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# Bronze Age & Romano British Activity at Eye Quarry, Peterborough



Phase Three

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# **Bronze Age & Romano British Activity at Eye Quarry, Peterborough**

**(Phase Three)**

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological excavation was undertaken on behalf of RMC Eastern Ltd. at Eye Quarry, Peterborough that continued on from a previous evaluation (Garrow 2000) and excavations (Patten 2002, 2003). Two distinct phases of human activity were encountered representing similar landscape use in the Bronze Age and later in the Romano British period. A Middle Bronze Age field system was recorded in association with a linear group of twelve cremations and three individual cremations. The final stages of the field system were represented by the construction of three separate clusters of inter-cutting pits that produced Late Bronze Age pottery along with a fragment of a wooden bowl. These large pits seemed to represent a decline in activity within the area with no evidence for Iron Age activity being recovered and it seemed that it was not until the Romano British period that activity began again. During this time evidence suggests that small scale 'industrial' type activity may have occurred in association with a series of enclosures that were themselves associated with the suspected farmstead (SMR 3066). Further traces of the Romano-British field system were recorded with the northern and southern systems continuing from the previous excavations.*



Figure 1. Location map

## **Introduction**

During the second half of 2003 an archaeological excavation was undertaken on behalf of Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd for RMC Eastern Ltd. It was decided by RMC Eastern Ltd that two separate phases of work would be undertaken in one year thus finishing the block of land designated for extraction.

A team from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) excavated the site between the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 and the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2004 following an archaeological specification set out by the CAU (Gibson 2003) and agreed by Ben Robinson (Historic Environment Officer, Peterborough City Council) for Peterborough City Council and by Simon Collcutt (Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd) for RMC Eastern.

## **Topography and Geology**

The site was situated at between 3.50m OD and 4.25m OD within an area of agriculture and quarry workings. To the north the site was bounded by field ditches, to the east by the Cat's Water, and to the south and west by previous quarry workings. The area excavated in 2002 was in the process of being quarried away while the rest of the field was under arable cultivation. This cultivation has had a detrimental effect upon the archaeology with plough damage evident over most of the site.

The underlying geology comprised of Oxford Clay overlain with First River Terrace deposits (British Geological Survey Sheet 158). There was no evidence for the survival of a buried soil horizon beneath an alluvium covering which only occurred as a tertiary capping within the Romano British features.

## **Archaeological Background**

This has been covered in the previous report for this quarry (Patten 2003) and will not be repeated here. Limited archaeological work has occurred in the area since then; further work has been undertaken at Pode Hole Quarry and a report for earlier findings here was produced, within which evidence for Middle Bronze Age field systems were recorded along with traces of settlement activity (Holgate 2003). This had since moved into the next phase of work with further traces of a prehistoric field system and associated pits being recorded (Network Archaeology).

## **Methodology**

An area measuring 41523m<sup>2</sup> (4.1523ha) was opened using a 360°-tracked machine with a toothless ditching bucket, which removed the overburden down to an archaeological level. The area stripped was then base planned at 1:50.

All archaeological features were planned and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. Pertinent features were photographed on black and white, colour slide and digital mediums. The Unit-modified version of the MoLAS recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.'s) and all contexts assigned individual numbers. Feature and context numbers were continued from previous phases of excavation. The site was fixed to the OS grid and a contour survey undertaken with an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).





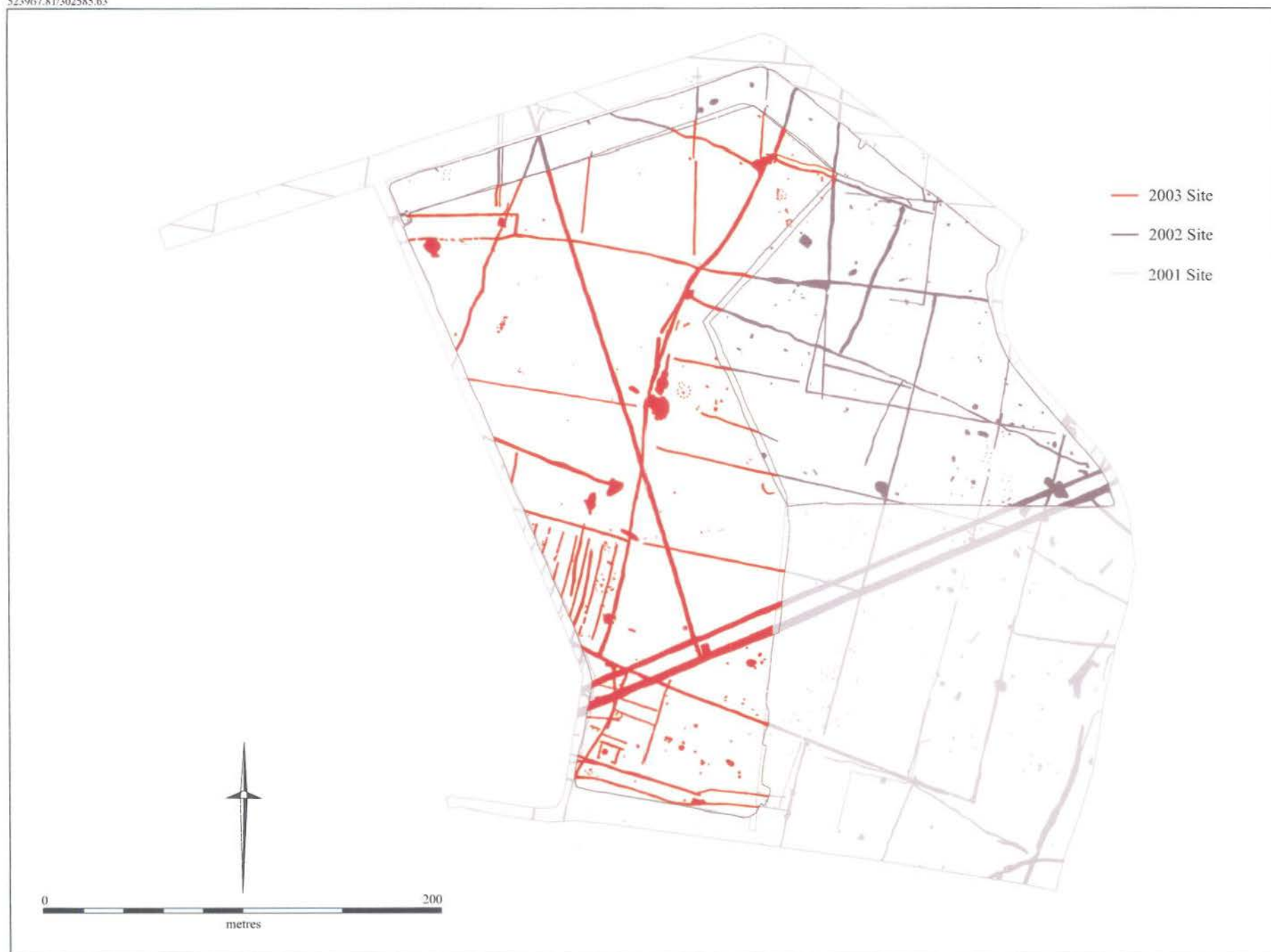


Figure 3. 2001, 2002 and 2003 excavations combined



## **Excavation Results**

The elements of three distinct field systems were further revealed during this phase of excavation. Through previous excavations as well as the current these have been ascribed to the Bronze Age and Romano British periods. A number of new fields or enclosures were recorded increasing the view of the landscape division and enabling a better understanding on how these systems were arranged.

Due to the number of individual enclosures now recorded within the confines of this site the labelling for each enclosed area has been altered to accommodate this. The Bronze Age fields are now preceded with a P and the Romano British fields with an R. A proceeding letter has been used to differentiate the different areas of enclosed land for each period.

### ***Bronze Age***

Further elements of the field system as attested in earlier phases of excavation were traced continuing throughout the excavated area. Interspersed within this field system were a number of inter-cutting pits in three distinct clusters, on a more intense scale than had been previously recorded. Evidence for mortuary activity was recorded in the form of a small cluster of cremations and three isolated ones.

### ***Field System***

A series of Bronze Age linears were exposed during the excavation that built upon knowledge of the field system recorded in earlier phases of excavation. The latter had revealed nine individual fields Pa to Pi (previously A-I). Only two further fields were recorded (Pj and Pk) in the current phase of excavation making a total of eleven enclosed fields.

Field Pj was recorded in nearly its entirety and comprised of seven linears (F.1170, F.1172, F.1545, F.1592, F.1607, F.1627, and F.1724), only the northeast corner of Field Pk was exposed (F.1724, F.1811, and F.1865). The brickwork pattern formed from fields Pd, Pe, Pf, Pg, Ph and Pi did not continue to the west as was originally hypothesised. Instead field Pj extended further south than fields Pe and Pf together, both of which were enclosed to the west by F.1545 (F.1592). Rather than following a set pattern, the fields seemed more 'hotchpotch' or random and had varying sizes with no regularity to their layout, probably representing the long history of their development.

Fields Pa, Pb, Pd, and Pg were all described in the previous report and nothing new was recorded concerning these enclosed areas during the course of this excavation. Fields Pc, Pe, Pf, Ph, and Pi were further enhanced with the full extent of Pc, Pe and Pf being revealed.

Field Pc was bound by thirteen linears (F.422, F.610, F.617, F.618, F.619, F.733, F.734, F.737, F.738, F.955, F.1161, F.1750, and F.1810) in two separate halves with large gaps within the northern and southern limits. The eastern half of the enclosure was defined by F.610 and F.619 to the south, F.617, F.618, F.733, F.734, F.737 and F.738 to the east, and F.422 and F.955 to the north. The western half of the enclosure was defined

by linears F.1750 to the south, F.1810 to the west, and F.1161 to the north. This formed an enclosure measuring 133m north south and 255m east west. With the exception of the southwest corner of the field the boundaries consisted of broken ditch lengths hinting at the extent of the enclosed area. These large gaps within the boundaries may have represented the existence of a less intrusive feature such as a hedgerow running along the edge of the field, leaving no traces within the archaeological record.

**F.422** An east west orientated ditch (1.10m wide x 0.47m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [2661]. Filled with mottled orange pale blue grey clayey sand with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [2660].

**F.610** A northwest southeast orientated ditch (1.10m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [1821]. Filled with brownish grey sandy clayey silt and occasional stone inclusions [1822]. Terminal end to the southeast, truncated away to the northwest.

**F.617** A north south orientated ditch (2.60m wide x 1.20m deep) with steep sloping sides to a concave base [1852]. Filled with grey sandy clay [1851], orangey grey clayey sand [1896], greyish orange clayey sand [1897], orangey grey clayey sand [1898] and orange sandy gravel [1899]. Terminal ends to the north and south. Truncated/ re-cut by F.618.

**F.618** A north south orientated ditch (3.60m wide x 0.80m deep) with steep sloping sides to a flat base [1854]. Filled with light grey sandy clay with orange mottles and occasional stone inclusions [1853].

**F.619** A northwest southeast orientated ditch (1.70m wide x 0.80m deep) with steep-vertical sides to a flat base [1970]. Filled with orangey grey sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [1963], pale orange sandy clayey silt [1964], mid brownish orange sandy clay [1965], orangey brown gravelly clay [1966] [1969] and pale grey sandy silt [1967] [1968].

**F.733** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (1.45m wide x 0.52m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [2239]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with orange mottling and moderate stone inclusions [2236], silt sandy gravel [2237], and iron panning on the base [2238].

**F.734** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (2.45m wide x 0.46m deep) with gradual-steep sides and a flat base [2230]. Filled with light grey salty clay with orange mottling and moderate stone inclusions [2227], orange gravelly sand [2228], and iron panning at the base [2229].

**F.737** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (0.85m wide x 0.22m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [2232]. Filled with light grey silt clay with orange mottling and moderate stone inclusions [2231].

**F.738** A north south orientated ditch (0.85m wide x 0.46m deep) with steep sides and a slightly concave base [2235]. Filled with orange gravelly sand [2233], and a layer of iron panning [2234].

**F.1161** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (0.56m wide x 0.41m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [4036]. Filled with light-mid grey silt sand with occasional stone inclusions [4034], and orange brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions [4035].





Figure 4. Bronze Age features and the enclosed fields

**F.1750** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.12m wide x 0.59m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5686]. Filled with stony grey silt with occasional sandy or dark organic patches [5683] and a sandy orange fill [5684] [5685].

**F.1810** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.40m wide x 1.20m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5882]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with occasional angular stones and frequent charcoal [5881].

Field Pe consisted of seven linears (**F.1070**, **F.1160**, **F.1161**, **F.1545 (F.1592)**, **F.1598**, **F.1602** and **F.1607**) forming an enclosure measuring 53m north south and 106m east west. Much of the field had been recorded in previous work and it was only the western limit that was discovered anew. The northern limit was defined by F.1070, the eastern limit by F.1160, the southern by F.1161, and the western by F.1545 (F.1592), and F.1607. The northern and eastern limits were made up of single lengths of ditch with no breaks or gaps within them. A single short length positioned towards the southwest corner demarked the southern limit of the field. The western limit was defined by three sections of ditch with a gap between them possibly representing an entranceway into and out of the enclosure. Along the western edge of the field two segments of ditch (F.1598 and F.1602) were cut almost parallel to features F.1592 and F.1607. These two segments, F.1598 and F.1602, may represent an internal buffer or 'trackway' along one edge of the field, possibly part of a larger division within the landscape that has not survived.

**F.1070** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.20m wide x .30m deep) with steep sides and irregular base [4883]. Filled with black clay silt with large inclusions of charcoal patches with moderate inclusions of large pebbles [4881] and mottled orange-black silt with charcoal flecks and moderate small stones [4882].

**F.1160** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (0.70m wide x 0.45m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [4029]. Filled with grey blue silt with occasional gravel inclusions [4027], and orange blue silt with moderate gravel inclusions [4028].

**F.1161** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.95m wide x 0.36m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5391]. Filled with a pale mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5390].

**F.1545 (F.1592)** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.65m wide x 0.65m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4904]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with orange mottling with moderate inclusion of small stones [4902] and compact orange silt sand with soft sandy patches [4903].

**F.1598** A northeast southwest orientated linear (2.90m long x 0.60m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4934]. Filled with mixed clay-sand fill with dark brown silt patches of tree throw with burnt stone and bone [4933].

**F.1602** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.94m wide x 0.19m deep) with gentle sides and a flat base [4952]. Filled with light grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small pebble inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks [4951].

**F.1607** A north south orientated linear (1.80m wide x 0.75m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4950]. Filled with mid-grey sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [4947], mid brown-grey sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [4948] and orange-grey clayey silt sand with moderate stone [4949].



Field Pf was bounded by four ditches (**F.1070**, **F.1092**, **F.1095**, and **F.1545**), which formed an enclosure measuring 82m north south and 72m east west. The southern limit was demarked by F.1070, the eastern by F.1095, the northern by F.1092, and the western by F.1545. The field was completely enclosed on all four sides with the only potential gaps or entranceways in the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners. Of these entranceways, the northeast and southwest corners produced evidence for large pits existing there prior to the cutting of the ditches and possibly still in use as soak-aways. The gap in the southeast corner of the field was very narrow and impractical as an entranceway.

**F.1070** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.20m wide x .30m deep) with steep sides and irregular base [4883]. Filled with black clay silt with large inclusions of charcoal patches with moderate inclusions of large pebbles [4881] and mottled orange-black silt with charcoal flecks and moderate small stones [4882].

**F.1092** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.60m wide x 0.20m deep) with gentle sides and a concave base [4619]. Filled with brown-grey silt with a high concentration of charcoal with occasional small pebbles [4618].

**F.1095** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (0.65m wide x 0.66m deep) with steep sides and a flat base. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with moderate stone and occasional charcoal inclusions [3466], dark grey alluvium with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [3467], mid orange brown sandy gravel with occasional charcoal inclusions [3468], brown grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [3469], and orange brown sandy gravel slump [3470].

**F.1545** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.95m wide x 0.85m deep) with steep sides and v-shape base [4647]. Filled with red-brown gravel [4648], light grey silt [4649], grey-white silt clay [4650] and red-brown silt sand with some gravel [4651].

Field Ph consisted of linear **F.722** along its northern edge, **F.1092** marking the southern limit, and **F.1166** (and **F.1562**) marking the western edge of the field. A fourth side to this enclosure has not been recorded and may have been destroyed by the Cat's Water. There were no gaps or breaks within the ditches to suggest an entrance in to the field and although pitting events within the southwest corner may have masked or destroyed any evidence of an entrance there, it most likely would have existed somewhere within the eastern portion of the field where no linear was recorded.

**F.772** A northwest southeast orientated ditch (0.90m wide x 0.50m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [2433]. Filled with dark brown silt clay with burnt stone and charcoal [2428], orangey brown sandy silt clay [2429], mid orangey brown sandy silt with moderate stone and charcoal inclusions [2430], mid grey brown silt clay [2431] and re-deposited natural [2432].

**F.1092** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.62m wide x 0.51m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4729]. Filled with a dark grey-black sandy silt with rare pebble inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks [4725], mid grey to orange-brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks [4726], light grey fine sandy silt with infrequent sub-rounded pebbles and small charcoal flecks [4727], and mid grey to grey-orange sandy silt with occasional pebbles [4728].



**F.1166** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (1.60m wide x 0.72m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [4065]. Filled with mid-dark grey sandy silt with moderate stone and occasional charcoal inclusions [4060], pale greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4061], mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [4062], dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and moderate stone inclusions [4063], pale orange greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4064].

**F.1562** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.30m wide x 0.51m deep) with steep sides and irregular base (concave in other cuts) [4720]. Filled with a grey dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional fine/medium sized pebbles [4718] and a grayish dark orange clayey silt with occasional fine and medium sized pebbles [4719].

Only the southeast corner of Field Pi was exposed and consisted of **F.1170** demarcating the southern extent of the field and **F.1166** (and **F.1562**) the eastern. No evidence for an entrance in this corner or along the south and east limits was apparent. As with Field Ph a series of pits may have obscured any entrance located within the southeast corner. None of the excavations to date have provided evidence for a northern extent to this field.

**F.1166** A northeast southwest orientated ditch (1.60m wide x 0.72m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [4065]. Filled with mid-dark grey sandy silt with moderate stone and occasional charcoal inclusions [4060], pale greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4061], mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [4062], dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and moderate stone inclusions [4063], pale orange greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4064].

**F.1170** A northwest southeast orientated linear (2.75m wide x 0.50m deep) with gentle sides and a flat to concave base [4766]. Filled with mid-grey sandy silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal [4764] and mid-grey orange-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks [4765].

**F.1562** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.30m wide x 0.51m deep) with steep sides and irregular base (concave in other cuts) [4720]. Filled with a grey dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional fine/medium sized pebbles [4718] and a grey dark orange clayey silt with occasional fine and medium sized pebbles [4719].

Field Pj was bounded by six ditches (**F.1170**, **F.1172**, **F.1545**, **F.1592**, **F.1607**, and **F.1724**), which enclosed an area measuring 178m north south and 106m east west. This was the most complete field exposed during this phase of excavation. The northern extent of the field was marked by **F.1170** that bounded its entire length. The western edge of the field was marked by ditch **F.1172**, the full extent of which had yet to be exposed. Ditch **F.1724** marked the southern limit of the field and at its eastern end the ditch was cut by a collection of large pits, Cluster 3. The eastern extent of the field was demarked by ditch **F.1545/1592** and ditch **F.1607** that was cut by another collection of large pits, Cluster 2. Entrances into the fields may have existed in any of the corners of the field, the southwest corner remained unexposed making it impossible to state whether or not an entrance existed in that corner. In the northwest corner a gap between **F.1545** and **F.1607** may represent a potential entrance into the field, as did the southeast corner between the two pit clusters. The northeast corner was obscured by the construction of a number of later features that may have truncated the earlier features.

**F.1170** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.90m wide x 0.42m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4652]. Filled with pale orange-grey clayey silt with denser patches of light grey clay [4653].

**F.1172** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.18m wide x 0.41m deep) with gentle sides and concave base [5131]. Filled with slightly grey pale orange sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecking and moderate pebble inclusions [5130].

**F.1545** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.90m wide x 0.90 deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4833]. Filled with a mid-brownish grey sandy silt with occasional moderate stone and occasional charcoal [4828], mid-brownish orange clay silt with frequent gravel [4829], pale orange brown sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [4830], mid-brown clayey sandy silt with occasional stones [4831] and a mid-brown silt sand with occasional stones [4832].

**F.1592** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.65m wide x 0.65m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4904]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with orange mottling with moderate inclusion of small stones [4902] and compact orange silt sand with soft sandy patches [4903].

**F.1607** A north south orientated linear (1.80m wide x 0.75m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4950]. Filled with mid-grey sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [4947], mid brown-grey sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [4948] and orange-grey clayey silt sand with moderate stone [4949].

**F.1724** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.90m wide x 0.56m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5500]. Filled with a light grey silt clay mottled with yellow brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and charcoal [5498] and a dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional grey silt clay with frequent gravel [5499].

It was only the northeast corner of field Pk that was exposed during the course of the excavations. The northern limit of which was marked by ditch F.1724 and the eastern limit by ditches **F.1810** (**F.1813**) and **F.1811**, and ditch segment **F.1865**. The two ditches F.1810 (**F.1813**) and F.1811 formed two parallel lengths of 8m apart and aligned north south. They may represent an expansion or contraction of the field layout at some time during its lifetime, or the path of a 'trackway' along the edge of, or between, the fields. The ditches representing the eastern extent of this field all consisted of segments of varying lengths with none traversing the full length of the enclosed field. Once again this may signify the existence of other boundary types, which do not survive within the archaeological record, such as hedges.

**F.1724** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.90m wide x 0.56m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5500]. Filled with a light grey silt clay mottled with yellow brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and charcoal [5498] and a dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional grey silt clay with frequent gravel [5499].

**F.1810** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.40m wide x 1.20m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5882]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with occasional angular stones and frequent charcoal [5881].

**F.1811** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.40m wide x 0.66m deep) with steep sides and concave base [5977]. Filled with a orange silt with light grey patches and clay with occasional small angular stones [5973], red orange mottled mid grey clay silt with rare small stones [5974], orange mottled mid grey silt with clay and



occasional inclusions [5975] and a pale yellow clayey silt with orange and grey patches [5976].

**F.1865** A northeast southwest orientated linear (3.5m wide x 0.66m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6092]. Filled with mid grey clayey silt with occasional small stones [6089], pale brown grey silt clay with occasional small stones [6090] and sandy pale grey silt clay with occasional small stones [6091].

To the west of Field Pc, between fields Pc and Pk (F.1810/1813, F.1811, and F.1865), and between fields Pe and Pj (F.1598, F.1602, and F.1607) were short lengths of double ditches possibly representing later additions to the system. Although these may have represented the remnants of a trackway between fields, and were similar to F.1598 and F.1602 recorded within Field Pe. Both of the sets of parallel ditches appeared to end at a collection of large pits and may have been a part of a communal route way to get to these features, both appeared to have had access to the abutting fields either sides.

### *Cremations*

During the course of excavation evidence for fourteen cremations were recovered. Twelve of these cremations were found grouped together in a linear arrangement (10m northeast southwest and 3m northwest southeast) along an alignment that matched the field system (F.1546, F.1547, F.1548, F.1550, F.1551, F.1553, F.1555, F.1557, F.1560, F.1561, F.1563, and F.1584). The remaining two were discovered at various points within the landscape near the possible boundaries of other enclosed fields (F.1589 and F.1641). A single cremation had also been recovered in the previous phase of excavation (F.1153); again this had been placed alongside a field boundary ditch.

