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Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement at Marsh Farm Quarry, Salford Priors: Further Excavations in the Warwickshire Arrow Valley (1991–2000)

Stuart C Palmer

with contributions by Lynne Bevan, Andy Hammon, Annette Hancocks, Jacqueline McKinley, Nicholas Palmer, Elizabeth Pearson

and illustrations by Candy Stevens

Report 0435

October 2010

Warwickshire County Council

Working for Warwickshire

The monuments relating to this report will need some major work.

MWA1499 Roman Settlement 800m N of Salford Priors and

MWA5757 Iron Age/Roman British settlement at Marsh Farm, Salford Priors may be best interpreted as being the same monument. If so the settlement extent should perhaps be extended on its Eastern side to include features identified beneath the line of the current A46.

Separate monuments will need to be created to reflect site phasing and chronology.

There are also inconsistencies in this area with the NMP data as it relates to the Monuments and will need to be examined and corrected.

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SUMMARY

A series of excavations at Marsh Farm Quarry, Salford Priors undertaken in 1991, 1994 and 2000, investigated part of a cropmark complex on the west side of the River Arrow in advance of gravel extraction. The work complements earlier excavations undertaken in advance of the construction of the A46 which cut through the eastern side of the complex in 1993 (Palmer 2000a). This earlier work included the examination of early Roman settlement foci that developed into a villa complex.

The small assemblage of flintwork recovered suggested limited occupation of the area during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. This was emphasised by a burnt deposit in a gully with a radiocarbon date of 3350-3010 cal BC (GU-11272) placing the deposit in the Middle Neolithic, although found residually in an Iron Age feature. Further Bronze Age evidence was restricted to a single pottery sherd recovered from a pit in an otherwise undated group.

During the Mid-Late Iron Age there were two foci of activity. In Area 9 a roundhouse of possible mass wall construction was positioned within a large, square enclosure with an eastern entrance. A posthole group inside the entrance may have formed a gateway structure and a series of pits were clustered inside the northern and eastern enclosure arms. Structured deposits in the terminal ends of the enclosure ditch included a quern fragment, pottery and the cremated bones of a sheep/goat. Whilst further pottery, evidence of burning and animal bone were found throughout the eastern arm of the ditch, the remainder of the circuit was sterile. Radiocarbon dates from short-lived wood charcoal in structured deposits within the ditch date to 370-50 Cal BC (GU-11278) and 390-110 Cal BC (GU-11276), which concur with a date recovered from one of the internal pits at 400-180 Cal BC (GU-11275). Settlement in Area 2 was unenclosed and focussed on a C-shaped ditch only partially within the area excavated. A series of three structures indicated by banana-shaped gullies containing hearth material was associated with other features interpreted as areas of activity. A date of 260-40 Cal BC was obtained from one structure (GU-11487).

Between these foci lay a small, square enclosure that was not examined, but which lay adjacent to a further group of structures defined by banana-shaped gullies. These gullies lay amidst a series of undated pits including some pear-shaped examples, although the significance of their shape remains unknown.

In the 1st-century AD the structures and activity areas in Area 2 were re-established adjacent to their original positions and the first elements in a field system were set out. Sometime between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD an annexe was constructed on the east side of the main enclosure and cremated human bones were deposited in the boundary gully. It was during this phase that a trackway was driven through the centre of the fields to allow access to the villa complex that had developed to the south.

Reports are presented on the flintwork, the pottery and the limited assemblage of small finds recovered. An extensive programme of environmental sampling failed to recover any significant charred plant remains other than a dump of wheat and barley in a middle-late Iron Age pit outside the large enclosure. The recovery of animal bone other than fragments of teeth and cremated bone, which are briefly described, was frustrated by the slightly acidic nature of the terrace soils.

The final section attempts to place the evidence in the context of the development of the Arrow Valley and the wider region, and also reviews the transition from native Iron Age multi-focal settlement to dispersed Romano-British villa estate.

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological work carried out at Marsh Farm Quarry, Salford Priors, Warwickshire. The work was undertaken in three seasons over a nine-year period from 1991 to 2000. Planning permission (Refs S 86/1821; S 87/1950) was obtained to extract sand and gravel from the site by Western Aggregates Ltd, latterly RMC (Western) Ltd and an agreement was entered into with the Warwickshire Museum which made provision for the funding of the excavation and recording of archaeological deposits in advance of the extraction programme. During the project a new road, the A46 (A435 Norton-Lenchwick bypass), was constructed immediately east of the quarry site and an extensive programme of archaeological works was carried out before and during the construction process. The results of that work (Palmer 2000a) have had considerable impact on the work within the quarry and will be heavily referenced during the course of this report.

SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Marsh Farm Quarry is situated on the western bank of the River Arrow in Salford Priors, Warwickshire, centred on National Grid Reference SP 080 530. The River Arrow rises in the Birmingham plateau (Fig 1) and flows south through Warwickshire to meet the River Avon just south-east of the modern village of Salford Priors on the Worcestershire border (Fig 2). The drift geology is second terrace river gravels that overlie Mercia Mudstone (Geological Survey 1974). The area around the valley is characterised by low, gently rolling hills that have historically supported an intensive arable and horticultural regime.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs 1 & 2)

Archaeological signatures for Mesolithic activity in the area occur predominantly as chance finds identified in excavations and fieldwork on later sites in the Avon Valley (Palmer 2000a, 6). A very small Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint assemblage was recovered at Oversley Mill Services (Warwickshire Museum 1991), on the south side of the confluence of the Rivers Arrow and Alne. Early Neolithic flintwork has been recorded at Coughton Court, north of Alcester (Evans 2003) and a further group derived from fieldwalking (Palmer 2000a, Fig 6, Field 53) and residually in excavated Romano-British deposits (Areas C1-3) at Salford Priors (Bradley 2000, 22-7) during work on the adjacent road scheme. These assemblages have all been too small to determine the nature of the activities on these sites.

The general level of activity seems to have increased during the Later Neolithic. A thin scatter of flintwork was recovered from fieldwalking at Boteler's Castle, Oversley (Adams & Jenkins 1989), and many scatters have been noted in the Bidford-on-Avon area. Some possible Neolithic features were indicated by flints recovered from trenches at Coughton Court (Evans 2003), although again it is possible that they were merely residual. Later Neolithic Grooved Ware pits were found at Broom (Palmer 2000a, 22-36) and another pit was encountered under Roman deposits in Alcester (Taylor 1969, 16). Early Bronze Age pits found at Boteler's Castle, Oversley produced four wheat seeds (Moffett 1997, 79) which represent the first evidence for cereal use in the Arrow Valley.

Three possible Neolithic/Bronze Age ring-ditch cropmarks have been identified south of Broom and substantial lithic scatters of this broad date range are known from the Bidford and Marlcliff areas. Similarly dated flintwork recovered from excavations of later sites and stray finds from road schemes in the Alcester area form the basis of the known record (Palmer 2000a, 216-7).

The nature of the later prehistoric resource in the county has recently been assessed (Palmer nd), the current state of the evidence largely reflecting its archaeological visibility and modern development trends. The recovery of two Middle Bronze Age bronzes (dagger and palstave fragment) by metal detectorists working in the Marsh Farm area certainly indicates at least low-level activity (Baker 1994). However, the much vaunted alluvial deposits that were identified in the Avon and the Arrow valleys and suggested by Shotton (1978) as having been formed from material washed off the fields in the aftermath of winter ploughing in the late Bronze Age have yet to be corroborated by any agricultural settlement sites.

Tangible evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement is not common in the region (Palmer nd). It has been identified along the Warwickshire Avon terraces at Hampton Lucy and Wasperton (A Woodward pers comm) and along the Stour Valley at Whitchurch (N Sharples & K Waddington pers comm). It has also been found in Worcestershire at Ashton Under Hill (HWCC 1991, 30) south of Evesham, and at Huntsmans Quarry, Kemerton (S Ratkai pers comm).

Little can be said of the earlier Iron Age other than that pottery tentatively described as Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age has been recovered from two possible hearths in Alcester. Nearby, on a separate occasion, pottery identified as Middle Iron Age was recovered (Palmer 2000a, 6-7). Similar coarse pottery has also been recovered from possible settlement features to the west of Alcester, although there was little evidence to suggest how extensive this settlement may have been (Jones & Palmer 1995).

Definitive evidence for early settlement comes from a 'clothes-line' enclosure cropmark at Broom. This cropmark site compares to excavated examples on Dunsmore that date from the Early/Mid Iron Age (Palmer 2002), and is indicative of a settled and divided landscape. Limited Late Iron Age deposits were also excavated at Wixford (Palmer 2000a, 56-59).

Eight Dobunnic coins have been recovered from the Arrow Valley, six from Roman deposits in Alcester, one from the plough zone south-west of Kinwarton and one from the plough zone south-east of Wixford.

Further south on the south side of the Avon, the Roman settlements at Bidford-on-Avon, Marcliff, Cleeve Prior and Littleton all seem to have an origin in the Iron Age or earlier. These sites and the extensive Iron Age deposits known from along the Avon terraces in both directions indicate widespread and intensive land use.

Most of the other cropmarks that extend over the gravel terraces, are likely to date to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. A complex north-west of Abbots Salford is possibly an earlier example, having a linear arrangement of enclosures stretched between two of the Avon tributaries. A less dense example with larger enclosures has been heavily disturbed by the modern village of Salford Priors.

Iron Age settlement is also known to the east of the quarry site, on the soils less conducive to cropmarks. Pottery, coins and brooches, mostly recovered by metal detectorists, indicate extensive settlements at Cleeve Prior, Marlcliff and Welford Pastures. Excavations in the Littleton area have recovered Iron Age and Roman occupation on the site of the possible hillfort (Cox 1959). Possible Late Iron Age burials have been excavated at Bidford-on-Avon and at North Littleton.

Roman influence in the area was established by the construction of a fort in Alcester which possibly replaced an earlier short-lived version indicated by a cropmark on a high ridge that overlooks Alcester from the south (Booth & Evans 2001, 301). The construction of two important roads which cross at Alcester, Ryknild Street and the Salt Way, assured the development of what so far appears to have been a modest late Iron Age settlement into a thriving small town. Its location on the Roman road

network and likely initial boost from the incumbent garrison's spending power enabled the steadily increasing population to take full advantage of the developing market economy.

Extensive Romano-British activity was excavated to the east of the quarry in advance of the new A46 (Palmer 2000a). This work was able to establish that a villa complex developed from a minimum of three settlements joined by trackways established along the riverside in the 1st-century AD. Distinctively Romanised construction was evident from the 3rd-century AD and the villa's focus is likely to exist to the south of the quarry site in an area Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Warwickshire Monument 162).

The villa formed part of a thriving landscape with other farmsteads crowded along the valley; three examples having been excavated at Bidford Grange, Abbots Salford and Leylandii House Farm, south of Harvington. At Bidford Grange a 1st-century AD farmstead grew throughout the 2nd-century only to decline in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Hart *et al* 1991). At Leylandii House Farm occupation which included round-houses and corn driers is believed to have covered a range from the 2nd to mid-3rd-century AD (Jackson *et al* 1994, 39-41). At Abbots Salford the occupation evidence was remarkably similar to Leylandii House Farm, the pottery indicating minor activity in the Iron Age and 1st-century AD, peaking in the late 2nd-3rd centuries AD and declining in the 4th-century (Thomas & Palmer 1994, 93).

Anglo-Saxon settlement has been excavated at Broom (Palmer 2000a) just north of the quarry site and has been hinted at Cleeve Prior and Welford. Metal detected finds from near Bidford have led to suggestions of a possible market (Wise & Seaby 1995) and an extensive cemetery has periodically been examined nearby (Humphreys *et al* 1923; Humphreys 1925; Booth & Hodgson 1990, 85). Many of the villages along the river valley may well have antecedents in the Anglo-Saxon period but as yet their cemeteries have not been located (Palmer 2000a, 220-1).

PROJECT DESIGN

The original archaeological project design for Marsh Farm Quarry was formulated pre PPG 16 in 1987 by the then County Field Archaeologist Helen Maclagan and the Sites and Monuments Record Officer Dr Richard Hingley. It was designed without the benefit of any previous fieldwork and was based solely on the available air photographic evidence. The principal features within the quarry site were thought to represent fields and trackways associated with a Romano-British villa complex centred to the south of the quarry. Western Aggregates had in their initial application of 1987 provided detailed plans of the proposed programme of extraction, dividing the site into year-long extraction phases. A programme of excavation and recording was proposed for each of the extraction phases that included significant cropmark evidence.

Strategy

Extraction phases 2, 4, 7 and 9 (referred to as Areas 2, 4, 7 & 9 for the remainder of the report), were the only areas selected for detailed archaeological examination. Pre PPG 16 it was considered unlikely that funding would be forthcoming for work in areas without any significant archaeological evidence, despite cropmarks being present in extraction phases 5 and 6 and the proximity of extraction phases 1, 3 and 8 to the focus of the suspected villa complex. The cropmark evidence suggested that the features in Phases 5 and 6 would just be the continuation of those in Phases 2 and 4. Phases 2 and 4 were considered worthy of evaluation prior to any detailed excavation in order to determine the relative state of survival of the linear features.

The area to be extracted was restricted on the eastern side to exclude areas where a small group of possible hut circles showed as cropmarks within extraction phase 2 and one side of a small rectangular enclosure protruded into extraction phase 4.

Excavation was to take the form of a series of rectangular trenches targeted at locations where the linear cropmark features intersected with the aim of establishing their form and function as well as their relationships and chronology.

Both extraction phases 2 (Palmer 1991) and 4 (Palmer 1992) were evaluated by limited trial trenching and in both phases the trial trenches were able to establish the relative reliability of the cropmark evidence, although constraints on the funding meant that few features were examined in detail. However, almost all the significant features were located at the eastern end of the extraction areas with virtually no deposits on the western side where the gravel terrace was capped by a thick layer of clay. The density of archaeological features toward the eastern side was sufficient to suggest that the original project design of targeted excavation areas would almost certainly omit significant deposits related to open settlement in and around the main cropmark features. It was therefore decided to use the funds originally set aside for plant hire to compensate the quarry for removing the topsoil and older topsoil to natural in a slower and more controlled manner. It was also drawn upon to cover the costs of a mini-excavator that could be used to remove residual spoil and debris more efficiently than by hand (Palmer 1994).

The Excavations

The topsoil was removed by 360° tracked excavators loading into 25 tonne dumpers, under archaeological supervision. In Area 2 a metal plate was welded across the teeth of the bucket to create a flat digging edge but unfortunately the gaps at the base of the teeth permitted dust and debris to fall through the back of the bucket. Some features may have been obscured by the dust trails created in this process, although a mini excavator was used to remove much of this and a thin layer of old ploughsoil at the east end of the site which still obscured the underlying deposits.

In Area 4 the topsoil was piled into north-south aligned windrow bunds. The exposed areas between them were excavated and then the windrows were removed using the excavated strips as haul roads. This method was adopted to prevent damage to the topsoil but had the disadvantage in that it was very difficult to identify features that extended under the windrows when they were removed at a later date and in different conditions. There remained a marked contrast in the definition of features between and below the windrows.

The whole of Area 7 was extracted without any archaeological intervention. This was an unfortunate result of a misunderstood conversation between the author and the incumbent quarry manager despite the fact that the proposed phase plans included archaeological impact details.

Area 9 was extended to the north to accommodate the entire cropmark enclosure WA 5081 in order that it could be excavated as a whole (Palmer 2000b).

Recording

In the 1991 and 1994 seasons contexts were recorded using the then current Warwickshire Museum recording system. Each feature or layer was given a number and individual fills within a feature were given a sub-number (expressed as eg feature **1021** and fills **1021/1, 1021/2** etc). In the 2000 season a new system was adopted whereby each context was allocated an individual number, the feature cut

number being independent to its fill(s) eg cut **227** was filled with **296** and **278** etc. To distinguish the contexts from the 1991 and 1994 seasons, 1000 has been added to those from 1991 and 2000 to contexts issued in 1994.

Finds were recorded with the context number from which they were recovered. Particularly interesting finds were three-dimensionally recorded and given a Small Find Number, expressed eg SF No 128.

Plans were drawn at 1:50 and sections at 1:20 and 1:10. Contexts were recorded on pro forma sheets and a register in the form of a site note book. Soil texture descriptions were based on the Soil Survey Field Handbook (Soil Survey 1976) and colours matched against a Munsell Soil Colour Chart (Munsell 1975). Soil descriptions are given here without the charcoal and gravel content unless one or either was particularly significant. The vast majority of soil deposits were a combination of the natural subsoil and the topsoil; very little imported material was observed.

For each area, a scheme of phases was developed on the basis of a combination of context stratigraphy and pottery dates. The stratigraphy of each area was plotted on a Harris (1979) type matrix and pottery spot dates used to indicate individual phases.

So few of the features encountered in the evaluation trenches of 1991 and 1992 were excavated and so very few finds were recovered that the trenches have not been included on the plans in this report.

Soil Samples

Soil samples for charred plant remains were recovered on a 'most likely to produce results' basis. These were often areas of burning, waterlogging, or with other concentrations of domestic rubbish. To save time, small bone samples were not taken on site, but were retrieved from the bulk soil samples during processing. Soil samples were numbered after the context they were taken from; expressed **821/1/1** and **821/1/2** for a second sample etc in 1991-1994 and **821/1** in 2000.

Site Phasing and Chronology

This report presents the results of the project in a sequence of broad phases (1-8). Finds and environmental evidence are presented separately in their own sections. Individual phases have been established from a combination of the stratigraphy of the site, the dated pottery and a suite of radiocarbon determinations.

Phase 1	Neolithic (4000-2500 BC)
Phase 2	Bronze Age (2500-800 BC)
Phase 3	Mid-Late Iron Age (400 BC– AD 43
Phase 4	Iron Age to Roman transition (1st-century AD)
Phase 5	Romano-British (2nd- to 4th-century AD
Phase 6	Medieval
Phase 7	Post-medieval – modern

NOTE ON THE PRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT

The majority of this report was written in 2002, whilst the radiocarbon results were added in 2006. The delay in editorial production means that some of the sections have not had the benefit of being able to draw upon some more recently excavated or reported work. The delay is not the fault of individual authors.

THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Natural geology

At surface level the geological natural varied across the site. On the western side of Area 2 several thin bands of gravel were observed in the sides of a deep section. The lowest **1081** brown sandy gravel was overlaid by **1080** grey sandy gravel, in turn overlaid by **1079** brownish-yellow/grey sand and gravel. All were sealed by **1030** grey sand and gravel, whilst on the eastern side **1062** reddish-brown sand and gravel extended into Area 4. In Area 9 a linear band of reddish-brown clay **403** spread across the eastern end of the area on a north-east to south-west alignment whilst over the remainder of the exposed area **402** orange-brown, loose sand and gravel, with some silt at the subsoil interface was observed.

Phase 1: Neolithic (4000-2500 BC)

AREA 2/3

This phase comprised a few flint tools and waste flakes found residually across the site (see Bevan below) and residual hazel (*Corylus*) charcoal from Activity Area C, gully **1015/1/1**, which produced a radiocarbon date of 3350-2930 Cal BC (GU-11272). No other finds or deposits are attributable to this phase.

Phase 2: Bronze Age (2500-800 BC)

AREA 4 (Fig 11)

Pit 2041

This phase was represented by pit **2041** and some flint tools and waste pieces found residually across the site. Pit **2041** was circular with a diameter of 0.36m, surviving to a depth of 0.06m. It had a shallow, scooped profile (Fig 5/A) and was filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam that produced a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery. This pit lay amidst a large group of undated small, shallow pits with very similar fills, spread along the eastern edge of Area 4. Although it is conceivable that at least some are contemporary, given that the group as a whole lies adjacent to features datable to later phases with similar fills, it seems more likely that the group belongs in the later phase.

