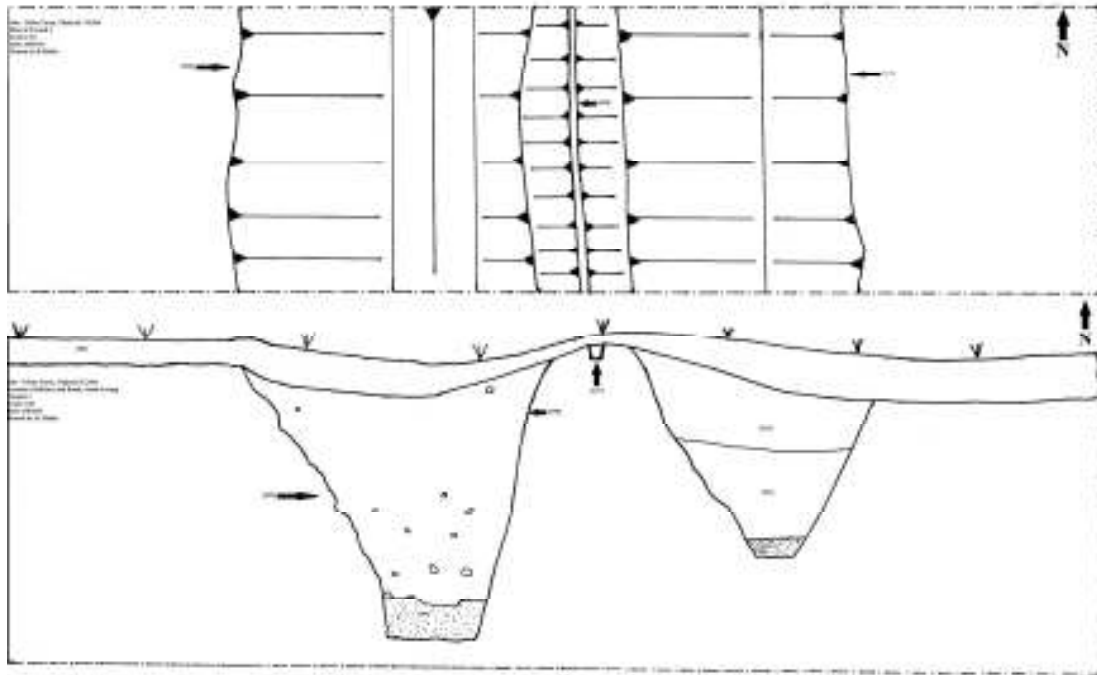


Fig. 13. Section of Ditches and Bank, Trench 1

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was located on the western side of the site, midway between trench 1 and the larger ditch on the northern side. This position was chosen because the geophysics suggested a different method of construction and to sample the ditch fill and not the bank See figure 7.

The trench was 4 metres in length and 1.5 metres in width. After the removal of the turf, the overburden (201), was a friable brown silty soil and contained numerous pieces of flint and chalk. Finds recovered from this context were all post-medieval in date, which included pottery, bone and iron objects.

Directly under the topsoil, a ditch cut [202] was revealed; this was the same ditch as [102] in trench 1. This feature [202] appeared to be medieval in date, and steps had been cut into the natural chalk to form the western side of the ditch, it was 1.29 metres in width and 0.54 metres in depth, with uneven sides and a flat base, there was only 1 fill to this ditch (203) a friable grey/brown sandy chalky soil containing flints and pieces of chalk. This ditch produced very few artefacts, mainly animal bone and the occasional sherd of pottery from the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval period.



Fig. 14. West Facing. Trench 2

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3, Located at the eastern end of the northern bank and ditch. As with trench 2, this trench did not investigate the bank and was concerned only with the ditch see figure 13. The original trench measured 3 metres in length x 1.00 metres width. The first year excavation only partially revealed the true extent of the ditch, but a portion of a skeleton of a horse was found, with no time to complete the excavation the remains were covered and the trench back filled.

The following year the trench was widened to 1.50 metres and lengthened to 4.00 metres, careful re-excavated of the 4 layers revealed more of the horse skeleton and the skull was found see figures 11 and 12.

When the turf was removed a stiff mid- brown sandy clay (301) was exposed throughout trench, up to 20 cms in depth with inclusions of small pieces of flint and stone, finds recovered from the topsoil include pottery, glass and metal objects all datable to the post-medieval period. After the removal of topsoil (301) the profile of the ditch [303] was revealed.

This ditch had 4 fills or deposits; the top layer was soft slightly tenacious dark greyish brown silty clay (303) with an average depth of 32 cms, which contained animal bones, iron objects, slag and medieval pottery.

Directly below (303) was a layer (304) of yellowish-brown clay colluvium containing small to medium sized pieces of flint and stone, finds include 6 sherds of Iron Age pottery, worked flint objects, daub and bones, overall depth of this deposit (304) was 43 cms.

Directly overlying the primary fill was (305) friable dark grey silty clay with moderate amounts of burnt flint, flint nodules, and lumps of chalk, bones, daub and charcoal, 29 cms in depth. Finds recovered were prehistoric pottery (Neolithic), also Bronze Age flint tools were recovered

The primary fills (306) brown silty sand with large chalk inclusions and the occasional pieces of sarsen, 18 cms in depth, artefacts recovered from this deposit were Neolithic and Bronze Age in date.

This ditch when fully excavated was 2.83 metres in width and 1.42 in depth, the sides were stepped on the northern side and slopping to vertical on the southern side, the base was slopping to the south.

Dating of this east – west linear ditch is problematic and still open to discussion, what is known is that this ditch appears to circumvallate parts of the village of Tilshead, more section need to be excavated at different location around Tilshead to properly ascertain the date of construction of this feature, but finds recovered from this ditch suggest that it is late Neolithic or early Bronze Age in its construction.

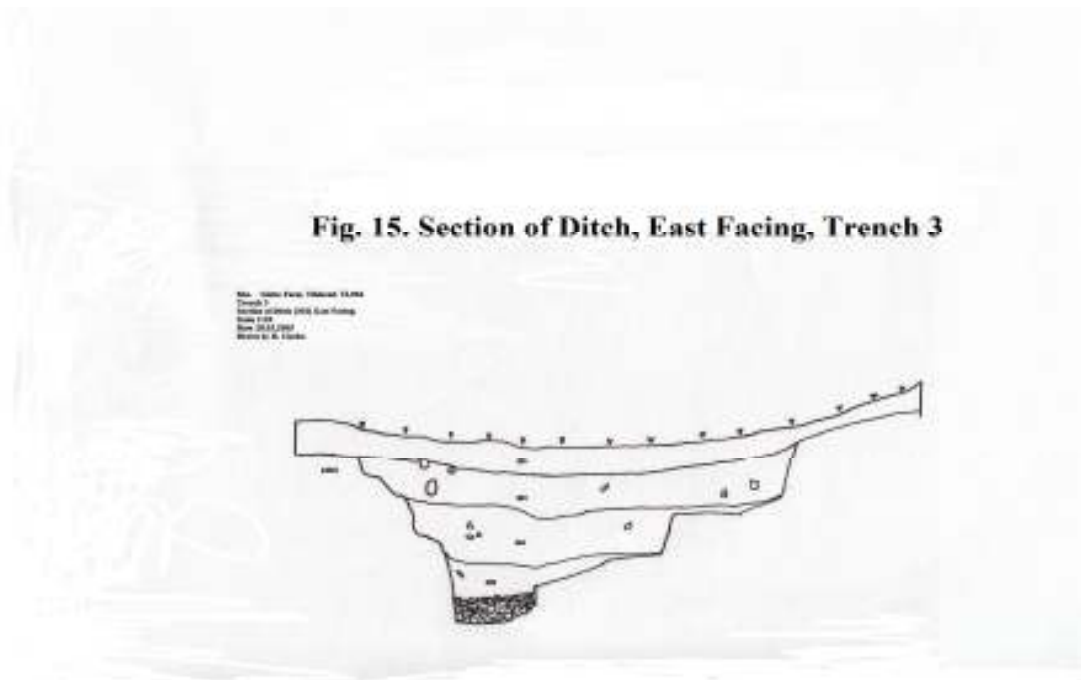


Fig. 16. Equine skull, Trench 3



Fig. 17. Skeleton of an Equine, Trench 3



Fig. 18. Skeleton of an Equine, Trench 3

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 4 metres in length and 1.50 metres in width, and was sited across the western side of a possible entrance to the enclosure.

After removal of the turf, and dark grey/brown friable topsoil (401), which containing large amount of wood charcoal and other burnt vegetation, this material probably originated from bonfires or dumping of household fire waste. Finds from this context contained iron objects, CBM, glass, clay pipes and pottery sherds all dateable to post medieval period.

After the removal of this overburden the profile of the ditch [402] was apparent, it measures 1.25 metres wide; and when fully excavated was 0.48 metres in depth, with uneven sloping sides and a concave base. This enclosure ditch contained three fills (403) which was dark grey/brown clayey silt, containing copious amounts of burnt flint nodules, chalk, small pieces of sarsen and other stones were also present, this deposit was 21 cms in depth. Context (404) the lower fill was completely different, consisting of yellow/brown clay up to 27 cms in depth, which extended to the round-ended terminal of the enclosure. At the terminal end, pieces of sarsen stone and flint nodules (405) had been placed deliberately, possibly to hold a gate post, under these stones, a child's iron bracelet, bone pins and a horse scapula were recovered, which could represent a placed deposit, fragments of Iron Age pottery, burnt clay or daub and burnt flint were also found.