There was a lack of uniformity for the interments with each cremation within the main cluster deposited in the ground in a slightly different manner. The cremation with F.1553 was interred within an urn; surrounding the urn itself was probable pyre material along with large fragments of cremated bone. The urn itself showed signs of having undergone burning prior to being deposited within the ground, possibly at the time of the cremation.

The cremation within F.1584 was the only other cremation to contain any sizable fragments of pottery. This cremation contained two different individuals, who may have been buried at different times. There was no evidence that either cremation was deposited with any type of container, the fragments of pottery found with them were insufficient to represent the remains of a complete urn. The evidence of the burnt urn from F.1553 would suggest that the urn may have been burnt with the body leaving a very fragile vessel which only just survived being deposited within the ground (it did not survive lifting and as a result the contents were excavated in small spits in the field before the pot was destroyed), the large fragments associated with the cremations within F.1584 may represent pieces of a similar vessel which did not survive the funeral pyre.

The cremations within F.1547 and F.1561 both showed evidence of having been deposited within organic containers that had not survived. Both cremations contained deposits that consisted of fragments of cremated bone that appeared in a discrete pile

within the feature. These piles appeared to have been sorted from the pyre material and deposited separately. The pyre material with mixed size fragments of bone was then placed around them.

Found within F.1589 was a burnt flint flake of Neolithic date, this may have been residual, caught up within the cremation at some stage prior to internment, or it may suggest an earlier date for this particular isolated cremation.

The other cremations appeared to consist of cremated bone intermixed with the pyre material and it seems most probable that there was no attempt to separate the cremated remains from the pyre. Some fragments of bone may have been sorted but it seems sufficient that material from the burning event was interred rather than any attempt to separate the individual.

The cluster may have represented an extended family group with the inter-cutting of earlier cremations suggesting a long-term continuation and possible vague remembrance to the layout. The layout was probably significant following the alignment of the fields but not abutting the field ditch F.1172.

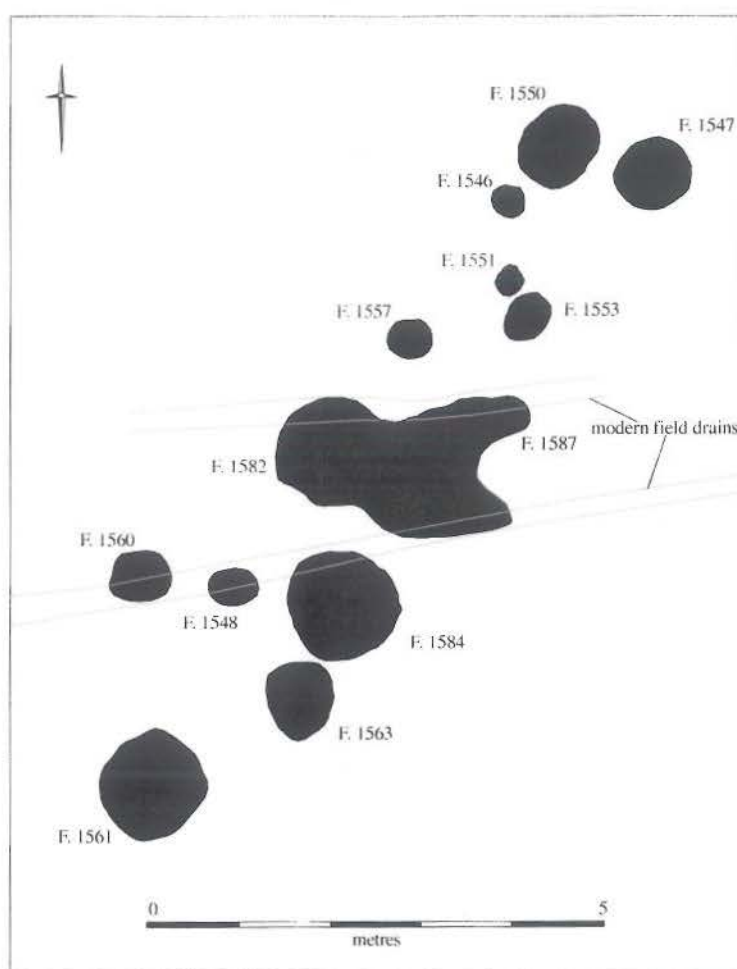


Figure 5. Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery

The single cremations associated with other fields were placed much closer to the boundaries suggesting that the two feature types were interrelated. The cluster is the



only group of cremations so far recovered within the area excavated; all of the other cremations were solitary 'burials' within separate fields.

The cremation cluster;

**F.1546** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.31m diameter x 0.19m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4670]. Containing two distinct fills one with 40% charcoal with specks of red pot/ceramic with bone flakes [4671] and the other primary with no charcoal 30% cremation and 70% re-deposited natural [4672].

**F.1547** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.66m diameter x 0.33m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4676]. Containing four distinct fills one with orange sandy silt with infrequent charcoal and occasional cremation fragments [4673], one with dark sandy charcoal fill with significant bone and flecks of ceramic [4674], one with orange sandy silt with frequent angular stones and pebbles with occasional charcoal [4675], and a primary fill of sandy charcoal with significant bone [4711]. The large amount of burnt bone was concentrated in one area as if in a bag or similar vessel.

**F.1548** An oval pit containing a cremation (0.49m long x 0.25m wide x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4678]. Filled with orange/brown sandy silt with occasional bone and charcoal [4677]. A recent field drain had truncated this cremation.

**F.1550** An oval pit containing a cremation (0.86m long c 0.60m wide x 0.04m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4681]. Containing two distinct fills one with dark brown sandy silt with occasional cremated bone [4679] and a thin layer of charcoal with occasional patches of reddish clay [4680].

**F.1551** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.30m diameter x 0.22m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [4682]. Containing three distinct fills one with yellow-brown sandy silt with grey lenses and charcoal [4683], one with dark brown sandy silt with +80% charcoal and occasional wood fragments and stone inclusions [4684], and one with reddish brown sandy silt with lenses of charcoal [4685].

**F.1553** An oval pit containing a cremation (0.52m long x 0.38m wide x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4692]. Within the cremation pit was a plain bucket shaped urn of Middle-Late Bronze Age type this contained a light brown sandy silt slumping fill at the top of the urn [4689]. Two further fills were contained within the urn representing the placed deposits, very dark grey clayey silt with moderate bone and frequent charcoal [4690] and very dark grey clayey silt with occasional lenses of re-deposited natural, frequent charcoal flecks and moderate bone fragments [4691]. Surrounding the urn was a grey mid-brown clayey silt frequently burnt with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional fine/medium pebbles and burnt bone fragments, this backfill material most likely came from the cremation itself as there was a significant amount of burnt bone mixed in.

**F.1555** A sub-circular pit containing a cremation (0.40m long x 0.30m wide x 0.25m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4716]. This contained two distinct fills one with dark brown sandy silt with high concentration of bone flecks and burnt bone [4717], and one with red brown silt clay [4734]. The cremation was cut into an earlier pit (F.1582). The bone material was concentrated in one area suggesting that may have been contained within a receptacle such as a bag that no longer survives.

**F.1557** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.42m diameter x 0.22m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4698]. This contained three distinct fills one with orange-brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of bone and some burnt material [4695], one



with brown-black ashy silt with occasional patches of orange-brown sandy silt with frequent burnt bone and charcoal [4696], and one with brown-orange silt sand with occasional charcoal and burnt bone [4697].

**F.1560** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.60m diameter x 0.23m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4708]. This contained two distinct fills one with dark black brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and occasional burnt bone [4709] and one with re-deposited natural with occasional charcoal inclusions [4710]. A recent field drain had truncated this feature.

**F.1561** A circular pit containing a cremation (1.17m diameter x 0.16m deep) with gentle sides and a concave base [4715]. This contained three distinct fills one with grey-black sandy silt with occasional grey black silt clay and moderate charcoal [4712], one with grey-black silt sand with occasional charcoal and frequent bone flecks with hard dense patches of grey silt sand [4713], and one with orange-grey silt sand with occasional charcoal inclusions [4714]. This cremation was within a large feature with the bone concentrated within one area as if it had been in a bag or similar receptacle.

**F.1563** A sub-circular pit containing a cremation (0.68m long x 0.48m wide x 0.28m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4721]. This contained three distinct fills one with brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks [4722], one with frequent burnt bone with occasional large pieces of charcoal and small fragments of pot [4723], and one with reddish-brown to grey sandy silt [4724].

**F.1584** A large sub-circular pit containing a cremation pit (1.30m deep x 1.20m long x 0.55m wide) with steep sides and a concave base, which possibly contained two cremations [4841]. This contained seven distinct fills, one with grey sandy silt with little charcoal and occasional burnt bone and stone [4834], one with dark blackish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and burnt bone [4835], one very similar to [4835] only with occasional small fragments of pot [4836], one with grey-orange sandy silt with frequent charcoal and small fragments of bone [4837], one with dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional large fragments of charcoal, pottery and ashy material [4838], one with re-deposited natural [4839], and one with orange sandy silt with occasional charcoal, ash and small bone fragments [4840]. This feature consisted of two separate cremations. There was a high concentration of bone along with large fragments of urn associated both cremations; however, the urn fragments may have arrived in the later cremation as a result of its truncation into the earlier.

#### Individual cremations located in association with field boundaries;

**F.1153** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.83m diameter x 0.25m wide x 0.16m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [3991]. Filled with grey silt sand with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [3990].

**F.1589** A small circular pit containing a cremation (0.35m diameter x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4906]. This contained dark blackish brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal and burnt bone [4905]. The cremation was located a distance from the 'cemetery' near the western boundary of field Pc.

**F.1641** A circular pit containing a cremation (0.25m diameter x 0.07m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5176]. This contained two distinct fills one with dark black silt with frequent bone fragments occasional small stones [5174] and one with orange sandy clay with occasional bone fragments (disturbed natural) [5175]. The cremation was located a distance from the 'cemetery' near the southern boundary of field Pc.

## *Large Pits*

Three clusters of inter-cutting pits were recorded during this phase of excavation with each cluster containing between ten and thirteen individual pits. These pits seemed to have gone through a process of being constructed, left open for a while and then allowed to infill before a new one was dug to one side in such a way that it cut into the earlier pit. It was not possible to determine whether the majority of the initial pits were allowed to collapse and deteriorate or if they were purposefully backfilled, the early pits all contained a form of re-deposited natural and only the basal fills showed any signs of having been open for any period of time, with rich silt deposits found as layers only at the base. The pits were cut into the gravel natural which would have been unstable and prone to collapse.

Pit Cluster 1 was located in the northwest area of the site and consisted of ten inter-cutting pits (F.1549, F.1593, F.1594, F.1595, F.1596, F.1603, F.1604, F.1632, F.1633, and F.1634) of varying dimensions. Six of the pits produced artefactual material with four of them producing pot of a Late Bronze Age date. One of the pits, F.1593, produced fragments of worked wood in the form of a point, which may have been from a post. This was recovered imbedded into the natural gravel at the base of the pit. In close association, and within the same pit, was recovered a fragment of a wooden bowl; similar in form to one recently recovered from Wiltshire (Taylor *pers comm*). This was the second wooden bowl fragment recovered from the quarry. During the 1998 phase of excavation to the west, one half of a wooden bowl was recovered from a similar feature (F.334 [1195]). This bowl was of an later Bronze Age Post Deverel-Rimbury carinated form similar to ceramic ones (McFadyen, 2000).

**F.1549** A large oval pit (8.00m long x 1.30m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4924]. Filled with light grey clay with occasional angular and sub-angular stones with orange mottling at base [4916], and sandy clay with frequent clay with lenses of grey silt [4917].

**F.1593** A large oval pit (3.50m long x 3.00m wide x 0.60m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4912]. Filled with dark green clay with thin lens of organic material changing to blue/brown clay [4918], orange sandy gravel with frequent angular and rounded stones with patches of clay [4920], and pale grey silt with frequent small angular stones with occasional medium rounded pebbles [5112].

**F.1594** A small oval pit (1.00m long x 0.50m wide x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [4913]. Filled with light brown clay with occasional angular and rounded stones [4919].

**F.1595** A large oval pit (3.40m long x 2.75m wide x 0.65m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4914]. Filled with brown clay with moderate gravel inclusions [4921], grey clay silt with sandy gravel inclusions [4922], and orange-brown clay with frequent gravel inclusions [4923].

**F.1596** A large sub-circular pit (2.50m long x 2.00m wide) with steep sides and a concave base [4915]. Filled with orange sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions and bluish or grey-brown clay inclusions [5119].



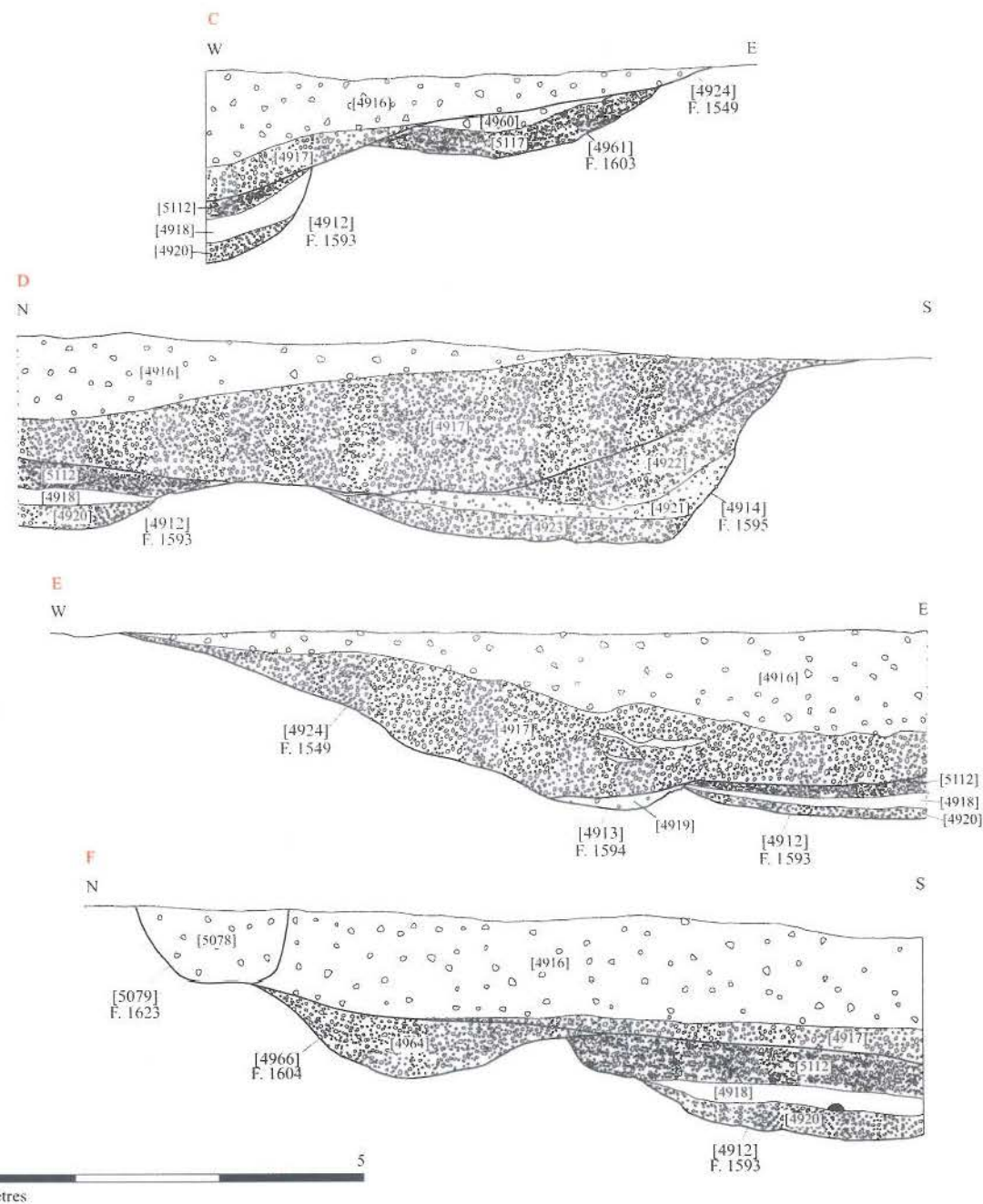
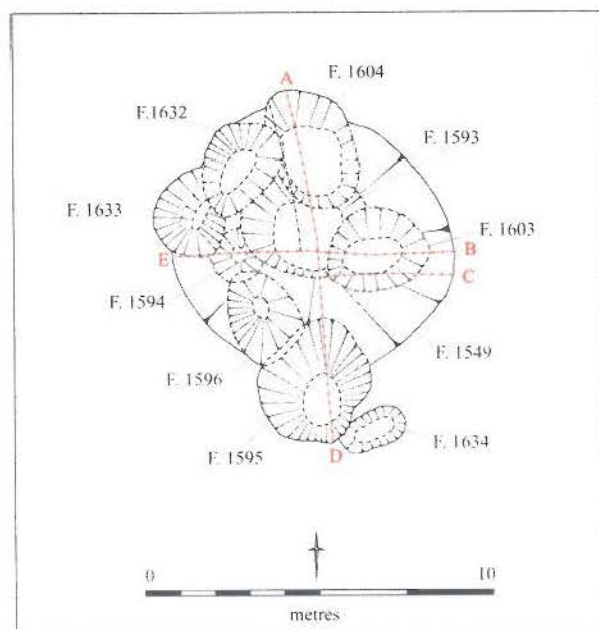


Figure 6. Pit cluster 1

**F.1603** A large lozenge shaped pit (2.20m long x 1.10m wide x 0.80m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4960]. Filled with dark brown silt with moderate inclusions with orange-brown mottling [4960] and orange grey sandy silt with frequent angular and sub-angular stones occasional rounded pebbles [5117].

**F.1604** A small sub-circular pit (1.10m diameter x 1.00m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [4966]. Filled with brown silt [4962], orange sandy silt with frequent gravel and frequent iron pan [4963], orange sandy silt with frequent gravel [4964], and orange sandy silt [4965].

**F.1632** A large oval pit (3.00m long x 2.00m wide) with shallow sides and a concave base [5111]. Filled with mid grey clay silt with occasional sub-angular stones [5118], reddish-brown iron pan with moderate accreted rounded and angular stones [5126], and orange sand with frequent gravel [5127].

**F.1633** A large oval pit (2.75m long x 2.00m wide) with steep sides and a concave base [5113]. Filled with mid grey silt clay with infrequent sub-angular stones [5114], reddish-brown iron pan with moderate accreted rounded and angular stones [5128], and orange sand with frequent gravel [5129].

**F.1634** A small oval pit (1.00m long x 0.70m wide) with steep sides and a concave base [5116]. Filled with grey sandy clay with orange mottling and occasional angular, sub-angular and rounded small pebbles [5115].

Pit Cluster 2 and 3 were located centrally within this phase of the site. Pit Cluster 2 consisted of two individual groups of inter-cutting pits separated by about a metre. These two groups consisted of fourteen individual pits with one group being made up of four distinct pits (F.1874, F.1875, F.1876, and F.1877) and the other group of ten (F.1888, F.1895, F.1896, F.1897, F.1898, F.1899, F.1900, F.1901, F.1903, and F.1904). The group of four pits were arranged in an almost north south linear fashion as if they had been constructed along the line of a boundary or division. The pits appeared to have been cut in a northward progression which each subsequent pit cutting its predecessor until the final one was dug. Initially the construction of a new pit may have been an attempt to dig out the original, as only a small portion of the primary pit remained, however, the final pit only cut slightly into the penultimate one. As each new pit was cut it seemed less important to cut in exactly the same position; the line and rough location were enough. This may have been the result of remembered history, each time they believed they were digging in the same spot, or an increase in the time between the back filling of one pit and the construction of the next. Artefactual material was recovered from two of these pits; F.1875 produced eleven fragments of animal bone and F.1874 produced ninety-two fragments of bone including a cow skull, three pieces of Late Bronze Age pot and several fragments of preserved wood. The majority of this wood was in the form of small pieces of non-descript material, however, two of them were fragments of probable timber uprights (posts). One of these fragments was c.1.70m long with signs of working at either end to form a post with a pointed tip and a flat top. The post had then been splint tangentially along the long axis. The second piece of wood was a smaller fragment of post that had undergone a similar process.



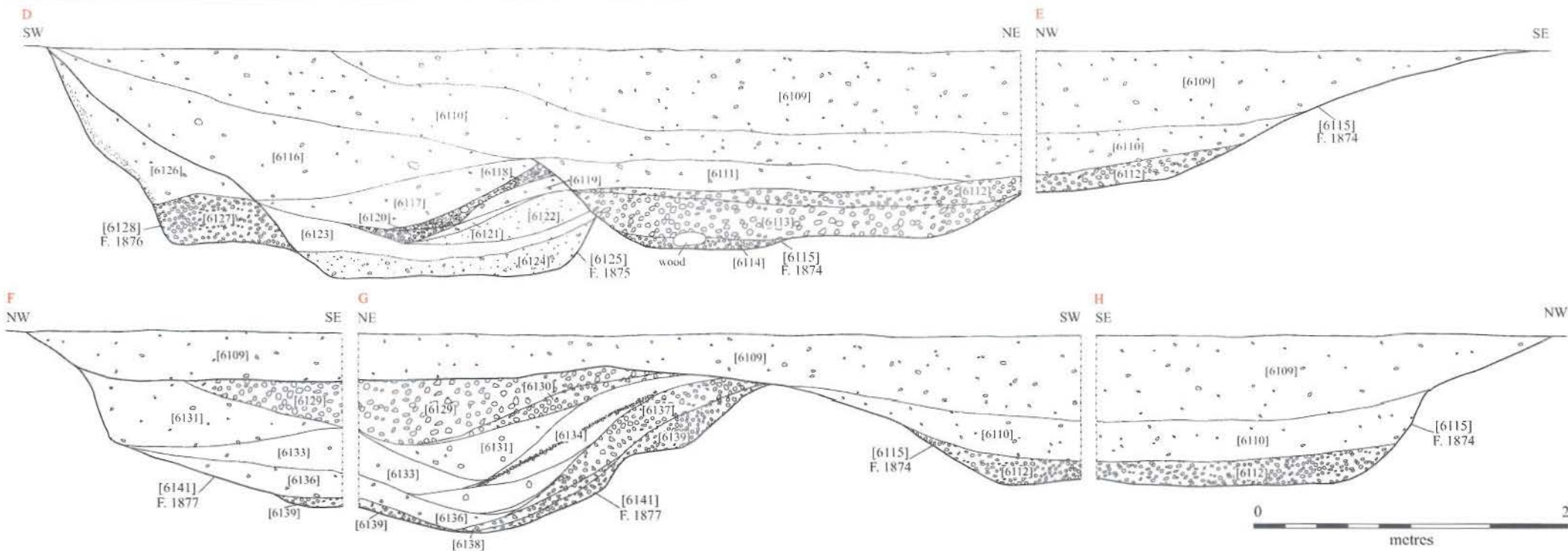
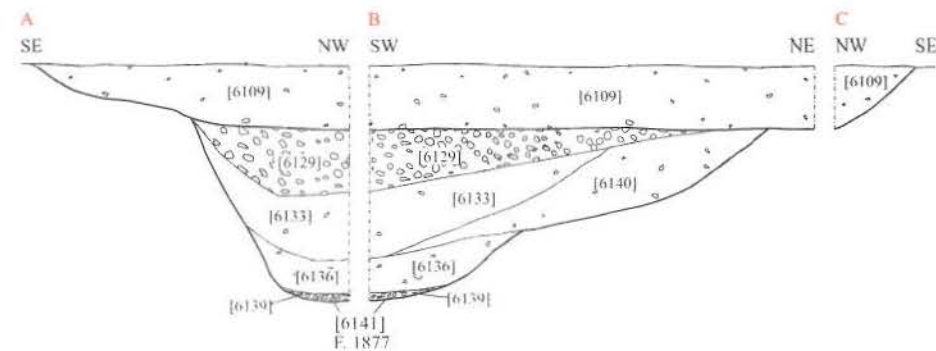
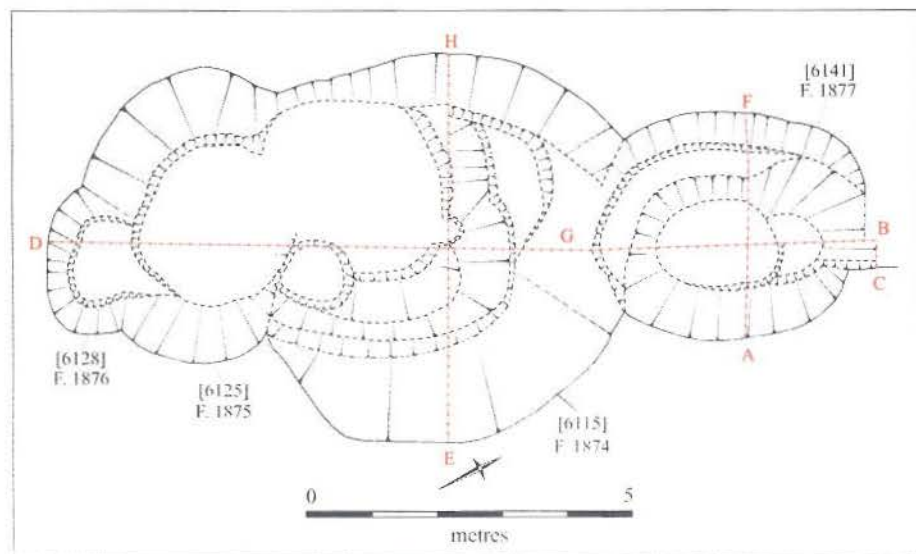


Figure 7. Pit cluster 2a



**F.1874** A large oval pit (1.15m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6115]. Filled with orange mottled light brown sandy silt with occasional small angular and rounded stones [6110], mixed pale grey and orange clay frequent sand and orange mottling with occasional angular and sub-angular stones [6111], orange mottled mid to pale grey clay with frequent very small rounded/sub-rounded and angular/sub-angular stones [6112], grey to purple clay with frequent angular and rounded stones [6113], and dark grey purple clay with frequent small rounded/sub-rounded and angular/sub-angular stones and wood [6114].