Phase 3: Mid-Late Iron Age (400 BC – AD 43)

This phase consisted of a large enclosure and pit complex in Area 9 (Figs 3 & 4) and open settlement in Area 2 (Figs 3 & 8). Limited activity extended into Area 4 (Figs 3, 7, 10 & 11) adjacent to a small rectangular enclosure largely preserved *in situ* outside the western edge of the excavated area.

AREA 9 (Fig 4)

The large enclosure (cropmark SMR WA 5081)

The cropmark was identified as a large sub-square enclosure ditch **201**, orientated ENE/WSW, measuring *c* 75m x 75m, with an entrance gap *c* 4.6m wide, slightly north of centre along its eastern arm. The ditch, when measured at the level of the top of the natural, was between 3m and 4m wide with a V-shaped profile, occasionally cut with a step and occasionally flat bottomed but varying between 1m and 1.5m deep. There was no indication from the fills of the ditch for preferential infilling which might have resulted from the former presence of a bank constructed from the upcast. The longitudinal section cut though the southern terminal end (Fig 5/E) suggests that the entrance may originally have been as much as 2m wider. The opposite terminal end (not drawn in section) was a very steep cut and given the similarity of the soils through which each end was cut, it seems likely that the additional, shallow extension to the southern side was deliberate, rather than a result of erosion.

The base of the ditch was filled with silty clay or sandy silts coloured greyish-brown or grey indicative of periodic water-logging (see Table 1). This was followed by a succession of dark yellowish-brown and greyish-brown sandy loam layers, which were probably relatively quickly deposited. Two radiocarbon dates were acquired from the ditch. That from secondary silts in the north terminal end (Fig 5/F **396**) gave a date of 370-50 Cal BC (GU-11277) and that from the middle fill of the unillustrated adjacent section to the north (**376**) 390-110 Cal BC (GU-11276). However, the penultimate and ultimate layers accounted for at least half of the ditch's fill and probably represent slower and more gradual silting. The penultimate layers in Section G were certainly of Phase 5 although it is not certain if this was due to re-cutting.

A single line of rough limestone blocks was positioned on the inner lip of the ditch on the northern side of the entrance (Plate II). They appeared to represent the remains of a revetment that may once have extended over the land surface of the gateway or perhaps over an inner bank. Some similar blocks were found to have slid down the inner ditch edge.

Structure A (Fig 4)

The principal feature within the enclosure was a sinuous gully **239** that probably delineated the southern and western side of a structure constructed near the centre of the enclosure. Unfortunately this area had been badly disturbed by recent heavy plant movement. Deep wheel ruts cut through and distorted the feature which had also been truncated during the machine removal of the topsoil. No postholes were found in association with the structure.

Gully **239** (Fig 5/K-O) had steep sloping sides and was 0.38m-0.45m wide with a flattish base that became more rounded to the west. It was 0.20m-0.25m deep though it petered out to the north where its circuit was visible as a soil stain in the gravel. The easternmost extent **248** (Fig 5/P) was 0.26m wide and 0.13m deep. The primary fill in the southern part of the circuit (**268, 269, 270 & 272**) was brown/dark brown sandy loam. It was overlaid by a 0.07m thick lens of charcoal **271**, restricted to the south-west side of the circuit. The remainder of the gully contained dark yellowish-brown sandy loam (**240, 241, 242, 243, 250 & 251**).

Table 1: Phase 3, Area 9 enclosure ditch 201 (fills)

Section Ref	Context No	Comments	Inclusions
Fig 5/D & E	252	Greyish-brown sandy loam	Few pebbles, pottery and fired clay
	253	Greyish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles, heat-cracked pebbles (HCP), pottery, fired clay, animal bone and quern fragment
	254	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam	Pottery and animal bone
	255	Yellowish-brown sandy gravel	Pottery
	256	Brown/dark brown silty loam	Pottery and animal bone
	257	Yellowish-brown sand and gravel	Pottery
	366	Greyish-brown sand	Frequent pebbles
	367	Greyish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles
	368	Grey sandy clay	Frequent pebbles
Fig 5/F	390	Dark yellowish-brown	Pottery
	391	Brown sandy loam	Pottery
	392	Greyish-brown silty loam	Pottery
	393	Brown sandy loam	
	394	Brown sandy loam	Pottery
	395	Grey silty loam	
	396	Grey sandy loam	Pottery and animal bone (C14 date GU-11277: 370-50 Cal BC)
	397	Grey sandy clay loam	
	398	Brown sandy loam	Pottery and animal bone
	399	Grey sandy clay	
	400	Grey silty clay	
Fig 5/G	381	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles, HCP and pottery (Phase 5)
	382	Brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles, HCP and pottery (Phase 5)
	383	Brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles, HCP
	384	Yellowish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles
	385	Greyish-brown sandy clay	
	386	Strong brown sandy clay	Few pebbles
Fig 5/H	322	Brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	323	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	324	Brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
Fig 5/I	329	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	330	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles
	331	Greyish-brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	332	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles
	333	Brown sandy loam	Occasional charcoal
	334	Greyish-brown silty clay loam	
Fig 5/J	336	Brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	337	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	338	Brown sandy loam	Few pebbles
	339	Dark yellowish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles
	340	Greyish-brown sandy loam	Frequent pebbles
	341	Greyish-brown silty clay loam	Few pebbles

Structure B (Fig 4)

A second structure can be extrapolated from the same area although there was no surviving stratigraphic relationship to determine their respective sequence. Banana shaped gully **244** (Fig 5/Q-R) was 2.07m long by 0.40m wide and 0.08m deep with a rounded base that flattened out to the south. Its north-east side was shallow sloping whilst the 'internal' south-west side was much steeper and stepped. Its single fill **245** was dark yellowish-brown sandy loam. To the south it was aligned with a curving cut **238** that crossed the southern side of Structure A gully **239**. A 25 tonne dumper had driven along this feature in wet conditions and effectively squeezed out the fill at the same time as depositing a mixture of gravel and topsoil.

Gateway structure (Fig 4)

A series of postholes (see Table 2) located inside the enclosure entrance formed a possible gateway structure, although it was not possible to establish how this might

have functioned. The relatively shallow depth of the postholes probably demonstrates a degree of truncation, yet the four examples that revealed evidence of pebble post-packing (**214**, **213**, **215** and **222**) probably relate to both the wider and narrow later phase of the entrance gap. The post-packing in these postholes indicates posts ranging between 0.12m and 0.18m in diameter.

Table 2: Phase 3, Area 9 gateway structure

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 5/S	**227**	Sub-oval	0.95 x 0.51	0.09	Orientated E/W with shallow sloping northern side, steep sloping southern side and a flattish base filled with **228** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam with few small pebbles as post-packing
Fig 5/T	**214**	Irregular	0.60 x 0.53	0.21	Moderately steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with **206** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam and 50% medium pebbles as post-packing
Fig 5/U	**213**	Sub- oval	0.53 x 0.50	0.12	Orientated NW/SE with fairly steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with **205** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam and 50% medium pebbles as post-packing
Fig 5/V	**215**	Sub- circular	0.95 x 0.85	0.18	Fairly steep sloping side to the SE, a steep side to the NW and a flattish base filled with post-packing **207** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam with small and medium pebbles with angular sandstone rubble and 0.20m wide near vertically sided post pipe **224** brown sandy loam
Fig 5/V	**222**	Sub-oval	0.80 x 0.50	0.09	Moderately steep sloping sides and a flattish base which sloped down to the N filled with **223** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam with small pebbles and sandstone rubble post-packing
Fig 5/W	**229**	Sub-rectangular	0.90 x 0.77	0.10	Orientated NW/SE with shallow sloping sides and a flattish base filled with **230** yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 5/X	**216**	Sub-circular	0.54 x 0.50	0.08	Moderately steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with **208** yellowish-brown sandy loam with few pebbles

North-east corner of activity (Fig 4)

The north-eastern corner of the enclosure was segregated by a 20m long gully **301**, aligned north-south and probably delineating an area of activity. It was slightly sinuous and hooked sharply at the south end to the south-east where it had steep sloping sides 0.69m wide and a rounded base 0.34m deep (Fig 6/Y-AB). It was most substantial towards the middle of its length (1.57m wide and 0.57m deep) at which depth it continued to the north end, where it was markedly stepped in profile. Its earliest fill at the south end was **308** greyish-brown silty loam whilst at the north end it was **304** yellowish-brown sandy loam. Both these early deposits were overlaid by dark yellowish-brown sandy loam (**307**, **365=335** & **302**) that filled the remainder of the gully.

A narrow north-west to south-east orientated gully **293** cut gully **301** at its northern end. This gully was 5.5m long and 0.40-0.45m wide with steep sloping sides and a flattish base 0.04-0.09m deep (Fig 6/AC-AD). It contained a single fill **295** of yellowish-brown sandy loam.

Corner pit group (Fig 4)

Between ditch **301** and the north-east corner of the enclosure was a series of shallow flat-based pits. There was no indication from their fills as to their function (see Table 3).

Table 3: Phase 3, Area 9 corner pit group

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 6/AE	309	Oval	1.05 x 0.65	0.24	Steep sloping SE side, shallow sloping NW side and rounded base filled with 310 pale brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AF	313	Sub-circular	0.95 x 0.73	0.22	Steep sloping sides and undulating flattish base filled with 314 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Not drawn	311	Sub-circular	0.80 x 0.80	?	Shallow sloping sides and flattish base filled with 312 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AG	305	Sub-circular	1.05 x 0.90	0.03	Shallow sloping sides and flattish base filled with 306 brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AH	231	Sub-circular	1.03 x 0.97	0.08	Moderately steep sloping sides and flattish base filled with 232 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AI	233	Sub-oval	1.14 x 0.75	0.13	Shallow sloping stepped sides and a rounded base filled with 234 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam

Northern pit group (Fig 4)

A group of pits spread along the inside of the north-east arm of the enclosure seemed to respect the segregated area and these contained a few sherds of pottery (see Table 4). The group was relatively homogenous and as no two pits inter-cut it seems likely that they were contemporary or at least dug in quick succession. Two radiocarbon determinations were acquired from charcoal from this group: that from 347 (pit 346) (GU-11275: 400-180 cal BC) is probably representative of the group as a whole whilst that from pit 342 (fill 343) (GU-11274: 1150-1290 cal AD) seems to show a level of intrusion perhaps by worm sorting.

Table 4: Phase 3, Area 9 northern pit group

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 6/AJ	315	Sub-circular	1.47 x 1.45	0.32	Steep sloping SE side, shallow sloping NW side and a rounded base filled with 316 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AK	317	Sub circular	1.24 x 1.10	0.10	Shallow sloping W side, fairly steep sloping E side and a flattish base filled with 318 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 5/B	342	Circular	1.59 x 1.45	0.12	Fairly steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with 343 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam (Phase 2 pottery recovered from fill)
Fig 6/AL	344	Circular	1.88 x 1.75	0.17	Steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with 345 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AN	350	Sub circular	Truncated x 1.82	0.55	Shallow sloping sides and a flattish undulating base filled with 351 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam with 0.12m lens of charcoal 364 on southern side. Truncated on the S side by a modern land drain 298
Fig 6/AO	346	Circular	1.75 x 1.74	0.27	Fairly steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with 347 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam (C14 date GU-11275: 400-180 cal BC)
Fig 6/AP	352	Circular	2.06 x 1.85	0.50	Steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with 363 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam overlaid by 362 very dark grey sandy loam and sealed by 353 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AQ	348	Circular	1.45 x 1.35	0.26	Steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with 349 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AR	358	Circular	1.40 x 1.38	0.24	Fairly steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with 359 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AS	360	Circular	2.13 x 1.85	0.22	Steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with 361 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AT	354	Circular	1.63 x 1.45	0.12	Fairly steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with 355 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam

Eastern pit group (Fig 4)

A small cluster of five pits formed a disparate group inside the enclosure's entrance on the north side. These pits were very shallow, albeit with flat bases, but revealed no clues as to their function (see Table 5).

External features (Fig 4)

On the northern side of the enclosure was a series of three pits aligned WNW/ESE. The westernmost pit **282** was sub-oval with moderately steep sloping sides (0.50m x 0.45m wide), a flattish base 0.18m deep and filled with **283** dark greyish-brown sandy loam (Fig 6/AZ). To the east pit **284** was sub-circular with steeply sloping sides (1.78m x 2.10m wide), a flattish base 0.29m deep and filled with **286** dark brown sandy loam overlaid by **285** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam. The easternmost pit **291** was not well defined but was at least 0.50m wide with steep sloping sides, a flattish base 0.23m deep and filled with **292** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam (Fig 6/BB). The pits were probably cut by gully **273=274** but this relationship was only evident in pit **284** (Fig 6/AZ).

Table 5: Phase 3, Area 9 eastern pit group

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 6/AU	217	Sub-square	2.00 x 1.96	0.19	Shallow sloping sides with a flat base filled with 209 brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AV	212	Sub-circular	1.30 x 1.15	0.10	Steep N side, shallow S side and a flat base filled with 204 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AW	225	Sub-circular	0.87 x 0.60	0.04	Shallow sloping sides and a flat base filled with 226 dark yellowish-brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AX	218	Sub-oval	0.95 x 0.80	0.10	Steep sloping N side, shallow sloping S side and a flat base filled with 210 brown sandy loam
Fig 6/AY	219	Irregular	0.96 x 0.88	0.05	Very shallow sloping sides and a flattish base filled with 211 brown sandy clay loam

AREA 2

Phase 3A: Possible linear pit group (Fig 8)

A possible linear arrangement of pits represented by depressions and anomalies under later features C-ditch **1017** and ditch **1021**) extended south-west from the eastern side of the excavated area (see Table 6). The admittedly slight evidence for their existence is far from conclusive as the majority of the anomalies could represent early fills in the ditch (**1021**). Only the south-west pit **1038** was sufficiently visible in both plan and profile to record its dimensions (Fig 6/BD).

Phase 3B: C-ditch 1017 (Fig 8)

C-shaped ditch **1017** appeared to extend from a penannular cropmark on the east side of the excavated area. The *c* 14m length exposed, suggests that the internal diameter was at least 11m. The ditch was 1.8-2.5m wide with a rounded profile 0.46m deep (Fig 6/BE). Its earliest fill **1017/4** dark reddish-grey sandy loam was spread evenly across the base of the ditch. It was overlaid on the outer edge by **1017/3**, a similar dark reddish-grey sandy loam and on the inner edge by **1017/2** reddish-brown sandy loam. The remainder of the fill **1017/1** reddish-brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles may have been the result of a later cut, but this was not

satisfactorily established. A single feature lay within the structure. Pit or posthole **1043** was sub-circular with steep sloping sides 0.40m x 0.30m and a rounded base 0.14m deep. It was filled with reddish-brown sandy loam with no clear evidence for a post-pipe (Fig 9/BF).

Table 6: Phase 3, Area 2 possible linear pit group

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Not drawn	**1023**	?	<1.1 N/S	?	Partially visible because cut by **1017** to the east and filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/BH	**1064**	?	<1.20 NW/SE	0.72	Partially visible because cut by **1021** to the E revealing funnelled side and flat base filled with **1021/7** dark brown sandy loam with pottery and flint and **1064/1** dark reddish-grey sandy loam overlaid by **1021/18** dark brown sandy loam. Not shown on plan
Fig 6/BC	**1036**	?	<2.1 NE/SW x 2.2	0.55	Partially visible because cut by **1021** revealing vertical W side, shallow sloping E side and flat base filled with **1036/1** very dark grey sandy loam on the W and **1021/21** reddish-brown sandy loam on the E
Fig 9/BG	**1037**	?	<1.1 NE/SW	0.65	Partially visible because cut by **1021** to the W revealing steep sloping sides and a flattish base filled with **1021/6** dark brown sandy loam overlaid by **1037/1** brown sandy loam overlaid by **1021/5** brown sandy loam and sealed by **1037/2** dark reddish-brown sandy loam. Not shown on plan
Fig 6/BD	**1038**	Circular	1.3 diameter	0.58	Partially visible at SW end of **1021**, with sloping sides to probable rounded base filled with dark brown sandy loam

Phase 3C: Ditch 1021 (Fig 8)

Ditch **1021** represented a linear feature identified as a cropmark on the west side of the ring-ditch. Excavation proved that it cut the south-west side of the C-ditch and extended with a slight curve to the south-west some 25m, perhaps following the alignment of the earlier probable linear pit group. It was a maximum of 2.2m wide, tapering to 1.3m wide at its south-west butt end and generally it had sloping sides and a rounded base, a maximum of 0.75m deep. Its apparent irregularity seems to have been a result of it having been cut through the earlier pits, the fills of which were softer and more easily removed than the natural gravel. It was filled with successions of sandy loam and gravel detailed in Table 7.

Table 7: Phase 3, Area 2 ditch 1021 (fills)

Section Ref	Context No	Fill type	Comments	Inclusions
	1021/1	Band	Dark grey (humic) sandy loam	Moderate gravel, occasional charcoal, heat cracked pebbles and pottery
	1021/2	Band	Dark grey sandy loam	Moderate gravel, occasional charcoal and pottery
Fig 9/BG	**1021/3**	Top	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel occasional charcoal and pottery
	1021/4	Basal/primary	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Frequent gravel, heat cracked pebbles and pottery
Fig 6/BC	**1021/8**	Bulk (amalgam)	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel and occasional charcoal
Fig 9/BH	**1021/9**	Top	Dark reddish-grey sandy loam	Occasional gravel
	1021/10	Band	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Frequent gravel
	1021/12	Band	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel and occasional charcoal
	1021/13	Band	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel and occasional charcoal
	1021/14	Basal/bulk	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Frequent gravel
	1021/15	Band	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel and occasional charcoal
	1021/16	Primary	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel and occasional charcoal
Fig 6/BD	**1021/17**	Bulk (amalgam)	Brown/dark brown sandy loam	Moderate gravel and occasional charcoal

Activity Area C (Fig 8)

An area of activity (possibly delineating a structure) was intimated by a group of features along the north-eastern edge of Area 2 (see Table 8). An entrance to this otherwise un-marked area was defined by two short lengths of curving gully on the north side of the C-shaped ditch. Gully **1015** formed a short northward spur from the C-ditch and **1055** continued the alignment some 8m to the north-west. Gully **1015** was 3m long and had steep sloping sides 0.44m wide and a rounded but uneven base 0.08m deep (Fig 9/BI). It was filled with **1015/1** brown/dark brown sandy loam within which was a small patch (0.12m x 0.12m) of red (burnt) sandy clay and other patches of very dark grey sandy loam with much charcoal and heat cracked pebbles, that were probably derived from an hearth. A radiocarbon date acquired from charcoal derived from this fill of 3350–3010 cal BC (GU-11272) suggests that some of it was Neolithic and therefore residual.

Gully **1055** was aligned broadly north-south, albeit curving out to the west and appeared to consist of two cuts, one *c* 9m long and the other *c* 6.75m long, although it was not possible to determine the order in which they were dug. The eastern (longer) cut was more curved with sloping sides and a rounded base 0.10m deep (Fig 9/BK), whilst the outer, western cut was entirely truncated in places with a maximum depth of 0.14m (Fig 9/BJ). The entire feature was filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay. A number of other features appeared to be related although only postholes **1057** and **1058** are likely to have been structural.