The internal bank [406] was mostly constructed from the soil excavated from the enclosure ditch, the bank surfaces was covered with a compacted layer of flint, pebbles and fine dark greyish gravel (407), which had been deliberately laid to strengthen the bank, this was similar to what was found on the bank in trench 1.

The bank was 1.60 metres wide and was 30 cms in-depth, but evidence from other places on the bank suggest that this bank was considerably higher, finds recovered from the fill of the bank ranged in date from the Iron Age to the early Romano-British period.

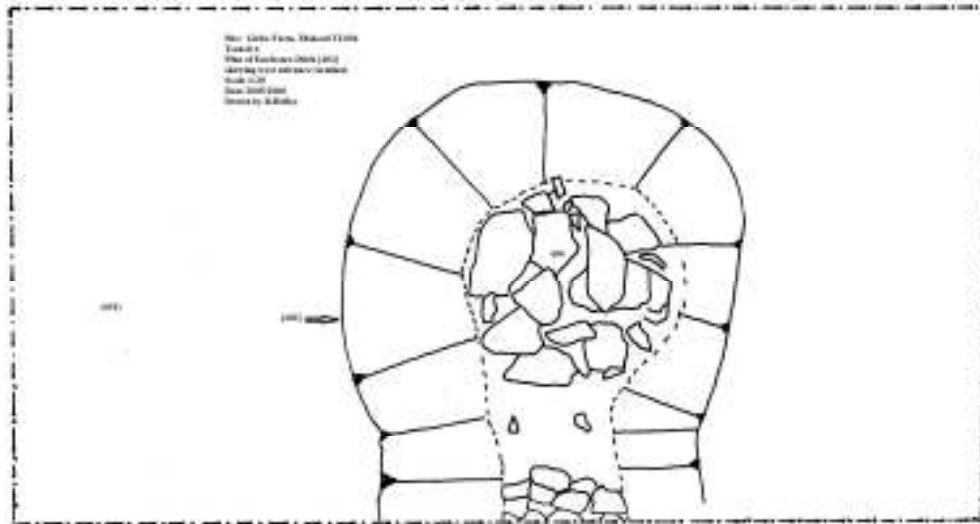


Fig. 19. Plan of Terminal end to Ditch [402] Trench 4

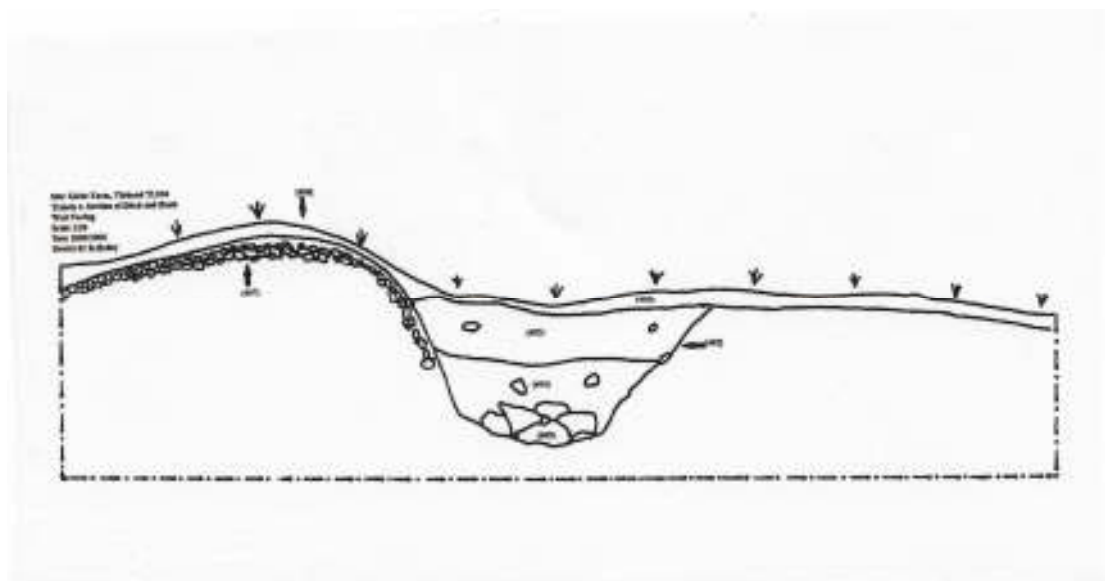


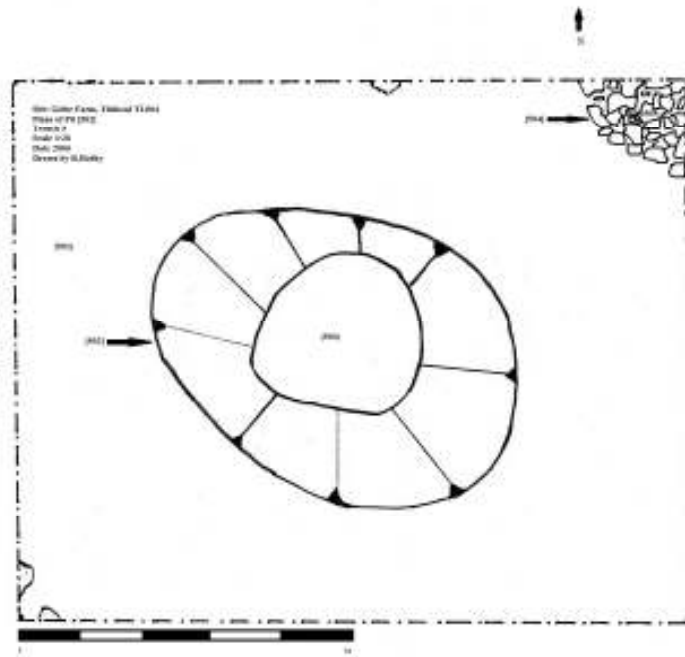
Fig. 20. Section through Enclosure Ditch [402] and Bank [406] Trench 4

Trench 5

A small trench measuring 2.00 metre x 2.00 metre was located over a geophysical anomaly situated within the rectilinear enclosure. This feature was thought to be a pit. Once the turf and overburden (501) had been removed an ovoid shape [502] was observed cut into the natural chalk geology. This feature measure 1.23 metres in length x 0.92 metres in width, and was filled by a single deposit (503) a stiff greyish-brown clayey-silt with orange mottling up to 45 cms thick. The sides of this feature were sloping with an uneven base.

No archaeological components were recovered from the fill of this pit, which remains, essentially, undated, though it is likely to be Iron Age by association. In the northeast corner of the trench was a small area of laid flint and stone [504], perhaps a floor, which might be associated with the round house.

Fig. 21. Plan of Trench 5, showing ovoid pit [502].



Trench 6

Trench 6, orientated east-west and measured 4 metres in length x 1.50 metres in width, was excavated through the north western section of the rectilinear enclosure ditch, where it joined the larger ditch which ran in an east-west direction across the northern part of the site

This was to determine the original form, sequence and construction date of this ditch and its relationship to the larger east-west ditch.

The turf line and topsoil (601), which was a friable brown/greyish silty soil and contained pieces of flint and chalk. Finds recovered from this context were all medieval and post-medieval in date, which included pottery, bone and iron objects. Directly under the topsoil, a ditch cut [602] was revealed; this was the same ditch as sampled [102] in trench 1 and [202] in trench 2. This ditch measured 1.11 metres in width and was 0.42 metres in depth, with uneven sloping sides and a flat base. There were only 2 fill to this ditch (603) a grey/brown sandy clay loam with small amounts of flint and chalk, this deposit produced only animal bone and the occasional sherds of Saxon pottery and pottery from the medieval period. The lower fill (604) a stiff yellowish/brown silty clay, finds recovered from this context include 3 sherds of Iron Age and a single sherd of Roman Samian pottery also very fragmented animal bones were recovered which showed signs of being burnt.

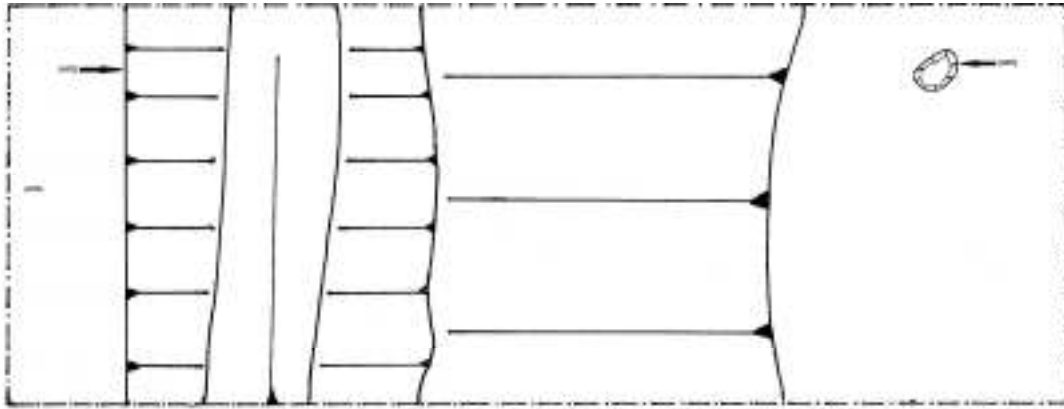
In the western end of the trench there was a post hole, oval in shape, and measured 28 cms in length by 21 cms in width and 18 cms in depth with a concave base, this feature had 1 fill a very dark brown/black silty loam containing small amounts of burnt bone.

When the ditch and bank was fully excavated it became clear that this enclosure ditch had truncated the older larger ditch, which ran across the northern edge of the site.