**F.1875** A large oval pit (1.42m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6125]. Filled with pale brown orange sandy clay with rare rounded pebbles and occasional angular and sub-angular stones [6116], mid grey sandy silt with occasional angular and sub-angular stones [6117], orange mottled mid grey sandy silt with frequent angular and rounded stones with occasional rounded stone inclusions [6118], grey clay with occasional small angular stones [6119], mid to pale grey sandy silt with frequent angular/sub-angular stones and small rounded/sub-rounded stones [6120], orange sandy silt with low clay content and very rare small angular stones [6121], mixed grey clay silt with occasional stone inclusions [6122], dark blue grey to black silt [6123], and brown purple silt with significant sand with occasional small rounded and angular stones [6124].

**F.1876** A large oval pit (1.20m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6128]. Filled with orange mottled pale grey sandy silt/alluvium with occasional angular and sub-angular stones [6126] and grey purple alluvium with frequent small stones and angular stone inclusions [6127].

**F.1877** A large oval pit (1.26m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6141]. Filled with orange sandy silt with frequent angular/sub-angular stones occasional rounded pebbles frequent stone and occasional grey clay mottling [6129], orange sandy silt with frequent stones, pebbles and pale grey sandy inclusions [6130], pale blue clay with high sand content with occasional small angular stones [6131], pale blue clay with infrequent angular stones and occasional small rounded pebbles [6132], pale blue clay with occasional stone inclusions [6133], mid to pale grey clay with high sand content and lenses of orange-rusty sand which includes small rounded pebbles [6134], grey pale purple grey silt with rare angular stones [6135], bright orange sandy silt with occasional rounded and sub-angular pebbles and infrequent iron panning [6136], bright orange sandy silt with frequent small angular stone inclusions [6137], orange sand with frequent angular and sub-angular stones [6138], bright orange sandy silt with very frequent angular stones and grit with occasional sub-rounded pebbles [6139], and orange sandy silt with low clay content with occasional angular and rounded stones [6140].

The other group of ten pits were of a slightly different arrangement and did not show the same sequence of progression, or seem to have had the same function, as the group of four. The majority of these pits were constructed on a smaller scale of between 0.20m to 0.50m deep (3.08m OD to 2.78m OD) while the group of four pits were dug to between 1.15m and 1.26m deep (2.13m OD to 2.02m OD), and it seemed unlikely that they had been used to obtain water as they were unlikely to have ever reached the water table. The smaller pits were truncated by F.1888 at a time when they had all gone out of use. This pit was the largest single feature excavated with a diameter of 5.80m and a depth of 1.70m. The southern edge of this pit was cut at a much more gradual angle than any of the others. This was not seen in any of the other pits with the sides all being vertical, or almost so. This may have been designed to allow livestock easy access to water. Within the 2001 excavation a similar feature (F.812) was recorded but on a much smaller scale. This was interpreted as an animal watering hole, and it seems plausible that F.1888 was constructed for the same

purpose. This may go towards explaining why there were two separate groups in close association where everywhere else on site the pit clusters are formed of inter-cutting pits which truncate earlier examples. Here the two groups represented different functions, one for use by people and the other for livestock.

**F.1888** A large oval pit (4.40m long x 3.02m wide x 1.50m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6189]. Filled with bluish dark grey silt clay with occasional fine-medium sized pebbles [6176], greyish mid brown silt clay with occasional pebbles [6177], mid grey clayey silt with moderate stone inclusions [6262], dark grey silt clay with occasional stone inclusions [6178], brownish mid grey clayey silt with moderate mid sized pebbles [6179], mid grey silt with occasional stone inclusions [6202], brownish orange silt clay with moderate gravel [6180], greyish light brown clayey silt with moderate fine sized pebbles [6264], brownish dark grey silt with moderate pebbles [6181].

**F.1895** A circular pit (1.70m diameter x 0.74m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6291]. Filled with dark brown organic silt with patches of light grey clay, occasional gravel and charcoal [6309].

**F.1896** An oval pit (0.70m long x 0.60m wide x 0.25m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [6293]. Filled with mid grey sandy clay (alluvium) with occasional rounded and angular stones [6292].

**F.1897** An oval pit (0.80m long x 0.90m wide x 0.20m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [6295]. Filled with mid grey sandy clay (alluvium) with occasional rounded and angular stones [6294].

**F.1898** An oval pit (1.20m long x 0.80m wide x 0.30m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [6297]. Filled with mid grey sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular stones [6296].

**F.1899** An oval pit (1.50m long x 1.00m wide x 0.30m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [6300]. Filled with dark brown gravely sandy silt with frequent angular and sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal [6298] and dark purple to black stony silt with frequent angular and small rounded stones with iron staining and iron pan [6299].

**F.1900** A large oval pit (2.75m long x 3.00m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6302]. Filled with light grey silt with rare small stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks [6301].

**F.1901** An oval pit (1.50m long x 1.35m x 0.70m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6305]. Filled with greyish mid brown silt with occasional fine pebbles [6303] and greyish dark brown clayey silt with occasional fine-medium sized pebbles [6304].

**F.1903** A circular pit (1.50m diameter x 1.70 deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6194]. Filled with light grey silt sand with occasional stone inclusions [6196], dark brown silt clay with moderate stone inclusions and frequent fragments of wood [6191], and greyish very dark brown clay with moderate charcoal flecking, occasional lumps and occasional pebbles [6266].



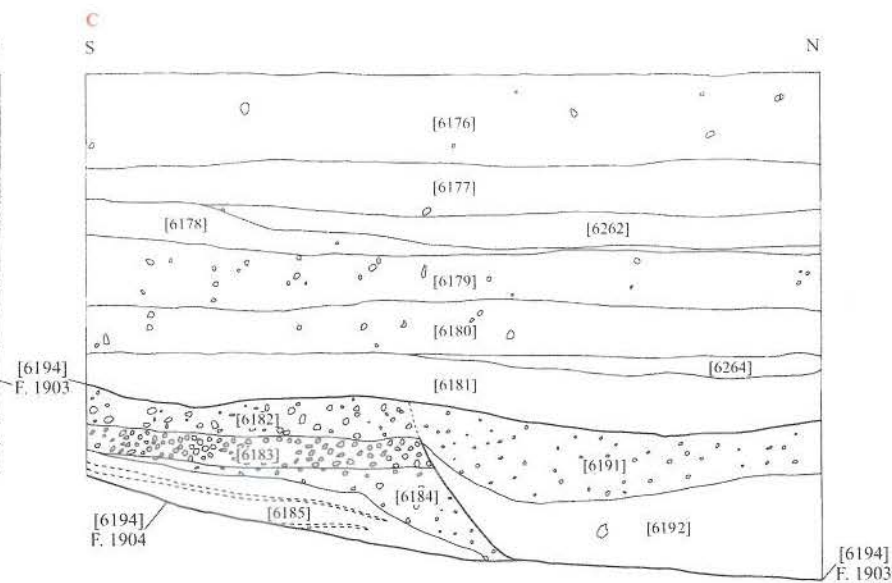
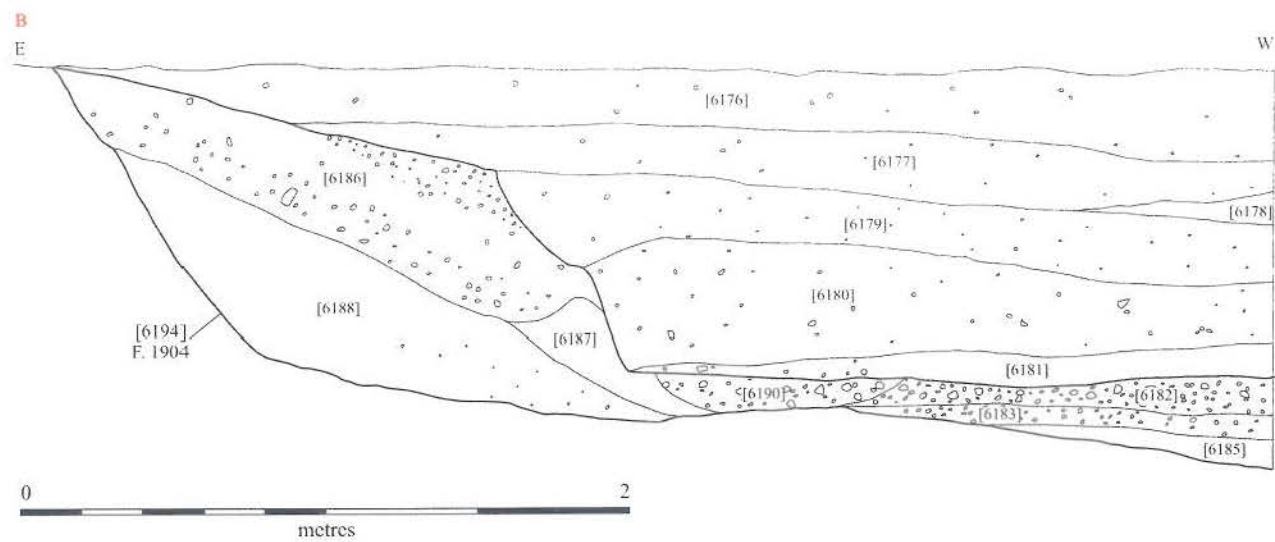
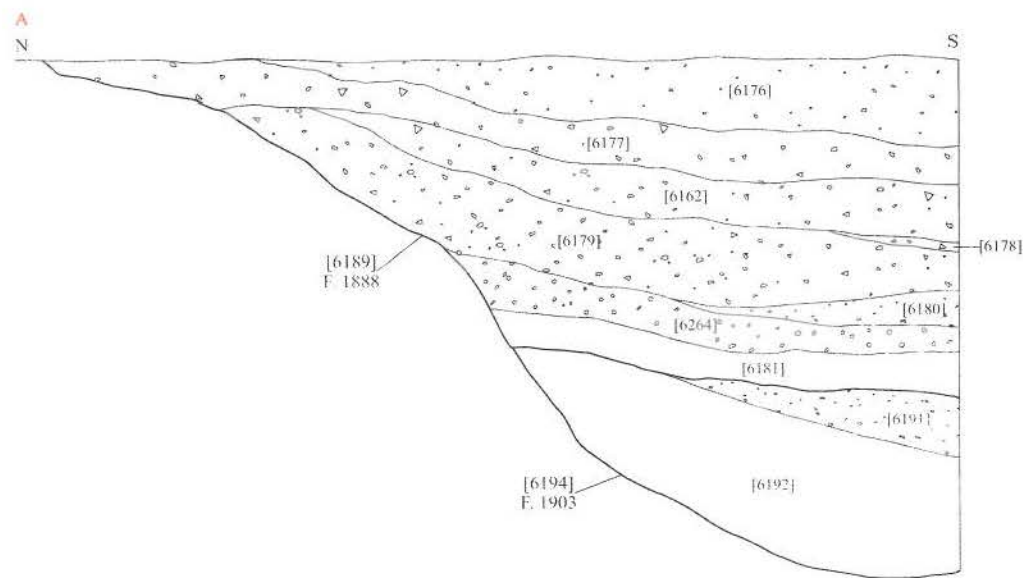
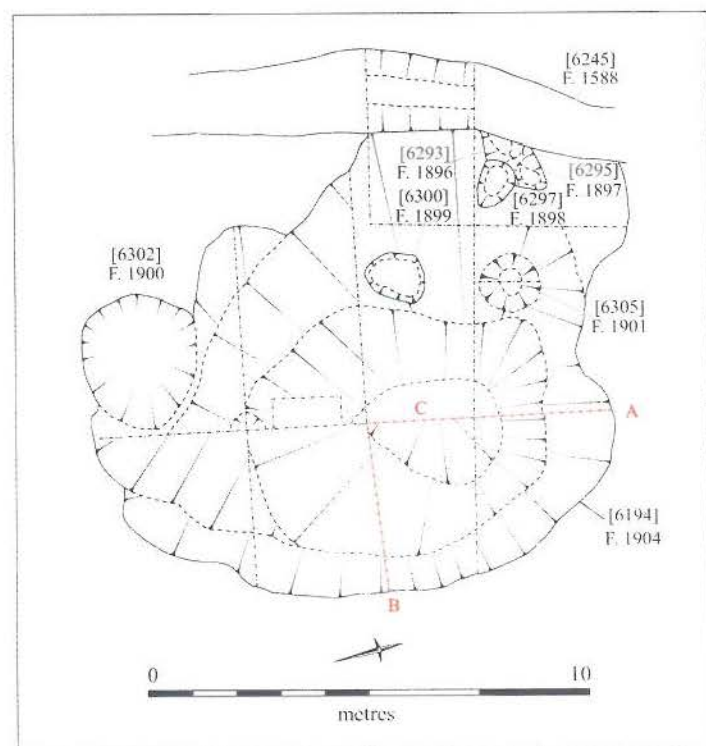


Figure 8. Pit cluster 2b



**F.1904** A truncated pit of indeterminate shape (unknown diameter x 1.64m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6193]. Filled with brown silt with frequent gravel [6186], light grey silt with frequent gravel [6190], light grey clayey silt with frequent gravel [6182], brownish orange re-deposited natural gravel [6183], mid grey silt clay with moderate gravel [6184], and dark brown silt clay with lenses of yellow sand [6185].

Pit Cluster 3 consisted of thirteen individual inter-cutting pits (**F.1878, F.1879, F.1880, F.1881, F.1882, F.1883, F.1884, F.1885, F.1886, F.1887, F.1892 (F.1894), and F.1893**), as with the previous clusters each pit cut into an earlier one, in some cases to such an extent that very little remained of the earlier pit. The majority of the pits produced very little artefactual material. Pit F.1885 was one of the final pits cut into the group and from the base were recovered eleven fragments of pot, of which one was decorated and dated to the Late Bronze Age. Placed at the base of the pit was an animal skull, surrounding this were five stake holes in a semi-circular formation. The skull lay atop a mass of twigs, bark fragments, and other pieces of 'discarded' wood. Located beneath the skull itself, was a fragment of a pottery vessel which had applied decoration.

**F.1878** An oval pit (4.13m long x 3.25m wide x 0.84m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6147]. Filled with light to mid grey sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional stone inclusions [6142], dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and stone inclusions and occasional pieces of burnt wood [6143], an orange to light grey sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions [6145], and mid grey very sandy silt with frequent white gritty stone inclusions [6146].

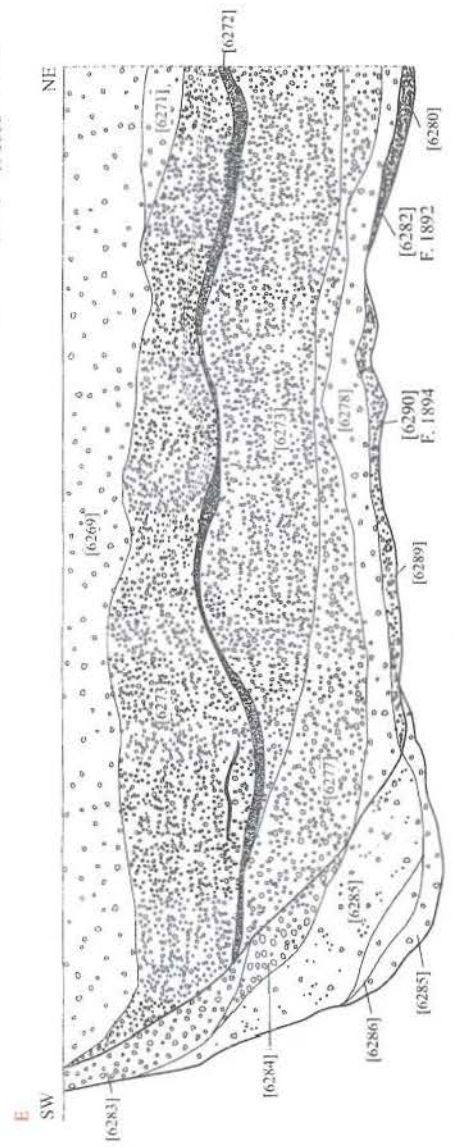
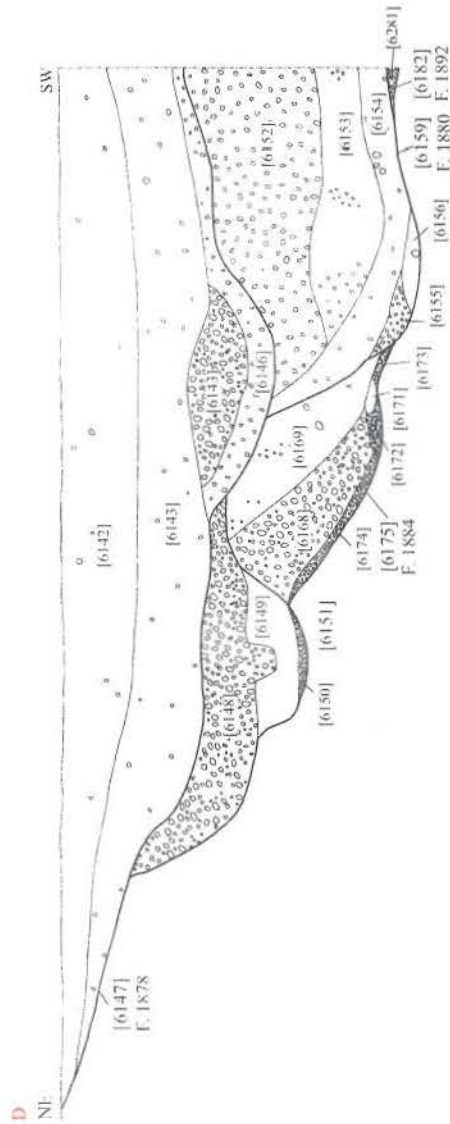
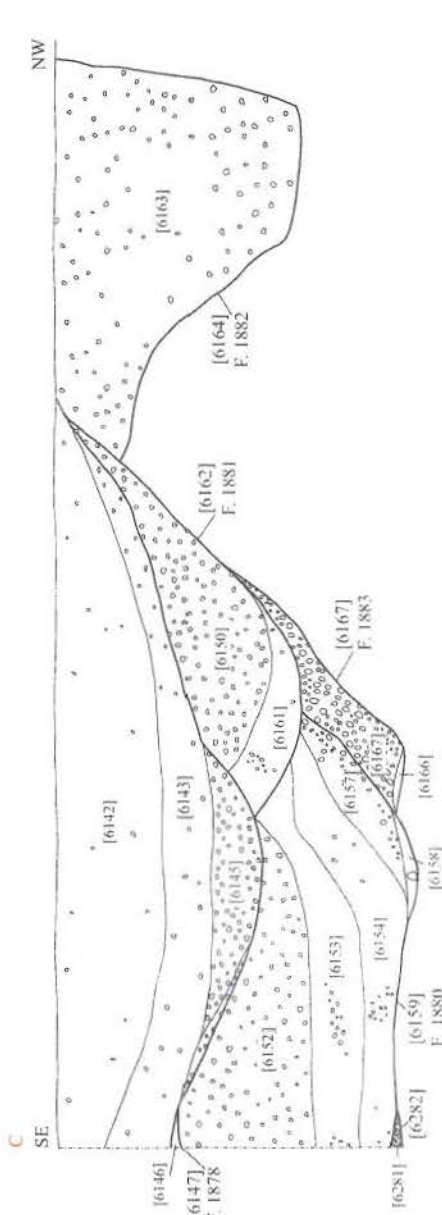
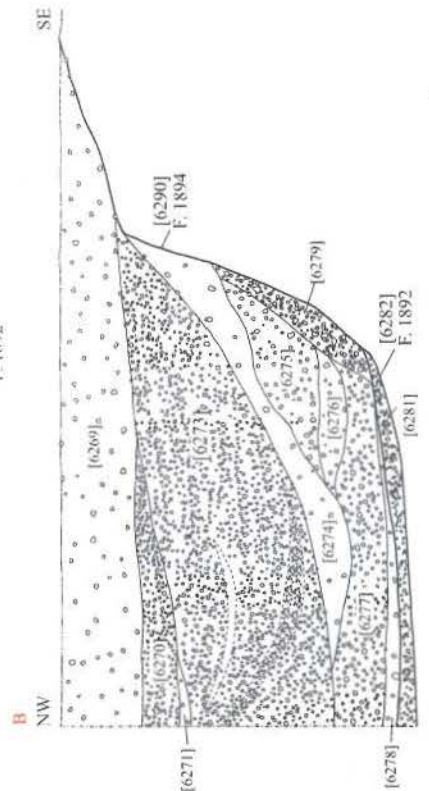
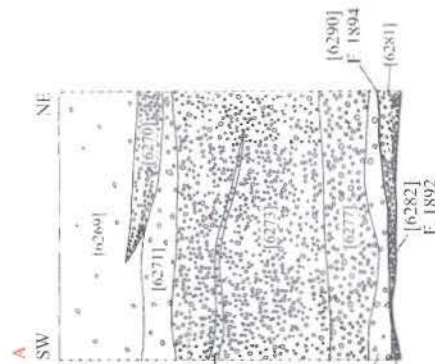
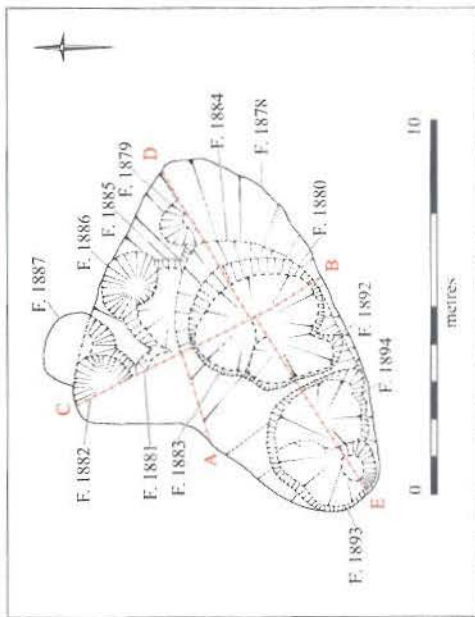
**F.1879** A small pit (1.50m diameter x 0.45m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6151]. Filled with re-deposited natural [6148], a dark grey organic deposit [6149], and light grey sand with frequent small stone inclusions [6150].