Table 8: Phase 3, Area 2 activity area C pits and postholes

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 9/BL	**1016**	Sub-circular	0.36	0.08	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/BM	**1053**	Sub-oval	0.75 x 0.32	0.09	Sloping sides and a rounded base filled with reddish-brown sandy loam
Not drawn	**1057**	Sub-circular	0.60 x 0.50	0.05	Sloping sides and a rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Not drawn	**1058**	Circular	0.30	0.05	Sloping sides and a rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Not drawn	**1084**	Sub-circular	0.80 x 0.60	0.05	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam

Sinuous gully sequence (Fig 8)

A series of gullies extended from the eastern edge of excavation on the north side of Activity area C, presumably to provide drainage for the area and possibly to define the northern extent of the settlement. Dating evidence was limited but the following sequence can be extrapolated. Gully **1194** appeared to represent an early cut *c* 1.1m wide but it remained unexcavated. It was however truncated by gully **1052** that had sloping sides 1.0m wide, a flat base 0.13m deep (Fig 9/BN) and was filled with brown sandy loam. Gully **1046** lay immediately south and had shallow sloping sides 0.65m wide, a flat base 0.07m deep (Fig 9/BN) and was filled with brown sandy loam.

Immediately to the south, two further short lengths of gully are associated by proximity. Gully **1047** extended 2.5m from the eastern edge of the excavation and butt ended 1.1m from north-south gully **1048** (Fig 9/BP) with which it may have been contemporary. Gully **1047** had sloping sides 0.30m wide and a rounded base 0.10m deep and was filled with dark brown sandy loam. Gully **1048** had sloping sides 0.70m wide, an irregular base 0.14m deep (Fig 9/BO-BP) and was also filled with dark brown sandy loam.

Activity area D (Fig 8)

A group of three features lying 11m to the west of the C-ditch probably represented an area of activity associated with hearth residues. Gully **1074** was aligned north-south, 4.30m long with moderately sloping sides 1.20m wide, a flattish base 0.33m deep and filled with brown sandy loam with heat-cracked pebbles. At its southern end banana gully **1061** was aligned east-west curving to the north-west at the north end. It was 4m long with sloping sides 1.2m wide and a rounded base 0.39m deep. The earliest of its three fills **1061/3** dark reddish-grey sandy loam contained frequent heat-cracked pebbles. Overlying band **1061/2** dark grey clay was itself sealed by **1061/1** brown/dark brown sandy loam. A radiocarbon date from charcoal from this fill (GU-11487: 260-40 cal BC) appears to confirm its broad contemporaneity with the phase.

Pit **1063** lay 0.35m off the north-west end of gully **1061**. It was oval, 1.35m long by 0.75m wide, with sloping sides and a rounded base, and filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam. Pit **1060** was 0.70m in diameter with moderate sloping sides and a rounded base 0.26m deep (Fig 9/BQ) filled with very dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam with patches of (burnt) very dark grey loamy sand with much charcoal.

Structure E (Fig 8)

This was the most ephemeral structure on the site being intimated by a small gully **1002** that was aligned north-south *c* 12m west of the C-shaped ditch. It was 3m long with moderately steep sloping sides 1m wide, a flat base 0.33m deep and filled with reddish-brown sandy loam with numerous heat-cracked pebbles.

AREA 4 (Figs 7, 10 & 11)

Structure F (Fig 10)

This structure was located some 46m from the eastern edge of Area 4 and appears to have been isolated. It was defined by a NE/SW aligned gully **2050** which bowed slightly to the south-east. The gully had steep, near vertical sides 0.25m wide, a flat base 0.16m deep (Fig 9/BV-BY) and was at least 5m long, its south-west extent visible only as a soil stain. It was filled with reddish-brown sandy clay loam. Pit **2051** located at the south-west end of **2050** had very steep sloping sides 0.45m wide, a concave base 0.30m deep (Fig 9/BZ) and was filled with reddish-brown sandy clay loam identical to the fill of **2050**.

Structure G (Fig 11)

Structure G was located 34m to the north-west of Structure F and was represented by a small arc of a gully **2011** aligned south to north-west and visible for a length of 3m, its southern extent having been truncated by modern disturbance. It remained unexcavated but was 0.40m wide on the surface and contained brown/dark brown sandy loam which produced pottery. Nearby unexcavated gully **2009** also produced pottery but only survived as a short 2m length aligned east-west, truncated by a later gully to the east and modern disturbance to the west.

Table 9: Phase 3, Area 4 pit group

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 9/CA	2036	Pear	1.0 x 0.36	0.05	Shallow sloping sides filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CB	2027	Pear	1.60 x 1.12	0.15	Brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CC	2002	Pear	1.43 x 0.92	0.17	Sloping sides and flattish base filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
Fig 9/CD	2012	Sub-pear	1.10 x 0.80	0.15	Sloping sides and flat base filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam and heat cracked pebbles
Fig 9/CE	2013	Sub-pear	0.98 x 0.85	0.22	Steep sloping sides and a rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
Fig 9/CF	2014	Sub-pear	1.71 x 0.85	0.24	Sloping sides and a flattish base filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
Fig 9/CG	2017	Pear	1.04 x 0.86	0.20	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CH	2028	Elongated pear	1.88 x 0.71	0.05	Very shallow sloping sides and flat uneven base (possibly two conjoined features) filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CI	2061	Circular	0.77	0.15	Sloping sides and uneven base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CI	2038	Circular	0.50	0.36	Steep sloping NW side, sloping SE side and angular base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
	2015	Circular	0.80	0.20	Steep sloping sides and flat base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam with few charcoal flecks
Fig 9/CJ	2016	Circular	1.26	0.15	Sloping sides and flat base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
	2019	Circular	0.58	0.11	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CK	2020	Circular	0.55	0.03	Flat base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CL	2022	Circular	0.45	0.05	Rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CM	2023	Sub-circular	0.67 x 0.50	0.15	Moderately steep sloping sides and flat sloping base filled with reddish-brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CN	2024	Oval	0.84 x 0.67	0.11	Moderately steep sloping sides and rounded base filled with dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CO	2026	Sub-circular	1.15 x 1.16	0.10	Steep sloping sides and flat base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CP	2031	Circular	0.50	0.10	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
	2032	Circular	0.43	0.03	Rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
	2033	Oval	0.86 x 0.47	0.10	Moderately steep sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CQ	2035	Oval	0.81 x 0.51	0.13	Moderately steep sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
	2037	Elongated oval	1.42 x 0.30	0.06	Shallow sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CR	2039	Circular	0.30	0.08	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam with heat cracked pebbles
Fig 9/CS	2043	Circular	055	0.03	Flattish base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
	2046	Oval	1.74 x 0.90	0.05	Sloping sides and flattish base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CT	2047	Oval	0.70 x 0.43	0.06	Shallow sloping sides and flat base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CU	2055	Circular	0.45	0.05	Shallow sloping sides and flattish base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CX	2065	Sub-oval	0.69 x 0.43	0.06	Sloping sides and rounded (uneven) base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CY	2066	Sub-circular	0.45 x 0.37	0.17	Steep sloping sides and angular base filed with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
Fig 9/DA	2097	Circular	0.47	0.10	Moderately steep sloping sides and flattish base filled with brown sandy clay loam
Fig 9/DB	2098	Circular	0.30	0.11	Moderately steep sloping sides and flat base filled with brown sandy clay loam
Fig 9/DC	2057	Sub-circular	1.70 x 1.40	0.14	Steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with reddish-brown sandy clay loam

Pits (Figs 7, 10 & 11)

A number of pits can be dated to this phase (see Table 9). Two of these, in the north-east corner of Area 4 (Fig 7), were an unusual pear shape: Pit **2036** and pit **2027**, some 24m to the south-west (Fig 11). They appear to have been included in a broad scatter of similar features located along the eastern edge of the excavated area outside the small rectangular enclosure indicated by a cropmark to the south-east. The group included a further six pear shaped pits (**2002, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2028** (all on Fig 11) whilst a further example may have been recorded as two separate pits **2061** and **2038** (Fig 11). This group was interspersed with other undated pits of a more conventional circular, sub-circular or oval shape (**2015, 2016, 2019, 2022, 2026, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2039** (Fig 11)), **2046** (Fig 11), **2047** (Fig 7), **2055, 2062, 2063, 2066** (all on Fig 11), **2047 & 2098** (Fig 7). The other dated pit **2057** lay to the north-west of this group (Fig 10).

A group of four pits (**2024, 2043, 2023** and **2020**) formed an alignment parallel to the small enclosure at the western edge of the group (Fig 11) and conceivably represented a fence line although none of the fills revealed evidence of post-pipes.

Three reasonably distinct groups of pear shaped pits can be recognised, although two (**2017** & **2002**) remained discrete from all the others. There is no apparent correlation with their orientation other than that the central pair (**2028** and **2027**) and the outlier (**2017**) were all aligned west-east. Of the remainder, two were aligned south-west to north-east, two north-west to south-east, two north-east to south west and one east-west.

Other features (Fig 11)

Gully **2067** extended west from the north-west corner of the sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure for an uncertain length as it was truncated by a later gully. It was at least 0.95m deep and filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam which contained many heat-cracked pebbles (Fig 12/EE-EF). It remains possible that it was associated with an otherwise untraceable structure.

Phase 4: Iron Age to Roman Transition (1st-century AD)

This phase consists of a small group of features in Area 2 and the earliest datable parts of the field system.

AREA 2

Structure H (Fig 8)

This structure was represented by a single gully **1056**. It was aligned east-west on the west side of Phase 3 gully **1055**, bowing slightly to the north, implying that the structure existed to its south. It was 3m long by 0.80m wide with steep sloping sides, a flat base 0.17m deep (Fig 12/DD) and was filled with dark reddish-brown/greyish-brown sandy clay loam with many heat-cracked pebbles, pottery and daub.

Structure I (Fig 8)

Structure I was intimated by a similarly sized feature **1059** some 11m to the south-west of Structure H, presumably replacing the Phase 3 Structure D. It was 3.7m long

and aligned roughly east-west. It was wider at both ends than in the middle (W 1.4m, C 1.2m, E 1.7m) and had sloping sides and a flat base 0.24m deep (Fig 12/DE). It was filled with very dark greyish-brown sandy loam with a patch of red (burnt) clay and patches of very dark grey silty loam with charcoal and frequent heat-cracked pebbles indicative of hearth material. It also produced a large assemblage of pottery, daub and a loom weight.

Structure J (Fig 8)

This structure was positioned south-west of Structure I presumably replacing Structure E. It was represented by curving gully **1001** which formed the north-west side of a near semi-circular arc 11.25m long. It was 0.60m wide with steep sloping sides and a flattish base, generally narrower and shallower at the east end where it seemed to bottom out. It was filled with dark reddish/grey brown sandy loam with frequent heat-cracked pebbles. It was aligned to the south with oval pit **1014** which was 0.46m x 0.35m with steep sloping sides and a flat base filled with reddish-brown sandy loam. Elongated pit **1011** continued the alignment further to the south. It was 3.30m long by 0.65m deep, had irregular, gentle sloping sides and flat base 0.12m deep and was filled with reddish-brown sandy loam.

A small group of very shallow postholes (**1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069**) was identified inside the projected circumference of gully **1001**, although their respective positions relative to gully **1001** and each other need not imply that they were structural (see Table 10). Inter-cutting pits **1004** and **1005** possibly represented activity associated with this structure although their relationship could not be established. Pit **1006** and was located close by and could perhaps have been related but may instead have been natural soil disturbances.

Table 10: Phase 4, Area 2 Structure J associated pits and postholes

Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
1004	Sub-square	2.00 x 1.20	0.42	Steep sides and rounded base filled with dark reddish-brown sandy loam with many heat cracked pebbles
1005	Oval	1.70 x 1.50	0.15	Gentle sloping sides and a flat base filled with reddish-brown sandy loam
1006	Amorphous	0.76 x 0.64	0.11	Irregular sides, gently sloping to S and steep to the N and irregular base filled with reddish-brown sandy loam
1065	Sub-circular	0.25	0.04	Irregular sides and base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
1066	Sub-oval	0.11	0.05	Irregular sides and base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
1067	Sub-oval	0.40 x 0.30	0.06	Irregular sides and base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
1068	Sub-oval	0.18 x 0.15	0.06	Irregular sides and base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
1069	Oval	0.16 x 0.10	0.09	Irregular sides and base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam

Sinuous gully sequence (Fig 8)

A further group of sinuous gullies at the north end of this area although not directly dated, seem likely to belong to this phase if not the previous one. Gully **1045** aligned north-south was visible for 9m on the eastern edge of the excavation and conjoined with gullies **1049** and **1051** at its southern end. It had moderately sloping sides 0.50m wide, a flattish base 0.20m deep (Fig 12/DF) and was filled with brown sandy loam. Gullies **1049** and **1051** were sinuously aligned east-west, extending into the excavated area some 20m before butt ending, although **1051** was almost entirely bottomed out mid-way along its length and it was not possible to determine their relationship. Gully **1049** had steep sloping sides 0.70m wide, a rounded base 0.23m deep (Fig 9/BP, DG) and was filled with brown sandy loam. Gully **1051** had moderately steep sloping sides 0.55m wide, a rounded base 0.14m deep (Fig 12/DG) and was filled

with **1051/2** dark brown sandy loam overlaid by **1051/1** reddish-brown sandy loam. Gully **1192** emerged from the eastern edge of the excavation at the north end of the site and kinked sharply to the south before continuing west for *c* 19m.

Boundary gullies (Figs 7, 13 & 14)

The western part of the excavated area was crossed by a series of narrow, shallow, gullies that probably formed the boundaries of fields and associated trackways. Without exception they were irregular in profile and varied in depth and width across their exposed lengths. They each contained a variety of sandy loam and clay fills which were derived from the soils through which they were cut, which in the case of the longer examples could vary considerably (see Table 11).

North-south aligned gully **1026** cut across the western edge of the excavated area (Fig 13). It seemed to represent the earliest in a series of gullies that defined the edge of the gravel terrace and thus formed the edge of a land-unit, defining the area of gravel soils in which the structures to the east were integral. To the west the ground surface remained level although the gravels were capped with a thick, stiff clay. This clay was less well drained than the gravel and would have been considerably more difficult to plough. Gully **1026** was replaced by gully **1025**, and crossed the former alignment (Fig 13). This feature was the only one of the boundary gullies to produce dating evidence.

Table 11: Phases 4 or 5, Area 2 boundary gully descriptions

Feature No	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Section Ref	Context	Description
1025	1.20-2.10	0.38-0.53			Sloping stepped sides becoming shallower and V-shaped to N
				1025/1	Dark grey clay with reddish-brown mottles
				1025/2	Grey sandy clay with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
			Fig 9/BS	1025/3	Dark grey sandy loam
			Fig 9/BT	1025/4	Dark grey clay with reddish-brown sandy mottles
			Fig 9/BT	1025/5	Grey sandy clay with reddish-brown mottles
			Fig 9/BU	1025/6	Dark grey clay with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
			Fig 9/BU	1025/7	Grey sandy clay with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
			Fig 9/BU	1025/8	Dark grey sandy loam with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
				1025/9	Dark grey clay with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
1026	1.15	0.28-0.34			Sloping sides and rounded base becoming smaller V-shaped to N
			Fig 9/BR	1026/1	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam
			Fig 9/BR	1026/2	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam
			Fig 9/BS	1026/3	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam

Phase 5: Romano-British (2nd- to 4th-century AD)

AREA 9

Enclosure annexe (Fig 15)

A rectangular enclosure delineated by gullies **202** and **203** was constructed as an annexe on the eastern side of the Phase 3 enclosure ditch. It extended some 18m-22m to the east enclosing an area of some 1500 sq m. Its eastern entrance was slightly offset from the main enclosure, but maintained a direct sight-line to the site of the former central buildings (Structures A & B) and was 7.50m wide between gully terminals. The annexe appears to have been constructed before the main enclosure

ditch had fully silted, which may suggest that some form of upstanding earthwork associated with the ditch also survived.

Gully **202** was moderately steep sided 0.53-1.03m wide with a flattish rounded base 0.10-0.53m deep (Fig 12/DH-DL). Its earliest fill **267** was yellowish-brown sandy gravel, which was overlaid by **246, 247, 259, 260, 263 & 264** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam. A human cremation **258** had been inserted into this deposit during the silting process in a matrix of dark brown sandy loam with 50% charcoal fragments (0.25m wide x 0.05m deep) (Fig 12, Section DJ). Gully **203** (Fig 12/DM-DN) was largely truncated, being little more than a soil stain in the south-east corner.

Gully **202** cut an earlier pit or possibly natural feature **265**, which was circular, steep sided with a slightly curving base 0.12m deep (Fig 12/DO) and filled with **266** dark yellowish-brown sandy loam.

The upper two layers of the fill of the north-east corner of the Phase 3 large enclosure ditch **381** and **382** (Fig 5/G) both contained pottery of this phase as well as a considerable quantity of heat-cracked pebbles and other burnt material.

External gullies (Fig 15)

The Phase 3 pits on the north side of the enclosure were cut by two abutting gullies **273** and **274=287**. The western gully **273** was 11.25m long with steep sloping sides 0.78-1.17m wide and a flattish base 0.06-0.39m deep (Fig 12/DP-DS). It was filled with a succession of dark yellowish-brown (**275, 276, 277**) (with residual Phase 3 pottery (**279, 296, 297**) and brown/dark brown (**278, 303**) sandy loam layers. Gully **274** was over 20m long, being truncated to the east and in parts along its length, but was approximately 0.50-0.76m wide (Fig 12/DT). Towards the eastern extent it appeared to have been the product of two cuts (**287** and **289**) although their relationship could not be established. It had relatively shallow sides and a flattish base 0.04m-0.25m deep and was filled with dark yellowish-brown sandy loam (**280, 281, 288, 290**).

A single pit **356** attributable to this phase was found inside the large enclosure (Fig 15). It was circular, 1.30m in diameter with steep sloping sides and a flat base 0.27m deep (Fig 12/DU) filled with **357** brown silty loam. It contained residual Phase 3 pottery.

AREAS 2 & 4

Enclosed Fields (Figs 7, 10, 11, 13 & 14)

In Area 2, a short length of gully **1035** (Fig 14) that may have been part of a field boundary was aligned roughly north-west to south-east in the central part of the area (see Table 12). It was cut by later field boundaries and may have represented the only surviving remnant of an early field. It was 6.7m long and had a slight southward curve perhaps indicative of a corner, a precursor to the field detailed below.

A rectilinear field orientated north-west to south-east was defined by a series of gullies that cut all the preceding boundaries (Table 12). It enclosed an area measuring 60m-80m north-south by 100m-115m east-west. Gully **1029** formed the southern side and continued as **1028** to form the western side (Fig 13). Successive stages of the northern and eastern sides were formed by gullies **1033** and **1041** (Fig 14), although, their relationship could not be established and neither gully could be

traced the full width of the field. Gully **1041** extended at least 8m further east than **1033**, which given that the latter aligns with a later trackway that crossed the area, suggests that it post-dates **1041**. Both **1033** and **1041** curved to the south giving the field a rounded north-east corner similar to that created by **1029** in the south-west corner. The east-west aligned part of gully **1033** was cut by short length of gully **1034** which forked to the north perhaps delineating an additional field on that side although there was no further evidence for this.