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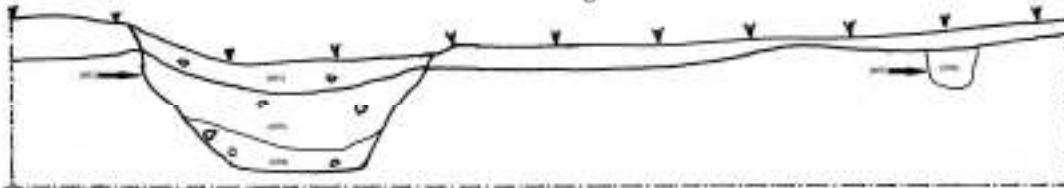


Fig. 22. Plan of Trench 6



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**Fig. 23. Section of Ditch, Trench 6
North Facing**

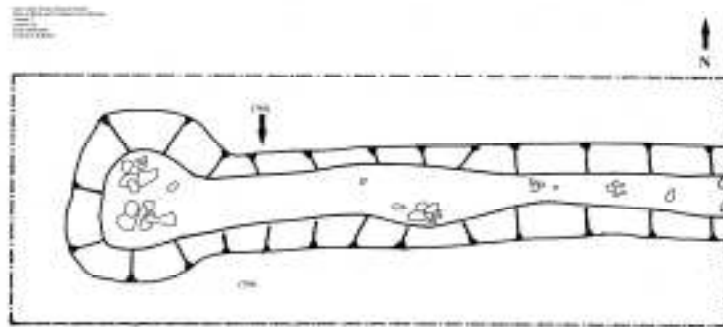


Trench 7

Trench 7 Measured 4 metres in length x 1.50 metres wide, and was positioned across the eastern side of the putative entrance to the enclosure. After the removal of the turf, the overburden (701), which on average was up to 31 cms deep, but considerably different to the overburdens in other trenches, and consisted of a friable dark brown/black silty soil, heavily contaminated with burnt material, mostly ash and charcoal, interspersed with burnt flint and the occasional fragments of ceramic building material. Directly below the topsoil was the outline of the terminal of the enclosure ditch [702], which had 2 deposits, (703) was a thin layer of yellowish brown silty clay, which contained occasional sherds of medieval pottery, possible from a jug or pitcher, with green glaze, and a handle from a different vessel with incised decorations of ring and dots, other objects recovered were unidentified iron objects and animal bones. The bottom fill was a thin deposit (704) of chalk, flint, medium sized stones and small amounts of pea gravel, parts of this context is likely to have been derived from hill-wash and represents colluvial action, no finds were recovered from this context, and the environmental sample taken was devoid of any charred plant remains and no pollen was noted.

Unlike the trench over the western terminal, no Iron Age artefacts were found.

Fig. 24. Plan of Trench 7



Trench 8

Trench 8 measured 6 metres in length x 1.50 metres in width. This trench was positioned to the middle, but eastern side of the site across a linear ditch which ran from the east side of the site, and circular anomaly to the north thought to be the remains of a round house, both these features were apparent from the magnetometer and resistance survey.

After the removal of the turf line, the topsoil (801) a mid - brown, silty loam up to 23 cms in depth, this deposit contained pottery, metal objects and glass all datable to the post-medieval period. There was another intriguing object recovered from this context, it was made of lead and although it has been shown to experts at several museums, no-one has been able to identify it, (see Fig.51).

Directly below the topsoil there was a deposit of (802) friable chalky sandy soil, greyish to light brown in colour with moderate amounts of fragmented stone, chalk and flint nodules, this deposit measured up to 29 cms in depth, finds recovered included, a sherd of Iron Age pottery, bones and fragments of unidentifiable iron and flecks of copper alloy.

After the removal of (802) a series of features was observed (See Fig. 22), [803] was a laid chalk floor which covered the middle to northern areas of the trench, the fill of floor (804) was constructed from chalk, trampled down hard to form the surface, this floor was on average up to 18 cms in depth, there were 2 small separate areas, greyish to black in colour, possible caused by burning, also noted was a possible entrance to the south-east, Parker Pearson has postulated that entrances of roundhouses in the Iron Age predominately face east to south east, this reflects the daily movement of the sun and the circle of life. The doorway faces the rising sun (birth), the space within the house (moving clockwise) is for the living, working at weaving, grinding and potting, often where refuse is found; then comes the space for eating, then sleeping, followed by storage and finally an area for offerings (death) reaching the door again (Pryor 2004).

Curving around the south and west of the floor [803] was a ditch [805] which was interpreted as the drainage gully for the round house, it measured 0.52 metres wide by 0.23 in depth, this feature contained 2 fills, the upper fill of this gully (806) was a friable orangey brown sandy loam with occasional pieces of flint, finds from this fill included Bronze Age, Beaker and Iron Age pottery, animal bones, a Neolithic scraper also burnt flint was recovered.

The primary fill was (807) a loose deposit of red brown sandy loam colluvium interspersed by fragments of chalk. In between this deposit and (806) were the skeletal remains of a child, with its head to the North West, (see Fig's 29, 30, 31) (also 9 Human Remains report.).

Finds from the primary fill and within the skeletal remains, included a fossilised sea urchin Fig. 32, metal object see figures 33 and 34, Neolithic flint blade and Core, burnt flint and Neolithic pottery, also recovered was a small quantity of animal bones red deer, pole cat and sheep.

Further excavations to the south of the roundhouse gully, revealed a linear ditch [808] running east-west which abutted and truncated [805] part of the roundhouse gully suggesting a later date for its construction. This feature had been cut into the natural chalk, this linear ditch measured 0.82 metres wide x 0.36 metres in depth and had 3 distinctive layers, the top fill (809) was a friable orangey brown sandy loam, similar to (806) in the drainage gully, no artefacts were recovered from this fill.

The middle layer (810) stiff greyish-brown silty clay, with moderate amounts of charcoal flecking and small fragments of chalk and stone, finds recovered were two sherds of Iron Age pottery and animal bones.

Direct below the central layer was the primary fill (811), a yellowish-brown silty clay colluvium containing small fragments of flint, chalk and sherds of prehistoric pottery. Only one posthole, [812] was identified towards the south end of the trench which measured 0.21 metres in width x 0.32 metres in depth with vertical sides and concave base, it contained a single sandy loam fill (813), dark brown in colour possibly caused by decaying wood. This posthole may represent part of the structure of the roundhouse, the other postholes being beyond the limits of the trench.

In the southwest corner of the trench was a small pit [814], which contained a friable dark grey/black soil with copious amounts of charcoal; this pit was thought to contain the remains of a fire.

Fig. 25 Plan of Trench 8

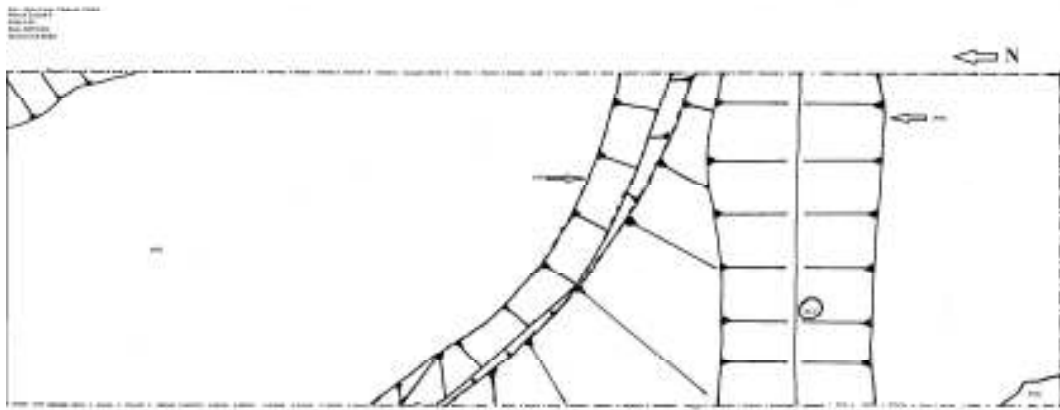


Fig. 26 Section of Trench 8, West Facing.

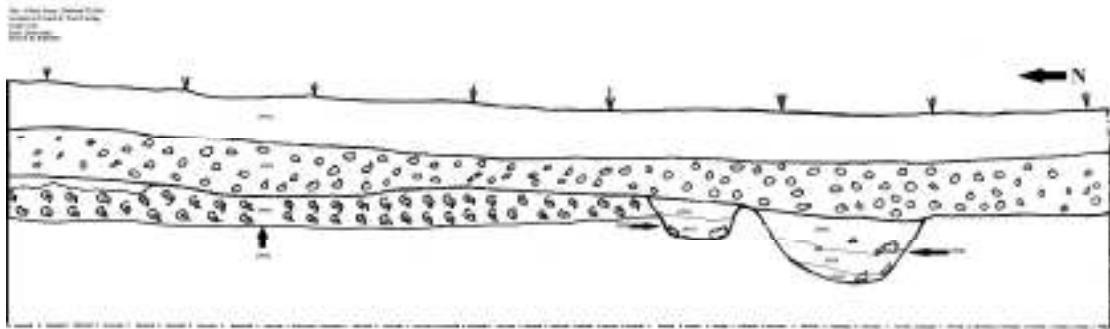


Fig.27. Photograph of Roundhouse Drainage Gully and Linear Ditch, West Facing, Trench 8





Fig. 28 Photograph, Showing Ditches running across Trench 8.



Fig.29 Photograph, Showing Ditch and Post Hole, Trench 8



Fig. 30. Photograph of Child's skeleton



Fig. 31. Photograph of Child's Skeleton

Fig. 32. Photograph of Child's Skull



Fig. 33. A fossilised sea urchin was discovered at the bottom of the ditch, whilst common within the chalk, it seemed to have been deliberately placed.