**F.1880** A sub-circular pit (1.70m diameter x 0.85m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6159]. Filled with light orange brown sandy silt mixed with light grey sandy silt with very frequent gravel [6152], light to mid grey to light orange brown and cream coloured sandy silt with occasional small grit inclusions [6153], mid to dark grey sandy silt with occasional stone and grit inclusions [6154], orange grey sandy silt with frequent stone and grit inclusions [6155], mid grey sandy clay silt [6156], orange brown silt sand with occasional stone and grit inclusions [6157], mid grey clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [6158]

**F.1881** A small circular pit (1.60m diameter x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6162]. Filled with orange brown sandy silt with occasional grey sandy silt inclusions and very frequent stone inclusions [6160] and mixed light orange and cream sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [6161].

**F.1882** A small circular pit (1.60m diameter x 1.00m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6164]. Filled with orange brown and light grey sandy silt with regular stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks [6163].

**F.1883** A small circular pit (1.00m diameter x 0.35m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6167]. Filled with orange grit mixed with orange grey sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions [6165] and dark grey sandy silt with occasional grit inclusions [6166].





**F.1884** A small circular pit (0.90m diameter x 0.65m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6174]. Filled with orange grit mixed with orange grey sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions [6168], light orange to light grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [6169], mid grey sandy silt [6170], mid grey sandy silt [6171], reddish grey clayey with occasional stone inclusions [6172], reddish grey clayey [6173].

**F.1885** A circular pit (1.90m diameter) with steep sides and a sharp break of slope [6209]. Filled with black sticky organic clay containing remnants of stakes, wood pottery and a cow skull [6144], orange gritty re-deposited natural [6206], mid grey sticky organic clay with occasional wood [6207], and orange brown silt sand with frequent stone inclusions [6208].

**F.1886** A circular pit (1.50m diameter) with steep sides and a concave base [6227]. Filled with light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions and wooden twigs [6222], mid grey sandy silt with very rare inclusions [6223], dark black organic material with very rare inclusions but large plank and stake hole [6224], mid grey organic clay with decayed/burnt wood [6225], gritty orange re-deposited natural [6226], light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [6228], and greyish and orange silt sand with frequent stone inclusions - re-deposited natural [6229].

**F.1887** A small pit identified during excavation and all but truncated by F.1886 [6232]. Filled with pale grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [6231].

**F.1892/ F.1894** Two large inter-cutting oval pits (6.10m long x 2.10m wide x 1.40m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6282]. Filled with orange mottled grey clay (alluvium) with occasional rounded and angular stones [6269], grey very sandy clay silt with frequent angular and sub-angular stones [6270], orange mottled blue grey clay with occasional angular and sub-angular stones [6271], 'rusty' brown purple accreted gravel of varying thickness with very frequent iron stain and angular and sub-angular stones with frequent iron staining [6272], mid to light brown sandy silt with frequent grey sandy clay inclusions, mottling small angular and sub-angular stones with lenses of alternate orange and brown sand and silt with frequent white grit inclusions [6273], blue grey sandy clay silt with occasional small angular stones [6274], dark 'rusty' orange sandy silt with frequent angular and sub-angular stones [6275], blue grey sandy clay silt with occasional angular stones and gravel [6276], orange mottled mid blue to grey very sandy clay (alluvium) with frequent angular/sub-angular stones and occasional rounded pebbles [6277], pale purple brown clay with occasional angular and stones and rare medium sized angular pebbles [6278], orange to brown sand with very frequent stones and gravel - re-deposited natural [6279], grey sandy clay with very frequent angular and sub-angular stones [6280], dark brown to purple sandy silt with frequent angular stones and grit with iron pan [6281], and dark brown to purple sandy silt with frequent angular stones and grit with iron pan [6289].

**F.1893** A small circular pit (1.65m diameter x 1.65m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [6288]. Filled with grey clay (alluvium) with frequent small rounded, angular and sub-rounded stones [6283], light brown sandy silt with frequent angular and small angular stones [6284], pale greenish grey clay (alluvium) with occasional grit and small angular stones [6285], purple brown clay with rare small angular stones [6286], and dark blue grey clay with occasional iron mottling and occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones [6287].

Each of these pit clusters represented a series of separate events consisting of the digging and subsequent infilling of a large pit, possibly with an aim of obtaining

water. The majority of these pits appeared to have been purposely backfilled, with the earlier pits all containing deposits of natural gravel. Pit F.1888 was slightly different to the other pits. It was substantially larger, being two to three times bigger than any other. One of the sides was set at a shallower angle suggesting a possible ramp into the pit as an access route for livestock to obtain water.

### *Structures*

Five significant clusters of postholes were recorded, two of which were definite structures and three of which may potentially have been.

Structure 7 consisted of four postholes (F.1690, F.1691, F.1692, and F.1693) in a trapezoidal formation. The structure would have been c.0.72m wide, c.2.30m along the short axis, and c.2.72m on the long. This was unlike the other four post structures encountered previously on the site, and may have represented a different function for the feature or a different form of construction. The four posts may have been all that remained of a roundhouse with the postholes representing the porch or entranceway.

**F.1690** An oval posthole (0.26m long x 0.21m wide x 0.09m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5342]. Filled with grey silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5341].

**F.1691** An oval posthole (0.30m long x 0.17m wide x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5344]. Filled with grey silt with charcoal [5343].

**F.1692** An oval posthole (0.27m long x 0.17m wide x 0.17m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5346]. Filled with grey silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5345].

**F.1693** An oval posthole (0.26m long x 0.22m wide x 0.09m) with steep sides and a concave base [5348]. Filled with grey silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5347].

Structure 8 consisted of thirteen postholes (F.1707, F.1708, F.1709, F.1710, F.1711, F.1712, F.1713, F.1714, F.1715, F.1722, F.1723, F.1731, and F.1751) twelve of which formed the structure and one (F.1751) of which was internal and not obviously structural. The structure was a symmetrical roundhouse, consisting of ten large posts in a circle with an internal diameter of 6m. To the north were a further two postholes (F.1709 and F.1731) which most likely represented the entrance. Inside the structure was a solitary posthole (F.1751), much smaller than the external postholes and to one side of the entrance, partially blocking it. Slightly off centre, was a small pit (F.1732) with a pale clean fill that contained no artefactual material or occupation debris. The structure was located within the corner of Field Pe next to Pit Cluster 2. The entrance for this structure faced northwards into the field rather than to the south or southeast as is typical for Late Bronze Age roundhouses. It had been constructed at the place where there was the greater concentration of inter-cutting pits and a double ditched 'trackway'. It may have been that the construction of the roundhouse was closely linked to its position within the field system. Its location in the southwest corner meant the north facing entrance looked out on to the open field rather than the boundary to the south. There was a distinct lack of occupation material from any of the postholes or the pit within the structure. Even the adjacent cluster of large pits



failed to produce any more material than that recovered from the other clusters un-associated with the structure. However, the fragments of timber posts recovered at the base of F.1874 may have been the remnants of a post from the structure.

**F.1707** A posthole (0.90m long x 0.50m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5393]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt and occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5392].

**F.1708** A posthole (0.50m diameter x 0.38m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5395]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions [5394].

**F.1709** A posthole (0.43m long x 0.32m wide 0.35m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5397]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions [5396].

**F.1710** A posthole (0.52m diameter x 0.41m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5399]. Filled with light to mid grey sandy silt mixed with light reddish brown mottling with frequent charcoal flecks and stone inclusions [5398].

**F.1711** A posthole (0.43m diameter x 0.34m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5401]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with reddish brown mottling occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions [5400].

**F.1712** An oval posthole (0.58m long x 0.44m wide x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5403]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt [5402].

**F.1713** A posthole (0.39m diameter x 0.45m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5405]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt [5404].

**F.1714** An oval posthole (0.41x long x 0.53m wide x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5407]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt with stone and charcoal inclusions [5406].

**F.1715** A posthole (0.34m diameter x 0.34m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [5409]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt and occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5408].

**F.1722** A posthole (0.46m diameter x 0.38m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5443]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5442].

**F.1723** A posthole (0.51m long x 0.46m wide x 0.39m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5445]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt occasional stone and charcoal flecks [5444].

**F.1731** A posthole (0.38m diameter x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5476]. Filled with mixed grey orange sandy silt with rare small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal [5475].

**F.1732** A posthole (0.98m diameter x 0.42m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5478]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt with occasional stone, charcoal lumps and charcoal flecks [5477].

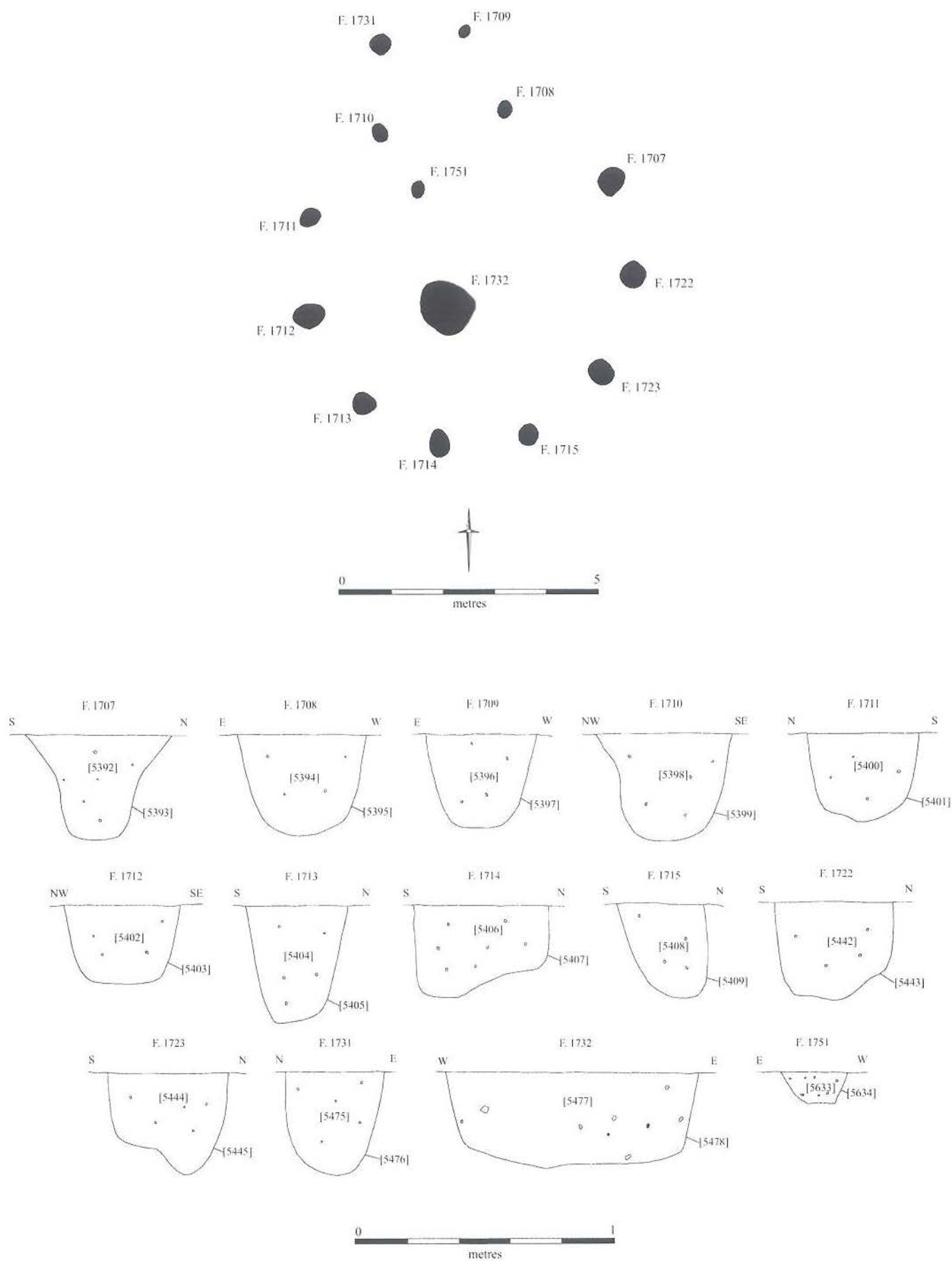


Figure 10. Late Bronze Age Structure 8



**F.1751** A posthole (0.26m long x 0.20m wide x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5634]. Filled with mixed red white clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks [5633].

Structure 9 consisted of a cluster of eighteen postholes (**F.1514**, **F.1515**, **F.1516**, **F.1518**, **F.1519**, **F.1520**, **F.1521**, **F.1522**, **F.1523**, **F.1524**, **F.1529**, **F.1530**, **F.1531**, **F.1533**, **F.1534**, **F.1535**, **F.1536**, and **F.1537**) in a slightly irregular pattern that may represent a circular structure of some kind. This structure lacked the coherency and nature of Structure 8 and may have had a different function. It could have been a temporary structure, which may have been used for the short-term storage of material rather than for any kind of habitation. The irregularity of postholes may represent attempts to repair the structure.

**F.1514** A posthole (0.34m long x 0.24m wide x 0.11 deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4540]. Filled with sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks [4539].

**F.1515** A posthole (0.45m long x 0.35m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4542]. Filled with sandy silt [4541].

**F.1516** A posthole (0.42m long x 0.49m wide x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4543]. Filled with light brown silt with infrequent charcoal flecks, small pebbles and flint [4544].

**F.1518** An irregular posthole (1.00m long 0.35m wide x 0.70m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4547]. Filled with dark brown silt with grey inclusions and charcoal flecks with burnt flint [4548].

**F.1519** A posthole (0.20m diameter x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4550]. Filled with silt sand [4549].

**F.1520** A posthole (0.31m diameter x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4552]. Filled with sandy silt [4551].

**F.1521** An oval posthole (0.30m long x 0.39m wide x 0.27m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4553]. Filled with brownish-orange silt [4554] and dark grey with white patches [4555].

**F.1522** A sub-circular posthole (0.33m diameter x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4556]. Filled with brownish-orange silt clay [4557].

**F.1523** A sub-circular posthole (0.25m diameter x 0.08m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4558]. Filled with brownish-orange silt clay [4559].

**F.1524** An oval posthole (0.40m long x 0.49m wide x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4560]. Filled with grey silt sand [4561].

**F.1529** An oval posthole (0.34m long x 0.24m wide x 0.09m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4570]. Filled with light orange sandy silt [4571].

**F.1530** A posthole (0.17m diameter x 0.04m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4572]. Filled with orange-yellow sand [4573].

**F.1531** A posthole (0.41m diameter x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4578]. Filled with brownish-yellow sand [4579].

**F.1533** A stake hole (0.12m diameter x 0.02m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4582]. Filled with light brown silt [4583].

**F.1534** A stake hole (0.14m diameter x 0.08m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4584]. Filled with dark brown silt [4585].

**F.1535** A stake hole (0.14m diameter x 0.03m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4586]. Filled with light brown silt [4587].

**F.1536** A stake hole (0.12m diameter x 0.03m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4588]. Filled with light brown silt [4589].

**F.1537** A stake hole (0.11m long x 0.19m wide x 0.10m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4590]. Filled with light brown silt with burnt 'clay' inclusions [4591].

It is difficult to discern any real structure from the final two posthole clusters. One group (referred to as Structure 10) consisted of ten postholes (**F.1513**, **F.1525**, **F.1526**, **F.1527**, **F.1528**, **F.1538**, **F.1539**, **F.1540**, **F.1541**, and **F.1542**) in a sub-rectangular arrangement c.2m wide and c.3.70m long. As with Structure 9, this cluster of postholes lacked any real definition. The differences in the size and nature of the individual postholes may suggest that this was some form of temporary structure, again possibly for storage.

**F.1513** A circular posthole (0.53m diameter x 0.12m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [4574]. Filled with grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal [4575].

**F.1525** A small circular stake hole (0.18m diameter wide x 0.10m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4562]. Filled with grey silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks [4563].

**F.1526** A small circular stake hole (0.33m diameter x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4564]. Filled with grey silt sand with frequent charcoal [4565].

**F.1527** A small oval posthole (0.22m long x 0.17m wide x 0.10m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [4566]. Filled with grey silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks [4567].

**F.1528** A small oval posthole (0.33m x 0.23m wide x 0.15m deep) with gentle sides and a flat base [4568]. Filled with grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal [4569].

**F.1538** A small oval posthole (0.47m long x 0.53m wide x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and flat base [4620]. Filled with grey orange silt [4598].

**F.1539** A small circular posthole (0.30m diameter x 0.11m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4599]. Filled with grey sand with charcoal inclusions [4600].

**F.1540** A small oval posthole (0.36m long x 0.30m wide x 0.07m deep) with shallow sides and a flat base [4601]. Filled with brownish grey sand [4602].

**F.1541** A small oval posthole (0.40m long x 0.20m wide x 0.06m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4603]. Filled with brownish orange silt sand [4604].

**F.1542** A small irregular posthole (0.52m long x 0.46m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4607]. Filled with pale brownish silt sand [4606].



The final cluster (referred to as Structure 11) consisted of fifteen postholes (F.1782, F.1786, F.1788, F.1796, F.1797, F.1798, F.1799, F.1800, F.1801, F.1802, F.1803, F.1812, F.1824, F.1826, and F.1834) in a sub-circular arrangement with an internal diameter of c.8.50m. Inside were twelve postholes in two small and distinct groups (F.1787, F.1817, F.1818, F.1819, F.1820, F.1821, F.1822, F.1823, F.1828, F.1829, F.1830, and F.1833). This was in an area of intense Romano British activity and as such it is possible that further postholes may have been destroyed by the later activity. As with the majority of the potential structures it is difficult to ascertain whether this was any form of structure. It seems most likely that if it were, again, it would have been a temporary structure designed to fulfil a particular task at a particular time with minor repairs and additions occurring throughout its lifetime.

**F.1782** A large oval posthole (0.72m long x 0.63m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5769]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with rare stone inclusions frequent charcoal flecks and a charcoal layer at base and sides [5768].

**F.1786** A large oval posthole (0.67m long x 0.53m wide x 0.29m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5784]. Filled with mid to light grey sandy silt mixed with orange brown with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions [5783].

**F.1787** A small circular posthole (0.36m diameter x 0.19m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5792]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with stone inclusions and charcoal flecks [5791].

**F.1788** A small oval posthole (0.37m long x 0.29m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5794]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions [5793].

**F.1796** A small oval posthole (0.28m long x 0.23m wide x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5824]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional stone inclusions [5823].

**F.1797** A large oval posthole (0.71m long x 0.60m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5826]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt near top with frequent charcoal and occasional stone inclusions fading to reddish brown at base with occasional flecks of charcoal and frequent stone inclusions [5825].

**F.1798** A large oval posthole (0.70m long x 0.58m wide x 0.44m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5828]. Filled with dark to mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks towards base increasing reddish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [5827].

**F.1799** A large oval posthole (0.70m long x 0.46m wide x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5830]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt becoming orange brown towards base, with rare stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks [5829].

**F.1800** A small circular posthole (0.28m diameter x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5832]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with rare charcoal and stone inclusions [5831].

**F.1801** A small oval posthole (0.43m long x 0.53m wide x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5834]. Filled with mid to dark grey sandy silt with frequent stone and charcoal fleck inclusions and very degraded fired clay or silt [5833].

**F.1802** A small oval posthole (0.35m long x 0.53m wide x 0.33m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5836]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt occasional stone inclusions [5835].

**F.1803** A large oval posthole (0.55m long x 0.46m wide x 0.28m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5838]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions, mixed reddish brown towards base and sides [5837].

**F.1812** A small sub-circular pit (0.72 diameter x 0.12m deep) with gentle sides and a flat base [5880]. Filled with mid to dark grey sandy silt with frequent flecks of charcoal with light grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown towards base, with stone inclusions [5879].

**F.1817** A small circular pit (0.28m diameter x 0.55m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5906]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent burnt clay [5905].

**F.1818** A small circular pit (0.30m diameter x 0.53m deep) with shallow sides and a flat base [5910]. Filled with light to mid grey sandy silt [5909].

**F.1819** A small circular pit (0.42m diameter x 0.82m deep) with shallow sides and a flat base [5908]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with occasional burnt clay [5907].

**F.1820** A small circular posthole (0.20m diameter x 0.09m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5912]. Filled with light to mid grey silt sand [5911].

**F.1821** A small circular stake hole (0.10m diameter x 0.11m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [5914]. Filled with light to mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal and burnt wood [5913].

**F.1822** A small circular stake hole (0.10m diameter x 0.08m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [5916]. Filled with light to mid grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks [5915].

**F.1823** A small oval posthole (0.43m long x 0.34m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5918]. Filled with mid to dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional stone inclusions [5917].

**F.1824** A small circular posthole (0.21m diameter x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5920]. Filled with mid to light grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions and very rare charcoal flecks [5919].

**F.1826** A small circular posthole (0.22m diameter x 0.19m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [5931]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks [5930].

**F.1828** A small oval posthole (0.32m long x 0.26m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5937]. Filled with mid to dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks [5936].

**F.1829** A small oval posthole (0.33m long x 0.26m wide x 0.24m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5939]. Filled with mid to light grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions [5938].



**F.1830** A small oval posthole (0.28m long x 0.17m wide x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5941]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks [5940].

**F.1833** A small oval pit (0.56m long x 0.36m wide x 0.10m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5956]. Filled with mid grey silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks [5955].

**F.1834** A large oval posthole (0.20m long x 0.70m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5972]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions [5971].

Previous excavations have produced little evidence for settlement. A lack of any good structural evidence or material culture has made it difficult to realise. However, Structure 8, and to a lesser extent the other posthole clusters, would suggest that the possibility that some type of settlement did occur here. Although there was still a lack of artefactual material this does not mean that settlement did not occur. Even areas of suspected Bronze Age settlement have produced little in the way of 'occupational debris', excavation of a Late Bronze Age roundhouse at Stonald Field, Whittlesey failed to produce any artefactual material from any of its postholes (Gibson & Knight 2000)

### *Romano British*

There were at least three distinct phases of Romano British activity on this site. Two of these phases were represented by field system ditches, which met within the northern portion of the site. These have been discussed in the previous report (Patten 2003) and further traces were recorded here. However, underlying the southern field system was another series of enclosures and linears associated with the site of the suspected farmstead which had not been recorded before. This could suggest that the farmstead was constructed at a period pre-dating the laying out or construction of the main Romano British field system and initially may have been involved in a practice different from that represented by the enclosed fields.

### *Enclosures*

In the southwest corner of the site a series of linears were recorded which represented a series of small enclosures of unknown function (**F.1681**, **F.1734**, **F.1735**, **F.1738**, **F.1741**, **F.1744**, **F.1745**, **F.1746**, and **F.1747**).