Table 12: Phase 5, Areas 2 and 4 boundary gully descriptions

Feature No	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Section Ref	Context	Description
1024	0.65-1.16	0.17-0.36			Sloping sides and rounded base, deeper to the S
			Fig 9/BT	**1024/1**	Dark grey sandy loam with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
			Fig 12/EG	**1024/2**	Dark grey sandy loam with dark reddish-brown sandy clay mottles
1028	0.60	0.14			Sloping sides and rounded base
			Fig 9/BT	**1028/1**	Grey sandy loam with dark reddish-brown sandy clay mottles
1029	1.0-1.15	0.27-0.32			Sloping sides and rounded base shelved on S side
			Fig 12/EG	**1029/1**	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam
			Fig 12/DW	**1029/2**	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with dark reddish-brown sandy mottles
			Fig 12/DW	**1029/3**	Grey sandy loam
				1029/4	Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with 60% gravel
1033	0.44	0.14			Sloping sides and flat base becoming V-shaped to the W
			Fig 12/DX	**1033/1**	Brown sandy loam with yellowish red sandy mottles
			Fig 12/DY	**1033/2**	Brown sandy loam with yellowish red sandy mottles
1034	0.26	0.16			Moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded base
			Fig 12/DY	**1034/1**	Brown sandy loam with yellowish red sandy mottles
1035	0.63	0.10			Sloping sides and flat base
			Fig 12/DV	**1035/1**	Brown sandy loam
1039	0.80	0.14			Sloping sides and flattish base
			Fig 12/DZ	**1039/1**	Brown sandy loam
1040	1.0	0.15			Sloping sides and flattish base
			Fig 12/DZ	**1040/1**	Brown sandy loam
1041	0.62-0.75	0.14			Sloping sides and flattish base
			Fig 12/DV	**1041/1**	Brown sandy loam
			Fig.12/DY	**1041/2**	Brown sandy loam
2006	1.13	0.30			Sloping sides and rounded base
			Fig 12/EO, EP, EK	**2006/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2007	0.45-0.8	?			Unexcavated
				2007/1	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2008	0.51	0.09			Sloping sides and rounded base
			Fig 12/EI	**2008/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2009	0.26	?			Unexcavated
			Fig 12/EJ	**2009/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2029	1.50-1.75	0.33-0.50			Sloping sides and rounded base
			Fig 12/C-EF	**2029/1**	Reddish-brown sandy clay loam
2068	0.50	0.06			Shallow sloping sides and rounded base
			Fig 12/EQ	**2068/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy loam
2069	1.5	0.30			Sloping sides and flat base
			Fig 12/EN	**2069/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy loam
2095	0.70	0.20			Steep sloping sides and flat base very shallow in places
			Fig 12/EK-EM	**2095/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2099	1.10	0.05			Flat base becoming soil stain to the S
			Fig 12/EH	**2099/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2100	072	0.08			Sloping sides and a rounded base
			Fig 12/EB	**2100/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2101	0.37	0.09			Sloping sides and rounded base
			Fig 12/EA	**2101/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam
2102	0.42	0.12			Steep sloping sides and irregular base
			Fig 12/EB	**2102/1**	Brown/dark brown sandy clay loam

Trackway (Fig 14)

A trackway some 18m wide cut across the eastern edge of the field system. In Area 2 it was defined by gullies **1039** and **1040** to the east and to the west by **1032** which cut across the earlier field boundary **1041** and recut gully **1033** along part of its length. To the north in Area 4 the eastern side of the trackway was visible as gullies **2101, 2100** and **2102** although it could not be established with which gullies to the south they were aligned. Evidence for the continuation of this system was evidently truncated during topsoil removal and recent ploughing.

Other gullies (Figs 10 & 11)

Gully **2029** appeared to represent the boundary of a field aligned on the north-west corner of the cropmark enclosure to the east of the area. It extended from a butt end adjacent to the eastern edge of the excavation area for some 55m to the west before turning to the north for a further 6m after which it could not be traced on the ground. As a north-south gully it aligned with the trackway gullies (**1039, 1040, 2101, 2100, 2102**) and was represented on aerial photographs to the north of the excavation as an inverted L-shape.

Gully **1024** (Fig 13) formed the westernmost and latest boundary on the site and if contemporary with the trackway, provided fields approximately 100m wide on the west side of that feature.

Gully **2006** was aligned east-west and extended 62m from the eastern edge of the excavation to where it conjoined with north-south gully **2099** which extended to the south forming the north-west corner of a field aligned on the trackway identified in Area 2. Gully **2006** also continued westward for 48m after a break of *c* 5m from the corner with **2099**.

Gully **2007** was aligned east-west parallel to and some 34m to the south of gully **2029**. Like **2029** it extended from a butt end adjacent to the eastern edge of the excavation but it could only be traced as segments of soil stain *c* 60m to the west. Its relationship with north-south gullies **2099, 2100, 2101** and **2102** remains unknown. Gully **2008** formed a north-south spur from **2007** some 14m from the latter's eastern terminal and it extended north for 12m where it was truncated by plough furrow **2010**.

Gully **2095** (Fig 11) aligned with gully **2069** extended north-south across the eastern end of the excavated area and probably represented a continuation of an enclosure identified at the north end of extraction Area 2. Two of the segments abutted either side of gully **2006**, which must still have been in use at this time.

AREA 4

Possible Structure K (Fig 10)

This tentative structure was indicated by gully **2049** and nearby pit **2048**. Gully **2049** was aligned east-west and bowed slightly to the south. It was at least 4.5m long although its western extent was obscured by gully **2029** from which it could not be distinguished. It had steep sloping sides 0.35m wide, a flattish base 0.12m deep (Fig 12/ER) and it was filled with brown/dark brown sandy clay loam. Adjacent pit **2048** was sub-circular with shallow sloping sides (0.50m x 0.40m), a concave base 0.08m deep and filled with reddish-brown sandy clay loam (Fig 12/ES).

Pits (Figs 7 & 10)

Pit **2056** lay 50m south of Structure K (Fig 10) and it was unique in that it was clearly used as a dump for waste material. Two further pits (**2080** & **2081**) lay toward the centre of the excavated area as did nearby pit **2077** (Fig 7). For details see Table 13.

Table 13: Phase 5, Area 4 pits

Section Ref	Context No	Shape	Size (m)	Depth (m)	Comments
Fig 12/ET, EU	**2056**	Oval	3.30 x 1.95	0.40	Steep sloping N side moderately sloping S side and flat base. Earliest fill **2056/6** very dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam overlaid by **2056/5** greyish-brown sandy clay loam, in turn overlaid by **2056/3** brown sandy clay loam. **2056/4** greyish-brown sandy loam on the N edge overlaid by **2056/2** dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam with charcoal and heat cracked pebbles was sealed by **2056/1** greyish-brown sandy clay loam
Fig 12/EX	**2070**	Oval	0.65 x 0.45	0.17	Sloping sides and rounded base filled with dark greyish-brown sandy loam
Fig 12/EY	**2071**	Circular	0.51	0.09	Sloping sides and a flat uneven base filled with brown/dark brown sandy loam
Fig 12/EZ	**2072**	Oval	0.74 x 0.58	0.18	Sloping sides and rounded base containing two fills: possible post packing **2072/2** yellowish-brown sandy clay loam and possible post pipe **2072/1** dark greyish-brown sandy loam
Fig 9/CZ	**2077**	Circular	0.43	0.15	Steep sloping sides and rounded base filled with grey sandy clay loam
Fig 12/EV	**2080**	Circular	0.35	0.14	Very steep sloping side and flat base filled with grey sandy clay
Fig 12/EW	**2081**	Circular	0.50	0.10	Shallow sloping sides and rounded base filled with dark grey sandy clay loam

Fence line (Fig 7)

A small group of three pits at the western end of the site **2070, 2071** and **2072** seem to have been related to activity at the western end of the enclosed fields and may have represented part of a fence line.

Phase 6: Medieval

This phase includes evidence for Saxo-Norman activity in the form of a single sherd of probable 10th-century St Neots ware found in a Phase 5 boundary gully and also some Prunus charcoal found within Phase 3 Area 9 northern pit **343/1** which produced a radiocarbon date of 1069-1290 Cal AD (GU-11274).

Ridge and furrow (Figs 7, 8, 10 & 11)

A series of east-west linear features was identified at the eastern edge of the excavated area which without exception gradually faded out to the west, presumably a result of modern plough truncation. They almost certainly relate to the medieval strip ploughing of the river terrace. In Area 2 (Fig 8) they included **1018, 1019, 1020=1003** and **1042** which measured *c* 5.5m between centres. Furrow **1044** extended almost the entire width of the area and had sloping sides 1.10m wide and a flattish base 0.20m deep with a slot (0.05m deep) at the base along the northern side, which may have been a separate cut or drainage channel. Some 11m to the south, **1050** extended for at least 110m before fading out. In Area 4 **2010, 2021, 2030, 2040** and **2044** are also likely to represent furrows (Figs 10 & 11).

Phase 7: Modern

A number of ceramic land drains crossed the site. In Area 2 they included **1027, 1031, 1083, 1191** and **1193** and in Area 4 **2082, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108**.

Topsoil

Topsoil across the site was brown loam (**1077=2000**). It overlay an older, paler, brown sandy loam plough soil **2001=1078** which represented the ploughed down remains of the medieval ridges.

RADIOCARBON DETERMINATIONS

A series of charcoal samples was sent to the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre in East Kilbride for radiocarbon determinations. Short-lived species were selected to reduce the error margin that is possible from long-lived wood. Identification of the charcoal to genus level was by Rowena Gale.

GU-11272: Hazel (*Corylus*), Area 2/3, Activity Area C, **1015/1/1,** 4470±45 BP
GU-11274: Prunus, Area 9/3, northern pit **343/1,** 815±45 BP
GU-11275: Prunus, Area 9/3 northern pit **347/1,** 2235±45 BP
GU-11276: Pomoideae, Area 9/3 enclosure ditch **376/1,** 2190±45 BP
GU-11277: Pomoideae, Area 9/3, enclosure ditch **396/1,** 2165±45 BP
GU-11487: Hazel/alder (*Corylus/Alnus*), Area 2/3, Structure D, **1061/1/1,** 2125±45 BP

The dates are uncalibrated in radiocarbon years BP (Before Present – AD 1950) using the half life of 5568 years. When calibrated using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal PROGRAM v3.8 (Bronk Ramsay 2002) and the 1998 calibration curve (Stuiver *et al* 1998) the following age ranges are obtained.

GU-11272: 4470±45BP
68.2% probability
3330BC (39.7%) 3210BC
3190BC (8.7%) 3150BC
3130BC (11.4%) 3080BC
3070BC (8.4%) 3030BC
95.4% probability
3350BC (93.1%) 3010BC
2980BC (1.0%) 2960BC
2950BC (1.3%) **2930BC**

GU-11274: 815±45BP
68.2% probability
1190AD (68.2%) 1275AD
95.4% probability
1060AD (2.5%) 1090AD
1120AD (2.3%) 1140AD
1150AD (90.6%) **1290AD**

GU-11277: 2165±45
68.2% probability
360BC (29.4%) 280BC
260BC (34.3%) 150BC
140BC (4.4%) 110BC
95.4% probability
370BC (95.4%) **50BC**

GU-11275: 2235±BP
68.2% probability
380BC (15.9%) 350BC
320BC (45.3%) 230BC
220BC (7.0%) 200BC
95.4% probability
400BC (95.4%) **180BC**

GU-11276: 2190±45
68.2% probability
360BC (37.2%) 280BC
260BC (31.0%) 170BC
95.4% probability
390BC (95.4%) **110BC**

GU-11487: 2125±45BP
68.2% probability
210BC (68.2%) 50BC
95.4% probability
360BC (14.0%) 280BC
260BC (81.4%) **40 BC**

Four of the dates (GU-11275, GU-11276, GU-11278 and GU-11487) are consistent and seem likely to accurately reflect the phase to which they have been attributed. The two anomalous dates can be ascribed to residual material within the feature (GU-11272) and intrusion, probably by worm sorting (GU-11274).

Table 14: Selected Iron Age radiocarbon dates from Warwickshire

Iron Age Phase	Site	Laboratory Reference	Radiocarbon Age (BP)	*Calibration (95.4%)	Publication
Late	Ling Hall Quarry Area Z	SUERC-24733	2000 ± 35	100 BC – 80 AD	Palmer in prep
Iron	Ling Hall Quarry Area Z	SUERC-24734	1950 ± 35	40 BC – 130 AD	Palmer in prep
Age	Wishaw, Hall Farm	NZA-25059	1980± 30	50 BC – 90 AD	Powell et al 2008
	Wishaw, Hall Farm	NZA-25058	1922± 35	AD – 220 AD	Powell et al 2008
	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-27160	1940± 30	20 BC – 130 AD	Palmer 2010
	Bidford-on-Avon, Lloyds Bank	HAR-3456	1960±70	160 BC – 230 AD	HER MWA 529
Mid-	Barford, Park Farm	OxA-2303	2085 ± 70	360 BC – 70 AD	Cracknell & Hingley 1994
Late	Barford, Park Farm	OxA-2304	2060 ± 70	360 BC – 90 AD	Cracknell & Hingley 1994
Iron	Barford, Park Farm	GU-5044	2080 ± 80	360 BC – 80 AD	Cracknell & Hingley 1994
Age	Barford Bypass, Area B	SUERC-24744	2095 ± 35	210 – 20 BC	Palmer 2010
	Alcester, Coulters Garage	HAR-4905	2410 ± 110	800 – 200 BC	Booth 1989
Mid	Barford, Park Farm	GU-5043	2160 ± 70	390 – 40 BC	Cracknell & Hingley 1994
Iron	Marsh Farm Quarry	GU-11275	2235±45	400 – 180 BC	This report
Age	Marsh Farm Quarry	GU-11276	2190±45	390 – 110 BC	This report
	Marsh Farm Quarry	GU-11277	2165±45	370 – 50 BC	This report
	Marsh Farm Quarry	GU-11487	2125±45	360 – 40 BC	This report
	High Cross Quarry	SUERC-24753	2145 ± 35	360 – 50 BC	Palmer 2009a
	High Cross Quarry	SUERC-25050	2230± 60	400 – 110 BC	Palmer 2009a
	High Cross Quarry	SUERC-24754	2230 ± 35	390 – 200 BC	Palmer 2009a
	High Cross Quarry	SUERC-24755	2180 ± 30	370 – 160 BC	Palmer 2009a
	Southam Quarry, Stockton	SUERC-24731	2175 ± 35	370 – 110 BC	Palmer 2009b
	Southam Quarry, Stockton	SUERC-24732	2115 ± 35	350 – 40 BC	Palmer 2009b
	Ryton-on-Dunsmore, traffic island	SUERC-24756	2170 ± 35	370 – 110 BC	S Palmer forthcoming
	Ryton-on-Dunsmore, traffic island	SUERC-24759	2110 ± 35	350 – 40 BC	S Palmer forthcoming
	Barford Bypass, Area A	SUERC-24745	2235 ± 35	390 – 200 BC	Palmer 2010a
	Barford Bypass, Area A	SUERC-24746	2145 ± 35	360 – 50 BC	Palmer 2010a
	Barford Bypass, Area A	SUERC-24967	2235± 30	390 – 200 BC	Palmer 2010a
	Wishaw Hall Farm	NZA-25167	2313± 30	410 – 230 BC	Powell et al 2008
	Middleton, Langley Mill	NZA-25062	2288± 30	410 – 200 BC	Powell et al 2008
	Middleton, Langley Mill	NZA-25061	2234± 30	390 – 200 BC	Powell et al 2008
	Middleton, Langley Mill	NZA-25240	2178± 30	370 – 110 BC	Powell et al 2008
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6900	2190 ± 35	380 – 160 BC	Palmer in press
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6903	2220 ± 35	390 – 200 BC	Palmer in press
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6904	2180 ± 35	380 - 110BC	Palmer in press
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6905	2220 ± 40	390 – 190 BC	Palmer in press
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6908	2185 ± 35	380 – 160 BC	Palmer in press
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6909	2255 ± 35	400 – 200 BC	Palmer in press
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6910	2210 ± 35	390 – 190 BC	Palmer in press
	Bubbenhall, Wood Farm	SUERC-24721	2130±35	360 – 40 BC	N Palmer forthcoming
	Bubbenhall, Wood Farm	SUERC-24722	2165±35	370 – 100 BC	N Palmer forthcoming
	Wasperton	GrA-32241	2370±30	540 – 380 BC	Carver et al 2009
	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-28097	2160±35	360 – 90 BC	Palmer 2010b
	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-28098	2255±30	400 – 200 BC	Palmer 2010b
	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-28101	2250±35	400 – 200 BC	Palmer 2010b
	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-28102	2245±30	400 – 200 BC	Palmer 2010b
Early	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-28099	2425±30	750 – 400 BC	Palmer 2010b
Iron	Hampton Lucy, Grove Fields Farm	SUERC-27159	2430±30	750 – 400 BC	Palmer 2010b
Age	Nadbury Camp	HAR-5887	2410±90	800 – 350 BC	Mc Arthur 1990
	Wellesbourne, Walton	SUERC-6899	2395 ± 35	740 – 390 BC	Palmer in press
	Wishaw Hall Farm	NZA-25080	2429± 35	770 – 400 BC	Powell et al 2008
	Salford Priors, Broom	OxA-6282	2570 ± 55	840 – 510 BC	Palmer 2000
	Salford Priors, Broom	OxA-6283	2475 ± 55	780 – 400 BC	Palmer 2000
	Ling Hall Quarry Area D	OxA-6393	2590 ± 60	900 – 510 BC	Palmer 2002
	Ling Hall Quarry Area D	OxA-6394	2505 ± 60	800 – 410 BC	Palmer 2002
	Ling Hall Quarry Area O	OxA-8428	2635 ± 50	920 – 560 BC	Palmer 2002
	Ling Hall Quarry Area Y	SUERC-24735	2455 ± 35	760 – 410 BC	Palmer in prep
	Ling Hall Quarry Area Y	SUERC-24743	2480 ± 35	770 – 410 BC	Palmer in prep
	Ling Hall Quarry Area Y	SUERC-24742	2540 ± 35	800 – 540 BC	Palmer in prep
	Barford, Park Farm	GU-5045	2500 ± 90	800 – 400 BC	Cracknell & Hingley 1994
	Lapworth, Hob Ditch	HAR-8874	2530 ± 90	820 – 400 BC	Cracknell & Hingley 1995

*NB Calibration is by the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration programme OxCal PROGRAM versions 3.9 and 3.10 (Bronk Ramsay 2009), the 1998 calibration curve (Stuiver et al 1998), and the atmospheric data from Reimer et al (2004).

The dates from Marsh Farm can be added to a growing corpus from Warwickshire including those from the 1993 road scheme (Palmer 2000) and in the Avon Valley at Barford (Cracknell & Hingley 1994; Palmer 2010a) and Hampton Lucy (Palmer 2010a; Palmer 2010b), in the Dene Valley at Walton (Palmer in press), as well as further afield on Dunsmore (Palmer in prep), north Warwickshire (Powell et al 2008; Palmer 2009a) and east Warwickshire (Palmer 2009b). Many of these dates are consistent with those from Marsh Farm and indicate widespread Middle Iron Age activity in Warwickshire, and not just confined to the river valleys.

Notwithstanding a raft of dates from Wasperton and the possibility that other dates have been acquired from sites unknown to the author, there are at least 60 Iron Age radiocarbon determinations in Warwickshire, from at least 18 individual sites (Table 14). Of these 60 dates, only six from only four sites have Late Iron Age calibrations; five dates from three sites can be considered Mid-Late Iron Age; 15 dates from eight sites are Early Iron Age and a massive 34 dates from 12 sites are Middle Iron Age. Although these statistics are derived from an equivocal dataset, insofar as they can not accurately represent all Iron Age settlement in Warwickshire, the fact that they are randomly generated provokes some unexpected inferences on alternative chronologies and on population dynamics.

Table 14 clearly demonstrates that Middle Iron Age activity was widespread in Warwickshire. The relative paucity of Late Iron Age dates seems to suggest that far fewer Late Iron Age sites have been excavated. This is a curious statistic given that the majority of the Middle Iron Age dates come from sites from which the ceramic evidence has been predominantly ascribed to the Late Iron Age. This alone could suggest that it is possible that the ceramic sequence in Warwickshire requires further consideration. It may also be true that fewer samples are submitted from sites like Tiddington where the relative chronology is that much more obvious as it includes a Late Iron Age to early Roman transitional component typified by fabric class E wares. On the other hand the results do not in anyway vindicate the orthodoxy of a population increase in the Late Iron Age and this is largely corroborated by the evidence excavated from Marsh Farm Quarry and in advance of the A46 (Palmer 2000) where an increase is not evident until the 1st-century AD.