Fig.34. The metal object found with the child's skeleton was X-rayed revealing it to be a bow shaped brooch similar to Fig. 35, Trench 8

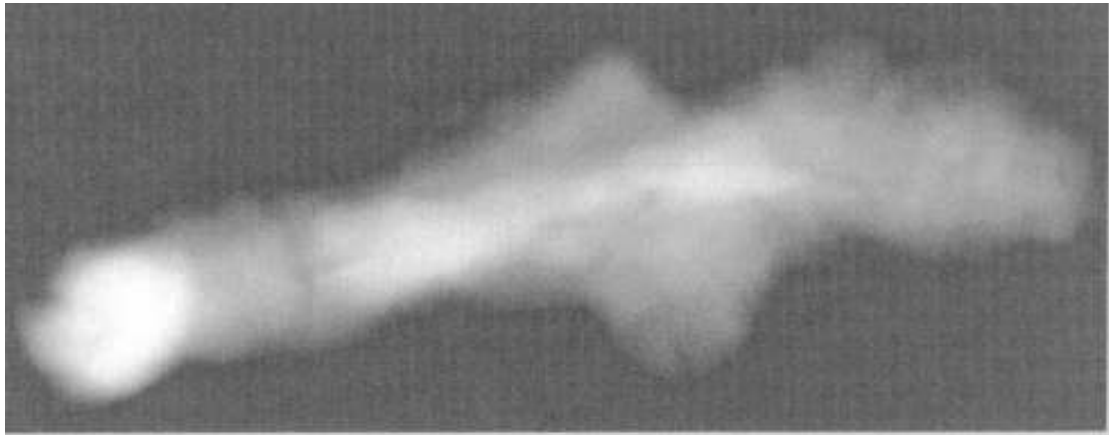
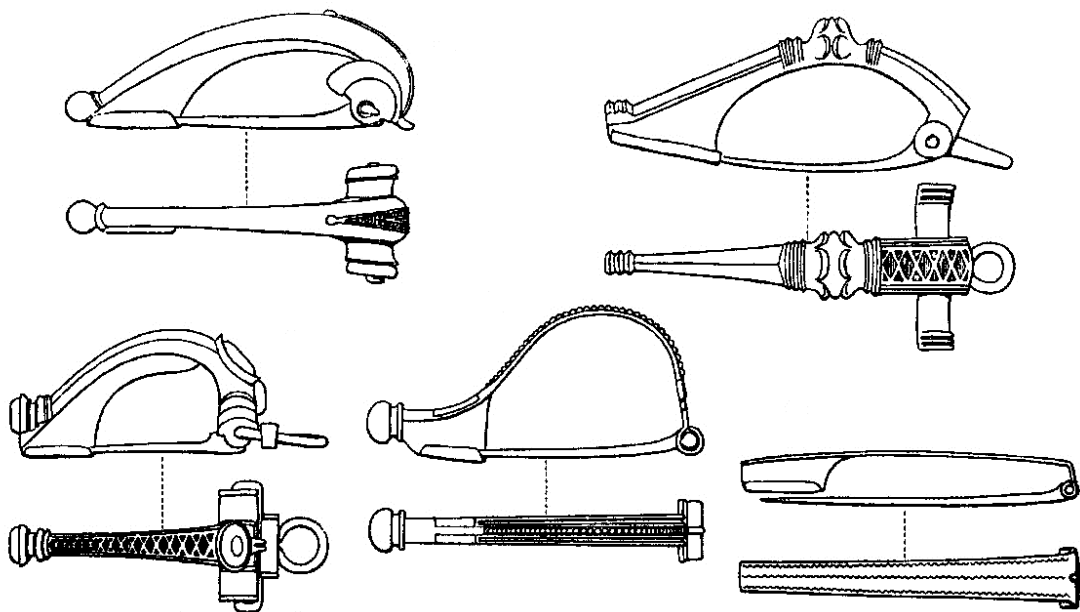


Fig. 35. Bow brooches similar to Fig. 34.



Trench 9

A small 1m x 1m test trench was excavated over one of the anomalies seen on the geophysics as an oval shape.

The turf was removed, and the overburden (901), which was a friable dark brown silty soil, up to 30cms in depth, and contained small pieces of broken bone and post medieval pottery sherds.

Directly below (901) was context (902), a flinty gravel layer up to 6 cms in depth, only one artefact was recovered, a neck of a vessel in a sandy coarse fabric, light brown in colour with a grey/black interior finish, thought to be early medieval in date. Context (903) was a cobbled stone surface arrangement of larger flint nodules, but only on the western side, on the eastern side was a deliberately laid cobbled chalk surface (904), finds included worked flint tools, animal bone and Iron Age pottery. Between (903) and (904) was a small area of chalky grey/brown soil (905), in which a post hole had been dug [906] measured 28 cms in diameter and up to 35 cms in depth, this feature contained 1 fill (907), which was a yellow brown clay, mixed with chalk and sandy material and the occasional fragment of charcoal, finds recovered were worked flint tools, burnt flint, daub and Bronze and Iron Age pottery. The features located in this trench possibly relates to a circular structure seen on the geophysics, which is likely to be a round house.

Fig.36 Showing posthole and neck of a vessel, Trench 9



Fig. 37 Posthole [906] Trench 9.



Fig. 38, Posthole [906] Trench 9

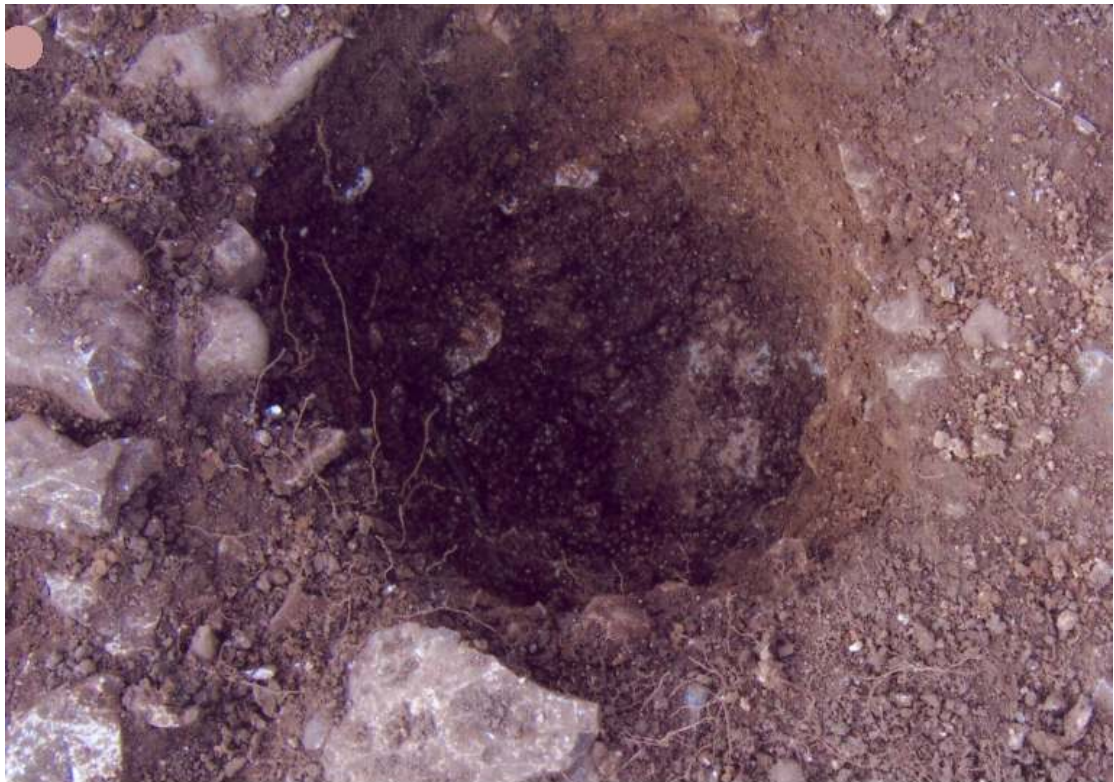


Fig. 39. Plan of Trench 9

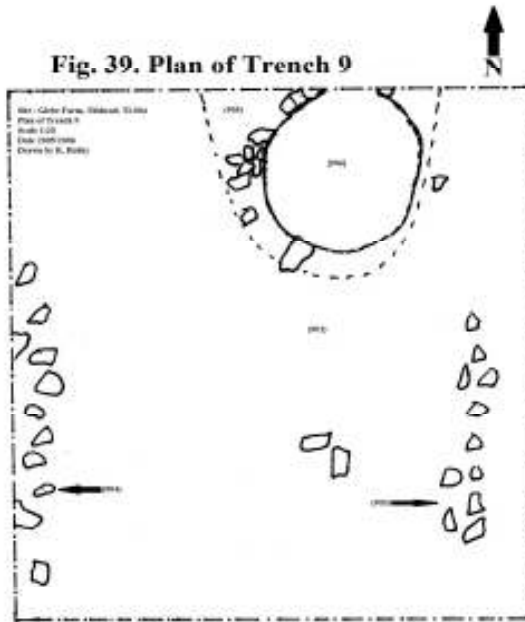
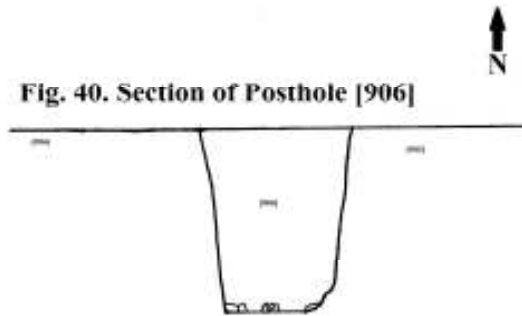


Fig. 40. Section of Posthole [906]



5.10 Trench 10

Trench 10, measured 1m x 1m and was positioned to the west of trench 9, after the turf was removed, the overburden (1001), was a friable brown silty soil and contained numerous pieces of flint and chalk.