Four of the linears, (**F.1681**, **F.1741**, **F.1744**, and **F.1746**), were arranged to form three separate enclosures of different dimensions (A, B, and C). Enclosures A and C were open ended with **F.1681** and **F.1744** forming the northwest and southeast limits of the enclosures. The southwest limit of A was formed by **F.1746** and opened to the northeast, forming an enclosure measuring 16m northwest southeast and 21m northeast southwest. Enclosure C opened to the southwest with **F.1741** forming the northeast limit, this formed an enclosed area of 21m northwest southeast by 21m northeast southwest. Sandwiched between these, Enclosure B measured 21m northwest southeast and 8m northeast southwest. An entranceway from this into Enclosure A was recorded in the northeast corner between **F.1681** and **F.1746**. Another possible entrance may have existed in the southwest corner for access into Enclosure C but at this point the ditches were cut by a later Roman feature **F.1739**.



Figure 11. Romano-British phase 1 features



## Enclosure A

**F.1681** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.70m wide x 0.22m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5302]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt and occasional stone inclusions [5301].

**F.1744** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.50m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5799]. Filled with pale grey-blue orange mottled clayey silt (alluvium) with occasional small angular and sub-angular stones [5798].

**F.1746** A northwest southwest orientated linear (0.75m wide x 0.24m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5616]. Filled with dark grey silt with flint inclusions and patches of orange brown sand [5615].

## Enclosure B

**F.1681** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.60m wide x 0.20m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5640]. Filled with pale mid brown sandy silt with occasional-moderate stone inclusions [5639].

**F.1741** An east west orientated linear (0.60m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5610]. Filled with mixed red whit grey silt [5609].

**F.1744** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1m wide x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5688]. Filled with dark brown silt clay with occasional gravel inclusions [5687].

## Enclosure C

**F.1681** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.60m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5664]. Filled with mid grey silt clay with occasional stone inclusions [5663].

**F.1741** An east west orientated linear (0.40m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5638]. Filled with pale mid brown sandy silt with occasional-moderate stone inclusions [5637].

**F.1744** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.15m wide x 0.18m deep) with shallow sides and a concave base [5583]. Filled with brown silt with occasional charcoal and moderate small pebbles [5582]. Terminal end.

**F.1746** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.35m wide x 0.31m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5646]. Filled with dark brown silt [5645].

At the southwest end of Enclosure C were located two sets of parallel linears, one of which was orientated east west (**F.1734** and **F.1738**) and the other north south (**F.1735** and **F.1747**), forming Enclosure D. The east west linears were set 5m apart and were 13m long. The north south linears were 11m apart and each one abutted **F.1738** at right angles, forming a three-sided enclosure. It is unclear as to whether this represented an enclosed space or the foundations for a structure. The linears were relatively deep with steep, near vertical sides and may have been beam slots or post trenches for some type of structure. At Colne Fen, Earith (Cambridgeshire) a number of structures were recorded which consisted of short linear ditch segments and a series of postholes (Regan 2003). Although there were no postholes associated with these linears it is possible that they may have represented either a raised floor or a post

trench. The fills of F.1738 and F.1747 contained a high percentage of charcoal and within the eastern terminus of F.1738 an area of in-situ burnt clay with two stake holes were recorded. These linears produced a large amount of pottery of two distinct types, Nene Valley wares and shell tempered wares. The quantity of pottery recovered from this feature and its state of preservation would suggest that this material was probably dumped once the feature was no longer in use. All four linears produced comparable pottery, further emphasising the association of the four linears. Some of the material recovered also showed evidence of being heat and salt affected. This could suggest that there may have been some form of 'industrial' activity occurring in relation to these features.

#### Enclosure D

**F.1734** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.44m wide x 0.20m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5528]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt mixed with occasional reddish brown sandy silt, charcoal flecks and burnt clay [5527].

**F.1735** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.33m wide x 0.19m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5636]. Filled with grey clay (alluvium) with frequent small angular and sub-angular stones and occasional rounded and burnt stones [5635].

**F.1738** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1m wide x 0.51m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5767]. Filled with mixed orange grey silt clay with charcoal flecks [5763], dark grey silt clay with charcoal flecks [5764], mixed light brown sandy clay re-deposited natural and occasional charcoal [5765] and mixed orange dark grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal and burnt clay [5766].

**F.1747** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.20m wide x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5600]. Filled with pale grey yellow clay silt with occasional charcoal and occasional small pebbles [5599].

To the south of both enclosure groups was linear **F.1745**. This ditch was c.11m long and could have created a southern limit to the enclosure group. It was later re-cut and extended to form part of a trackway.

**F.1745** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.63m wide x 0.38m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5598]. Filled with orange dark grey clay silt with moderate fine pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks [5597].

These enclosures formed part of the earliest phases of Romano British activity recorded on site. There was no distinct association between these and the northern field system, so they may have occurred at the same time. However, they were definitely post dated by the southern system of enclosed fields, as was evidenced by the relationship of a number of the later field system ditches. This suggests that the suspected farmstead located within the Archaeological Conservation Zone may have origins earlier than was suspected from earlier phases of excavation (Patten 2003).



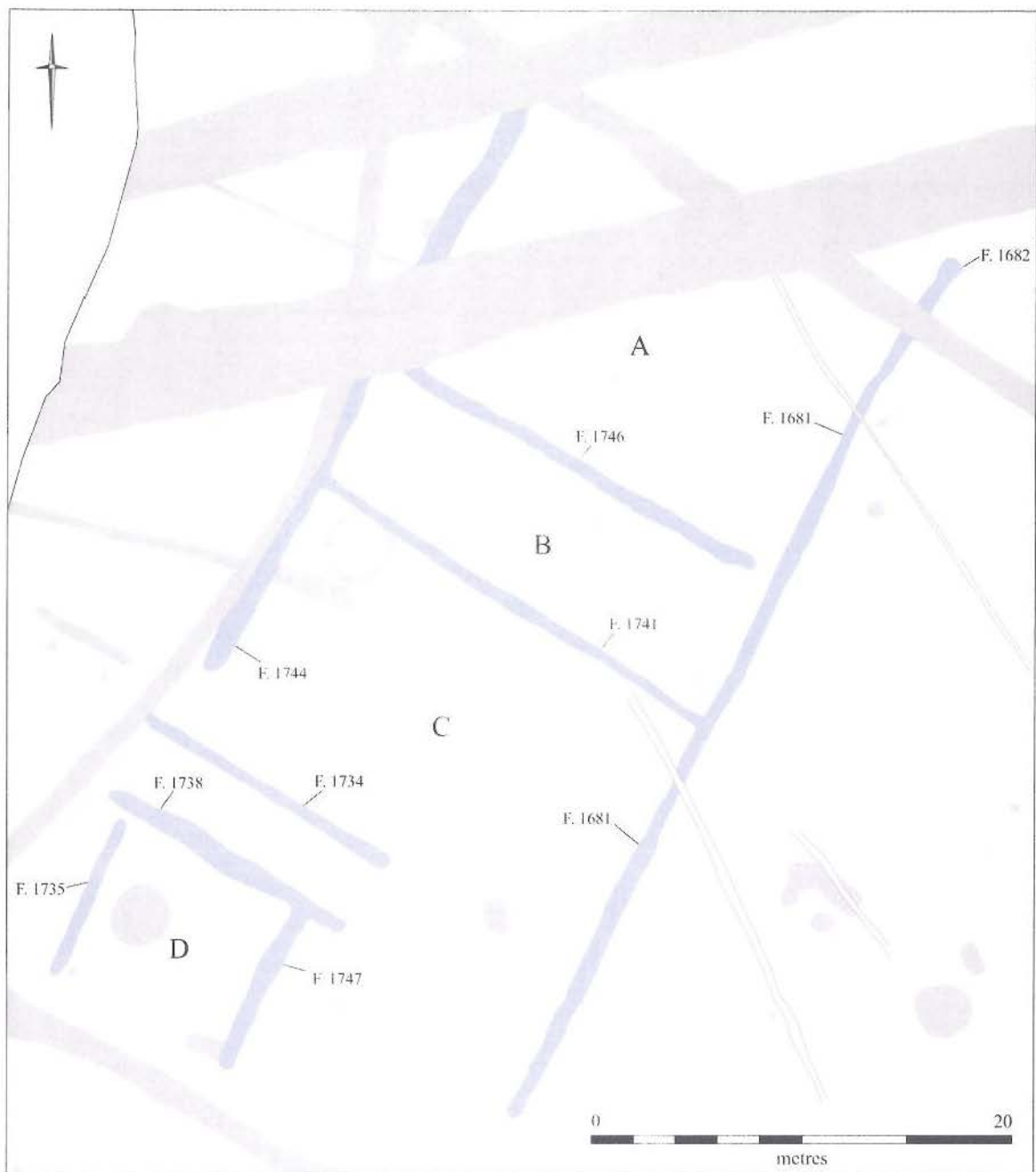


Figure 12. Romano-British (phase I) enclosures

### *Trackway*

Orientated east west across the southern edge of the site were a series of linears (F.1638, F.1639, and F.1736). These formed a trackway coming away from the suspected farmstead and opening out into possible fields. It appeared to have initially been cut along the course of F.1745, an earlier boundary that appeared to have been associated with the enclosures slightly to the north. The evidence suggested that the northern extent of the trackway (F.1638, and F.1736) was constructed in segments where it extended past the original limit of F.1745, while the southern extent was one single ditch (F.1639) which ran parallel to its counterpart.

**F.1638** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.65m wide x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5153]. Filled with mid grey orange mottled sandy silt with occasional angular stone inclusions [5152].

**F.1639** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.75m wide x 0.17m deep) with shallow sides and a flat base [4954]. Filled with blue clay silt with occasional small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions [4953].

**F.1736** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.00m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5167]. Filled with mid grey reddish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [5166].

### *Field Systems*

The field systems were divided into two different sets: that which originated from the north, and the system that extended from the south of the site. These two systems abutted each other at **F.1006** where a slight change in orientation was noted.

#### *Northern System*

Extending from the north of the site, the system consisted of a number of north south orientated ditches that divided the land into six recorded fields, Ri, Rj, Rk, Rl, Rm and Rn. Fields Ri and Rj were initially recorded in the 2002 excavation as Fields R (Rj) and S (Ri), no more of Field Ri was uncovered in 2003.

Field Rj was formed by F.1006 to the south, **F.1106** to the east, **F.1168** (**F.822** in the 2001 excavation) and **F.1543** to the west, and **F.814** (from the 2001 excavation) to the north. These formed a rectangular field measuring c.106m north south and c.67m east west. Two separate lengths of ditch marked the western limit of the field; F.1168 to the north and F.1543 to the south, with a slight gap at the mid point. These two linears did not make a continuous divide but were slightly off-set, as if they had been cut along opposite sides of some other boundary marker such as a narrow hedge or fence. The only possible entrances into and out of this field were recorded in the northwest and southeast corners of the field. There was evidence of re-cutting within F.1006 and F.1106 suggesting it was one of the earliest Romano-British fields recorded here.

**F.814** An east west orientated Roman ditch (0.50m wide x 0.12m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [2607]. Filled with brownish grey silt clay with occasional stone inclusions [2606].





Figure 13. Romano-British field enclosures

**F.822** A north south orientated ditch (0.46m wide x 0.06m deep) with vertical sides and a flat base [2647]. Filled with light grey silt sand with occasional stone inclusions [2646].

**F.1006** An east west orientated linear (1.37m wide x 0.59m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4826]. Filled with orange grey mottled sandy silt with occasional small pebbles [4823], grey clay silt with 'blocky' appearance [4824], and orange grey mottled silt with moderate inclusion of pebbles [4825].

**F.1106** A north south orientated linear (0.95m wide x 0.32m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4506]. Filled with orange sandy silt [4504] and grey silt with frequent charcoal (some large pieces) [4505].

**F.1168** A north south orientated linear (0.55m wide x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4608]. Filled with grey brown sandy silt [4607].

**F.1543** A north south orientated linear (0.80m wide x 0.33m deep) with gentle sides and a concave base [4614]. Filled with grey brown clay silt with occasional orange mottling and occasional stone inclusions [4615].

Field Rk was bounded by F.1168 and F.1543 to the east, F.1006 to the south, and **F.1182** to the west. No northern limit to the field was recorded during any previous phase of excavation although it is probable that F.814 extended further to the west thus forming the northern boundary. This formed an enclosure measuring 56m east west and probably 101m north south, although this could not be confirmed because of the lack of any undeniable northern boundary. The western extent seemed to have only been partially enclosed by a ditch along the southern half of the field. The northern end of F.1182 terminated at a point opposite the northern end of F.1543. As has been noted above, the rest of this boundary may have been marked by a hedge or similar feature that has left no archaeological trace.

**F.1006** An east west orientated linear (0.76m wide x 0.32m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4867]. Filled with mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions [4866].

**F.1168** A north south orientated linear (0.75m wide x 0.10m deep) with gradual sides and an irregular base [4610]. Filled with brown-grey sandy silt with small quantity of clay [4609].

**F.1182** A northeast southwest orientated linear with steep sides and a concave base [4634]. Filled with light grey-brown silt with some pebble inclusions [4633].

**F.1543** A north south orientated linear (1.04m wide x 0.27m deep) with gradual sides and a concave base [4636]. Filled with dark brown silt [4635].

Field Rl was delimited by F.1182 to the east, F.1006 to the south and **F.1181** to the west. No evidence was recorded for a northern boundary but one probably existed outside of the area excavated. The enclosed field was 43m from east to west with a doglegged indent within the southwest corner where F.1006 changed its orientation (90° from east west to north south and then back 90° to east west). Where this ditch turns to the north, a series of short segments (**F.1601**, **F.1613**, **F.1614**, **F.1615**, **F.1617**, **F.1620**, **F.1621**, **F.1623**, and **F.1624**) were recorded continuing roughly along the line of F.1006, which may have represented an earlier boundary. During the 2002 excavation it was noted that F.1006 was a later re-cut to this field system, which may have



occurred at the time of the construction of the southern field system in an attempt to re-instate the northern fields. If this were the case, then it may be that these segments represent the original boundary of the field and the slight diversion of F.1006 to the north occurred during a later phase. The western limit of this field was demarked by F.1181, which, in association with F.1178 that ran parallel to F.1181, formed part of a narrow strip of parallel linears cut either side of a pre-existing hedge. Entrances into and out of this field were most likely in the southeast and southwest corners, although the lack of a northern extent make it impossible to say that there were no gaps further north.

**F.1006** An east west orientated linear (0.83m wide x 0.35m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4887]. Filled with grey-blue clay silt mottled with orange towards base [4886].

**F.1181** A north south orientated linear (0.46m wide x 0.14m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4972]. Filled with grey-orange sandy silt [4971].

**F.1182** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.90m wide x 0.28m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4638]. Filled with mottled grey-brown orange clay sand with occasional small pebbles and flint [4637].

Fields Rm and Rn were recorded only as possible fragments of enclosed spaces within the previous phases of excavation and with the exception of the southeast corner of Rm their boundaries are all supposition. The southeast corner of Field Rm was comprised of ditches F.1178 and F.1006. As well as the gap in the southeast corner joining Field Rl and Rm previous excavation had provided evidence of an entrance between Field Rm and Ro which at sometime had been consolidated with a layer of gravel (F.1012), perhaps when the ditches overflowed (Patten 2003). A short segment of ditch (F.652) recorded in a previous phase of excavation within a haul road may represent the western extent of this enclosed field.

**F.652** A north south orientated linear (0.65m wide x 0.17m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [2004]. Filled with light grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [2003].

**F.1006** An east west orientated linear (1.00m wide x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5034]. Filled with dark grey silt clay with occasional stone inclusions [5033].

**F.1012** A metallised surface 7.45m long and 2.00m wide [4099]

**F.1175** An east west orientated linear (1.55m wide x 0.55m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [4092]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4091].

**F.1178** A north south orientated linear (1.10m wide x 0.24m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4968]. Filled with blue-grey clay silt with orange mottling and occasional small angular stone inclusions [4967].

### *Southern System*

Extending from the south of the site was a series of enclosed fields on a northeast southwest alignment, slightly at angles to the system that extended from the north. These enclosed fields stretched as far F.1006 where the two different systems met.

There were at least eleven different enclosures associated with this system: Fields Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd, Re, Rf, Rg, Rh, Ro, Rp, and Rq, with more outside the excavated area. Fields Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd, Re, Rf, Rg and Rh were recorded in previous phases of excavation as Fields J (Ra), K (Rb), L (Rc), M (Rd), N (Re), O (Rf), P (Rg), and Q (Rh) (Patten 2003). The complete extent of Fields Rb, Rc, Rd, and Rh were recorded during this excavation while no further information of the other four fields (Ra, Re, Rf and Rg) was forthcoming.

Field Rb was bounded by **F.880** to the north, **F.775** to the east, **F.956** and **F.1768** to the south and **F.1588 (F.1774)** to the west. These formed an enclosed area measuring 74m north south and 114m east west. Three entrances between other fields were recorded: two in the southeast corner of the field enabling access to Field Ra and to the southern expanse outside the system, the third was in the northwest corner of the field allowing access to Field Rc. There may have been an entranceway in the northeast corner but at this juncture one of the Post-Medieval trackway ditches truncated the Romano British ditch.

**F.775** A north south orientated ditch (0.90m wide x 0.33m deep) with steep sides and a V shaped base [2390]. Filled with dark grey clayey sand [2391].

**F.880** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.80m wide x 0.32m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5300]. Filled with a dark grey clay alluvium with frequent angular and sub-angular stones, occasional flecks of burnt clay, and occasional burnt stone inclusions [5299].

**F.956** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.30m wide x 0.45m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5267]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt, occasional stone and gravel inclusions [5266].

**F.1588 (1774)** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.70m wide x 0.52m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5738]. Filled with dark brown silt clay with occasional gravel and occasional charcoal inclusions [5737].

**F.1768** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.77m wide x 0.61m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5698]. Filled with orangey dark brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional pebbles [5696] and orangey pale brown clayey silt with occasional fine pebbles and charcoal flecking [5697].

Field Rc was bounded by **F.775** to the east, **F.880** to the south, **F.1588 (1694)** to the west and **F.1103** to the north. These formed an enclosed field measuring 45m north south and 125m east west. Within the northwest and southwest corners of the fields were entrances that would have served as access ways into the adjoining fields to the north (Rd) and south (Rb). It is unknown whether there was a gap in the southeast corner of the field but there was no evidence for one in the northeast.

**F.775** A north south orientated ditch (0.90m wide x 0.33m deep) with steep sides and a V shaped base [2390]. Filled with dark grey clayey sand [2391].

**F.880** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.00m wide x 0.385m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5324]. Filled with yellowish grey sandy silt [5323].



**F.1103** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.75m wide x 0.26m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5328]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional reddish brown sand silt occasional stone inclusions [5327].

**F.1588 (1694)** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.40m wide x 0.69m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5952]. Filled with mid grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal fragments and flecks, bone and occasional rounded stones [5950] and are-deposited light orange brown sandy silt with occasional angular stones [5951].

Field Rd consisted of F.1103 to the south, **F.1077** to the east, **F.1132** and **F.1139** to the north, and F.1588 (F.1694) to the west. These formed a field measuring c.45m north south and 125m east west. As with Field Rc, the entrances between adjoining fields were located in the northwest and southwest corners and there were none in the eastern corners. There was a further gap mid way along the northern limit at the point where the boundary between Field Rg and Rh existed.

**F.1077** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.30m wide and 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [3345]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [3343] and orange silt sand with frequent gravel inclusions [3344].

**F.1103** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.15m wide x 0.28m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5320]. Filled with mixed grey brown silt with occasional stone inclusions [5319].

**F.1132** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.70m wide x 0.11m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [3909]. Filled with grey silt sand with occasional stone inclusions [3908].

**F.1139** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.80m wide x 0.29m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [4932]. Filled with dark grey clayey silt [4931].

**F.1588 (1694)** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.20m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5412]. Filled with light grey brown silt clay with infrequent gravel and occasional charcoal [5410] and dark grey brown silt clay with occasional gravel with very rare charcoal [5411].

Field Rg was fully exposed during the previous phase of excavation (Patten 2003). Field Rh comprised of linears F.1006 to the north, F.1132 (the northeast southwest arm) to the east, F.1139 to the south, and F.1588 to the west. This formed an enclosed space of 48m north south and 69m east west, and created a field half the size of Rb, Rc or Rd that were all of comparable size. The most northern block of land within this system had been divided up into two smaller blocks comprising of Field Rg and Rh. Within each corner of the field there was an apparent entranceway leading to the adjoining field. An entrance in the northwest corner allowed access to Field Ro, an entrance in the northeast corner allowed access to Field Rg, and the entrances in the southeast and southwest corners allowed access to Field Rd.

**F.1006** An east west orientated linear (1.20m wide x 0.50m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4850]. Filled with grey mottled orange sandy silt with moderate inclusion of small angular stones and flint [4849].

**F.1132** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.77m wide x 0.37m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [3597]. Filled with grey silt sand with occasional stone inclusions [3596].

**F.1139** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.76m wide x 0.31m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5357]. Filled with light to mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [5356].

**F.1588** A north south orientated linear (1.55m wide x 0.64m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [6245]. Filled with dark grey sandy silt [6242], mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [6243] and light grey orange sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [6244].

Field Ro was enclosed by ditch F.1006 to the north, F.1588 to the east, and **F.1635** to the south. No evidence for a western limit was exposed during the course of the excavation. These ditches formed an enclosed area of 77m north south and at least 152m east west. There were potential entrances to this field in both the northeast and southeast corners enabling access to Fields Rh and Rp. As well as these two corner entrances there was a gap along the length of the northern boundary where F.1006 terminated and F.1175 started. This enabled access between Fields Rm and Ro and possibly acted as a passage between the two distinct Northern and Southern field systems.

**F.1006** An east west orientated linear (0.88m wide x 0.30m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [4878]. Filled with brownish dark grey clayey silt with occasional bluish-grey lenses and occasional stone inclusions [4877].

**F.1175** An east west orientated linear (1.55m wide x 0.55m deep) with vertical sides and a concave base [4092]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4091].

**F.1588** A north south orientated linear (1.00m wide x 0.73 deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [4848]. Filled with a dark brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [4842], a pale blue-grey sandy clay with occasional small angular and rounded stone inclusions [4843], orange-grey mottled sandy clay with occasional angular stone inclusions [4844], an orange-grey mottled sandy clay with occasional small angular stone inclusions [4846], orange-grey mottled sandy clay with occasional small angular stone inclusions [4846], and an orange sandy silt [4847].

**F.1635** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.60m wide x 0.17m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5135]. Filled with a grey orange mottled sandy silt with occasional small rounded stoned [5134].

Field Rp was bounded by linear F.1635 to the north, F.1588 to the east, and **F.1804** to the south. This formed a rectangular enclosure measuring 64m north south and at least 96m east west, although the full extent of this remains unknown due to the lack of a western edge, which lay outside the limit of these excavations.

**F.1588** A north south orientated linear (1.00m wide x 0.54m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5351]. Filled with orange grey clay silt with frequent small angular and rounded stones [5349] and grey silt clay with occasional angular stone inclusions [5350].



**F.1635** A northwest southeast orientated linear (0.67m wide x 0.13m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5147]. Filled with mid grey orange mottled sandy silt with infrequent small rounded stone inclusions [5146].

**F.1804** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.05m wide x 0.28m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5862]. Filled with grey orange mottled silt clay with occasional small stone inclusions [5863].

Field Rq was bounded by ditch F.1804 to the north, F.1588 (1694) to the east, and F.1768 to the south. A western limit has yet to be exposed. These features created an enclosed area 61m north south and at least 59m east west. Evidence for a probable entrance of this field and Field Rp was located in the northeast corner. Unlike the other enclosed fields that appeared to have been empty, within Rq a number of linear segments of varying lengths that had been cut parallel to each other on a northeast southwest alignment were recorded. Fifteen possible segments were recorded (**F.574**, **F.601**, **F.603**, **F.633**, **F.1651**, **F.1675**, **F.1772**, **F.1773**, **F.1775**, **F.1776**, **F.1777**, **F.1780**, **F.1805**, **F.1806**, and **F.1807**) of differing lengths but similar depths and profiles. They were on average 0.20m deep with steep sides a sharp break of slope and concave base. Between these were created at least nine strips of land approximately 48m long and 8m wide. It seemed most probable that these linears were associated with some kind of horticultural practice.