FLINTWORK by Lynne Bevan

Introduction

The three combined assemblages from 1991 (Area 2), 1994 (Area 4) and 2000 (Area 9) consisted of 41 items of humanly worked flint weighing 226g. The assemblage comprised two pressure-flaked knives, seven retouched flakes, three retouched blades, two utilised flakes, three scrapers, one core trimming flake, one chunk and 22 unretouched flakes. A summary of flint finds by area/year appears in Table 15.

Raw Material

The flint used was of variable quality, ranging in colour from translucent light to dark brown and dark grey. When present, remnant cortex was thin and compacted and characteristic of pebble flint from a secondary source, probably local river gravels. Most of the tools and waste were in fresh condition despite the largely unstratified nature of their recovery, although three items exhibited the kind of wear associated with water rolling.

Table 15: Composition of flint assemblages by Area

Area	*Core Trim*	*Chunk*	*Flake*	*Utilised Flake*	*Ret. Flake*	*Ret. Blade*	*Flake knife*	*Scraper*
2			13	2	2	2		3
4			5		3	1	2	
9	1	1	4		2			
Totals	**1**	**1**	**22**	**2**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**3**

Artefacts and Dating

Three scrapers were identified in the Area 2 assemblage (Fig 16:6; **1059/1, 1077** not illustrated), all of which were side and end forms. Although scrapers are not generally a datable class of tool, these examples could be of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The illustrated scraper (Fig 16, 6) was made of a similar dark brown flint to two of the blades (Fig 16, 4-5), which might suggest that it belongs to the same industry. Metrical analysis to compare waste flake dimensions was unfeasible with an assemblage of this small size, although the waste flakes tended to be broad and squat and characteristic of a later Neolithic to Bronze Age date (Pitts 1978), in keeping with the dating of many of the tools and the core trimming fragment from a flake core (**288**, SF 225).

Despite the small size of the assemblage, several of the artefacts were datable, although only in general terms. The earliest item in the assemblage was probably a flake which showed a narrow blade detachment from previous core reduction (Area 9, **288**, SF 225, not illustrated), which might be of later Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. Two pressure-flaked knives were recovered, one of which was an ovoid, bifacially-worked form (Fig 16, 1) and the other was pressure-flaked on one side and worked to a point (Fig 16, 2). These are both of either later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. A broken blade which was steeply retouched and utilised on both sides (Fig 16, 3) is of probable Neolithic date. Two fine blades, also of Neolithic date and both of a dark chocolate brown flint, were recovered (Fig 16, 4-5).

Discussion

There was little evidence for pre-Bronze Age flintworking, as there were no formal cores in the assemblage, only one core trimming fragment from a flake core (**288**, SF 255), and no concentrations of debitage. The flake core was also the only item with blade detachments, which might be of later Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

Moreover, contemporaneity cannot be postulated for any of the assemblage, apart from, perhaps, the two dark brown blades (Fig 16, 4-5), which, as suggested above, might belong to the same industry as the illustrated scraper (Fig 16, 6). While a proportion of the assemblage such as the blades (Fig 16, 3-5) are obviously Neolithic in date, the scrapers and most of the other items might be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Scrapers are a class of tool generally associated with occupation *foci* (Schofield 1987). They also tend to be more resilient in ploughsoil than smaller tools, and thus might be subject to over-representation. Even so, the presence of three scrapers does suggest some form of settlement within the excavation area, although this is difficult to assess with such a small assemblage, especially if reoccupation of sites was a feature of prehistoric activity within the landscape. The type of settlement suggested by this small assemblage does not appear to have been of any great intensity or duration and it might have taken place in the form of a series of episodes during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, leaving scant traces on the archaeological record.

The excavator has noted the potential for Iron Age flintworking to have been undertaken at Marsh Farm, especially in view of the evidence for Iron Age settlement

on the site (Palmer 2000b). Previously, it was claimed that 'regular production and use of flint artefacts for everyday domestic activities declined and ceased altogether during the later Bronze Age' (Saville 1981, 6). Now, however, it is increasingly being argued that flint was still being worked on a domestic level during the Iron Age, as opposed to being residual in Iron Age contexts (Young & Humphrey 1999). The identification of Iron Age flintworking is complicated by the fact that few formal tools were produced during this period and there are no specific Iron Age tool types (ibid 233).

With a collection of this small size and scattered distribution, it was not possible to isolate Iron Age flint working at Marsh Farm, a possibility which seems unlikely in any case, in view of the fact that diagnostic tools recovered were of pre-Iron Age date. Only two items – a chunk (**253**, SF 161) and a flake (**347**, SF 219) – were recovered from contexts containing middle and late Iron Age pottery respectively, when iron tools would have been in more common usage (see Hancocks, this volume). Since neither item was chronologically diagnostic, the flints could easily have been residual from earlier periods.

Illustrated Catalogue (Fig 16, 1-6)

1. Knife, with pressure flaking on both sides. Light grey flint. L. 50mm, W. 35mm, Th. 15mm. Area 4/Phase 5 field boundary gully fill **2095/1**, SF 13.
2. Knife, with pressure flaking on one side, worked to a point. Light brown flint. L. 67mm, W. 33mm, Th. 7mm. Area 4/Phase 7 older topsoil **2001**, SF 2.
3. Blade, broken, steeply-retouched along one side and utilised on both sides. Dark brown flint. L: 24mm, W. 12mm, Th. 7mm. Area 4/Phase 7 older topsoil **2001**, SF 3.
4. Blade, with partial retouch on sides and at opposing ends. Dark brown flint. L. 44mm, W. 11mm, Th. 5mm. Area 2/Phase 7 topsoil **1078**.
5. Blade, with extensive retouch and utilisation. Dark brown flint. L. 38mm, W. 16mm, Th. 6mm. Area 2/Phase 7 topsoil **1078**.
6. Scraper, side and end form with extensive utilisation. Dark brown flint. L. 37mm, W. 23mm, Th. 8mm. Area 2/Phase 7 topsoil **1077**.

POTTERY by Annette Hancocks

Introduction

A total of 1311 sherds (*c* 9.3kg) of pottery with an average weight of 7.2g were recovered. The assemblage covers the Bronze Age, the Mid-Late Iron Age period, the Iron Age to Roman transition and the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. This report analyses the pottery deriving from well-stratified and secure contexts only, representing 89% of the total assemblage. The remaining 11% of material is residual in nature and derived from furrow fills and the ploughsoil. The quantification of the stratified material is detailed in Table 16.

The research aims were to characterise the site chronology and settlement economy through analysis of the ceramics, and to complement the published material existing for small rural settlements in Warwickshire.

For ease of reference, much of the pottery information is tabulated (Table 16) and the Mid-Late Iron Age and transitional material (Phases 3 and 4) has been treated as a single group. The Mid-Late Iron Age occupation is dated to *c* 400BC-AD43, and was derived from ditch, gully and pit fills. A Middle Iron Age component is supported by four of the six radiocarbon determinations from the site (GU 11487 260-40 cal BC;

GU 11277 370-50 cal BC; GU 11276 390-110 cal BC; GU 11275 400-180 cal BC) detailed below. In contrast, the Romano-British assemblage derived primarily from gully fills, and dated broadly to the 2nd- to 4th-century AD. The Iron Age assemblage was represented by securely stratified groups of pottery characterised by Mid-Late Iron Age globular and rounded shouldered jars with brushed and scored decoration. The pottery associated with the Romano-British phase was characterised by Roman pottery forms such as necked, globular and storage jars, bead and flanged bowls and dishes in locally and regionally traded fabrics.

Methodology

The material was recorded using the standard BUFAU pottery recording system and analysed using Access database software. The assemblage was quantified in full by sherd count, weight (g), and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). Only rim equivalents (REs) are published, but percentages for bases are recorded in the archive. The level of abrasion was not recorded for individual sherds, although general impressions were noted by context during the assessment.

The Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery assemblage in the archive is coded according to a system devised by David Knight (1998) and in conjunction with the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG) guidelines for the analysis and publication of later Prehistoric pottery (1997). The fabrics listed and described in the Pottery Appendix have been cross-referenced to the Warwickshire Prehistoric and Roman Fabric Type series.

The Roman pottery fabrics were classified using a site-specific series and were cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber & Dore 1998) and Warwickshire Museum Fabric Type series (Jerry Evans pers comm). The fabrics are listed and described in the Pottery Appendix. Where possible, precise form types and broad vessel classes (for example bowl, flagon and mortarium) were recorded. Other characteristics noted included decoration, evidence for manufacture (wasters) and, if present, repairs (rivets and rivet holes). The form catalogue is presented by fabric group.

Phase 1: Neolithic

No ceramic material was recovered from this phase.

Phase 2: Bronze Age

A single wall sherd (9g) of probable Bronze Age pottery was recovered. This was in a fabric indistinguishable from Warwickshire Roman Fabric G49 (thickness 8mm), (Pottery Appendix).

Phases 3 and 4: Mid-Late Iron Age and Transitional Roman

A total of 1054 sherds (7223g) was recovered, with an average sherd weight of 6.85g. This includes all the material from Phase 3 and 4, although Phase 4 has a distinct early Transitional/Roman feel to it. It was felt that studying Phases 3 and 4 together would be more beneficial since there was perhaps an element of continuity in occupation at the site. Indeed, within the Phase 4 assemblage contexts **1001, 1002, 1004, 1056/1** and **1059/1 & 1059/2** appear to form a single coherent group dating to the 1st-century AD. This group is distinguishable by the presence of diagnostic sherds such as an ovoid, neckless jar with rounded direct rim (Fig 17/37), a necked jar with

concave neck and everted rim with incised linear decoration on the rim (Fig 17/14) and a necked bowl with concave, everted rim (Fig 17/12). This is what makes the Phase 4 assemblage stand out from the Phase 3 material. In addition, there are a greater range and variety of fabrics within Phase 3, compared to Phase 4.

FABRICS

Nineteen handmade Iron Age fabrics have been identified one Class C, four Class E, three Class G, one Class O and ten Class P fabrics. Detailed descriptions of these fabrics are provided in the Pottery Appendix.

Class C, calcareous tempered ware, was represented by fabric C22, Malvernian Palaeozoic Limestone tempered ware, of middle to late 1st-century AD date. It was quite common, occurring at 3%, a ratio similar to that at the nearby site at Bidford Grange where it occurs at the level of 5%, Alcester 3% and Salford Priors 1.5%. Several forms were recognised in this fabric. These comprised a globular jar with concave, everted rim (Fig 17/45) and a globular jar with neckless, rounded direct rim (Fig 17/10). Two further ovoid jar forms were recorded (Fig 17/8, 9).

Other fabric groups that make smaller contributions to the overall Iron Age ceramic assemblage include Class E, early 'Belgic type' fabrics (4.7%) and Class G, coarse gritted tempered wares (7.1%).

The Class E wares were relatively uncommon at Marsh Farm. They are all clearly of 1st-century date. The most common fabric within the group was E21, a reduced fabric with common sand temper. Diagnostic sherds recognised in this fabric include a rounded shouldered jar with a concave neck and everted rim, with burnished external surface (Fig 17/11), a necked bowl with concave neck and everted rim (Fig 17/12) and a globular jar with concave neck and everted rim (Fig 17/13). One other diagnostic sherd was recognised from this fabric group, in fabric E31. This was a necked jar with concave neck and everted rim (Fig 17/14).

The Fabric Class G, Coarse gritted wares represent 7.1% of the overall assemblage. The group was dominated by fabrics G27, 4% and Malvernian Metamorphic tempered ware G44, 3%. Fabric G49, (0.1%) was represented by a probable Late Bronze Age sherd. Fabric G27 was found in small quantities at Alcester in Neronian to earlier 2nd-century deposits (Evans 2000a, 104). A single diagnostic rim sherd was recognised in fabric G27 (Fig 17, 15). Five further datable pieces were recognised in fabric G44 (Fig 17/16-19).

Of the Iron Age pottery, the most common fabric group was Class P, handmade, Iron Age Tradition fabrics. This group comprises 62% of the total assemblage and 75% of the Iron Age phase (Table 16). This ware group contained two distinct fabrics P12 (30%) and P62 (18%).

Fabric P12, has common moderate sand temper and some organic temper voids. It dominates the Class P fabric group. Forms recognised include several ovoid jars with rounded direct rims (Fig 17/31, 33-35, 37, 38), an open neckless vessel with flattened direct rim (Fig 17/39) and a globular, neckless jar with rounded direct rim (Fig 17/40).

Fabric P62, an organically-tempered fabric is presumably 1st-century AD in date (Evans 2000a, 105). Forms identified in this fabric include a globular jar with concave neck and everted rim (Fig 17/43) and ovoid jars (Fig 17/44, 45, 46).

Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the Iron Age fabrics is the large quantity of organically tempered wares, especially amongst the Class P group. Further

discussion on fabric and form correlation follows below. There does appear to have been some understanding of the effects of adding temper to clay to improve its plasticity and therefore the chances of vessels surviving during firing. This determined the choice of fabric used to make particular vessel forms, such as cooking pots.

The majority had inclusions of moderate to common quantity with the modal size of inclusions ranging from medium to very coarse. There is a distinct difference between the level of coarse versus fine fabrics, with coarse prevailing. The range and variety of Iron Age fabrics at Marsh Farm appears more diverse than at comparable sites such as Park Farm, Barford (Cracknell & Hingley 1994) and Ryton-on-Dunsmore (Bateman 1978a). At Ryton-on-Dunsmore in particular, the majority of the fabrics were sand tempered, whilst at Park Farm, Barford sand tempered fabric 3, is comparable to Wasperton fabrics N, O and P. However, several other distinct fabrics were observed and some limited cross referencing to the unpublished fabrics at Wasperton was attempted.

SURFACE FINISHES

The range and variety of surface finishes were restricted to external surfaces on seven Iron Age fabrics (C22, E21, G44, P12, P42, P62 and P71). A total of 93% of the Iron Age assemblage had smoothed internal and external surfaces, a further 5% had smoothing on one surface with burnishing on the other, principally the external surface. Burnishing occurred more on the Class E, grog tempered fabrics. Only two sherds (0.20%) of the Iron Age material had other surface treatments present. One sherd had finger marks on the external surface and a further sherd had incised marks on the external surface. The remainder were either totally smoothed, burnished or a combination of both.

DECORATION

Only 18 sherds had external decoration. The techniques recognised included groove, incised, finger tipping, finger marks and corrugated body. These occurred in only four fabrics P12, P62, E31 and G44. Some of the techniques comprised incised linear decoration, in fabrics G44 and E31, or in combination with a groove, P62. Finger tipping only occurred on Class P fabrics P12 and P62. In addition, fingernail decoration was recognised on both rounded and flat rim forms.

FORMS

A minimum number of 36 vessels was present in the Iron Age assemblage. Of these, 33 vessel forms were identified: 22 ovoid jars, 7 globular jars, one rounded shouldered jar, one necked bowl, one necked jar and one open form. These are listed in Table 19 and in the catalogue of forms below.

Ovoid, neckless jars with rounded direct or bead rims are a feature of late Iron Age assemblages and these prevail at Marsh Farm. These forms occur principally in the Class P fabric groups, with limited decorative motifs and techniques. At both Ryton-on-Dunsmore and Park Farm, Barford the form range varied to include coarse ware jars, thin walled vessels, bowl/jars and bowl/cups. As with the Marsh Farm assemblage the jar vessel class dominates these groups. The number of vessels decreases in Phase 4, but the forms are more varied than Phase 3, and they include necked bowls, necked jars and open forms.

Table 16: Pottery, fabric sources and quantities in assemblage

	Warwicks Fabric Code	NOSH	% NOSH	Wt (g)	% Wt (g)	Average Sherd weight (g)	Rim EVE	% Rim EVE
Iron Age fabrics	C22	37	3	175	1.9		37	6
	E21	51	4	350	3.7		11	1.8
	E26	1	0.1	7	0.1		-	-
	E31	16	1.5	183	1.6		51	8.3
	E34	1	0.1	17	0.2		-	-
	G27	47	4	1292	13.8		6	1.0
	G44	42	3	513	5.5		26	4.2
	G49	1	0.1	9	0.1		-	-
	O45	2	0.2	9	0.1		-	-
	P12	385	30	2241	24		90	14.6
	P32	2	0.2	8	0.1		-	-
	P42	104	0.8	684	7.3		25	4.1
	P44	4	0.3	38	0.4		-	-
	P46	4	0.3	38	0.4		-	-
	P61	2	0.2	3	0.1		-	-
	P62	230	18	935	10.0		104	16.9
	P65	14	1	113	1.2		-	-
	P67	23	2	144	1.5		-	-
	P71	24	2	186	2.0		30	4.9
Total		**990**	**70.8**	**6945**	**74**	7g	**380**	**61.8**
Roman fabrics	B11	35	3	137	1.5		-	-
	C15	73	5	*316	*3.4		*54	*8.8
	O21	167	13	1223	13.1		108	17.5
	O27	10	0.8	57	0.6		17	2.8
	O36	1	0.1	119	1.3		-	-
	R01	29	2	401	4.3		37	6
	R76	2	0.2	91	1.0		14	2.3
	S10	1	0.1	17	0.2		-	-
	W12	1	0.1	16	0.2		6	1.0
Total		**319**	**24.3**	**2377**	**25.6**		**236**	**38.4**
Late Saxon	C15	1	0.1	*?	*?		*?	*?
Post-medieval		1	0.1	39	0.4		-	-
Overall Total		**1311**	**100**	**9361**	**100**	7.17g	**616**	**100**

*NB includes late Saxon sherd

Catalogue of Illustrated Pottery (Fig 17)

CLASS C CALCAREOUS TEMPERED POTTERY (C15, C22).

Fabric C15

1 Wheelmade, lid-seated jar with pronounced ledge and small upturned bead. External sooting. Area 9/Phase 3 gully fill **301**, Dia 160mm (20%).

3 Wheelmade, bowl with simple inturned bead rim. External sooting. Area 4/Phase 5 field boundary gully fill **2006/1**, Dia 290mm (7%). Late Saxon probably St Neots Ware.

Fabric C22

6 Globular jar with concave neck and everted rim. Burnished external surface and smoothed inner. Area 2/Phase 3 C-ditch fill **1017/2**, Dia 190mm (15%).

7 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 2/Phase 3 Activity area C gully fill **1015/2**, Dia 120mm (5%).

8 Ovoid neckless jar with everted rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/3**, Dia 210mm (7%).
9 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Burnished external surface with smoothed inner. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/4**, Dia 180mm (5%).
10 Globular neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/4**, Dia 190mm (5%).

CLASS E EARLY 'BELGIC' GROG-TEMPERED POTTERY (E21, E31)

Fabric E21

11 Rounded shouldered jar with concave neck and everted rim. Burnished external surface with smoothed inner. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/7**, Dia 130mm (11%).
12 Wheelmade, necked bowl with concave neck and everted rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure I gully fill **1059/1**, Dia 180mm (16%).
13 Globular jar with concave neck and everted rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 2/Phase 3 C-ditch fill **1017/2**, Dia 240mm (4%).

Fabric E31

14 Wheelmade, necked jar with concave neck and everted rim. Smoothed surfaces, with incised linear decoration on body. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure I gully fill **1059/1**, Dia 160mm (31%).

CLASS G COARSE GRITTED TEMPERED WARES (SOME HANDMADE) (G27, G44)

Fabric G27

15 Wheelmade, neckless, rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 2/Phase 3 Activity area D gully fill **1074/1**, Dia 190mm (6%).