This test pit was excavated down until natural geology was encountered, no archaeological features were found, only a very small amount of fragmented bone, burnt flint, iron fragments and three tiny pieces of abraded pottery were recovered, none could be positively dated to a specific period.

6 Finds

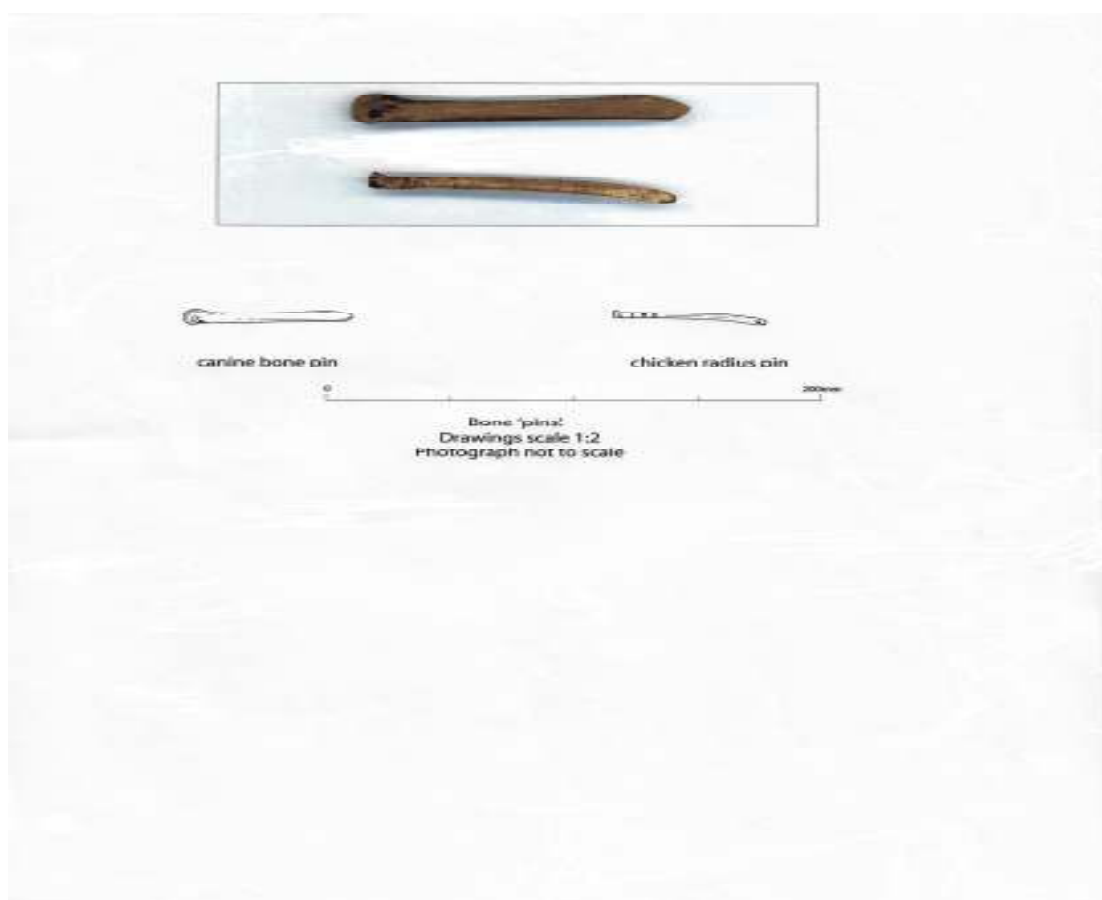
Finds are described and shown in tables set out below, apart from pottery and bones very few artefacts were recovered; they range in date from the Neolithic to modern times.

Finds comprised Bone objects, Ceramic building material, Clay pipes, Copper Alloy Objects, Daub or burnt clay, Flint, Glass, Iron Objects and Slag and Lead Objects

6.1 Bone Objects

Included 2 bone pins, one with decoration along its spine, and a carved bone use unknown, all thought to be early Bronze Age in date.

Fig. 41. Photograph and Drawing of Bone Pins, Trench 1



6.2 Ceramic Building Material, Stone and Stone Objects

16, Fragments of Ceramic Building Material were recovered, from only two trenches. All appear to be medieval to post-medieval in date and included fragments of unfrosted brick and roof tiles. The roof tiles and the fragments of brick show signs of over firing with a vitrified surface. Two fragments of green glazed roof tile was recovered and dated to the later medieval period.

Fig.42. Table of Ceramic Building Material

Trench No's	Context No's	Number	Weight/gms	Description	Age
T1	101	2	147	Red brick	Post-medieval
T1	101	4	134	Roof tile	Post-medieval
T1	108	2	168	Roof tile	Medieval
T1	108	4	155	Roof tile	Post-medieval
T7	701	3	175	Red brick	Post-medieval
T7	701	1	126	Roof tile	Post-medieval
Total		16	905		

Fig.43. Table of Stone Objects

Trench No's	Context No's	Number	Material	Description	Age
T1		1	Limestone, broken	Loam weight	Medieval
T4		1	White Lias stone	Spindle whorl	Iron Age
T8		1	Limestone, broken	Loam weight	Bronze or Iron Age
T4		1	Sandstone	Whetstone	Iron Age, Roman
T8		1	Sandstone, broken	Whetstone	Iron Age, Roman
T8		1	Sandstone stone, broken	Saddle Quern	Iron Age
T3		2	Sarsen stone	?	?
T4		1	Sarsen stone	Polishing stone	Neolithic
T8		1	Sarsen stone	Worked, use unknown	?
T8		2	Sarsen stone	Burnt?	?

6.3 Clay Pipes

14 pieces of clay pipe were recovered, all from the topsoil, no maker's marks were found on the stems or the bowl, judging by the size of the stems of the pipes they are all late 18th or early 19th century in date.

6.4 Daub or Burnt Clay

52 pieces of daub or fired clay were recovered from trench 3, 4, 8 and 9. Wattle/twig/stick impressions were found on some of the daub or fired clay, and this may represent structural material from a building with walls made of this material or the remains of an oven.

6.5 Copper Alloy Objects

Cast copper alloy circular buckle with the pin missing, 13th or 14th century. Tr1.

Cast copper alloy, notched lip, and looped buckle 14th or 15th century. Tr2. Fig. 44.

Copper alloy pin from a Ring brooch 14th century Tr6

Copper alloy, openwork button, and Tudor period. Tr7

Copper alloy Brooch, La Tene 1, type. Late Iron Age. Tr4, Fig.45.

Copper alloy Colchester bow brooch of late Iron Age to Roman Date. Tr8 see Figures 34, 35 and 46



Fig.44. Cast copper alloy, notched lip, looped buckle 14th or 15th century. Tr2.

Fig.45 Iron Age Brooch of round-copper alloy wire, with bilateral spring of four turns; the chord is exterior, not by the bow, which is a flat curve is reminiscent of a La Tene 1, type characteristic of Britain. Trench 4.

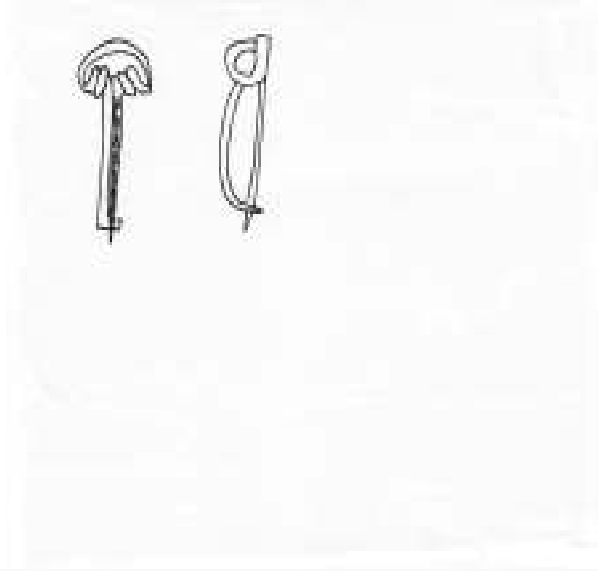


Fig.46. Heavily corroded cast copper alloy Colchester bow brooch of late Iron Age to early Roman in date. The brooch has short, flat rectangular wings, pin missing, Trench 8, and see also see Figures 34 and 35.

6.6 Flint Report

The flint assemblage of 23 pieces of worked flint consisting of tools and cores possibly suggests a small-scale settlement or camp, only 15 pieces from the collection have patina development and the others have a thin cortex suggesting a local chalk source for the flint. The collection is largely Neolithic (17) and the remaining 6 items are Bronze Age in date. The flint assemblage was recovered from a comparative small number of trenches (5). 37 pieces from the collection show various degrees of thermal damage by fire, the recovery of this burnt flint is of interest, but not datable and was subsequently discarded.