The field boundaries:

**F.1588 (1694)** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.32m wide x 0.48m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [6003]. Filled with grey dark brown clay with occasional stone inclusions [6001] and brownish dark grey silt clay with moderate stone inclusions [6002].

**F.1768** A northwest southeast orientated linear (1.77m wide x 0.61m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5698]. Filled with orangey dark brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional pebbles [5696] and orangey pale brown clayey silt with occasional fine pebbles and charcoal flecking [5697].

**F.1804** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.55m wide x 0.34m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5848]. Filled with grey brown silt with rare pebble inclusions [5847].

The internal linear segments:

**F.574** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.84m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [1728]. Filled with dark grey clayey sand with occasional stone and charcoal fleck inclusions [1727].

**F.601** A northeast southwest orientated linear (1.40m wide x 0.70m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [1783]. Filled with dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions [1784].

**F.603** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.64m wide x 0.19m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [1796]. Filled with light grey silt clay with occasional stone inclusions [1794] and patchy grey brown silt clay with occasional stone inclusions [1795].

**F.633** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.57m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [1930]. Filled with grey silt with occasional stone inclusions [1929].

**F.1651** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.79m wide x 0.25m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5238]. Filled with grey dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and fine pebbles [5237].

**F.1675** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.78m wide x 0.22m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5279]. Filled with orange dark grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles [5278].

**F.1772** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.70m wide x 0.17m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5724]. Filled with mottled grey brown silt clay [5723].

**F.1773** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.85m wide x 0.23m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5729]. Filled with mottled grey brown silt clay [5728].

**F.1775** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.90m wide x 0.21m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5966]. Filled with light grey silt clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions [5965].

**F.1776** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.70m wide x 0.20m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5840]. Filled with grey dark red brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions [5839].

**F.1777** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.90m wide x 0.18m deep) with steep sides and a concave base [5968]. Filled with light grey silt clay with small patches of orange clay [5967].

**F.1780** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.76m wide x 0.24m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5981]. Filled with dark grey clayey sand with dark reddish brown patches and occasional small gravel inclusions [5980].

**F.1805** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.80m wide x 0.15m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5844]. Filled with grey red brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions [5843].

**F.1806** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.75m wide x 0.15m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [5897]. Filled with grey sandy silt with occasional orange streaks [5896].

**F.1807** A northeast southwest orientated linear (0.73m wide x 0.16m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [5858]. Filled with dark grey clayey sand with dark orange patches and occasional rounded gravel inclusions [5857].

The southern series of field systems all seemed to have been contained within an area defined by linears F.611, F.612, F.613, F.956, and F.1006. Further linears were recorded coming away at right angles from the fields described above and possibly forming further enclosures outside the limits of excavation. Within this main enclosed area, the individual fields were seen to come off two further northeast southwest internal divisions (F.775 and F.1588) that traversed the larger enclosure. The fields within were arranged in various patterns and sizes, which may have been a result of different activities occurring within different fields. Alternatively it may represent the



division of the land as it was passed on to different individuals (a breaking up of the family plot). The arrangement of a number of internal divisions within Field Rq may suggest that it was more likely that each field was being used for a different purpose and this was reflected in the layout of the fields. Only two accesses were recorded into and out of the main enclosure one within the southern boundary and the other in the northern. The northern entrance most probably acted as a passageway between the Northern and Southern field systems, while the southern entrance allowed access out of the enclosed area and to the trackway.

### *Horse Burial*

As well as a number of individual horse skulls found within several of the Romano British ditches; the skeleton of a horse was recovered from a 'grave' (F.1816) cut into the side of a ditch (F.1768). The skeleton had been aligned east west on its left side in a shallow pit or grave (3.00m by 0.80m) that had been cut into the ditch. This had been badly damaged by later ploughing.

**F.1816** An east west lozenge shaped cut (3.00m long x 0.80m wide x 0.40m deep) with steep sides and an irregular base [5929]. Filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions and containing the skeleton of a horse [5928].

### *Post Medieval*

As with the previous phases of excavation, the only activity after the Romano British period appeared to have occurred in the Post Medieval period. Evidence for a trackway that probably joined two farms was recorded in earlier excavations.

### *Trackway*

Two parallel ditches (F.1038 and F.1040) were recorded orientated northeast southwest and were further portions of the trackway ditches that were recorded in the earlier excavations. Recent brick and metal objects were recovered from the upper fill of the ditches and because they had been investigated in previous phases of excavation, no further work was seen as being needed here.

**F.1038** A northeast southwest orientated linear (4.00m wide x 0.24m deep) with steep sides and a flat base [3206]. Filled with pale grey clay with occasional gravel inclusions [3204] and mid-dark brown silt clay alluvium [3205].

**F.1040** A northeast southwest orientated linear (3.00m wide x 0.24m deep) with gradual sides and a flat base [3213]. Filled with dark brown alluvium [3212].

### *Field Ditch*

Orientated northwest southeast across the site was a probable field boundary ditch F.1686. This post-dated the Post Medieval trackway, as was evidenced at the point where it truncated the northern-most ditch of the trackway (F.1040), and fed into the southern-most (F.1038). It most likely represents an end to the use of the trackway and a further division of the landscape. At the place where this linear met ditch F.1038, were the probable remains of a small shed or outbuilding. This feature

survived only as a shallow rectangular hollow with the same dark alluvial fill as found in the other Post Medieval features.

### *Well*

Just northwest of the probable shed, and on the opposite side of the ditch, was a brick lined well. This was half sectioned with a 360°-tracked machine under fully supervised conditions, in an attempt to record the feature. It had been dug down to the natural gravel and then the brick outer had been constructed. At the end of its use the well had been back filled with the material removed from it. No material artefacts were recovered from anywhere within the feature.

## **Discussion**

### *Early Bronze Age*

Early Bronze Age activity was evidenced through the residual finds of worked flint tools and from a number of small discrete pits that were found to contain Collared Urn material. This had been seen in previous phases of excavation with a series of large pits containing Collared Urn material having been recorded orientated northwest southeast and were thought to represent divisions within the landscape. The pits recorded during this phase of excavation were of a smaller scale and were either discrete pits or located within small clusters with no inferred relationship to later activities.

### *Middle Bronze Age*

The Middle Bronze Age was dominated by the consolidation of the field system that was seen to continue across the landscape from discrete pits to lengths of ditch. The fields exposed suggested that there was not one particular unit for the division of the land but that each enclosed space was of a different size.

<b>Field completely exposed</b>	<b>Hectares enclosed</b>
<i>Pc</i>	3.4
<i>Pe</i>	0.6
<i>Pf</i>	0.6
<i>Pj</i>	1.9

**Table 1:** Area enclosed by different fields

Field Pc was the largest area of enclosed land recorded and lacked the consolidated nature of the other fields, with none of its sides fully enclosed by means of a ditch. It is possible that these gaps or breaks represent a form of 'invisible' boundary, such a hedge, which does not survive in the archaeological record. There was evidence for a possible trackway along its western edge, orientated northeast southwest, and potentially opening out into this field. It is possible that this may have been used for livestock rather than crops and that the trackway was used to bring animals from the settlement to the fields. If there were a settlement on the 'fen-edge' then the track would be orientated between the 'fen-edge' and the high ground. By placing the livestock in Field Pc there would be no need to take them through the fields allocated to crops. It is also possible that Field Pj, which appears to have a large opening into



Pc, may have served the same purpose. It is possible that Field Pc was divided further internally by 'invisible' barriers such as hedgerows or small fences, which have left no lasting impression in the archaeological record.

A total of fifteen cremations have now been recovered from excavations within the quarry, all of which had a close association with the field system ditches. Three of the cremations were recovered alongside the field boundaries, either next to cut ditches or along the route of an 'invisible' boundary. The group of cremations excavated in 2003 also showed evidence of a close association to the layout of the field systems. The twelve cremations that made up this 'cemetery' were arranged in a linear formation orientated along the same alignment as the field system ditches, northeast southwest. They were placed approximately 15m from F.1172, one of the boundary ditches for enclosure Pj.

A similar pattern of development has also been noted elsewhere, where groups of cremations have been placed in direct relationship to other markers in the landscape. At Broom Quarry, Bedfordshire evidence for forty-two cremations was recorded. These cremations had been placed in a linear arrangement along a southwest edge that continued the alignment visible within the recorded field system and enclosures (Mortimer 1999). At Barleycroft Farm, Site I, Cambridgeshire, fourteen cremations were recovered in a cluster towards one corner of an enclosed field (Evans & Knight *forthcoming*). Although they were not arranged in a linear fashion their relationship to the field system is much like that found here.

### ***Late Bronze Age***

The Late Bronze Age was characterised by the construction of a number of large inter-cutting pits, which seemed to signify the gradual decline of the field system. The three clusters of pits were of a Late Bronze Age date with Post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) pottery being recovered. It may be that each pit cluster was designed to aid in the retrieval of water as wells or watering holes, the inter-cutting nature of each cluster representing a separate period of activity within the area.

Some of the pits may have held more significance than others, such as F.1878 that contained the skull of a cow surrounded by a ring of posts. This was possibly a final act before the abandonment of the pit, or a result of revetment and disuse. The big pit F.1888 was constructed differently to the others with a much more gradual slope along one edge which would have created easier access into the pit, possibly suggesting that this was for the use of livestock. The construction of a large watering hole (F.1888) for livestock may represent a decline in the use of the fields. The earlier incarnations of the underlying pits were more like the pits from the other clusters, and F.1888 may show a change in both the function of the pits and the field systems. The series of pits slightly north of this and consisting of F.1874 etc. all had vertical sides making it difficult to see that they were for anything other than use by people.

Evidence for settlement was recorded in the arrangement of postholes that formed Structure 8. Although no material culture was recovered with the structure, this was the strongest sign of occupational evidence produced on this site. Previous work has suggested seasonal activity, with a number of four-post structures being found associated with several different fields. The other clusters of postholes from the 2003

excavation appeared to represent no regular pattern and could further attest to the seasonality of activity.

The large landscape studied undertaken within the quarry has provided a good insight into the range of Bronze Age activity in the landscape. This includes:

- Beaker period pits; representing very small scale maybe even transhumant activity
- Collared Urn pits; the first indicators of an organised division of the landscape
- Deverel-Rimbury cremations; the field systems have been defined by the construction of ditches and/or hedgerows on the same alignment
- Post Deverel-Rimbury pits; the field systems begin to decline.

### ***Romano British***

Crop mark evidence and previous excavations attest the rich nature of the Romano British landscape with villas and farmsteads having been recorded in the locality. Evidence at both Bar Pasture Farm and Willow Hall Farm have provided traces of this activity, where Samian and Nene Valley pottery have been recovered along with traces of field systems and farmsteads continuing through from the Iron Age.

Investigations within the quarry have produced evidence for Romano British field systems along with an associated farmstead (this has in turn been designated as an Archaeological Conservation Zone (ACZ)). Preceding excavations have been focused primarily on the field systems and have shown that there appeared to have been two distinct systems: one that may have been a part of a farmstead believed to exist at SMR No. 5340 approximately 300m to the northeast, and a second set of field enclosures associated with the farmstead within the ACZ. These two systems seem to meet within the northern half of the excavated area and are distinguished by a slight shift or kink in their alignment. Further traces of both these field systems were recorded again within this phase of work. However, where the farmstead in the ACZ was originally believed to have arisen later than that to the northeast, traces of potential industrial activity of an early Roman date now suggest that there may have been more than one phase of activity within the farmstead in the ACZ.

The intensity of Romano British activity increased in the area surrounding the ACZ representing two phases of development, and potentially a change in character from an area of 'industrial' type activity to one of more intense agriculture. The pottery recovered from the linears within the southwest part of the site consisted mainly of coursewares and very little fineware; there was little evidence for settlement. It is likely the pottery assemblage represents an area of the farmstead that was separate from the living quarters, or that the enclosures were the precursors to the farmstead rather than being contemporary.

The pottery that suggested some form of 'industrial' activity was all recovered in association with Enclosures A-D, and in particular from Enclosure D. The ditches that made up Enclosure D contained a significant amount of burnt material along with the high concentrations of pottery. The pottery recovered from these features showed signs of later burning and possible salt affection, further enforcing the idea that some kind of 'industrial' process was being undertaken, possibly even salt production.



Suspected saltern material has been recovered from the surrounding environs in the past, at both Tanholt and Singlesole. E. Standen believed that the farmstead (within the ACZ) may have been a central settlement which served salterns out on the fen-edge (Collcutt *et al* 2000), but D. Hall points out that it seems unlikely for salt production to have occurred in an 'upland' area, away from any marine encroachments. Material initially believed to have been evidence for salt production from sites in the local area has since been thought to have been associated with other practices (Hall 1987).

The material from Enclosure D had all been deposited as a dump rather than being found 'in situ' at the point of use, suggesting that it had come from elsewhere and been placed there once the enclosure/structure had gone out of use. It may have been that the function of Enclosure D was unrelated to the material recovered from the linears that defined it and that this was simply a convenient place to dispose of waste material from a nearby site. Either way, it represents the initial phases for the farmstead settlement believed to exist within the ACZ. Whether this was a precursor to the farmstead or a contemporary structure it is not possible to deduce, but it did predate the later field system and agricultural role that the site was to play in the later Romano British phase.

The field system ditches for the two field systems continued from earlier excavations, each individual field enclosed an area of differing size. The Bronze Age pit clusters (1-2) were most likely still visible in the landscape during the Romano British period, either as depressions or areas of boggy ground. This is evidenced by the field ditches that were dug to avoid the earlier pits, either by changing their route or curving around them. There was no evidence to contradict the interpretations from earlier excavations that suggested that there were two distinct systems, most likely associated with different settlements. It does seem, however, that the farmstead in the ACZ existed for as long as the theorised one to the northeast, only that it may have initially had a different function.

Within one of the enclosed fields was an area of apparent intense horticulture represented by a number of parallel ditches orientated northeast southwest. It is not known what this area was used for but it seems most likely that the linears represented a system of 'lazy bed' horticulture, whereby the ditches represent either an attempt at improved drainage, or to cultivate a particular crop that may have been associated with a warmer climate. This area may, however, suggest that the reason the size of each field differed was a result of the different crops being cultivated within them. Particular crops were probably required in different densities, or produced better yields than others and so different size areas were allotted to different crops.

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## **Appendix 1: The Prehistoric Pottery**

Mark Knight

The assemblage comprised 634 sherds (weighing 4505g; MSW 7.10g) from 34 separate contexts. The condition of the material is generally poor with the vast majority of sherds being small-abraded pieces. Many contexts produced sherds weighing less than 1g and as a consequence most pieces appear plain and featureless. A total of 11 fabric types were recorded with the dominant opening material being shell, present in 76% (486 sherds) of the material. Slightly less than half the assemblage (300 sherds; 2770g) came from a large intact urn (F.1553) that collapsed once its contents had been removed. The remainder of the assemblage included fragments of 18 rims, 7 shoulders and 8 base pieces; decoration was identified on 4 sherds. Fragments of 4 cordons/lugs were also recognised and with the exception of the 'complete' urn, the bulk of the sherds belonged to thin walled vessels (82% or 274 sherds).

The assemblage is of Bronze Age date and as with previous phases of the site includes early, middle and late forms. Five contexts produced Early Bronze Age forms/fabrics: F.1651, F.1678, F.1760, F.1787, F.1812; and two Middle Bronze Age: F.1553, F.1584. The remaining twenty-seven contexts contained predominantly plain Late Bronze Age wares comprising parts of shouldered and round-bodied jars and bowls with everted or upright rims belonging to the Post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition. The majority of the Early Bronze Age pieces were identified by fabric alone (essentially grog dominated) although two sherds had characteristically early decoration. The Middle Bronze Age forms were located exclusively within the cremation cemetery and made distinct by a very soft vesicular fabric.

### ***Early Bronze Age***

The pit F.1678 contained thirteen sherds, one of which was a large angular shoulder fragment decorated above the shoulder line with short twisted cord impressions in a herring-bone pattern. Four sherds from F.1760 were decorated with widely spaced rows of short stab marks probably made with a small rounded stick or reed end. Both types of decoration can be found on Food Vessels and Collared Urns.

### ***Middle Bronze Age***

The photograph of the large bucket-shaped urn (height 29cm; diameter 24-28cm) found in F.1553 shows it to be a Deverel-Rimbury type vessel, typically found in cremation cemetery contexts. The upper portion of the vessel had been truncated prior to excavation and the body of the pot appears to have been plain. The adjacent F.1584 contained the extremely fragmented remains of a similar vessel.

### ***Late Bronze Age***

The most complete material of Late Bronze Age date came from the three big pit clusters (1, 2 & 3). Other feature sherds also came from Structure 11.

*Pit Cluster 1:* F.1549, F.1595, F.1604, F.1632.

Pit cluster 1 comprised ten inter-cutting pits of which the four uppermost pits in the sequence produced 108 sherds (400g). The very last pit in the sequence F.1549 contained 90 sherds (83% of the total) including rims from at least three different vessels (parts of two round bodied jars and a larger bucket form), a thick base fragment of a large vessel, two small shoulder angles and three lug fragments. Six of the sherds had smoothed/burnished exterior surfaces.

*Pit Cluster 2:* F.1874, F.1888.

Pit cluster 2 comprised two separate groups of inter-cutting pits of which the uppermost pits in both sequences produced pottery (F.1874: 2 sherds at 16g; F.1888: 6 sherds at 121g). F.1888 produced wall and base fragments from at least two vessels one of which was probably a large bucket urn (judging by the thickness of the sherds) whilst the other was a coarse jar form.

*Pit Cluster 3:* F.1878, F.1885, F.1886.

Pit cluster 3 comprised nine inter-cutting pits of which the three uppermost pits produced 21 sherds (474g). The three pits followed each other in sequence with F.1886 being the earliest and F.1878 being the latest. F.1886 contained a single sherd of a weakly carinated bowl with fingernail impressions along the front of the rim and around the shoulder. F.1885 held twelve sherds including a thick large diameter (0.20m) base fragment, part of a shouldered jar with an everted rim, and part of shouldered bowl with a vertical cordon. Other sherds from this context have been burnt post-breakage. The uppermost pit F.1878 produced a fragment of a high shouldered jar that had been partially burnt, two thin rims from small round bodied jars, a thick base fragment and a simple squared rim that conjoins with the shouldered bowl with cordon located in the context immediately below.

*Structure 11 Posthole Cluster:* F.1797.

This posthole produced thirty-six fragments of an upright pinched-out rim from a shouldered bowl.

## ***Discussion***

As with previous phases this assemblage consists of early, middle and late Bronze Age material with the dominant component being LBA.

	<b>Early</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>Late</b>
<i>Sherds</i>	75	42	218
<i>% of Total</i>	22.4	12.5	65

**Table 2:** Breakdown of sherds by period (NB. The MBA urn from F.1553 has been counted as a single sherd).

Similarly it is the big pit features that continue to produce the bulk of the assemblage (be they pre or post-field system) with features such as the field system being consistently sterile of ceramics. Previous reports have also touched upon a subtle background of MBA material with its 'corky' appearance being lost in the midst of



the bigger Post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblages (Garrow 2000, Patten 2002: 2003) made of similar fabrics. The linear cemetery with its field-aligned orientation represents a clear distinction in terms of tradition and context and establishes a connection between the existing field boundaries and the practice of burying the dead in Deverel-Rimbury Urns. In contrast, the PDR material never has that direct relationship but can only be connected by the proxy of the large watering holes, which so often cut established field boundaries.

Feature	Context	Number	Weight	Fabric
1006	4957	8	103g	5
1547	4675	1	1g	8
1549	4917	90	298g	8
1552	4686	1	5g	7
1553	4688	300	2770g	11
1584	4836	41	80g	11
1595	4922	15	75g	8
1604	4962	1	3g	7
1632	5129	1	23g	8
1632	5129	1	1g	13
1651	5717	1	3g	4
1678	5287	13	130g	4
1738	5580	3	39g	8
1739	5621	1	4g	6
1741	5609	1	5g	6
1760	5667	20	44g	4
1780	5770	8	15g	8
1787	5791	14	25	2
1794	5820	1	21g	8
1796	5824	1	2g	5
1797	5825	40	73g	4
1810	5899	1	6g	13
1812	5879	27	142g	1
1828	5936	3	10g	12
1831	5942	1	2g	5
1842	6031	11	14g	13, 2
1874	6114	2	16g	8
1878	6145	1	22g	6
1878	6143	7	54g	8
1885	6206	10	212g	10
1885	6144	2	135g	8, 13
1886	6224	1	51g	8
1888	6201	4	74g	7
1888	6189	2	47g	8
Totals:	34	634	4505g	11

**Table 3:** Assemblage breakdown.

### *Fabric series*

Fabric 1 – medium hard with abundant small, sorted GROG and rare small STONE

Fabric 2 – medium hard with frequent large GROG.

Fabric 4 – medium with common irregular GROG.

Fabric 5 – soft to medium with common small VOIDS (shell?).

Fabric 6 – hard with common SAND and GROG.

Fabric 7 – hard with frequent small FLINT and QUARTZ SAND.

Fabric 8 – hard with abundant small and medium SHELL.

Fabric 10 – hard with frequent FLINT and GROG.

Fabric 11 – soft to medium with common irregular GROG, common SAND and small VOIDS.

Fabric 12 – medium with frequent SHELL, VOIDS and SAND.

Fabric 13 – hard with common QUARTZ SAND.

## **Appendix 2: Lithics**

### **Emma Beadsmoore**

The site yielded only ten unburnt worked flints; which cluster chronologically around the Beaker and Early Bronze Age periods. However, they were recovered from contexts of mixed date and are largely residual. An irregular core and a few flakes, one of which was a small thinning flake, were recovered from Roman features F.1861, F.1768, F.1747 and F.1745. The flakes are thin, often broad, struck from the unprepared platforms of multiple platform cores and are likely to be later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. However, the core was chronologically undiagnostic, with scars of only a few expedient removals.

Another irregular core and a small sub-circular scraper probably date broadly to the feature they were recovered from, a prehistoric ditch F.1606. The sub-circular scraper was small, with two phases of invasive retouch suggesting it is Early Bronze Age. The core was again expediently, but this time also extensively worked down. Primarily just to produce flakes, with no signs of control over or concern with the form of the removals and could also be Early Bronze Age. Another larger sub-circular scraper, also invasively retouched over the entire dorsal surface and again dating to the Early Bronze Age was residual, recovered from a Later Bronze Age feature, F.1888.

A further three scrapers were retrieved from the surface, a Beaker thumbnail scraper and two end scrapers. The end scrapers, whilst not clearly chronologically diagnostic and quite fresh, are morphologically compatible with some Neolithic scrapers.

The site also yielded 110 g of burnt flint, nearly all of which was unworked small fragments, only 8 g (2) was worked. One of the worked burnt flints is a chronologically undiagnostic flake. The remaining flake is the product of a more systematic technology than the rest of the worked material recovered from the site, and likely to be a product of Neolithic rather than Bronze Age flake production. However, the flake may have been residual, inadvertently caught up in later activities; it was recovered from cremation F.1589. Almost all of the unworked burnt flint was retrieved from Middle Bronze Age cremations (F.1550, F.1551, F.1553, F.1557, F.1561, F.1547, F.1583, F.1584, and F.1589) and therefore dates to those activities.

The majority of the limited quantity of worked flint recovered from the site is Beaker/Early Bronze Age. Although the material is largely residual, it indicates that flint was worked and utilised in that period, whilst a Neolithic flake provides a hint of earlier activity.