Fabric G44

16 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Burnished external surface with sooting and smoothed inner surface. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure I gully fill **1059/2**, Dia 200mm (6%).
17 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim, with sharp internal angle at the base of rim; slight concavity at base of internal angle. Burnished external surface with sooting and smoothed inner surface. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/7**, Dia 190mm (9%).
18 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim, with sharp internal angle at the base of rim; slight concavity at base of internal angle. Smoothed surfaces with incised linear decoration on shoulder. Area 9/Phase 5 enclosure ditch fill **252**, Dia 100mm (5%).
20 Decorated body sherd with smoothed internal surface with incised linear decoration on surface. External sooting. Area 9/Phase 3 enclosure ditch fill **394**.

CLASS O OXIDISED WARES (O21, O27)

Fabric O21

22 Wheelmade, straight-sided dish with simple bead rim. Flat base. Area 9/Phase 5 external gully fill **281**, Dia 180mm (15%), Webster 1976, fig 10.74, Uncertain date.
23 Wheelmade, necked jar with simple bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 external gully fill **281**, Dia 220mm (6%), Webster 1976, fig 4.14, Middle 1st- to 4th-century AD.
24 Wheelmade, wide-mouthed jar with pointed bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 external gully fill **281**, Dia 230mm (12%), Webster 1976, fig 5.27, Late 3rd-4th-century AD.

25 Wheelmade, tankard with pronounced incised bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 external gully fill **281**, Dia 150mm (25%), Webster 1976, fig 7.43, Late 2nd/3rd-century AD.

26 Wheelmade, bowl type with simple bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 enclosure ditch fill **381**, Dia 150mm (11%), Webster 1976, fig 7.34, 2nd- to 4th-century AD.

27 Wheelmade, wide-mouthed jar with pointed bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 enclosure ditch fill **381**, Dia 210mm (11%), Webster 1976, fig 5.25, 2nd/3rd-century AD.

28 Wheelmade, wide-mouthed jar with pointed bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 enclosure ditch fill **381**, Dia 300mm (7%), Webster 1976, fig 6.30, Late 3rd/4th-century AD.

Fabric O27

29 Wheelmade, necked jar with simple bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 enclosure ditch fill **381**, Dia 180mm (11%).

CLASS P HANDMADE, IRON AGE TRADITION FABRICS (P12, P62 AND P64)

Fabric P12

31 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 2 (residual in Phase 5 enclosure ditch fill **253**, Dia 130mm (6%).

33 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim, with sharp internal angle at the base of rim; slight concavity at base of internal angle. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 2 pit fill **343**, Dia 190mm (6%).

34 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim, with sharp internal angle at the base of rim; slight concavity at base of internal angle. Smoothed surfaces with internal and external sooting. Area 9/Phase 3 pit fill **357**, Dia 190mm (16%).

35 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 3 enclosure ditch fill **388**, Dia 140mm (15%).

37 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed internal surface with fingermarks on external surface and body. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure H gully fill **1056/1**, Dia 130mm (10%).

38 Ovoid neckless jar with flattened lip; rim slightly expanded internally. Finger-tipping on rim. Smoothed surfaces with possible seed pattern on external surface. Area 9/Phase 2 (residual in Phase 3) Structure A gully **241**, Dia 140mm (8%).

39 Wheelmade, open neckless vessel with flattened direct rim. Smoothed surfaces with external sooting. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure I gully fill **1059/1**, Dia 130mm (1%).

40 Globular, neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 3 enclosure ditch fill **376**, Dia 140mm (11%).

Fabric P42

42 Globular jar with concave neck and everted rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 3 pit fill **292**, Dia 200mm (25%).

Fabric P62

43 Globular jar with upright neck and rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 3 pit fill **361**, Dia 160mm (11%).

44 Ovoid neckless jar with flattened lip; rim slightly expanded internally. Smoothed surfaces and externally sooted. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure I gully **1059/1**, Dia 120mm (50%).

45 Ovoid neckless jar with rounded direct rim. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 3 gully 335, Dia 110mm (10%).

46 Ovoid neckless jar with flattened lip; rim slightly expanded externally and internally. Linear groove decoration on rim. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/2**, Dia 170mm (33%).

47 Flat base pinched out at the circumference. Finger-tipping on lower body. Smoothed surfaces. Area 9/Phase 3 enclosure ditch fill **254**, Dia 90mm (46%).

Fabric P71

48 Ovoid, neckless jar with rounded direct rim. External finger marking. Smoothed surfaces and external sooting. Area 9/Phase 3 enclosure ditch fill **375**, Dia 140mm (13%).

49 Ovoid, neckless jar with bead rim. Burnishing on all surfaces and internal sooting. Area 9/Phase 3 enclosure ditch fill **390**, Dia 160mm.

CLASS R REDUCED WARES (R01, R76)

Fabric R01

52 Wheelmade necked jar with simple bead rim. External sooting. Area 9/Phase 5 gully **296**, Dia 110mm (10%).

55 Wheelmade necked jar with simple bead rim. Area 9/Phase 5 enclosure annexe gully fill **258**, Dia 170mm (10%).

56 Wheelmade flanged bowl /dish with slight internal bead formed by groove rim. Area 9/Phase 5 gully **281**, Dia 210mm (11%).

Phase 5: Romano-British (2nd- 4th-century)

Some 321 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (2416g), with an average sherd weight of 7.53g. Detailed fabric descriptions are given in the Pottery Appendix. A tabulation of form occurrence by phase is given in Table 19.

FABRICS

Nine fabrics were identified of Roman date. These belong to five broad fabric classes: B, C, O, R, S and W. Within the Roman assemblage the most common fabric class is the oxidised Severn Valley wares (55.45%), followed by the class C, calcareous tempered wares (23%) class B, Black-burnished ware 1 (11%) and class R Reduced wares, 0.09%. A single sherd of imported samian fineware was recovered, but no amphorae or mortaria. There was a distinct lack of 2nd/3rd-century AD finewares.

Black-burnished ware (B11) comprised just 2.69% of the overall assemblage. No diagnostic rim forms were recognised, although a few sherds, 13.78%, had all over burnishing.

Fabric C15 was more common than the Iron Age fabric C22 at 5.68%. Forms identified in this fabric include a lid-seated jar (Fig 17/1) and a Late Saxon bowl with simple bead rim (Fig 17/3).

The largest group within the Roman assemblage is the Oxidised wares. These are all Severn Valley wares O21, O27 and O36. Within this group, fabric O21 is the most common (12.82%). Evans (1996) has argued that fabric O21 is an early ware. Several dateable forms have been identified. These include a straight-sided dish with a simple bead rim (Fig 17/22), three wide-mouthed jars with pointed and bead rims (Fig 17/24, 27, 28) and a tankard with pronounced incised bead rim (Fig 17/25). Three sherds of fabric O21 had cordons at their girth. This is the only decorative technique recorded for this fabric group.

Fabric O27 has a Malvernian source (Evans 1996) occurring from the 1st-century AD onwards. A similar range is suggested from Bidford Grange (Evans 1991) and Alcester, Gas House Lane (Evans 1996). A wheelmade, necked jar with simple bead rim is the only piece recorded (Fig 17/29). Evans (2000a, 105) has argued that fabric

O36 was common throughout the 1st to 4th centuries AD and might be of Malvernian origin. A single sherd (0.08%) was recovered from Marsh Farm.

The reduced wares, class R, comprised 2.68% of the overall assemblage. Amongst the group is fabric R01 (2.23%). Five datable rim forms have been recognised amongst the assemblage. Three of these are illustrated (Fig 17/52, 55, 56). In addition, two sherds of fabric R76 (0.15%), Savernake ware, were recovered and a cross-context join recognised. This fabric is of 1st-century date and found in the Arrow Valley, (Evans 2000a) and at the Lloyds Bank site in Alcester (Booth 2001). A small amount of Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware (0.08%), fabric W12, was present in the assemblage (not illustrated).

Taphonomy

Generally the whole Iron Age assemblage was moderately well preserved as is reflected in the fact that less than 5% of the assemblage showed signs of abrasion. This figure is comparable with that for the Roman assemblage, where little abrasion was noted. These figures would appear to suggest that features were rapidly weathered and silted up very quickly, allowing little abrasion and weathering of the ceramics, where present. The shallow depth of the features across the site is likely a result of the subsequent ploughing regimes.

The overall average sherd weight for the Iron Age assemblage is 7.1g. The average sherd weight in the Roman assemblage is 7.5g. Pottery derived principally from ditch, pit and gully fills. The bulk of the Iron Age ceramics derived from features **201**, **291**, **1059** and **356**. These four features have an average sherd weight of between 7 to 8g. This is in line with the figure for the overall assemblage and the Iron Age assemblage itself.

Ditch **201** forms the large late Iron Age enclosure SMR WA 5081. Within this feature much of the recovered pottery derived from the terminal end of the enclosure ditch. This is a common feature of late Iron Age deposits of this type (Woodward & Hancocks forthcoming) and is commonly described as structured deposition.

Feature **291** is a pit of late Iron Age date outside the north-east corner of the large enclosure. This feature contained the second largest group of late Iron Age pottery recovered. Feature **1059** is a gully of middle 1st-century AD date. Within this feature significant quantities of fired clay/daub were recovered too.

The final feature containing significant quantities of pottery is **356**, a pit of 2nd-century date with residual late Iron Age material within it. This feature is isolated and found between the northern group of pits and structures A and B.

It is worth noting that ditches have the lowest average sherd weight amongst the Iron Age assemblage, at 6.04g, compared to the gullies with an average sherd weight of 10.12g. This is presumably a reflection of the degree of weathering to which sherds were exposed. Ditches are more likely to be open to the elements, so affecting sherd size and levels of abrasion. In general, therefore, average sherd weight does appear to be directly related to the feature type. Gullies are more likely to be associated with areas of domestic occupation, since they are often found associated with roundhouses. Such gullies may be subject to re-cutting and redeposition. It is more probable that large vessels such a domestic cooking pots were discarded in close proximity to roundhouses for instance. This is certainly one explanation for the high average sherd weight of pottery recovered from gullies at Marsh Farm.

Amongst the Roman assemblage the average sherd weights show a slightly different pattern. Ditches have the larger average sherd weight at 7.98g, compared to pits at

5.24g and gullies at 4.57g. This pattern appears to reflect different uses and functions of areas of the site compared to the earlier period. Unfortunately the assemblage is too small to produce any meaningful data on the spatial distribution of the ceramics in an attempt to identify different functional zones or areas.

It is not surprising to find that the two principal features containing Roman ceramics, **201** and **274**, are associated with the annexe to the earlier enclosure. Indeed, it is apparent that there is some later disturbance of earlier Iron Age deposits amongst the Roman assemblage. This is noticeable with the upper fill of the square enclosure itself. The ditch annexe **274** contains pottery with an average sherd weight of 8.01g. This group represents the largest element of the Roman assemblage. The pottery from the later phases of **201**, make up the second largest group with an average sherd weight of 9.49g. Smaller amounts of pottery were recovered from ditch **2006** and gully **202**.

Vessel Size and Function

In the Iron Age phases the average diameter of the vessels was 130mm. It is probable that vessels of this size were associated with food preparation and cooking, confirmed to some extent by the fact that several vessels have traces of external sooting upon them. However, there does not appear to be any obvious correlation between vessel size and function and their use in cooking on fires, although it should be noted that six of the seven rim vessels with external sooting are ovoid jar forms. These vessels predominantly belong to the class P fabric group. It is not clear whether there is any significance in this observation. It could suggest that fabric choice was important when deciding what vessels were used for cooking.

In contrast the rim diameters in the Roman assemblage peak at 20cm. From the range of forms within this group of material (see Table 19), it seems that the Roman pottery assemblage comprises utilitarian forms like flanged bowls and dishes associated with consumption and wide- and medium-mouthed jars and storage jars associated with storage. External sooting only occurred seven times in the Roman assemblage and on four different form types. Interestingly, 71% of the sherds with external sooting were on calcareously tempered pottery fabric C15.

Some limited interpretation of the functional aspects of both the Iron Age and Roman assemblages from Marsh Farm is possible, although at the time of writing very few Warwickshire Iron Age site have been published (Table 17).

Table 17: Functional analysis of comparable Iron Age assemblages

Function	**Marsh Farm**			Park Farm
Phase	3	4	5	-
Ovoid	17	3	2	-
Globular	7	-	-	-
Rounded shouldered	1	-	-	-
All Jars	**25**	**3**	**2**	**15**
Thin walled vessels	-	-	-	5
Bowl/cup	-	-	-	1
Bowls/Jars	-	-	-	1
Necked bowl	-	1	-	-
Necked Jar	-	1	-	-
Open	-	1	-	-
n =	**25**	**6**	**2**	**22**

The data in Table 18 compares the functional make up of the Marsh Farm assemblage with published data (Evans 2000a) from Crewe Farm, Bidford Grange, Princethorpe and Salford Priors. It is worth noting that the data set for Marsh Farm is a lot smaller

than the comparative data sets presented below. Nevertheless broadly similar patterns are apparent. In all instances the assemblages are dominated by jars, with perhaps a greater functional diversity noticeable at Marsh Farm, amongst the storage and wide-mouthed jar class. The other significant difference is the larger percentage of bowl forms recovered from the Marsh Farm site (24%), Princethorpe (22.3%) and Salford Priors (16.9-23%) compared to Crewe Farm (5.5%) and Bidford Grange (9%).

The dominance of the jars and bowls at Marsh Farm, Princethorpe and Salford Priors, compared to the other sites is significant in understanding the overall status and function of the settlement. The lack of imported and regionally produced finewares, mortaria and amphorae suggest that the settlement site at Marsh Farm represents a small-scale, rural occupation site. The ceramics from it are not functionally diverse and can be deemed to represent locally-traded wares. The low levels of tableware, the high number of jars and the absence of amphorae are all typical of rural assemblages (Booth 1991; Evans 1998, 68).

Table 18: Functional analysis of comparable Roman assemblages

Function	Marsh Farm	Crewe Farm	Bidford Grange	Prince-thorpe	Arrow Valley (A46) Salford Priors			
Area					D	C1	C2	C3
Storage jars	12	-	3	-	13.7	2	2.8	1
Wide-mouthed jars	12	3.7	8	4.4	11.8	14.3	15.5	25
Other jars	32	70	35	46.3	37.2	37	25.4	18
All Jars	**56**	**73.7**	**46**	**50.7**	**62.7**	**53.3**	**43.7**	**44**
Constricted necked jars	-	2.3	11	9.3	-	2.6	1.4	8.5
Flagons	4	0.9	6	1.6	-	1.3	-	1
Bowls	24	5.5	9	22.3	19.6	16.9	19.7	23
Dishes/bowl	-	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dishes	8	3.2	5	1.9	2	2.6	8.5	3.5
Tankards	4	1.4	17	1.2	5.9	13	12.7	14.5
Beakers/Cups	-	3.7	2	6.8	9.8	7.1	2.8	.2
Jars/beakers	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lids	-	0.9	1	5	-	0.7	7	0.5
Mortaria	-	5	3	0.6	-	1.3	4.2	2
Amphorae	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	-	-
Indet	4	-	-	0.6	-	0.7	-	1
n =	25	218	216	161	51	154	71	200

Discussion

It seems probable that the prehistoric pottery, based on fabric and form is of Mid-Late Iron Age date (400BC – 43AD). The presence of diagnostic indicators, such as significant external brushing and scoring, finger tipping on the top of rims, as well as the high incidence of globular jars, some of them with short vertical or concave necks, would appear to justify this date range for the Iron Age assemblage. The pottery recovered from the Roman group comprised locally and regionally traded wares, both in form and fabric, that could be dated to the 2nd/4th-century AD.

The sources of the various fabric groups reaching the site vary considerably. A significant proportion of both the Iron Age and Romano-British assemblage would appear to be traded on a regional level with the Malvernian region to the west and the Cotswolds to the south. These two areas contribute significantly to the ceramic make-up of the assemblages.

The ceramic assemblage appears to be wholly utilitarian and domestic in function, comprising jars, bowls and dishes. These forms are primarily associated with storage, processing and the preparation/production of food. On these grounds the site can perhaps be interpreted as a low status, rural occupation site.

The functional range of the assemblage remains constant through time, as predominantly jar based. Any meaningful interpretation has to be considered cautiously because of the low number of minimum vessels within the group compared to the published data sets for sites such as Salford Priors. However, it is apparent that the within the Phase 3 assemblage both ovoid and globular jars prevail. The range of forms within this phase is limited. By Phase 5, there is greater functional diversity within the jar class and forms such as tankards, dishes, flagons and bowls are seen for the first time.

Pottery Appendix: Iron Age and Roman Type Fabric Descriptions

The fabric descriptions listed only represent those from phased deposits. Each fabric is described following the system proposed by Peacock (1977) and refined further by Tomber and Dore (1998, 5-9). The coding system used in the archive is based on that defined by Knight (1998, 5). Four alphabetical characters are employed. The first two characters indicate the main inclusion type, employing two letter codes listed below. The third character designates the quantity of the main inclusion (e.g. SHMC: moderate coarse shell). Recommended conventions for the description of frequency classes and modal size classes are those summarised by Knight (*ibid*, 21). If material being categorised lies between two codes, it should revert to the lower designation (rare to sparse fine quartz = QURF). If a fabric contains several main inclusions (e.g. shell and quartz) a combination of codes may be employed (e.g. SHMC/QUMC = moderate coarse shell and moderate coarse quartz). This series has been cross-referenced to the Warwickshire Museum Fabric Series and published by these codes.

CLASS B BLACK-BURNISHED WARES

B11 BB1, Poole Harbour, Dorset (Williams 1977). (South-East) Dorset Black-burnished ware 1 (DOR BB 1); Tomber and Dore 1998, 127.

CLASS C CALCAREOUS TEMPERED WARES

C15 Shell-tempered ware, source unknown, perhaps Northants area. Wheelmade. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

C22 Malvernian palaeozoic limestone tempered ware; a soft handmade reduced fabric with abundant rounded limestone inclusions *c* 0.3-3mm. Malvernian, handmade (Peacock B1, 1968). Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

CLASS E EARLY 'BELGIC' GROG-TEMPERED WARES

E21 A reduced fabric with common sand temper *c* 0.3-4mm some red brown grog inclusions *c* 0.3-3mm and some organic voids up to 2mm. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

E26 A handmade, poorly levigated fabric with abundant voids *c* 1-3mm, some vegetable tempering and common rounded brown grog temper *c* 1-4mm. Core and interior brown A2, exterior yellow/brown 3B. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

E31 A reduced fabric with common fine organic voids up to 2mm, occasional translucent quartz sand *c* 0.3mm and common angular grey grog *c* 0.3-1mm. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

E34 A reduced fabric with brown margins and black surfaces with some fine quartz temper *c* 0.2mm and some black, brown and grey grog *c* 2mm and some fine limestone sand *c* 0.1mm. Evans unpublished.

E41 A reduced fabric, identical to E21. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996)

CLASS G COARSE GRITTED TEMPERED WARES (SOME HANDMADE)

G27 A reduced, handmade fabric with occasional organic voids up to 2mm and very occasional coarse sand *c* 0.5-4mm. Grey core and dark grey margins and surfaces. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

G44 Malvernian metamorphic-tempered ware, Malvern Link, Worcestershire. A handmade fabric with common angular white-pink inclusions *c* 1-6mm and some black igneous inclusions 0.5-5mm, sometimes with black and gold inclusions which appear like iron pyrites. Malvernian, handmade (MAL RE A), (Tomber & Dore 1998), Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

G47 A handmade, feldspar tempered fabric with common, coarse feldspar *c* 0.1-0.4mm and sparse, medium grog 1-2mm.