Fig.47. Table Flint Report

Description	Period	Remarks	Trench Numbers	Context Number	Totals
Arrow	Neolithic	Part of a leaf shaped	Tr 1	111	1
Blade	Neolithic	All damaged	Tr 8	807	3
Blade	Bronze Age	Leaf shape damaged	Tr 9	907	2
Borer	Neolithic	Complete	Tr 3	305	1
Core	Bronze Age	Complete	Tr 3	305	1
Core	Neolithic	Complete	Tr 8	807	3
Fabricator	Neolithic	All damaged	T r1	110	3
Fabricator	Bronze Age	Complete	Tr 4	405	1
Flake	Neolithic	Waste	Tr 9	907	3
Flake	Neolithic	Worked	Tr 8	807	2
Scraper	Neolithic	End	Tr 8	806	2
Scraper	Bronze Age	Large	Tr 3	305	1
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Small size	Tr 1	110	3
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Medium size	Tr 1	111	5
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Medium size	Tr 3	305	4
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Medium size	Tr 4	405	3
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Small size	Tr 8	806	11
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Medium size	Tr 8	807	8
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Small size	Tr 9	907	2
Burnt Flint	Not Datable	Small size	Tr 10	1101	1
Total					60

6.7 Glass Report

21 pieces of glass from window and vessels were recovered from the topsoils, all Georgian and Victorian in date.

6.8 Iron Objects and Slag Reports

The assemblage is varied and the objects quite diverse in date and function. Many of the iron pieces were unrecognisable and have been record in the Fig. 46 (Table of Iron Objects as Unidentifiable).

The collection of nails include a large head typical of medieval door nails and roves, other nails include narrow rectangular head form, that did not appear until the later medieval period, other nails are post-medieval in date, other items recovered appear to be of agricultural origin.

Fig.48 Table of Iron Objects

Trench Numbers	Tr1	Tr2	Tr3	Tr4	Tr5	Tr6	Tr7	Tr8	Tr9	Tr10	Total
Blades	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Bracelet	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Badge	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hasp	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Horse shoes	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Knife handle	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nails	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
Stylus fragment	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unidentifiable	1	2	3	1	0	2	2	1	0	2	14
Total	11	6	6	5	0	3	6	1	0	2	40

Fig.49 Child's Bracelet

The metal object found, in the terminal of the enclosure ditch Trench 4 at the entrance was x-rayed and was revealed to be a child's bracelet (bangle) with slightly splayed, flat terminals, heavily and compact corrosion, dating to the Iron Age

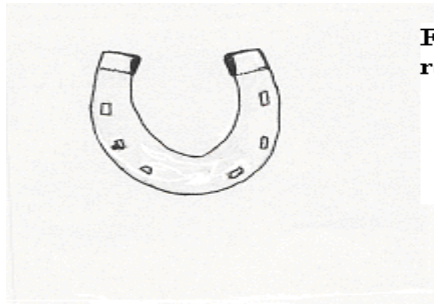


Fig.50. Drawing of Medieval Horseshoe recovered from Trench 3.

6.81. Slag

A small amount of slag (5 pieces) was recovered from trenches 3 and 5, but there is little evidence of iron working on this site.

6.9 Lead Objects

Fragments of this metal were found during the course of the excavations. All fragments and objects made from lead, occurred in layers associated with the medieval or post-medieval period.

The lead was used for various purposes; including window furniture, nails with pieces of lead adhering to them, large calibre musket ball, part of a medieval mount, medieval token with incised cross and several unidentifiable round objects perhaps gaming tokens.

Fig.51. Lead and Glass Tablet now thought to be part of a battery. Trench 8.



7 Pottery

Introduction

An assemblage of some 143 sherds of pottery weighing 2.979Kg was recovered. Of the 143 sherds of pottery recovered 13 (9%) weighing 223gms could not be placed into a specific time period and therefore have been categorised under 'unidentifiable'.

The system used to classify the sherds was based on identifying known wares first; the material was then looked at in terms of its date, origin and any evidence of function, a reference collection was also employed to assist in this process. The assemblage was quantified by weight and shard count and individual sherds were checked by the use of a hand lens (X10) to identify the principal fabric types; the results are shown in Table 52.

Almost all the pottery was derived from stratified contexts. The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site; nine of the ten trenches produced pottery. The majority of this assemblage is in a good condition but some of the Romano-British sherds were probably residual to the site.

The pottery assemblage includes diagnostic sherds from the early Neolithic through to the post medieval period.

Table 52 Chronological breakdown of pottery assemblage (number / weight in grammes)

Trench Numbers	Tr1	Tr2	Tr3	Tr4	Tr5	Tr6	Tr7	Tr8	Tr9	Tr10	Total
Date-Range											
Neolithic Age	3	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	11/194
Beaker	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5/87
Bronze Age	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	8/443
Iron Age	5	4	6	2	0	2	0	11	4	0	34/893
Romano-British	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	7/216
Saxon	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4/59
Medieval	7	2	5	0	0	3	5	0	4	0	26/417
Post-Medieval-Modern	10	8	7	2	0	5	0	0	3	0	35/447
Unidentifiable	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	13/223
Totals	32	19	27	7	0	17	5	20	13	3	143/2979

7.1 Neolithic Pottery

Table 53

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Groove Ware	Coarse Fabric containing Grits and Quartz's	5	67	Rims and Body	Groove around Rims	Late Neolithic
Burnished Ware	Sandy fabric	3	56	1 Rim & 2 Body	None	Middle Neolithic
Peterborough Ware	Flint & Grits inclusions	3	71	Body	Bold diagonal impressions	Middle Neolithic
Total		11	194			

7.2 Beaker Pottery

Table 54

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Beaker	Coarse sandy	1	36	Everted Rim.	Line decoration	2000BC
Beaker	Hard coarse sandy	4	51	1 Rim & 3 Body	Cord impressed lines	2000BC
Total		5	87			

7.3 Bronze Age

Table 55

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Biconical Urn	Oxidised	1	166	Base	None	Early Bronze Age
Unknown	Hard, fragments with flint	3	153	Body	Fingernail impressions in horizontal rows	Middle Bronze Age
Deverel-Rimbury Ware	Crushed Stone or Quartz	4	124	Body from Cremation urn	None	Middle to Late Bronze Age
Total		8	443			

7.4 Iron Age Pottery

Table 56

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Flint-Gritted Ware	Flint-gritted tempered	3	33	Body	None	Early Iron Age
Burnished Ware	Finely micaceous	7	205	Body	Chevron	Middle Iron Age
Shelly Ware	Fragments of Shelly limestone	5	167	3 Plain rims and 2 base	None	Middle Iron Age
Scratched cordoned	Dense sandy wares	9	227	Rim from bowl	Chevron	Early to Middle Iron Age

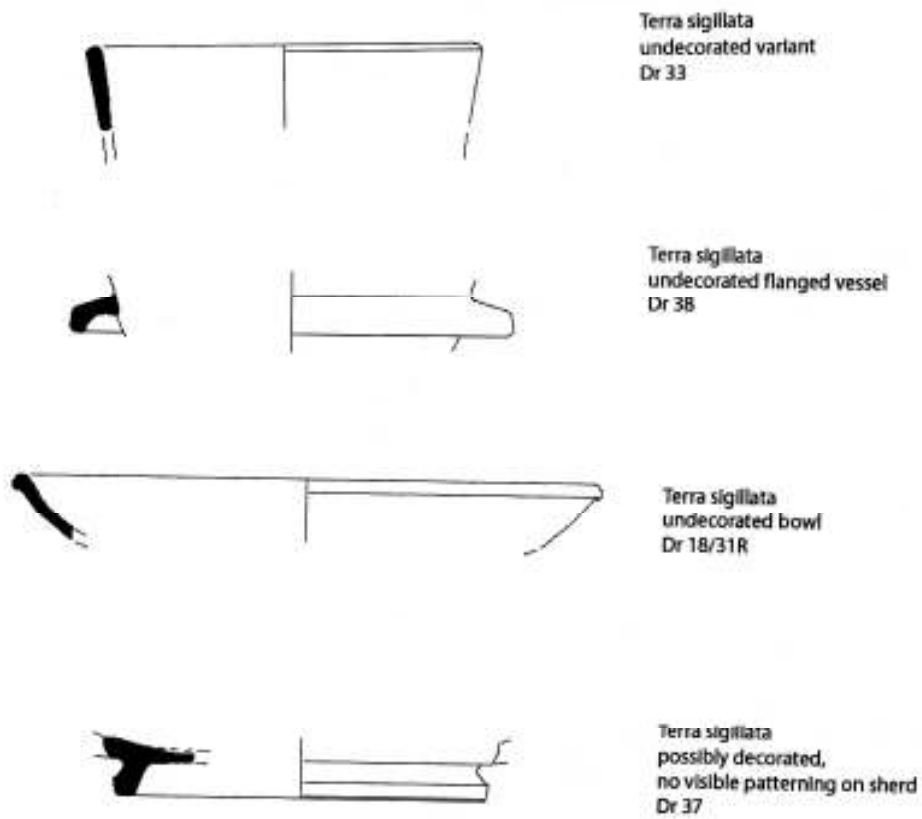
Black Burnished Ware	Coarse sandy fabric	10	261	Body and rims from bowl?	Horizontal and diagonal strokes	Middle Iron Age
Total		34	893			

7.5 Romano-British Pottery

Table 57

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Terra sigillata, Dr 33	Hard in pink or orange	1	26	Rim	Undecorated	1st to 2 nd century
Terra sigillata, flanged vessel Dr 38	Hard in pink or orange	1	29	Base	Undecorated	1st to 2 nd century
Terra sigillata, bowl Dr 18/31R	Hard in pink or orange	1	32	Rim	Undecorated	1st to 2 nd century
Terra sigillata, Dr 37	Hard in pink or orange	1	24		Decorated	1st to 2 nd century
Oxford Coloured Coated Ware	Imitation samian form 37	1	34	Rim	Base	2 nd to 3 rd century
Savernake	Grog-tempered	2	71	Body	No	1 st to 2 nd century
Total		7	216			