### Appendix 3: The Roman Pottery

Katie Anderson

A large Roman assemblage consisting of 1576 sherds of pottery, weighing 25373g was excavated from the site. The pottery was initially sorted by fabric, then details of weight, form and useware evidence recorded.

The pottery will initially be discussed as an entire assemblage and then individual features will be looked at in more detail, thus characterising the pottery as a whole as well as providing specific contextual information.

#### *Assemblage composition*

The mean weight of the assemblage was 16g, with an EVE count of 27.91. Although the pottery has a relatively high mean weight, it was generally very abraded with a significant number of sherds having evidence of burning on both the interior and exterior of vessels.

The range of fabric types was very limited with coarsewares representing 93% of the total assemblage. Within this group the Nene Valley greywares were the most dominant and represented 45% of all the coarsewares and 42.2% of the total assemblage (Table 4). This is a significant percentage and in part is due to the close proximity of the site to the Nene Valley production area, approximately five miles southwest of Eye. This therefore can be considered a local supplier.

Fabric	Count	%	Wt (g)	%	EVEs
Black slipped ware	171	11	2359	9.4	1.13
Buff sandy ware	24	1.42	380	1.5	0.05
Central Gaulish Samian	4	0.3	18	0.07	0
Unidentified colour coat	1	0.06	5	0.02	0
Pink slipped ware	63	4	623	2.3	0.5
East Gaulish Samian	1	0.06	16	0.06	0.06
Fine, sandy greyware	12	0.8	254	1	1.4
Sandy greyware	86	5.2	1316	5.2	2.08
Grog tempered ware	153	10	1344	5.3	2.05
Mancetter-Hartshill	3	0.2	113	0.5	0.12
Nene Valley grey slipped	665	42.2	9466	37.3	13.42
Nene Valley colour coats	16	1	413	1.6	1.4
Nene Valley whitewares	7	0.4	257	1	0.15
Oxidised sandy ware	5	0.3	68	0.3	0.1
Reduced sandy ware	8	0.5	58	0.2	0
Shell tempered ware	337	21.4	8452	33.3	5.05
Fine black slipped ware	2	0.1	7	0.03	0
Whitewares (unknown source)	17	1	219	0.9	0.4
Other	1	0.06	5	0.02	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25373</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>27.91</b>

**Table 4:** Showing all sherds by fabric type

Other probable local wares included the shell tempered and grog-tempered wares, which represented 21.4% and 10% of the total assemblage by count. Although the exact source of this pottery is as yet unknown, it seems probable that it was made in the local area, because it is unlikely that these wares would have been traded over long distances.

Pottery from sources outside of the local area was rare with only four sherds of Samian, three of which were Central Gaulish (features 1602, 1638 and 1739) and one was East Gaulish (F.1738). There were 14 sherds from a fine greyware vessel, similar to Alice Holt products from F.1780 that probably represented a single pot. There were also three sherds from one mortaria from the Mancetter-Hartshill kilns.

The number of finewares was much smaller than the coarsewares, which in itself is not surprising as this is a pattern seen at most Roman rural sites. However considering the site was located such a short distance from the Nene valley kilns, the number of colour coats and whiteware vessels was significantly low. This may be explained by the nature of the site and this is discussed in more detail below.

The vast majority of sherds were non-diagnostic and those that were diagnostic were limited in form. Although most of the main form groups were present only jars represented a significant number of vessels (Tables 5 and 6). This therefore limits any discussion on correlation between fabric and form. However some patterns can be observed, for example the very coarse grog-tempered and shell-tempered wares occurred in very small number of forms, with only beaded jars and bowls represented.

Form	Count	Wt (g)
Beaded bowl	24	862
Body	1334	15674
Decorated body	10	312
Dish	8	66
Flagon	1	125
Flat base	42	3019
Jar	119	4401
Jar/Beaker	10	58
Jar/Bowl	8	96
Mortaria	4	217
Pedestal base	3	228
Ring base	2	202
Unidentified rim	11	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>25373</b>

**Table 5:** Showing all sherds by vessel form



Form	Count	%	Wt (g)	%
Beaded bowls	24	10.3	862	9.2
Dish	8	3.5	66	0.7
Flagon	1	0.4	125	1.3
Flat base	42	18.1	3019	32.2
Jar	119	51.3	4401	46.8
Jar/Beaker	10	4.3	58	0.6
Jar/Bowl	8	3.4	96	1.1
Mortaria	4	1.7	217	2.3
Pedestal base	3	1.3	228	2.4
Ring base	2	0.9	202	2.2
Unidentified rim	11	4.8	113	1.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9387</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 6:** Showing all diagnostic sherds by vessel form

The range of vessel forms that were present on the site do, however, reveal a great deal about the nature of the site and the types of activities that were taking place. There were very few tablewares, with the exception of one flagon (F.1747) and 16 Nene Valley colour coated sherds (features 1006, 1601 and 1738) including seven sherds with rusticated decoration. The quantity of fineware vessels is much smaller than would be expected in a domestic assemblage and, therefore, indicates that this site may have had a non-domestic function.

The fabric and form evidence from this assemblage suggest an 'industrial' nature to this site, particularly because of a range of vessels which are similar in nature to briquetage in terms of form. This view is further supported by the useware evidence found on many of the sherds, which show evidence of burning and also possible salt related activity, which is discussed in more detail below.

The pottery ranges in date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD with no early or late material. This therefore implies that there was a break in occupation between the prehistoric period and the Roman.

Although the grog tempered and shell tempered wares have not been sourced, their frequent occurrence in features which also contained 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century material, suggested that it is justifiable to date these fabrics to the same period.

The majority of the pottery that could be dated was from the same source (Nene Valley), which therefore makes it difficult to differentiate between earlier and later features within this date range. The date range of the pottery may also suggest that the main period of occupation could have been relatively brief.

### ***Feature Analysis***

A total of 32 different features contained Roman pottery, not including surface material. Table 7 shows the quantities of pottery by feature and reveals that four features had a significantly greater than average quantity of pottery. These are features 1734, 1738, 1739 and 1747, which are all linear ditches and are adjacent to one another in the southwest corner of the site.

Feature 1738 is a ditch that formed one side of a small enclosure and contained the largest quantity of pottery with 512 sherds (13,467g) with a mean weight of 26.3g, which is nearly twice that of the next largest group. The pottery from this feature ranged in date from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The largest fabric group was Nene valley greywares of which there were 243 sherds, followed by shell-tempered wares with 163 sherds. Other fabrics included Nene Valley colour coats and whitewares, East Gaulish Samian and buff coloured sandy wares. Only 79 sherds were diagnostic which is perhaps less than might be expected considering the mean weight of this feature. Five different contexts make up this feature ((5548), (5574), (5580), (5601), and (5766)) although there was no difference in date between the contexts therefore suggesting that they were deposited or redeposited at around the same time. This view is supported by the quantity of pottery found in this feature, which suggests it was used for rubbish disposal, even if this was not its original or intended function.

Feature	No.	Wt (g)	Mean Wt (g)	EVEs	Date
880	2	4	2	0	2nd-4th AD
1006	10	393	39.3	1.4	2nd-3rd AD
1601	6	55	9.2	0.1	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1638	1	3	3	0	Mid 2nd AD
1639	3	113	38	0.12	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1651	1	5	5	0	2nd-3rd AD
1681	59	285	4.8	0	2nd-3rd AD
1694	1	3	3	0	2nd-4th AD
1722	10	71	7.1	0	RB
1725	2	23	11.5	0.4	2nd-3rd AD
1734	212	3076	14.5	3.56	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1735	31	238	7.7	0.15	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1736	20	361	18	0.18	2nd-3rd AD
1738	512	13467	26.3	14.12	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1739	242	2337	9.7	2.2	Late 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1740	20	124	6.2	0	2nd-3rd AD
1741	1	5	5	0	RB
1742	1	10	10	0	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1743	1	12	12	0	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1744	57	433	7.6	0.51	2nd-4th AD
1745	32	93	2.9	0	2nd-3rd AD
1747	259	2667	10.3	2.7	Mid 2nd-mid 3rd AD
1768	3	24	8	0.1	2nd-3rd AD
1774	6	542	90.3	0.12	RB
1780	27	439	16.3	1.6	3rd AD
1789	3	53	17.7	0	2nd-3rd AD
1794	1	20	20	0	RB
1796	1	2	2	0	RB
1812	27	142	5.3	0	2nd-3rd AD
1836	1	35	35	0.1	RB
1840	15	263	17.5	0.45	Late 2nd-early 3rd
Surface	9	75	8.3	0.1	2nd-3rd AD
<b>Total</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>25373</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>27.91</b>	<b>X</b>

**Table 7:** Showing quantities of pottery by feature



Feature 1747 contained 259 sherds (2667g), with a mean weight of 10.3g, from four different contexts. The pottery was similar in nature to that from F.1738 and included Nene Valley grey wares and white wares, along with shell tempered and grog tempered vessels. However, the mean weight was much smaller and this is reflected in a smaller number of recognisable forms types, although several jars and bowls were identified. The date of this feature is mid 2<sup>nd</sup>-mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, therefore giving it the same date as F.1738. This is not surprising as they form part of the same enclosure and it provides evidence that the material was deposited in both features at around the same time.

Feature 1734, a linear ditch, lies just to the north of F.1738 and contained 212 sherds of pottery (3076g). Feature 1739 was a north-south aligned ditch to the west of features 1738, 1747 and 1734. This feature contained 242 sherds weighing 2337g. The fabrics and forms from both of these features are again comparable with those from F.1738 and F.1747 and are dated mid 2<sup>nd</sup>-mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

These four features are comparable in many ways as they contained similar types of pottery, which were contemporary with one another and imply that the pottery was deposited at around the same time. One other trait these features have in common is that they all contain burnt and some possible salt affected sherds. This suggests that 'industrial' activities were taking place in the immediate vicinity. Two other features F. 1744 and F. 1794 in this area of the site also contained finds of burnt and/or possible salt affected pottery.

A number of other features in this area of the site contained Roman pottery assemblages similar in nature to those from the four features described above (Features 1681, 1735, 1736, 1742, 1743, 1745, 1768 and 1774), which were very similar in nature to the assemblages from the four largest features. All of the features were dated 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, with the exception of three, which could only be dated Romano-British.

Burnt and possible salt affected pottery was also recovered from other areas on the site including Features 1722 and 1006, which are located some distance from main area of Roman activity. However, less pottery was recovered from these features suggesting that the southwest corner of the site was where most of the activity was taking place.

One further cluster of features containing Roman pottery was excavated to the northwest of the main group, in an area with a series of linear features. Five of these (Features 1780, 1796, 1812, 1836 and 1840) contained Roman pottery in much smaller quantities than was recovered from other features in other areas of the site. Features 1780 and 1812 contained the most pottery with 27 sherds each. The date of these features is similar to the other Roman features, with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery including Nene Valley greywares and shell tempered wares.

Four prehistoric features (Features 1722, 1740, 1796 and 1812) and one post-medieval feature (F.1789) contained Roman pottery. However in all of these features the quantity of Roman pottery was small and abraded and therefore residual.

The remaining features, which contained Roman pottery, were more dispersed across the site, but on the whole contained pottery that were directly comparable with the pottery from other areas of the rest of the site. The fabrics and forms were consistent across the site and thus these features were also dated 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, except for those that could only be dated Romano-British.

### *Discussion*

The pottery recovered from this site, although limited in fabric and function, reveals a great deal about the nature of the site. The features in the southwest corner of the site consisted of a series of ditches, which make up several small enclosures. This area of the site yielded the greatest quantity of pottery and was dominated by Nene Valley greywares. This is not unsurprising because the site is very close to the production area.

The number of Nene Valley colour coats and whitewares is, however, noticeably small, representing only one percent of the whole assemblage and as a whole the site had very few fineware vessels. This could be due to a number of different reasons.

The first reason is related to the wealth of the site and thus the lack of finewares indicates a relatively poor site. This is particularly interesting because there is a possible Roman villa located immediately to the west of the site and therefore a larger quantity of finewares would be expected.

The second and most probable explanation is that this area of site was not an ordinary domestic settlement site and therefore had no use for fine tablewares. This view is supported by the lack of wares associated with the serving of foodstuffs, such as mortaria of which there were only two vessels represented, and flagons of which there was only one. The presence of briquetage and other very coarse vessels that appear to have been heavily used support the view that this was an industrial site.

There were a significant number of vessels that appear to have been involved in salt making activities, which again suggests that this site was 'industrial' rather than domestic. Feature 1738 in particular contained a significant number of sherds that were burnt and bright red in colour suggesting these sherds were salt affected. Most of these sherds were from medium sized jars, although one form of particular interest was a rim sherd from a very wide dish/bowl shaped vessel [5574], which is very similar to a prehistoric form used in salt production (Morris *pers comm.*). However, the fabric does not appear to be prehistoric and there are a number of examples of other vessels in the assemblage with the same fabric, although with 'Romanized' forms. The rest of the pottery from this context was dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD and this confirms that this vessel is likely to be Roman.

The pottery in this assemblage was all very similar in date, which is interesting because it shows that the site was in use for a relatively short period of time between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. However the closeness in date of the pottery makes it difficult to differentiate between the earlier and later features, although this in itself may show that the pottery had been deposited at around the same time.



The other imported wares may be used to determine the earlier features from the later features because although they fit into this period, there is some difference in date; with the Central Gaulish Samian and the Mancetter-Hartshill sherds dating mid-late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and the Eastern Gaulish Samian dating early-mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. However, this was proved not to be the case because some of the features containing Central Gaulish Samian also contained later Nene Valley material.

### ***Conclusion***

The majority of the Roman pottery recovered was from one feature set, Enclosures A-D. This material implies that these were not domestic features, but were instead related to industrial activities, some aspects of which appear to be salt making. Although there were common coarseware vessels in the assemblage, many were heavily abraded and therefore appear to have been used intensively. This has important implications for the possible Roman villa. Firstly, there appears to be a very strong cut off point between the villa and the industry areas since very little pottery that would be associated with a typical villa assemblage (e.g. finewares) were found in the industrial area of the site. Secondly, it raises the possibility that the heavy useware evidence may be related to domestic activities at the villa and might not be evidence of industrial activity after all.

## **Appendix 4: The Faunal Remains**

Chris Swaysland

### ***The Assemblage***

An assemblage of animal bone numbering 3305 fragments (26159 grams) was hand recovered from the site. Excluding articulates 537 fragments (16.2%) were identified to species, a further 36 fragments (1%) were identified to broad size category. One articulate horse numbering 1220 fragments and one articulate piglet numbering 70 fragments was recovered.

The condition of the bone was in general very poor, the vast majority of the bones were extremely degraded having suffered chemical weathering. In addition many bones are obscured by a thick, hard concretion of iron rich sediments. Given the poor state of the bone, evidence of carnivore damage and butchery is very limited.

### ***The Methodology***

The assemblage was quickly scanned to gain an insight into the species present and to highlight any other patterns. The bones were identified with the aid of Schmid (1972) and the Cambridge Archaeological Unit reference collection. The distinction between sheep and goat was made on the basis of skull and horncore morphology only. Post axial elements are recorded as sheep/goat. Quantification is by number of individual fragments (NISP). Where it was clear that a group of fragments originated from a single bone they were grouped together and counted as a single element in the analysis below: i.e. 100 fragments from a broken skull were counted as 1 bone.

## Results

### Prehistoric

Species	Ditches NISP	Ditches NISP %	Pits NISP	Pits NISP %
Cattle	31	86.1	106	63.5
Sheep/goat	0	0	32	19.2
Goat	0	0	1	0.6
Pig	0	0	7 (70)	4.2
Horse	4	11.1	9	5.4
Dog	0	0	2	1.2
Roe Deer	0	0	1	0.6
Large sized mammal	1	2.8	9	5.4

**Table 8:** Relative species proportions, prehistoric ditches and pits. The figure in brackets represents one articulate juvenile pig.

A greater number of species are represented in the pits rather than the ditches. This may be simply due to the larger sample size from the pits however it is also likely to relate to taphonomic processes. Of significance is that all of the species represented in the ditches are all from large animals. Additionally 79% of the ditch material is derived from teeth, the most robust part of the mammalian skeleton. Many of the maxillary teeth show indications of having been deposited as part of a skull (a full set of left and right teeth showing similar wear) however only the teeth have survived for analysis. Thus it is likely that the bones of smaller animals have preferentially survived in the pits rather than the ditches.

An addition factor is the nature of deposition. It could be hypothesized that material in ditches could represent domestic waste whereas some of the pit material may have had a more structured deposition. Certain of the deposits could be interpreted as being 'special' in character ie a complete goat skull in F1549 and an articulate juvenile pig in F1888.

The complete goat skull was recovered from a large pit F1549. The mandible was missing however analysis of the maxillary teeth indicates that the M3 had erupted but was not in wear. This indicates an age at death of 24-48 months (Bullock and Rackham 1982 in Hillson 1986). Analyses of animal bone assemblages from previous seasons of excavation at Eye Quarry have also indicated the presence of goat as opposed to sheep (Higbee 1998, Clarke and Dodwell 2000).

A partially articulated specimen of a juvenile pig was recovered from a large pit F1888. Most of the pig was present though only one vertebra was recovered. The age of the pig at death was less than one year; there was no sign of any butchery or carnivore damage on the bones.

Analysis of cattle mandibular tooth eruption and wear (after Grigson 1982) indicate a range of ages represented in the assemblage but with a focus on mature animals. Two animals had an age at death of less than one year, one animal died aged 2.25-2.5 years and four animals died aged in excess of 3 years.



An interesting zoological feature was observed on a cow skull from prehistoric pit F1874. The intercornual protuberance is particularly pronounced, the reason and significance of which is unknown.

A roe deer antler was recovered from the large pit F1888. The antler retained the burr so had been collected after having been cast naturally, the antler showed no evidence of having been worked.

### *Roman*

The Roman material is considered in terms of feature type, phase and area.

### Ditches

Species	Phase 1 NISP	Phase 1 NISP %	Phase 2 (S) NISP	Phase 2 (S) NISP %
Cattle	13	42.0	26	81.3
Sheep/goat	6	19.4	2	6.3
Pig	1	3.2	0	0
Horse	5	16.1	2	6.3
Dog	0	0	1	3.1
Medium sized mammal	4	12.9	0	0
Large sized mammal	2	6.5	1	3.1

**Table 9:** Relative species proportions, Roman ditches phase 1 and phase 2 (S)

Table 9 indicates a contrast between the material recovered from the ditches in phase 1 and phase 2. In both phases cattle are the most frequently represented species however the phase 1 material shows a greater depth and range of species present. This difference is likely to relate to the different focus of operations related to the different phases.

A mature horse metacarpal was recovered from [5507] (phase 2 (S)). This bone had a lateral length of 20.8cm. This relates to a withers height of 133.3cm (Kiesewalter 1888 in von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974). This height is equivalent to 13.1 hands and would today be considered a pony (< 14 hands).

Eleven horse teeth were recovered from F.1601 and are consistent with having originated from one individual. Though they were recovered in an unarticulated state it seems likely that there were deposited intact in at least a portion of the skull. Taphonomic processes have resulted in only the teeth surviving.

### Pits

Three pit features were dated to the first phase of Roman activity F1836, F1861 and F1863. Pit F 1863 contained the partially articulated remains of a horse neck: the atlas, axis and four cervical vertebrae were recovered. The pit in which the neck was deposited contained no other finds and the excavator believes it was constructed for the purpose of interring the horse remains.

F1836 contained a pig's tusk and F1861 contained a mandibular horse cheek tooth.

The second phase of Roman activity yielded one pit F1816. This pit contained the articulated remains of a horse. The condition of the bones was poor: the exterior surfaces of the bone was badly degraded, less robust bones were in a highly fragmentary condition.

The horse was elderly, the incisors and cheek teeth were all in an advanced state of wear. The horse was aged at least 20 years at death (St. Clair 1975). The presence of developed canine teeth indicates that the horse was male.

Unbroken long bones were measured and a withers (shoulder) height for the horse calculated using the factors of Kiesewalter (1888 in von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974) (table x).

Element and Side (L/R)	Lateral Length (cm)	Factor (Kiesewalter)	Withers height (cm)
Radius (R)	30.2	4.34	131.1
Metacarpal (R)	21.2	6.41	135.9
Tibia (L)	31.1	4.36	135.6
Metatarsal (L)	25.3	5.33	134.8
Metatarsal (R)	25.4	5.33	135.4

**Table 10:** Withers height calculations after Kiesewalter 1888

Table 10 indicates a mean withers height of 134.6cm. This is equivalent to 13.2 hands therefore by modern standards this animal would be regarded as a pony (< 14 hands).

### *Post Medieval*

One animal bone-bearing feature F1789 was dated to the post medieval period. This feature contained four fragments of animal bone of which two were identified as making up a right cattle calcaneum.

### *Conclusions*

All observations must be tempered by the extremely poor condition of the bone.

Analysis of animal bone assemblages from previous seasons of work at Eye Quarry have given similar results to those observed here (Higbee 1998, Clarke and Dodwell 2000, Clarke 2002).

	Cattle %	Sheep/goat %	Pig %	Horse %
Higbee 1998 (all periods)	72.0	11.0	11.4	5.5
Clarke and Dodwell 2000 (all periods)	56.3	29.2	12.5	2.1
Clarke 2002 (prehistoric)	57.7	23.1	15.4	3.8
EYE03 (prehistoric)	72.1	17.4	3.7	6.8
EYE03 (Roman)	70.9	14.5	1.8	12.7

**Table 11:** Major species relative proportions, previous seasons' work.

Cattle are the major species in all the assemblages that have been examined from this site. Sheep/goat, pig and horse are present in all phases but are of lesser importance.



Of note is that in all the previous seasons of excavation and in this one, where sheep/goat has been distinguished to species only goat has been identified.

Higbee (1998) analysing an assemblage from a previous season of work at Eye Quarry has indicated of an age at death for cattle focussed around 2.5-3 years and thus an interpretation of raising cattle for beef production. This pattern was not repeated in the assemblage from this season of work. The data from the prehistoric features indicates the age at death of cattle is focussed upon older animals in excess of 3 years. This pattern does not support an efficient beef production strategy.

In conclusion the assemblage has been heavily influenced by taphonomic factors. The assemblage is dominated by the major domestic species with a particular focus on older cattle in the prehistoric period.

## Appendix 5: Burnt Clay from Prehistoric Contexts

Mark Knight

The burnt clay from prehistoric contexts consisted of 78 pieces with a combined total weight of 468g. The assemblage comprises very small fragmented pieces with four exceptions: F.1601 – 3 x 1.5 x 1.2 cm; form: flat surface; F.1717 – dimensions: 8.2 x 6 x 3.6 cm; form: part of a pedestal base; F.1831 – dimensions 5 x 3 x 2.5 cm; form: fragmented lumps; F.1874 – dimensions: 4 x 2.5 x 2.5 cm; form: rounded surface (loom weight fragment?). The pedestal base from F.1717 represents a possible briquetage piece associated with salt production and is comparable with a similar piece recovered from F446 (Garrow 2000).

Feature	Context	Number	Weight	Fabric
1623	5074	1	1g	A
1601	4945	2	2g	A
1740	5607	2	1g	B
1678	5287	2	2g	A
1874	6109	1	33g	A
1601	4955	1	11g	B
1811	5974	4	14g	B
1740	5559	2	12g	A
1831	5942	61	243g	A
1717	5417	2	149g	C
Totals:	10	78	468g	3

**Table 12:** Burnt Clay breakdown.

### *Fabric series:*

Fabric A - hard with common to frequent SAND and possible GROG

Fabric B - soft to medium with frequent small VOIDS

Fabric C – very hard with common SAND and occasional FLINT.