G49 A handmade, semi-oxidised fabric with common fine angular grog 0.1-2mm and rare, coarse angular flint (0.3-0.4mm) and rare, medium organic voids (0.2mm).

G49.1 A handmade, oxidised fabric with rare coarse rock (0.2-10mm) angular and common, moderate grog 0.1-0.3mm.

CLASS O OXIDISED WARES

O21 Severn Valley ware with grey core and orange brown margins and surfaces, with abundant organic voids *c* 0.3-3mm. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

O27 Severn Valley ware, visually very similar to products of Great Buckman's Farm and Newlands kiln sites in the Malvern Link complex. Perhaps Malvernian products. Common fairly fine limestone/chalk sand *c* 0.1-0.3mm. Fabric: yellow/brown B6. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

O36 Severn Valley ware, visually similar to some material in the Great Buckman's Farm and Newlands kiln group at Malvern Link. This fabric has been separated from the O21 group as it contains less organic temper and has calcareous inclusions. Fabric contains some common organic voids and some limestone/chalk inclusions *c* 0.3mm. Fabric: yellow/brown B5. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

O45 Severn Valley ware with common organic tempering voids *c* 0.5-2mm. Some orange and brown rounded grog *c* 0.3-1mm and occasional angular translucent quartz-like inclusions similar to those in Malvernian wares. Evans unpublished.

CLASS P HANDMADE, IRON AGE TRADITION FABRICS

P11 A handmade Iron Age fabric with common moderate sand temper *c* 0.3mm and occasional large brown and white quartzite inclusions *c* 3-6mm. Fabric neutral 2. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

P12 A hand-made Iron Age fabric with common moderate sand temper *c* 0.3-0.4mm and some organic temper voids. (Similar to P11 but with some organics), Arrow Valley (Evans 2000a).

P32 A hand-made fabric with abundant fine carbonised organic inclusions *c* 0.5-1mm, some brown and grey grog inclusions *c* 0.5-1mm and occasional coarse quartz *c* 0.5mm.

P34 A reduced hand-made Iron Age fabric with some large organic temper inclusions and some moderate sand temper *c* 0.3mm. Cf fabric P12, but this has much less sand temper. Arrow Valley (Evans 2000a).

P42 A reduced hand-made Iron Age fabric with large, clearly visible angular red grog pellets (upto 2mm). Some occasional organic voids (1mm diameter).

P44 A reduced ?hand-made Iron Age fabric with rare angular limestone/chalk (1mm) and some organics (1mm).

P46 A reduced hand-made Iron Age fabric with abundant rounded brown grog inclusions *c* 0.3-1mm. Arrow Valley (Evans 2000a).

P61 A reduced handmade fabric with abundant large tempering voids *c* 2-7mm. Fabric neutral 3. Evans unpublished Marsh Farm 1991.

P62 A reduced hand-made Iron Age fabric with common – abundant organic temper voids and occasional moderate sand temper. Arrow Valley (Evans 2000a).

P65 A handmade, oxidised fabric with common, medium voids (organic) *c* 3mm and common, medium grog (0.1-0.2mm). Appears to be organic briquetage.

P66 A ?Bronze Age handmade, strap built oxidised fabric with moderate, coarse quartz (0.1m –0.02mm) and common, coarse ironstone (2mm).

P67 A reduced handmade, very dense fabric with common fine quartz (0.2mm) and some occasional rare grog (0.5mm).

P68 A reduced handmade, abundant organic tempered (2mm) fabric with occasional stone inclusions (0.5mm).

P71 A reduced handmade, very fine, micaceous quartz tempered fabric (0.1-0.02mm).

CLASS R REDUCED WARES

R01 Reduced fabric with common moderately coarse sand temper *c* 0.4mm. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

R15 Coarsish reduced ware, with abundant sand temper *c* 0.3-0.4mm. Dark grey core, neutral 3 and grey surfaces, green/brown 4A. Gas House Lane (AL 23) (Evans 1996).

R76 Savernake ware (as G24-5), handmade, with light blue-grey core, grey/oxidised margins and darkish grey surfaces with abundant grey grog inclusions *c* 0.3-4mm. Savernake Grog-tempered ware (SAV GT), (Tomber & Dore 1998, 191). Gas House Lane (AL 23) (Evans 1996).

CLASS S SAMIAN

S10 South Gaulish samian ware.

CLASS W WHITEWARES

W12 Mancetter-Hartshill whiteware, white fabric sometimes with a pinkish core, with common moderate white and pink sand temper *c* 0.3mm and some moderate red ironstone. Fabric: neutral 9. Gas House Lane (AL 23) Evans (1996).

OTHER FINDS by Nicholas Palmer

The other finds from the site are a fairly meagre collection, reflecting a fairly low level of material culture. However they do include some evidence for late Iron Age trading contacts in the form of a shale bracelet/armlet fragment (5) from Kimmeridge in Dorset, which represents possibly the earliest occurrence of this material in Warwickshire, and a fragment of May Hill Sandstone quern (6), probably quarried just north east of the Forest of Dean and imported up the Rivers Severn and Avon. The fragments of probable briquetage (coarse pottery salt containers) (9-10) from Droitwich are evidence of the important trade in this staple which continued on into the medieval period.

Catalogue (Fig 18, 1, 5-7)

COPPER ALLOY (Fig 18, 1)

1 Pin with flat head with baluster moulding flanked by pairs of collars. Romano-British. L 102mm, Dia 3.5-3.7mm. Broadly similar to pins with baluster moulded heads and double collars from a 1st- to 2nd-century context at Nettleton, Wiltshire (Wedlake 1982, 216, fig 93 no 7), late 2nd/early 3rd-century onwards, and 3rd-century contexts at Alcester, Birch Abbey (Lloyd-Morgan 1994, 179, Fig 84 nos 44 & 45), and a late 3rd/early 4th-century context at Tiddington (Lloyd-Morgan forthcoming a, no 100). Area 2/Unstrat.

IRONWORK (Unillustrated)

2 Rod fragment, probably a nail shank. L *c* 43mm. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/3**.

3 Uncertain fragment. Area 4/Phase 5 field boundary gully fill **2095/1**, SF 12.

4 Curving-sectioned fragment, perhaps from the handle socket of an implement such as a bill- or reaping-hook. Surviving L 75mm. Area 4/Phase 5 gully fill **2006/1**, SF 10.

STONE OBJECTS (Fig 18, 5, 6)

5 Shale armlet/bracelet fragment, presumably Kimmeridge Shale from Dorset, plain with D-section with slight internal bevel. External diam 75mm, Th 11mm. Area 2/Phase 3 ditch fill **1021/4**.

Turned shale objects including armlets/bracelets were produced at Kimmeridge in Dorset in the late Iron and Roman periods and distributed across southern Britain (Lawson 1975, 242). However, other finds from Warwickshire are all from Roman period contexts: from Alcester, Birch Abbey, later 2nd–early 3rd and mid 4th-century contexts (Evans 1994, 230-1, nos 3-7), Baromix Phase G, later 3rd–early 4th-century (Lloyd Morgan 2001a, 87-8, Fig 87, nos 4-5), and the Explosion site Period 8 (late 3rd-century) and later contexts (Lloyd Morgan 2001b, 249, Fig 162, nos 195-204); and from Tiddington, late 2nd-century or later and 4th-century contexts (Lloyd Morgan forthcoming b, nos 1-6).

6 Quern fragment, coarse-grained brownish sandstone, May Hill Sandstone (identified by Fiona Roe), with flat grinding surface and angled curving side. Surviving L 115mm, Th 95mm.

May Hill, Gloucestershire (SO 696 213), on which signs of old but undated quarrying can be seen, lies just to the north east of the Forest of Dean. May Hill Sandstone querns have been found on Iron Age (or earlier) sites across Gloucestershire (20 sites), Worcestershire (about 8 sites) and Oxfordshire (10 sites) (Information from Fiona Roe; Edwards & Hurst 2000; Parry

1999). Other fragments of May Hill Sandstone querns from Warwickshire (also identified by Fiona Roe) come from a middle Iron Age context at Tiddington (TD81, SF 940, 198/1) and from topsoil in the vicinity of an Iron Age feature at Bubbenhall (Area H SF 142). Area 9/Phase 4 enclosure ditch fill **253**, SF 64.

FIRED CLAY

Loomweights (Fig 18, 7; 8 unillustrated)

7 Corner fragment from triangular loom- (or thatch-) weight, or possible oven brick, coarse fabric with reddish-yellow surface and light red/red core, with impression of perforation across corner and notch on outside of corner. W *c* 95mm. Area 2/Phase 4 Structure I gully fill **1059/1**.

8 Joining fragments with grey core and reddish brown surface with curved edges and finger impressions; just possibly from a loomweight. Area 4/Phase 5 field boundary gully fill **2095/1**.

Triangular loom- (or thatch-) weights, or oven bricks are normally regarded as characteristic of Iron Age sites (eg Maiden Castle (Wheeler 1943), or Farmoor, Oxfordshire (Lambrick & Robinson 1979, 55-7) but they also occur in Romano-British contexts and in Warwickshire there are examples from a possible Iron Age context at Barford, Park Farm (Ford 1994, fiche M1:B6); (late Iron Age/) early Roman contexts at Grimstock Hill, Coleshill (N Palmer 2006, nos 3 & 6); from an early/mid-Romano-British context at Ling Hall, Church Lawford (Palmer 2002, 104); from early 2nd-century AD contexts in Bleachfield Street, Alcester (Evans 2001, fiche M1:D11) and late 2nd/early 3rd-century to late 4th-century contexts at Birch Abbey (Ferguson *et al* 1994, fiche M2:D8); from early 2nd-century and late 3rd/4th-century contexts at Salford Priors (Evans 2000b, 157); and two from early 2nd-century contexts and one from a late 3rd-/early 4th-century context at Tiddington (Palmer & Bass forthcoming).

Briquetage (Unillustrated)

9 Two fragments of coarse irregular vessel (Th *c* 14mm) with light reddish-brown exterior, light reddish-brown/light red core and grey interior. Probable briquetage, presumably from Droitwich. Area 9/Phase 3/5 enclosure ditch fill **389**, SF 200.

10 Fragments with flat surface and rough interior (Th 18mm max), one pierced by hole (diam *c* 20mm), coarse fabric, light reddish-brown exterior, light reddish-brown/light red core. Possible briquetage, presumably from Droitwich. Area 4/Phase 5 field boundary gully fill **2095/1**.

Daub (Unillustrated)

Other small quantities of daub, representing fragments of oven or hearth structures or clay walling preserved by accidental burning came from a number of Phase 3-5 contexts: Phase 3 contexts, Area 2/**1017/2**, **1021/1**, **1021/3**, **1052/1**, Area 4/**2057/1**, Area 9/**185**, **234**, **256**; Phase 3/5 contexts, Area 9/**252**, **253**, **375**, **381**, **389**, **401**; Phase 4 contexts Area 2/**1056/1**, **1059/1**; Area 4/**2095/1**; and Phase 5 contexts, Area 9/**288** and **357**.

HUMAN BONE by Jacqueline I McKinley

Introduction

Burnt bone was analysed from two contexts from the Romano-British enclosure annexe in Area 9.

Methods

Osteological analysis followed the writer's standard procedure for the examination of cremated bone (McKinley 1994, 5-21; 2000). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal development (McMinn & Hutchings 1985) and sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994).

Results

The bone was all redeposited in ditch or pit fills. The burnt bone is in relatively good condition, with a slightly worn/abraded appearance and little surviving trabecular bone. The condition is indicative of deposition in a slightly acidic soil matrix (sandy loam), probably exacerbated by disturbance.

The remains of a minimum of one adult (>18 yr.), the sex of which could not be ascertained, was identified from the 42.9g of bone from **258**. The 4.6g from the underlying deposit (**259**) probably derived from the same individual. No pathological lesions were observed.

All the bone was uniformly white in colour, indicative of full oxidation of the bone (Holden *et al* 1995a & b). The maximum human bone fragment size is 46mm (**258**) and the majority of fragments were recovered from either the 5mm or 2mm sieve fraction, the high degree of fragmentation being reflective of the deposit type and burial medium (acid soils).

The Romano-British material within the enclosure annexe comprised a very small amount of bone recovered from a charcoal rich environment (**258**) with some pottery sherds. This material could either represent the redeposited remains of a disturbed cremation burial, which was accompanied by a deposit of pyre debris or redeposited pyre debris from a cremation, the burial associated with which was made elsewhere within the vicinity. Either case would be indicative of a cremation having been conducted in the area.

ANIMAL BONE by Andy Hammon

The excavations produced a very small bone assemblage, all the material deriving from the ditch terminals of the large enclosure in Area 9. Bones of this date are uncommon in the region due to the slightly acidic nature of the gravels upon which most sites of this date have so far been found (S Palmer pers comm).

An attempt to identify every fragment was made (Table 19). It was possible to determine the approximate age of some fragments based on post-cranial epiphyseal fusion. No measurable fragments were present. No butchery evidence was noted.

The material was characterised by burning, poor preservation and high fragmentation. The burnt material was either charred or completely calcined (heated to the extent that only the inorganic component remains). Based on colour (charred

= black and calcined = white) a temperature range of 550-1000°C can be suggested (refer to Lyman 1999, 386). The poor preservation was typified by severe exfoliation of the original surfaces, and was almost certainly the result of the acidic burial environment. Teeth were the most commonly identified elements (notwithstanding **396/1**), which is unsurprising, as they are the most durable part of the skeleton.

All the material derived from medium to large mammals, presumably representing domestic species. All the fragments that were positively identified were cattle (*Bos taurus*), equid (*Equus* sp.) or sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*). Due to the burning and degree of fragmentation it was not possible to fully speciate either the equid or sheep/goat remains.

The sheep/goat remains from **396/1** would appear to represent one individual. The carcass was probably deliberately burnt and placed in the ditch terminal of the rectangular enclosure. A radiocarbon determination taken from charcoal associated with this burning produced a date of 370-50 Cal BC (GU-11277).

Table 19: Summary of the mammal bone

Context No	Area/Phase	Quantity/ Fragments	Description
2050/1	4/3	7 (same element)	Unidentifiable mammal bone. Poorly preserved.
302	9/3	35 (same element)	Maxillary or mandibular molar. Cattle (*B.taurus*). Poorly preserved.
253	9/3	40 (same element)	Maxillary premolar or molar. Equid (*Equus* sp.). Poorly preserved.
254	9/3	7 (same element)	Maxillary or mandibular premolar or molar. Equid (*Equus* sp.). Poorly preserved.
256	9/3	20 (same element)	Unidentifiable large mammal tooth. Poorly preserved.
256	9/3	20 (same element)	Unidentifiable large mammal tooth. Poorly preserved.
308	9/3	15 (same element)	Unidentifiable large mammal tooth. Poorly preserved.
335	9/3	1	Unidentifiable mammal bone. Poorly preserved.
371	9/3	2 (same element)	Pelvis (ischium left). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred - calcined.
376/1	9/3	5	Unidentifiable mammal bone. All calcined.
381	9/5	1	Unidentifiable mammal bone. Poorly preserved.
396	9/3	70 (same element)	Maxillary or mandibular molar. Cattle (*B.taurus*). Poorly preserved.
396	9/3	25 (same element)	Maxillary or mandibular molar. Cattle (*B.taurus*). Poorly preserved.
396/1	9/3	1	Maxillary 1st or 2nd molar (adult left). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred.
		2 (same element)	Humerus (distal & mid-shaft adult left). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred – calcined.
		2 (same element?)	Radius (mid-shaft left). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred – calcined.
		1	Pelvis (ischium). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred – calcined.
		1	Femur (mid-shaft). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred.
		2 (same element)	Calcanum (semi-complete adult right). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Burnt.
		2 (same element?)	1st phalange (proximal & distal adult). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Calcined.
		1	1st phalange (distal adult). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred – calcined.
		1	2nd phalange (proximal adult). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Calcined.
		1	2nd phalange (proximal adult). Sheep/Goat (*O.aries/C.hircus*). Charred – calcined.
		60 (same individual?)	Unidentifiable medium mammal. Partially calcined.

CHARRED PLANT REMAINS by Elizabeth Pearson

A total of 34 soil samples, averaging 25 litres, was taken by site staff at the discretion of the director, from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains (areas of rubbish disposal and/or burning). The samples were processed by wet-sieving and flotation (see Moffett & Ciaraldi 2000 for details) by site staff and the resultant flot passed on to the author. The flot was scanned using a low power EMT stereo light microscope and the main categories of remains (grain, weed, seeds, chaff, bone etc) were noted and, where readily identifiable, recorded to species.

Environmental remains were poorly preserved in these samples, with the exception of a single context. Occasional charred cereal grains were recorded, including emmer or spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), spelt wheat chaff (glume bases) and weed seeds (mostly vetch, *Vicia* sp). Occasional uncharred seed remains were present in most of the samples, but are too sparse to provide useful environmental information and may well be intrusive.

The most significant assemblage was from the Area 9 Phase 3 pit context (**286**) that was located outside the north arm of the large rectangular enclosure and which contained abundant charred cereal remains consisting of predominantly emmer or spelt wheat and barley grains, with occasional weed seeds and spelt wheat chaff (glume bases).

The quantity of charred plant material from the scanned samples was thought to be insufficient to warrant any further analysis as it would not contribute a significant amount to the understanding of the agricultural economy or environment of the site.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The archaeological investigation of the cropmark complex at Marsh Farm Quarry has been able to answer many questions relating to past human occupation and use of a particular Warwickshire landscape. The work is greatly enhanced by, and builds upon the extensive excavations undertaken in 1993 in advance of the A46 that edges the eastern side of the site. The following discussion will therefore make extensive reference to this work (Palmer 2000a) to which readers are advised to refer as much will not be repeated here.

Phases 1 and 2: The Neolithic and Bronze Age

Flintwork of this broad date range was found residually across the quarry site, although by far the majority of it derived from the southern end (Area 2). There is lithic evidence for a Neolithic and Early Bronze Age presence all along the Arrow and Avon valleys, not least in the fields immediately to the south and west of Marsh Farm Quarry (Palmer 2000a, 216). The combined work seems to confirm the former presence of an activity area of Neolithic/Bronze Age date to the south of the quarry. The charcoal with the radiocarbon determination of 3350-2930 cal BC (GU-11272) found residually in a Phase 3 feature could suggest limited occupation within the excavated area during the middle Neolithic. The evidence currently available seems to suggest a low level of occupation along the valley throughout the period, perhaps indicative of limited seasonal exploitation at a few foci, over an extended timeframe.

A single putative Bronze Age pit can be attributed to this phase, although it remains possible that it was one of a number of such features that were otherwise aceramic and therefore undetectable amongst later phase features. Isolated pits as well as small groups of pits of an earlier prehistoric date are widespread in the

archaeological record. Often they are associated with the deliberate deposition of a range of artefacts and food remains; such deposits now commonly recognised as having been invested with meaning. The significance of the Marsh Farm pit is difficult to gauge without the accompaniment of any other finds. On its own it merely demonstrates a single visit to the locale, but in conjunction with the dagger and palstave fragment recovered by a metal detectorist *c* 500m west of the pit (Baker 1994), a more long lasting presence is possible. Bronzes such as these are likely to have been placed as deliberate deposits either associated with burial or more likely as indicators of some form of ritual or votive activity (Barber 2001). The Late Bronze Age pottery 'feasting' set recovered from a pit on the hill top at Broom to the north of the quarry (Palmer 2000a, 36-56) demonstrates a further context from which the Marsh Farm pit may derive, although the imprecision of the dating of these finds means that any further speculation is unhelpful.

The two Early Bronze Age pits at Boteler's Castle, Oversley remain the sole evidence for early cereal cultivation in the area (Jones *et al* 1997). However, it has yet to be shown if the cereal remains within them were a traded resource, the product of sedentary farming or a semi-natural resource exploited by predominantly mobile groups on a seasonal round (Richmond 1999). It is also far from clear if cereal production and use in this period was commonplace or if it was restricted to special occasions.