Fig. 58. Illustrations of Terra Sigillata, (Samian) Roman Pottery



7.6 Saxon

Table 59

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Grass Tempered Ware	Organic Tempered	1	22	Body	None	Middle Saxon
Gritty Ware	Grit and Sand	3	37	Rim and Body	Incised line decorations	Late Saxon
Total		4	59			

7.7 Medieval Pottery

Table 60

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Possible Selsey Common Wares	Calcareous, tempered with Oolithic limestone	3	56	Body	None, but green glazes	12 th to 14 th century
Fine Sandy Redware	Patchy Green Glaze	2	34	Body	None	13 th to 14 th century
Laverstock Ware	Green Glaze	11	102	Body & rims	Scratch-marks	13 th century
Tudor Green Ware	Green Glaze	4	93	Body	None	14 th to 15 th century
Coarse Ware	Unglazed	2	45	Body & base	None	12 th to 14 th century
Ham Green Ware	Sandy, cream to red colours	4	87	Body & rim	None	13 th to 14 th century
Total		26	417			

7.8 Post Medieval Pottery

Table 61

Ware group	Fabric	Numbers	Weight	Part	Decoration	Date Range
Staffordshire Ware	Slipware	8	41	Body, Rims and Base	Dark brown trails	17 th to 18 th century
Oxidized Wares	Hard and Oxidized	3	35	Body	No	16 th century
Cistercian Wares	Internal Glaze	4	32	Body, Rim	No	16 th century
Transfer Printed Ware	China	7	88	Body and Rims	Blue & Brown Transfer Prints	18 th to 19 th century
Verwood Wares	Glazed	8	154	Body	Yes	18 th century
English Stone Wares	Salt Glazed	5	97	Body, and Base	Mottled appearance	17 th century
Total		35	447			

7.9 Conclusion

The fact that there is pottery from a range of periods provides the opportunity to see the pattern of usage of the site, the pottery assemblage ranged in date from the Middle Neolithic through to the 19th century.

The pottery collection suggests that the material recovered is primary domestic in origin, but there were sherds of pottery perhaps reflecting a funerary process, most of the pottery is in a good condition and probably comes from a settlement on or in the near vicinity to the site.

This assemblage of pottery contains important information about the types of pottery to be found in this area, and will contribute to the understanding of land usage in and around the Glebe farm area of Tilshead.

8 Animal and Bird Bones

Methodology

All the bones were examined to identify species, type of bone present, and any butchering that has occurred. The condition of the bone was recorded along with any other information such as the estimate age of animals at death.

A total of 148 Pieces of bone, (animal bones 134 and 14 bird bones) were recovered during the excavations, of which approximately 82 (55%) could be identified to species and the remaining fragments were small and were discarded.

In general the preservation of the vertebrate remains was generally 'fair', colour was variable, although mostly light brown, and 'angularity' (appearance of the broken surfaces) was also variable with spiky and battered fragments in most contexts. Evidence of butchery, burning and the activities of carnivores were recorded on some of the bones, but there was variation between and within contexts.

'Table 62 Animal and Bird Bones' gives the number of identifiable bones to trench and species. The unidentifiable bone fragments were also recorded. The assemblage was collected by hand during the excavation, but it should be noted that no sieving of the deposits was undertaken and therefore the assemblage is biased against the recovery of very small bones (e.g. rodents, birds and fish).

The assemblage is that of a typical "Rural site" and it would appear that the majority of the species identified are domestic mammal, (Sheep/goat 27%, Cattle 16% and Pig 10%) which were their main source of meat.

Both the cattle and the sheep bones came from animals that had reached their skeletal maturity. The pig bones came from a maximum of 6 individuals, four of these were young, with only moderate wear on the dpm4, whilst the other 2 had been killed when they were fully grown.

Some modern damage and physical abrasion was noticed in the post-medieval assemblage, particularly from fragments associated with modern topsoil of the enclosure ditches.

Three completed skeletal remains were discovered:-

Horse

Horse skeletal remains were discovered in trench 3; the horseshoes recovered from this animal suggest a date from the early medieval period, no butchery marks were noted on the horse's bones.

Dog

The 2 dog skeletons about the size of a Border collie were probably of post medieval date, these two animals were found in the ditch of Trench 1.

Table 62. Animal and Bird Bones

Trench Numbers	Tr1	Tr2	Tr3	Tr4	Tr5	Tr6	Tr7	Tr8	Tr9	Tr10	Total	Percentage
Species Identified												
Cat	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1.3
Cattle	2	1	5	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	16	10.8
Chicken	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	7	4.8
Deer Red	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	3.4
Dog	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	4.0
Hare	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2.0
Horse	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2.7
Pig	1	0	3	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	10	6.7
Pole Cat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1.3
Sheep/Goat	3	1	6	1	1	4	5	3	2	1	27	18.3
Unidentifiable Bird Bones	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	7	4.8
Unidentifiable Animal Bones	9	3	10	11	5	8	6	4	0	3	59	39.9
Total Bones	21	6	33	16	10	17	20	17	2	3	148	100%

8 Human Remains

On the southern side of trench 8 was a drainage or drip gully [805] of the round house, this gully was 0.52 metres in width and 0.23 metres in depth, there was also a linear ditch [808] running east-west which had truncated part of the roundhouse gully, in the junction of these two features about 0.75 to 0.89 metres below the surface was a child burial, fully extended, laying on its right side facing the south, with its head to the north west.

The skeleton was incomplete, some bones of the arm were missing, as were the lower leg bones, tibia and fibula also the foot bones were missing, perhaps caused by the activities of badgers digging into the ground, the skull was severely damaged and filled with stones, suggesting reburial

There was no grave cut but a ledge had been built up on the side of the ditch with chalk that the body had been placed on, Sarsen, Flint and other stones had been placed around the head end perhaps indicative of a cist type burial.

Initial observation of the skeleton suggests that it was a female, aged between 5-7 years based on tooth development.

Between the femurs was a heavily corroded cast copper alloy Colchester bow brooch of late Iron Age to early Roman in date (see Fig. 46). A fossilised sea urchin was discovered at the bottom of the gully, whilst common within the chalk, it seemed to have been deliberately placed (see Fig. 33).



Fig.63 Skeletal remains of a child



Fig.64 Skeletal remains of a child

10 Environmental Samples

All samples were taken and treated in accordance with principles and practices outlined by English Heritage (2002) in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post excavation*. Samples were taken from lower buried horizons and subjected to environmental analysis. Specifically the samples were scanned for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains, charcoal, shell, and all small animal and fish bones.

10.1 Methodology

Environmental samples were taken from six deposits in order to analyse the potential for charred remains on the site. These samples were processed by standard flotation methods, the float retained on a 0.5mm mesh.

All the samples were then wet sieved to the following fractions 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm and dried. The coarse fractions (>10 mm and >5 mm) were sorted and discarded.

The flots were examined using a stereo-binocular microscope and the extracted plant remains identified and quantified (Table 65). Nomenclature follows Stace (1991), all samples contain assemblages of charred plant remains.

Table 65 Environmental Samples

Sample Numbers	Trench Numbers	Context Numbers	Brief Description of Sample
<1>	1	(104)	Chalky soil with pea gravel
<2>	1	(111)	Chalky sandy clay
<3>	3	(305)	Friable silty clay
<4>	4	(404)	Yellow brown clay
<5>	8	(807)	Sandy loam colluvium
<6>	8	(811)	Silty clay colluvium

10.2 Charred Plant Remains

The bulk of the plant remains were preserved by carbonisation. The samples showed a range of preservation from extremely good to poor, but in the majority of the samples the grains had become severely distorted during charring and/or before deposition. The bulk consisted of a mixed deposit of grain, nut and fruit shells, small pieces of fragmented charcoal and animal bone were also noted.

The samples contained a range of different crop types including:- spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) being the most predominant on the basis of glume base identification, but however, both glume bases and possible grains of emmer wheat were also recovered, there was also grains of rye, *Secale cereale* but only in very small quantities.

Also present were fragments of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L) and an unidentified charred nutshells, possibly plum or sloe (*Prunus*).

10.3 Charcoal

Wood charcoal fragments were noted in all samples, the majority of the charcoal was mainly well preserved. Two samples 4 and 6 contained charcoal that could be seen to be ring-porous and probably therefore of oak (*Quercus sp.*). The other species identified included hazel (*Corylus avellana*), alder (*Alnus*), ash (*Fraxinus sp.*) and possibly birch (*Betula*).

Fragments of bark, unidentified stems, and an unidentified monocotyledon root material were however also noted in the sample.

11 Discussion

The focus of the 2005/2006 excavations was to date a rectilinear enclosure to the north of Glebe farm, Tilshead.