## **Appendix 6: Human Bone**

Natasha Dodwell

### ***Introduction***

Cremated human bone dating to the Middle Bronze Age was recovered from 12 features across the site. In addition, calcined bone recorded on-site as human but in this analysis identified as human/animal was recovered from a further 5 deposits. All but one of the features containing cremated human bone were grouped together in a linear cluster which mirrored the line of the field system in which they lay.

### ***Method of excavation, retrieval and analysis***

Each deposit containing cremated bone was excavated in spits. The deposits were subject to 100% recovery as whole earth samples and these were wet sieved and bone >4mm was extracted for analysis. Methods for the identification, aging and sexing of cremated bones are the same as those used for unburnt bone (McKinley 1997, 56). However, because of the degree of disturbance, bone fragmentation and often small quantity of bone recovered (see below) age categories had to be extremely broad and it was not possible to attribute a sex to any of the burials. The presence of any pathology was noted.

### ***Level of disturbance***

All of the deposits containing calcined bone had been truncated to a degree both by ploughing and to a lesser extent during the machine stripping of the site. Modern field drains also run through several of the deposits (F1548 F.1555 F1560 and F.1584). The degree of truncation and disturbance cannot be quantified but it will have affected the integrity of the deposits, the quantity of observable bone within the features and the bone fragment size. Features containing cremated bone range in depth from 0.04 - 0.55m with most being between 0.15 and 0.30m deep.

### ***Condition of the bone***

The bone fragments were predominantly buff white in colour, indicative of full oxidation although several deposits (F.1547, F.1550, F1553, F.1555) also contained bone fragments that were blue/black in colour. The fragment size was generally small; most fragments measured between 10 and 20mm. Bone fragment size is dependent on various factors including the efficiency of the cremation, the burial environment, methods of retrieval and processing (McKinley 1994). There is no evidence of deliberate fragmentation or sorting of the bone. Where the bone was protected by an urn (F.1553) or the cut was deep (F.1547 and F.1584) the average fragment size was considerably larger (between 40-70mm). In general, there were relatively few diagnostic skeletal elements in each deposit. Skull and tooth fragments, phalanges and splinters of limb shaft were identified but there was a lack of diagnostic elements particularly joint surfaces or epiphyses. In several instances it was impossible to identify bone as either human or animal.



### *Nature of the deposits*

All but one of the deposits of cremated human bone were found in a linear cluster in the northwest of the site. F.1589, a concentration of bone deposited with a burnt flint flake, was located a distance from the others near the western boundary of field Pc (two other 'isolated burials' were identified in the excavation; F. 1566 contains burnt animal bone and the bone fragments from F.1641 are too few and too small to identify positively as either human or animal).

Only one burial, F.1553 was urned. The bulk of the cremated bone was contained within the vessel although the fill surrounding the urn also contained small bone fragments and charcoal perhaps representing sweepings from the pyre.

Distinguishing between urned cremation burials and formalised deposits of pyre debris can be difficult especially if the features are disturbed or truncated as they are here. McKinley (1997b,137) stresses the mixed nature of redeposited pyre debris; it is a mix of burnt material with no discernable layering and includes frequent charcoal, with varying quantities of burnt clay, burnt flints, cremated bone, and pyre goods (it may not include all of these). Urned burials may have some pyre debris within the backfills but, if undisturbed, the bone collected for burial is generally present in a clear, mostly clean concentration towards or at the base of the grave.

In two features (F.1547 and F.1561) the bone is described by the excavator as being found in a concentration suggesting that it may have originally been deposited within some form of organic container such as a bag or basket. Both adult and immature cremated bone was identified in F.1547.

Several of the deposits (F.1546, F.1550 F1551) are described as being predominantly wood charcoal or including fragments of burnt red clay/silt mixed with fragments of charcoal and burnt bone. These *may* be pyre related deposits rather than urned burials.

It is possible that the large, elongated pit, F.1582 is a pyre-related feature. Although only 2g of calcined bone could be analysed the on-site records state that 'cremated bone and charcoal were present regularly on the eastern part'. The basal fill of the pit is described as a red silt (?scorched natural) and there are 4 features (F1555 and F.1583, F1585 and F.1587) containing cremated bone 'cut' into the upper fills. These features could be urned cremation burials or pyre-related material.

Five of the features (F.1546, F.1548, F1551, F1582 and F1585) contained calcined bone in such small quantities and/or such small fragments that it was impossible to identify them as either human or animal, although given their proximity to the cluster of burials they are probably human. F1641 (isolated) bone too small to identify as animal or human. There are possible animal bones in F.1550.

Several of the cuts (F.1551, F1553, F1555 and F1563) are described as having red, scorched edges suggesting *in situ* burning. It seems unlikely that deposits placed in the pits could have been hot enough to cause this discolouration. Perhaps the scorching was deliberate e.g. sealing the feature, some form of cleansing or

mimicking the shape/colour of a vessel, and a fire was lit in the pit before the cremated bone was deposited.

No evidence of a pyre site was identified during the excavation. However, a pyre constructed on the ground would leave only ephemeral traces of its existence which could easily be destroyed by soil erosion, plough damage, or other disturbance (McKinley 1997b;134). The bucket urn containing cremated bone showed evidence of having undergone burning prior to being interred, possibly on the pyre. The large sherds of pottery recovered with the cremation burial F.1584 showed similar evidence of burning and may represent the remains of a vessel placed on the pyre with the body/bodies. Another pyre good (rather than grave good) is the burnt flint flake recovered with the isolated burial, F.1589, although this has been dated to the Neolithic and could be residual.

Feature	type	Age	Weight (g)	Notes
1546	?pyre debris	-	1	unidentifiable frags.
1547	?bag	adult & immature	825	
1548	?pyre debris	-	13	unidentifiable frags.
1550	?pyre debris	immature	61	& animal bone?
1551	?pyre debris	-	1	unidentifiable frags.
1553	urned	adult	515	
1555	unurned/pyre related	adult	304	dug into top of F.1582
1557	unurned	adult	520	
1560	?bag	sub adult/adult	94	
1561	?bag	sub adult/adult	376	
1563	?bag	sub adult/adult	514	
1582	pyre related feature/pit	-	2	elongated pit. unidentifiable frags.
1583	unurned/pyre related	sub adult/adult	92	dug into top of F.1582
1584	unurned/pyre related	sub adult/adult	310	frags. of urn (burnt)
1585	?pyre debris	-	2	Dug into top of F.1582. Unidentifiable frags.
1587	unurned/pyre related	sub adult/adult	42	dug into top of F.1582
1589	unurned	adult	649	Porotic hyperostosis, caries. Burnt blade

**Table 13:** Summary Table of features containing cremated bone

## Conclusion

The cremation burials and pyre related contexts are all truncated and disturbed which limits the information which can be gleaned from the deposits. All, however, have a close relationship with field boundaries perhaps reinforcing their significance in the landscape. The single burial, F.1589 was placed close to a field boundary, and although the cluster of burials was some 15m from a field boundary the linear grouping respected the alignment of the field. It might be that a boundary which is no



longer visible may have been closer to the burials. A similar cluster of Bronze Age cremation burials which appeared to respect a linear boundary was excavated at Broom, Bedfordshire (Mortimer, 1997).

## Appendix 7: Preserved Wood

Maisie Taylor

One fragment of a wooden bowl was recovered from F.1593. This is one of only a very few that have been found and is similar to one from Wiltshire (Taylor 2004).

Feature	Context	Dimensions of Wood (mm)				Description
		Length	Width	Diameter	Thickness	
1593	4918	1235	70		30	Roundwood debris, half split, trimmed one end/two dir. Possibly felled tree
		260+		45/39		Roundwood, trimmed one end/all directions
		500+		230		Roundwood, trimmed one end/all directions. Partial indistinct toolmarks
1608	5010	141	24		20	Woodchip, radial, oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.)
1696	5358					Collapsed root bole, very fragmentary, oak
1806	6225			22		Roundwood, long, straight stem
				19		Roundwood, long, straight stem
				20		Roundwood, long, straight stem
1867	6095	95	30		15	Woodchip, radial
1869	6099	230	60		25	Woodchip, radial and trimmed one end/one direction
		110	30		25	Woodchip, radial and trimmed one end/one direction
1870	6101	251	20		13	Woodchip, radial
1871	6103					Unable to analyse
1872	6105	570+		120/110		Roundwood, trimmed one end/two directions. Possibly felled tree
1873	6107	160	20		12	Woodchip, radial
1874	6114	115+	45		19	Woodchip, radial
		114	66		25	Woodchip, radial
		75+	20		12	Woodchip, radial, oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.)
		145	38		21	Woodchip, radial
		125	22		19	Woodchip, radial
		114	29		13	Woodchip, radial
		72+	41		15	Woodchip, radial
		950	160		80	Timber, radial split but twisted
		1730	72		90	Timber, half split, trimmed one end/two directions, oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.)

Feature	Context	Dimensions of Wood (mm)				Description
		Length	Width	Diameter	Thickness	
1878	6145	295		18/23		Roundwood, possible coppice stem
1885	6144			20		Roundwood
		616		9/24		Roundwood, long, straight stem
		255		9/10		Roundwood, long, straight stem
		100	40		15	Woodchip, radial
		160	20		8	Woodchip, radial
					10+	Bark
				4-9		Small weathered twigs of possible thorn
				10-13		Roundwood
		190	50		11	Woodchip, radial
		100	25		30	Woodchip, radial
		80	35		20	Woodchip, radial
		90	25		20	Woodchip, radial
		60	25		20	Woodchip, radial
		50	25		6	Woodchip, radial
		85	12		35	Woodchip, radial
		50	15		20	Woodchip, radial
					8	Bark, unworked
					10	Bark, unworked
					6	Bark, unworked
1886	6224	1250+	96		42	Timber, radial split, tangentially modified (Poor quality split)
1888	6202	100+	27		19	Timber debris, quarter split, squared, trimmed one end/four directions, oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.)
		150+	34		25	Timber debris, half split
		240+	67		40	Timber debris, one third split, trimmed one end/all directions
		425+	70		70	Timber debris, one third split, trimmed one end/all directions
		430+	76		40	Timber debris, one third split, trimmed one end/all directions
		170+		30/25		Roundwood, trimmed one end/two directions
		215+		36/33		Roundwood, trimmed one end/four directions
		215+		27/34		Roundwood, trimmed one end/one direction
		215+		27/34		Roundwood, trimmed one end/one direction
		450+		45/50		Roundwood, trimmed one end/three directions
	6207					Small fragments, twigs, bark and a broken woodchip
		200+		33/15		Roundwood, trimmed one end/one direction
		330	65		21	Woodchip, radial, oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.)

Table 16: Catalogue of preserved wood



## **Appendix 8: Environmental Bulk Samples**

Kate Roberts

*Thirty-eight samples were submitted from ditch, pit and posthole contexts. Of these the majority were virtually sterile, other than occasional charcoal fragments and intrusive weed seeds. However there were four samples from prehistoric pits, which contained large quantities of well-preserved waterlogged material suggesting a wet, scrubby local environment. One Roman sample contained a good charred assemblage, which contained typical Roman cereal crops.*

### ***Methodology***

Thirty-eight samples were submitted for analysis from pit, ditch and post holes from prehistoric and Roman contexts. These were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine (French 1972). The residues were washed over a 1mm mesh and the flots were collected in 300µm mesh. Flots, which contained mainly charred remains, were dried prior to identification under a low-power microscope. Waterlogged flots were kept refrigerated in water prior to scanning under a low-power microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). The results are summarised in a table at the end. The heavy residues were not examined.

### ***Preservation***

In the majority of cases plant remains were absent, and most samples contained only small amounts of charcoal and intrusive modern remains. There were however five exceptions to this which were markedly different. There was one Roman sample that contained a large amount of charred material. In general the charred remains in this sample were heavily eroded and pitted.

There were also four rich waterlogged samples, all from large prehistoric pits. These remains were well preserved and present in large quantities.

Modern intrusive rooting and intrusive plant remains were present in all of the samples. The intrusive plant remains were from the Chenopodiaceae family, and included goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*). These remains suggest a dynamic burial environment.

### ***Results***

#### ***Charred Prehistoric plant remains***

These samples contained virtually no archaeological plant remains. Most common were intrusive plant remains. However on occasion there were large amounts of charcoal. This was found in F.1172 and F1797. There was a small amount of cereal grain present in these samples. These were all indeterminate cereal grains, or fragments of cereal grain. Also present were occasional clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.) seeds. These are possible arable weeds.

### *Charred Romano British Phase I plant remains*

Two of the samples from this phase of the site were again mostly sterile, only containing cereal fragments or intrusive plant remains.

One rich sample taken from F.1738 contained large amounts of indeterminate wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.). There were also moderate amounts of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and lesser amounts of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*). Barley (*Hordeum vulgare sensu lato*) was also present in moderate numbers. Some of this was possible to identify as hulled barley but most was not well enough preserved to be sure of this. Chaff was also present in this sample. Most of this was spelt/emmer wheat chaff (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum* glume bases) but there were also some glume bases that were well enough preserved to be sure they were from spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). Also present were small amounts of barley chaff (*Hordeum vulgare sensu lato* rachis internodes) and free-threshing wheat chaff (*Triticum aestivum* rachis internodes). Wild plant remains were also common in this sample. The majority of these can be described as either seeds from arable weeds or weeds of waste ground. These included common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), small seeded dock (*Rumex sanguineus/conglomerates/obtusifolius*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), vetch/wild pea/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.), goosegrass (*Galium* sp.), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), rye-grass (*Lolium* sp.), meadow-grass (*Poa* spp.) and indeterminate grasses (*Poaceae* indet.). These could all be crop weeds. None were present in large quantities. Also present were a negligible amount of wetland plants. These included spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and great fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*). These were likely, based on the location of the site to reflect the local environment. The sample from F.1734 contained a much smaller number of plant remains, and these broadly reflected the trends shown in the sample from F.1738. It also contained a single pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) seed, suggesting a damp environment, and a single clover/medick seed (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.).

### *Charred Romano British Phase II plant remains*

Charred plant remains in this phase of the site were again mostly absent. There was only one indeterminate cereal grain present. Charcoal was relatively rare in these samples. Intrusive plant remains and rooting were again present.

### *Waterlogged remains*

Four samples from four large prehistoric pits were examined. In all of these a large amount of waterlogged plant remains were present. Due to the differences of their contents, they will all be discussed individually.

#### F.1608

This sample contained a large amount of seeds from scrubby successional vegetation. This included large amounts of bramble seeds (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and thorns from the same plant and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). There were also moderate amounts of



possible sloe stones (*Prunus spinosa* type) and possible goat willow bracts (*Salix caprea* type), which is a bush form of willow. The picture these plants give is of an environment in the early stages of returning to forest. An immature acorn (*Quercus* sp.) was also present which may mean that woodland may have been close by. Also present were numerous waste ground plants. These included large amounts of fig-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium ficifolium*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*). There were also lesser numbers of waste ground plants and these included opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), blinks (*Montia fontana* ssp. *chondrosperma*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), small seeded dock (*Rumex sanguineus/conglomerates/obtusifolius*), black borehound (*Ballota nigra*) and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.). These are all plants, which again might be found in successional vegetation. However what is also indicated is that these features were wet, and also made the surrounding landscape damp. Wetland plants included moderate amounts of sedge (*Carex* sp.), pale sedge (*Carex pallescens*), oval sedge (*Carex ovalis*), grey sedge (*Carex divulsa*), club-rush (*Schoenoplectus* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and rushes (*Juncus* sp.). Damp plants included bulbous/meadow/creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens*), crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. *BATRACHIUM*), marsh/lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris/graminea*), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*). A large amount of stinging nettle seeds (*Urtica dioica*) and a moderate amount of henbane seeds (*Hyoscyamus niger*) were found which makes it likely that this context was nitrogen rich, perhaps due to manuring in the vicinity, or other forms of waste. Also present were a moderate amount of water flea eggs (*Daphne* sp.), which live in stagnant water. Therefore this sample gives the impression of a local environment, which was wet and stagnant, and surrounded by regenerating scrub. One seed which disagreed with this interpretation was parsley-piert (*Aphanes arvensis*) which grows on free draining soils, however as there was only one of this seed compared to the hundreds of waterplant seeds, it is so far in the minority as to be irrelevant. Also present were a single charred spelt wheat glume base and a single seed from cat's tail which was also charred.

#### F.1593

This sample was dominated by bulbous/meadow/creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens*), rushes (*Juncus* sp.) and common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*). All of these are common wetland plants. There were also smaller amounts of wetland plants including crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. *BATRACHIUM*), marsh/lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris/graminea*), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), small water-pepper (*Persicaria minor*), northern/marsh yellow cress (*Rorippa islandica/palustris*), bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), corn/water mint (*Mentha arvensis/aquaticum*), bristle club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*), grey sedge (*Carex divulsa*), oval sedge (*Carex ovalis*), hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*) and pale sedge (*Carex pallescens*). There were again large quantities of water flea eggs in this sample (*Daphne* sp.). There were still waste ground plants in this sample and these included moderate to small amounts of knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), small nettle (*Urtica urens*), fig-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium ficifolium*), fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), common/spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), violet (*Viola* sp.) and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.). These were all present in much smaller quantities than those



found in F.1608. Also conspicuous by their absence in this sample were heavy scrub plants and only a small quantity of bramble seeds (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) was present in this sample. Plants that enjoy nitrogen rich soils were again present, although again in much smaller quantities, and included stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*). Present in large quantities and less easy to explain were the large quantities of fairy flax seeds (*Linum catharticum*). This plant favours dry calcareous or sandy soils, and while the soil at Eye could be described as sandy, dry conditions are not consistent with the environmental preferences of the rest of the plant remains in this sample. This sample mainly indicates a wet environment with a low level of waste ground weeds surrounding it. This is confused by the presence of fairy flax.

#### F.1885

Water plants again dominated this sample. There were large quantities of bulbous/meadow/creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus/acris/repens*), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), small water-pepper (*Persicaria minor*), northern/marsh yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica/palustris*) and water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*). There were also moderate or small amounts of other water plants or plants of damp ground including crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. *BATRACHIUM*), marsh/lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris/graminea*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), hedge/marsh woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica/palustris*), corn/water mint (*Mentha arvensis/aquatica*), common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), oval sedge (*Carex ovalis*) and pale sedge (*Carex pallescens*). Again there were large numbers of water flea eggs (*Daphne* sp.) present in this sample. This sample contained a markedly smaller amount of sedge seeds than the previous two samples. Again it did not contain a large amount of scrub type seeds but there was a possible sloe seed (*Prunus spinosa*) and a small amount of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). There were large amounts of stinging nettle seeds (*Urtica dioica*) in this sample, suggesting a nitrogen rich environment. Waste ground weeds included a large number of seeds from fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) as well as smaller amounts of other seeds including fig-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium ficifolium*), common spear-leaved orache (*Atriplex patula/prostrata*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), campion (*Silene* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), violet (*Viola* sp.), possible fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* type) and black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*). This sample then, gives a similar impression to that from F.1593, of damp, weedy ground, with water plants. However the decline in sedges from the F.1593 and in particular from F.1608 is particularly marked.

#### F.1901

This sample was taken from another prehistoric pit which is quite close to pit F.1608 and interestingly this sample is much more similar to that sample, and contains similar indications of scrub. In F.1901 there were large numbers of seeds from bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), as well as lesser numbers of goat willow type bracts (*Salix caprea* type), bramble thorns, rosehip (*Rosa* sp.) and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*). Waste ground weeds were also common and included moderate or small amounts of weeds seeds including fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), small seeded dock (*Rumex sanguineus/conglomerates/obtusifolius*) and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.). Wetland



sample number		<298>	<301>	<366>	<387>
context		[5010]	[4912]	[6144]	[6304]
feature		F.1608	F.1593	F.1665	F.1901
description		pit	pit	pit	pit
feature type		prehistoric	prehistoric	prehistoric	prehistoric
sample volume/ litres		14	6	18	17
flot volume and fraction examined		(200ml) 2/3	(100ml) 1/1	(200ml) 1/3	(200ml) 3/4
<i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base	spelt wheat chaff	c1			
large <i>Ranunculus</i> c.f. <i>bulbosus/acris/repens</i>	c.f. bulbous/meadow buttercup	++	+++	+++	+++
<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	small-flowered buttercup	++			
<i>Ranunculus</i> subg. <i>BATRACHIUM</i>	crowfoot	+	+	-	+++
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	opium poppy				
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle	+++	+	+++	++
<i>Urtica urens</i>	small nettle		+		
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	immature acorn	-			
<i>Chenopodium ficifolium</i>	fig-leaved goosefoot	+++	+	+	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat-her	+++	+	+++	+
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>	common/spear-leaved orache	+++	+	-	
<i>Montia fontana</i> ssp. <i>chondrosperma</i>	blinks	-			
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed	++	+	++	+
<i>Stellaria pallida</i>	lesser chickweed			-	
<i>Stellaria palustris/graminea</i>	marsh/lesser stitchwort	+	-	+	+
<i>Silene</i> sp.	campion			-	
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	redshank	-			
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	pale persicaria		+	+++	-
<i>Persicaria minor</i>	small water-pepper		++	+++	+
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass	+++	++	+	-
<i>Rumex sanguineus/conglomeratus/obtusitotius</i>	small-seeded dock	+			++
<i>Rumex</i> c.f. <i>crispus</i>	curled dock		++		
<i>Rumex</i> sp. tepal fragments			+		
Polygonaceae indet.			+		
<i>Viola</i> sp.	violet		-	-	
<i>Salix caprea</i> type bract	goat willow	++			++
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	water-cress			+++	-
<i>Rorippa islandica/palustris</i>	northern/marsh yellow-cress		++	+++	+
<i>Thlapsi arvensis</i>	field penny-cress			-	
<i>Brassica</i> c.f. <i>nigra</i>	black mustard	++		-	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	bramble	+++	+	+	+++
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. prickly	bramble prickly	++			+
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	parsley-piert	-			
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	rosehip				+
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> type	sloe	++		-	++
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	fairy flax		+++		
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> type	fennel			+	
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	henbane	++	-		+
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade			-	
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	bogbean		++	-	+
<i>Stachys sylvatica/palustris</i>	hedge/marsh woundwort			-	-
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	black horehound	+			
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	gypsywort				+
<i>Mentha arvensis/aquatica</i>	corn/water mint		-	-	-
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	+++			+++
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.	thistle	-	-		-
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	rushes	++	+++		+++
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	common spike-rush		+++	-	
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	spike-rush	++			
<i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	club-rush	++			
<i>Isoplepis setacea</i>	bristle club-rush		+		
<i>Carex divulsa</i> type	grey sedge	+	-		
<i>Carex ovalis</i> type	oval sedge	+	-	-	+
<i>Carex hirta</i>	hairy sedge		+		
<i>Carex pallescens</i> type	pale sedge	++	+	++	+
Cyperaceae indet.	sedge	++			-
<i>Phleum</i> sp.	cat's tail	c1			
small seed indet.					-
large seed indet.		+			
small wood (< 2mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++
medium wood (2 - 4mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++
large wood (> 4mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++		+++	+++
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+++		+++	++
large charcoal (>4mm)				++	++
small bone					-
<i>Daphne</i> sp. eggs	water flea eggs	++	+++	+++	++
roots					+++

**Table 17:** The waterlogged plant remains

All waterlogged unless marked 'c' for charred

Key '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10 – 50 items, '+++> 50 items

Table 18: Charred plant remains

Key '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10–50 items, '+++' > 50 items



## Appendix 8: Plates



**Plate 1:** A circular gully F.1740



**Plate 2:** A large Early Bronze Age pit F.1720



**Plate 3:** The Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery



**Plate 4:** The Cremation Urn





**Plate 7:** Romano British Enclosure D



**Plate 8:** Romano British horticultural area

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