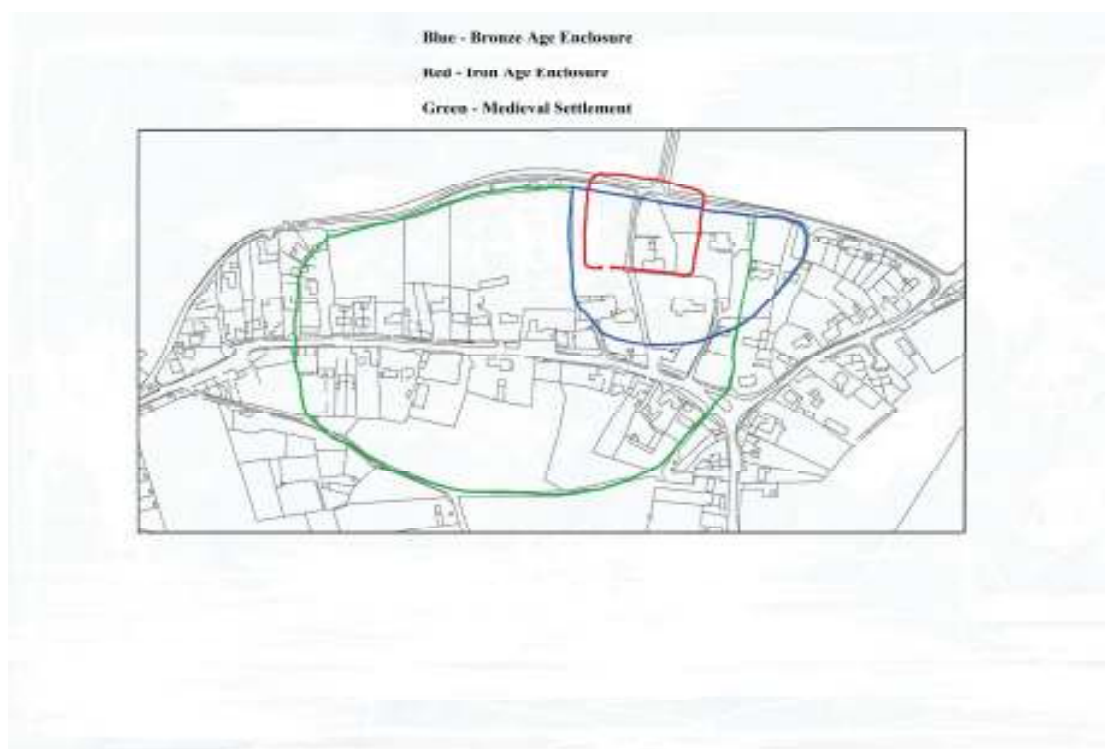
The earthworks were located in a small pasture, this field slopes towards the south in the direction of Glebe Farm and the old Vicarage, lands on the east are occupied by Tilshead School, and the lands to the west has been levelled to provide livery and exercise facilities for horses.

Running parallel to the north of the site is an ancient drove-way from Tilshead east to the Bustard Inn, north of Rollestone Camp on Salisbury Plain.

This is a multiphase site set within a landscape dominated by linear and curving earthworks, long and round barrows and prehistoric settlements.

Excavation has revealed evidence for a sequence of enclosures running from the early Bronze Age (possible Neolithic) through to the late medieval period and early post-medieval period.

Fig.66. Map of Tilshead showing enclosures.



The site and the immediate local area can be divided into four main phases:

The first phase (Blue Line, fig.66) consisted of a ditch and banks forming a large “D” shape enclosure, this feature measured roughly 230 metres east to west and 127 metres north to south the ditches and banks were located by geophysics; also the banks and ditches can be seen in places between the school, North Manor, adjacent paddocks to the east and west and the drove way to the north. This curvilinear ditch also forms the boundary of properties to the east, south and west. (McOrmish 2002, 133) suggests that the boundary form the remnant of an earlier enclosure, but with slightly different alignments. The excavation has tentatively assigned this enclosure to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Pits found and excavated to the east of the site in Tilshead nursery school grounds contained worked antler, flints, sarsen rubbing stone Neolithic pottery and large numbers of fragmented hazel nut shells, and according to Amadio (2010) these pits were thought to be secular in disposition. Only one evaluation trench (3) was excavated across this feature, the lower deposits produced Flints and Pottery dating from the Neolithic to the middle Bronze Age. In terms of size and shape this enclosure is similar to other prehistoric enclosure sites located elsewhere on Salisbury Plain, although usually on the higher plain areas.

The second phase (Red Line, fig. 66) occurred in the Iron Age, when a further set of banks and ditches were dug to form a sub-rectangular enclosure 102 metres x 90 metres mostly to the south of the original earthwork (phase 1) but also north and crossed (truncated) the large earlier ditch (Trench 3) and then changed course to run east to west to form the northern side of this rectilinear enclosure.

The southern line of the ditch and bank (east to west) is clearly visible on the site and the school boundaries still show the alignment to the south of the school rooms.

Limited excavation revealed a south facing entrance to the enclosure with a possible gate and an internal bank. Geophysics revealed evidence of settlement within this enclosure, four roundhouse buildings, two measuring 11 metres in diameter, one by 9 metres and the other 7 metres in width were noted, also there were two four post structures which were interpreted as drying racks or perhaps granaries, although these were not necessarily contemporary and in use at the same time. There is evidence for cereal processing, weaving and animal husbandry from the site, but no suggestion of metalworking.

It is not clear if this Iron Age enclosure was deliberately position across the junction of two track ways, another scenario might suggest positioning of this enclosure was deliberate to control this track way, but did the track ways exist at the time the enclosure was dug?

Although the settlement appears to have gone out of use during the late Iron Age the presence of early Roman pottery recovered from different features suggests that the enclosure was still use into the Roman period

During the medieval period (the third phase), the enclosure became smaller 102 x 60 metres, the northern areas of the enclosure fell into disuse and was abandoned. The north to south linear ditches and the southern east - west ditch remained. The larger east – west ditch at the northern end of the site (Trench 3) was utilised as the top edge of this enclosure, perhaps with an entrance, from the drove-way. The re-use of the enclosure may have occurred during the Anglo-Saxon period, perhaps used for stock

control. The site is similar to other sheep or animal enclosures dating to the early medieval period found on Salisbury Plain.

Sometime in the post medieval period (fourth phase) this enclosure, was reduced in size to 60 x 45 metres, with the construction of North Manor, Tilshead nursery school and a right of way from the church to the drove-way (now called Back lane) further eroding the overall size of this enclosure.

In 1808 this enclosure was known as Parsonage Orchard and by the 20th century called vicarage lands, and presumable sold to the owners of Glebe Farm.

12 Bibliography

Amadio, L. 2010, *Tilshead Nursery School, Wiltshire ; Neolithic Pits*. WANHS.

English Heritage (2002) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post excavation*.

McOrmish, D. *et al* 2002. *The Field Archaeology of the Salisbury Plain Training Area*. , English Heritage

Pryor, F. 2004. *Briton BC*. Harper Perennial: London

Stace, C. 1991. *New flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

13 Project Archive

The full archive including documentary and physical evidence will be deposited at The Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes, and a copy of the evaluation report will be given to the Wiltshire County Archaeological Services.

Format	Description
A4 pages	Project Design
A4 pages	Context record sheets
A4 pages	Context index sheets
A4 pages	Drawing register sheet
A4 pages	Geophysics report
A4 pages	Photographic register sheets
A4 pages	Level record sheets
CD's	Photographs

Fig. 67



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm - Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T1	101	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T1	[102]	Cut of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T1	103	Fill of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T1	104	Lower fill of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T1	[105]	Cut of Bank		RJH	2005/06
T1	106	Fill of Bank		RJH	2005/06
T1	[107]	Cut of Post Hole		RJH	2005/06
T1	108	Fill of Post Hole		RJH	2005/06
T1	[109]	Cut of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T1	110	Top fill of Ditch [109]		RJH	2005/06
T1	111	Middle fill of Ditch [109]		RJH	2005/06
T1	112	Lower fill of Ditch [109]		RJH	2005/06

Fig.68



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm – Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T2	201	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T2	[202]	Cut of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T2	203	Fill of Ditch [202]		RJH	2005/06

Fig. 69



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm – Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T3	301	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T3	[302]	Cut of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T3	303	Top fill of Ditch [302]		RJH	2005/06
T3	304	Fill of Ditch [302] under (303)		RJH	2005/06
T3	305	Secondary fill of Ditch [302] under (304)		RJH	2005/06
T3	306	Lower fill of Ditch [302] under (305)		RJH	2005/06

Fig. 70



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm - Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T4	401	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T4	[402]	Cut of Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T4	403	Top fill of Ditch [402]		RJH	2005/06
T4	404	Lower fill of Ditch [402]		RJH	2005/06
T4	405	Stone to hold Gate Post.		RJH	2005/06

Fig.71



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm - Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T7	701	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T7	[702]	Cut of Ditch Terminal		RJH	2005/06
T7	703	Top fill of Ditch [702]		RJH	2005/06
T7	704	Lower fill of Ditch [704]		RJH	2005/06

Fig. 74



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm - Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T8	801	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T8	802	Deposit below (801)		RJH	2005/06
T8	[803]	Chalk Floor		RJH	2005/06
T8	(804)	Fill of Chalk Floor [803]		RJH	2005/06
T8	[805]	Roundhouse gully		RJH	2005/06
T8	(806)	Top fill of RH gully [805]		RJH	2005/06
T8	(807)	Lower fill of RH gully [805]		RJH	2005/06
T8	[808]	Linear Ditch		RJH	2005/06
T8	(809)	Top fill of Linear Ditch [808]		RJH	2005/06
T8	(810)	Middle fill of Linear Ditch [808]		RJH	2005/06
T8	(811)	Lower fill of Linear Ditch [808]		RJH	2005/06
T8	[812]	Post Hole		RJH	2005/06
T8	(813)	Fill of Post Hole [812]		RJH	2005/06
T8	(814)	Charcoal Deposit in S/West corner of trench		RJH	2005/06

Fig. 75



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm - Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T9	901	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T9	902	Deposit below topsoil		RJH	2005/06
T9	903	Cobbled Flint Surface		RJH	2005/06
T9	904	Cobbled Chalk Surface		RJH	2005/06
T9	905	Deposit btw. 903 and 904		RJH	2005/06
T9	[906]	Cut of Post Hole		RJH	2005/06
T9	907	Fill of Post Hole [906]		RJH	2005/06

Fig. 76



CONTEXT INDEX

Site Name Glebe Farm - Tilshead	Site Code TL004
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Trench/ Area	Context Number	Context Type*	Co- ordinates	Initials	Date
T10	1001	Topsoil		RJH	2005/06