Phases 3-5: The Mid-Late Iron Age and Romano-British Occupation

CHRONOLOGY

The four radiocarbon dates that relate to this broad phase (GU-11275, GU-11276, GU-11278 and GU-11487), indicate that there was substantial settlement activity in the last three or four centuries of the 1st millennium BC. There are too few radiocarbon dates to determine more accurately the beginning of occupation and there are too few chronological markers within the pottery assemblage to distil the sequence further. The occurrence of Class E 'Belgic' pottery at the site shows that occupation persisted in the transitional period in the middle of the 1st-century AD. The Roman pottery attests to further low-level activity throughout that period although possibly focussed in the adjacent areas examined in 1993 (Palmer 2000a).

THE STRUCTURES

A total of 12 structures or areas of activity can be recognised across the three excavated areas. The majority (eight) date from Phase 3, a further three date from Phase 4 and a single example is only datable to Phase 5.

Phase 3, C-shaped ditch

This ditch, only partially visible within Area 2, aligned with one of a pair of C-shaped cropmarks on the eastern edge of the area and combined to provide an internal area *c* 11m in diameter. The form of these two features resembles the post-less penannular gully excavated at Park Farm (Cracknell & Hingley 1994, Fig 6) albeit somewhat larger and without such a narrow entrance. They also resemble the C-shaped cropmarks evident on the hill at nearby Broom (Palmer 2000a). All these features could have contained buildings but the Marsh Farm and Park Farm examples were found in association with other buildings of a more conventional character and with much smaller enclosing gullies. Their difference then perhaps precludes them as conventional round-houses and they may therefore have been

appropriate for some other function. Nevertheless mass wall constructions like the middle Iron Age example at Ling Hall Quarry (Palmer 2002, Fig 35), do not require post settings within their enclosing circuits so domestic round-houses ought not to be discounted. The unusually wide and deep gullies at Marsh Farm and Park Farm may perhaps reflect more subtle differences, not necessarily in their use, but in the way they were perceived by the users.

Phase 3, Structure A

This structure in Area 9 was indicated by a curving gully slot **239** which continued as a gravelly soil stain that in places had been compressed by heavy modern machinery in wet conditions resulting in a distorted alignment. The profile of the surviving gully slot, with its steep sides and flat base, is suggestive of a wall trench, perhaps for planks but more likely unfinished split logs. The curvature of the southern terminal **248** at its eastern end seems likely to represent the south side of a porch, although it would also have allowed the easy penetration of water to the base of the wall. The south-west part of the circuit contained a layer of charcoal which could have resulted from a localised fire in the wall, perhaps the impetus for its rebuilding as Structure B. The gully and soil stain sequence, albeit somewhat asymmetrical, provide for an internal diameter of 10m, well within the range of circular buildings. A similarly asymmetric structure (Structure a) excavated close by in 1993 (Area D), dated from the mid/late 1st-century AD, although this example had postholes on the exterior side of the slot (Palmer 2000a, 182).

Given the absence of evidence to support an alternative function, its location in the centre of the large ditched enclosure, combined with its apparent east facing aspect, strongly suggests that this structure was the domicile of the occupants of the enclosure. Reasonably close parallels can be drawn from recently excavated buildings at Ling Hall Quarry, Church Lawford. At this late Iron Age occupation site many of the buildings were represented by short curving lengths of asymmetrical wall trench rather than penannular gullies forming complete circuits (Palmer in prep).

Phase 3, Structure B

In many respects this structure is more plausible than Structure A which it replaced. The alignment of the banana gully **244** with the disturbed gully **238** on the opposite side of an east facing entrance can be paralleled at many sites. Assuming that the structure was circular it could have measured a maximum of 8.5m in diameter. Again there is no reason to suppose that it was anything other than a domestic structure although other functions remain possible.

Phase 3, Structure/Activity Area C

This structure in Area 2 is suggested by two curving gullies **1055** and **1015** which formed the opposing sides of an entranceway immediately north of the C-shaped ditch. Actual evidence for a structure in the area demarcated was restricted to a single posthole **1057** positioned some 3m back and in the centre of the entrance gap and posthole **1058** some 2m to the north-west. The dump of hearth material recorded in **1015** equates with similar deposits commonly found in the terminal ends of eaves drip gullies on many Iron Age sites (Fitzpatrick 1994; Palmer 2002; Parker-Pearson 1996), although the radiocarbon date of 1060-1290 cal AD (GU-11274) taken from the charcoal indicates that at least some of this material was intrusive

Phase 3, Structure/Activity Area D

This was a particularly ephemeral structure, implied by a series of features grouped closely together, which although not forming a conventional building plan, were sufficiently similar to the short lengths of gully demarcating other structures on the site that they have been included as such here. In addition some of the components produced domestic waste and hearth residues illustrative of a nearby building (see above).

Phase 3, Structures E, F & G

These three structures were composed of banana shaped gullies reminiscent of the terminal ends of eaves drip gullies associated with round-houses. Such features are common on this and many other local sites of Iron Age date including Ling Hall Quarry (Church Lawford) and High Cross Quarry (Copston Magna) as well as further afield (Palmer 2002, 122). It is not always clear how such features relate to the buildings they served as some may shadow the exterior wall whilst others may drain out from the doorway.

Phase 4, Structures H, I & J

Structures H and I greatly resembled the earlier Structures E, F and G in that they were represented by short lengths of banana gully. Structure J was the more obvious as it formed a near semi-circular arc and was associated with a number of other features. These latter three structures apparently replaced the earlier structures (C, D and E). They do, however, differ markedly from similarly dated structures examined in 1993, all of which contained postholes (Palmer 2000a, Fig 76, Structures a - c). Although these post-built structures were not necessarily domestic, the different building techniques implied for Structures H, I and J could suggest that the two types of buildings had different functions.

Phase 5, Possible Structure K

This structure was similar to some of the earlier structures, particularly Structure F to which it lay near. There is no reason to suppose that it was not a replacement for the former structure.

THE FUNCTION OF THE STRUCTURES

The excavations have revealed a range of structures in the three areas that are significantly different to those encountered to the east on the A46 road scheme. Perhaps of crucial importance is the near absence of structural postholes in the Marsh Farm areas and given that these structures are earlier than those on the road scheme, it is possible to suggest that this discrepancy is a result of changing building techniques over time. The earliest structures in Area D (Structures a – c) were dated to the mid/late 1st-century AD, a period without any corresponding evidence in Area 9, but perhaps contemporary with some activity in Area 2. The earliest structure in the adjacent Area C1 (Building d) dated from the mid/late 2nd-century AD, a time without any confirmed structures in Area 2 but with some possible activity in Area 9. It is possible therefore to suggest that post-built structures were not used until the mid/late 1st-century AD. However, neither the construction technique nor the size of a structure can be used to ascribe function (Willis 1997, 208-

9) so we are necessarily left with the few pottery sherds and burnt deposits that seem therefore to favour domestic use.

Further afield a range of earlier Iron Age structures defined by penannular gullies have recently been examined in the Tame Valley at Whitemoor Haye in Staffordshire (Coates 2002). On this gravel site the gullies ranged between 6m and 13m in internal diameter and were interpreted as drainage trenches to catch water dripping from the eaves. At least five structures had a central, presumably load bearing post, but little domestic evidence was recovered from any of them, and although three examples may have contained hearths, no attempt was made to show how the structures were constructed (*ibid* 84).

Nevertheless Knight (1984, 146) has listed a series of possible interpretations for similar structures in the East Midlands. These include animal pens that were possibly closed on one side by a light hurdle fence, or windbreaks for cooking or sheltering stock, weaving and/or other activities. If roofed they could have functioned as stalling for cattle, storage or craft activities. At Marsh Farm given that the structures may have existed inside a contemporary field system, all of these remain possibilities.

THE LARGE ENCLOSURE

The large square ditched enclosure constructed in Area 9 had a 6.5m wide entrance in its eastern arm that was later narrowed to 4.5m wide. The building sited within the enclosure may have been rebuilt twice, but contemporaneity with the enclosing ditch is likely given its position relative to the enclosure and to the enclosure entrance which it apparently faced. The upcast from the ditch construction was probably used to form an earthwork bank, although no actual evidence for such a construction could be discerned. The majority of the features found inside the enclosure were located along the inner edge of the ditch, in the position where one would normally expect the bank to have been located. Dual banks (interior and exterior) are known, especially in the north of England (Heslop 1987) but there is no reason to suspect their use at Marsh Farm.

It is possible that the bank was constructed outside the ditch, or perhaps inside leaving a wide berm between it and the ditch. The enclosure was certainly big enough to accommodate such a wide berm. Such a feature may also have had the advantage of keeping stock away from a thatched roof on the central buildings. Given the absence of any stratigraphic relationship between ditch and internal features, it is also possible that the ditch was constructed around an area of existing settlement. At least one of the pits produced middle Iron Age pottery and a further middle Iron Age sherd was recovered from the central building. A further possibility is that the ditch was a recut of an earlier, smaller ditch to which the inner features related and that the latter were subsequently covered by the upcast from the new ditch cut.

This apparent enigma is consequent on a reliance on functional explanations for enclosure ditches and their banks. The possible symbolic attributes of boundary construction which have now been extensively discussed (Bowden & McOmish 1987; Hingley 1990; Hill 1994, 1995a, 1996; Chadwick 1999) appear to provide a more compelling view if not an overarching explanation. However, whilst not universally accepted we could envisage a model whereby the pits in particular were dug as part of the setting out procedure, or they were deliberately placed to be covered by the bank. They may therefore have contained structured or special deposits (cf Hill 1995a) relevant to the safety or prosperity of the enclosure. Unfortunately such explanations are frustrated by the acid soils of the gravel terrace which appear not to

be conducive to the survival of organic material, which is potentially a crucial aspect in detecting such deposits.

A degree of structuration was, however, evident in the eastern arm of the ditch, particularly in the terminals defining the entrance (Hill 1996, 102). The vast bulk of the pottery assemblage was recovered from the eastern arm of the ditch along with animal bone, including a cremated sheep/goat carcass and other evidence of burning. The temperatures required to reduce bone to this calcined state seem to discount its derivation from normal cooking or feasting processes and could suggest use of a crematorium and therefore perhaps ritual sacrifice. The occurrence of a quern stone fragment in the terminal end like those found at Wishaw (Powell et al 2008) and Ling Hall (Palmer 2002) is further evidence for the selected deposition of significant materials (Palmer nd).

The ditch fill had not accumulated quickly as it would if the bank(s) had been deliberately levelled. The sections demonstrate a relatively long period of deposition and the sherds and burnt material were spread throughout the depth of the fill. The inference then is that they were deposited periodically, perhaps on special occasions, and that the act of deposition within the ditch was a significant event. The radiocarbon dates from the ditch unfortunately do not clarify the length of the process although the 2nd- to 4th-century AD sherds in the north-west corner could demonstrate a period of hundreds of years.

The significance of the entrance to Iron Age enclosures and buildings should not be underestimated (Hill 1994, 6, 1996, 102). The upper part of the inner edge of the northern terminal of the ditch was revetted in stone and sufficient stone was spread throughout the fill of the ditch to suggest that the revetment was primarily for an internal earthwork bank. Whereas this may have been to stop the bank slumping into the ditch, once turf had colonised the bank it would be redundant. More likely the stone was used to create a spectacular façade when viewed from outside the enclosure.

The southern ditch terminal had evidently been altered by extending the ditch northward at some point during its life; the original entrance gap between the ditch terminals being wider by some 1.5-2m. Postholes **214** and **215** at 2m apart may have acted as portal posts just inside the entrance of the earlier phase, their location implying that the bank was constructed immediately inside the ditch. Such an arrangement was found with a group of enclosures with elaborate entrances known in Northamptonshire also with 2m wide portal posts (Dix & Jackson 1989, 162), albeit enclosures with massive, defensive ditches. At Marsh Farm the lack of symmetry in respect to the entrance gap and the additional postholes is less conclusive than the Northants examples and the revised entrance has the appearance of funnelling visitors to the north when entering. This perhaps was to screen the interior from those entering (cf Hill 1996, 110; Bowden & McOmish 1987, 77).

At just over 0.5ha the Marsh Farm enclosure was one of the largest in Warwickshire (cf Hingley 1989, Fig 9:9, Table 9:2) if hillforts are discounted. It is much larger than the adjacent small sub-rectangular enclosure partially examined in 1993. It is comparable in size to one of the similarly dated enclosures at Wasperton in the Avon Valley (Ann Woodward pers comm), although further comparisons with this site must await its full publication. It is also comparable in size to the partially excavated Brandon Grounds enclosure (Bateman 1978b).

The radiocarbon dates from Marsh Farm afford close parallels to Park Farm, Barford (Cracknell & Hingley 1994, 25). At this Avon Valley enclosed settlement site, charcoal from the primary ditch fill yielded a calibrated date of 830-400BC (GU-5045). However, other calibrated dates from intermediate fills of 390-30BC (GU-5043) and 370BC-80AD (GU-5044), and from features in the top of the ditch 354BC-80AD (OxA-

2306) and 364BC-60AD (OxA-2303) provide a more convincing date range for the ditch fills which correspond to the ceramics from the site as a whole. The Park Farm enclosure also had an eastern opening, although the three internal structures were positioned around the inner edges leaving an apparently open space in the centre and at the back.

There is a continuing debate concerning the functional aspects of enclosure ditches (Bowden & McOmish 1987; Hill 1995b), as some like the Marsh Farm and Park Farm examples would clearly fall short of providing a defensive aspect. Few examples can be shown to represent a display of status despite exhibiting earthworks that would have required considerable effort to construct, not least because we have so little corroborative evidence of what actually constituted status in the later first millennium BC. Practical considerations such as drainage could be relevant on some sites but are unlikely to count for much on the well drained gravels and open settlements are known on the poorly drained clay sites such as Coton Park (Northants Archaeology 1998). Explanations which take into account the longstanding traditions of symbolism seem more likely to provide the way forward in determining the purpose of such features on the majority of sites, although such hypotheses are unlikely to resolve the issue for those settlements that were apparently open.

THE PIT GROUPS

The pit groups within the enclosure were concentrated in the north-east corner. Whether this grouping truly reflects the spatial organisation of the enclosure is debatable. The surviving internal features, apart from the northern group, were all generally shallow but may have been afforded some protection from plough truncation from the overlying raised trackway that crossed the front of the enclosure. Similar features could have existed across the site before destruction by plough truncation. Nevertheless it is by no means requisite that other features previously existed and the pit groupings could indeed be representative of the site layout. Unfortunately the almost total absence of corroborative material in their fills and in their vicinity, means we are no nearer to understanding their purpose. The northern group could conceivably have been used for storage (Ellison 1987) although they would probably have been too small for grain silos (Reynolds 1974). The linear arrangement of pits on the north side of the enclosure is equally difficult to interpret, not least because the pits were cut by a later phase gully. At Park Farm pits were spread throughout the enclosure although a particular concentration occurred toward the back on the western side; none could be equated with storage (Cracknell & Hingley 1994, 28).

THE SMALL RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE

We still know very little about the small rectangular enclosure. The single section excavated through its eastern arm in 1993 did not clarify either its date or even its likely function. In retrospect omitting this feature from the excavation programme has left a rather uncomfortable hole in our understanding of the development of the valley, although in 1987 we could not know that a new road was soon to slice through the area. Our only clue to its function is the relationship between it and the pit group excavated on its western side which appears to have been clustered around its probable western entrance gap and on balance seems likely to have been contemporary (the single probable Bronze Age pit apart). A few pits were also identified on the eastern side of the enclosure in 1993 (Palmer 2000a, Fig 34).

Many Warwickshire enclosures are associated with external features (Hingley 1989) although few have been tested by excavation. Further evidence comes from those

later phase gullies that align on the corners of the enclosure which must then have already been in existence. There are no cropmarks within the enclosure although it is bisected by a modern hedgeline, which conceivably has masked any internal features. In terms of size, at 0.18ha it falls at the lower end of the range of Warwickshire enclosures (Hingley 1989, Table 9:2) but would have been capable of enclosing more than one round-house.

However, a note of caution is required in interpreting the function of Iron Age enclosures that contain no obviously domestic evidence. A recently excavated example at Church Lawford that was set aside from a contemporary group of inter-linked domestic enclosures, is likely to have been associated with mortuary and ceremonial events (Palmer in prep). This was suggested by the presence within it of a mini-ring-ditch, a type of monument that elsewhere has been shown to be associated with funerary practice (Palmer 2000a, 54). The Church Lawford enclosure was square, each side 25m long and with an entrance to the east. It was clearly not domestic in character, and there is no reason to presume that the smaller Marsh Farm enclosure was either.

THE PIT GROUP

The pits in Area 4 associated with the small enclosure were significantly different to those associated with the large enclosure. They were not bound to the enclosure ditch in the same way as the others were and also, a significant proportion of them were a particular 'pear' shape. The frequency of these enigmatic features suggests that they were regularly in use, although we can not know whether this was consecutively or if the same feature was used more than once. Orientation appears not to have been significant unless it was to do with the prevailing wind, but as there was no signs of burning this seems unlikely. Spatially the three groups and two outliers seem to have been positioned in more or less open ground, albeit immediately outside the enclosure and with the southern group quite close to Structure G.

THE OPEN SETTLEMENT IN AREA 2

The domestic deposits in Area 2 appeared to be spatially distinct from those in Area 4. The focus in this area was the C-ditch and probably a further similar feature represented by a cropmark to the south positioned above the natural slope down to the first terrace. If they were enclosed it was by a series of sinuous gullies that only survived on the northern side. It was clear that these features had suffered from truncation and could have extended around to the west and to the south. The northern edge of the C-ditch was incorporated into Structure C as were at least some of the sinuous gullies immediately to the north. This structure, along with Structures D and E, formed a compact arrangement of activity to the rear of the C-ditch. All these Phase 3 structures were sufficiently important that they were reconstructed in the same relative positions in Phase 4.

The putative linear pit group glimpsed under ditch **1021** may have been contemporary with the earlier structures in this area, although so little was visible any speculation as to their form and function seems unlikely to be rewarded. Suffice to say that as the ditch may have functioned as a boundary for the Phase 3 structures to the north-west, the pits may have similarly served, perhaps in the same way as the pits inside the northern arm of the large enclosure. They all appeared to have been out of use by Phase 4.

THE FIELD SYSTEMS

So little of the field system that survived was excavated that details of its development remain unknown. However, we can surmise that it was initiated in the 1st-century AD and that in all likelihood it existed throughout the Roman period. A similar trackway examined to the east in 1993 was dated to the early 2nd-century (Palmer 2000a, 195). It also seems clear that the Marsh Farm trackway was aligned on the two enclosures, which must have remained prominent in the landscape. The central trackway was presumably driven through the system at a later date to provide access through the fields to the villa site to the south.

The annexe on the large enclosure was constructed sometime in the 2nd–4th centuries AD at a time when the open settlement had been abandoned, the focus of activity moving to the south, but within the enclosure itself only a single pit can be dated to this phase. If, as it seems likely the settlement had moved to the north in the vicinity of the features examined in 1993 (Area D), the enclosure could merely have continued as a field or perhaps a 'significant place' where ritual was performed. It was in the annexe gully that the human cremation was deposited. Whether there were other burials and cremations that were subsequently truncated by plough action we cannot know.

ECONOMY AND TRADE

The majority of Iron Age settlements were farmsteads engaged in agriculture and there is no evidence from Marsh Farm to suggest any other kind of economy for this site. There is evidence from other regions of specialisation within a basic agricultural regime, such as the pioneer pastoral settlement at Mingies Ditch, Oxon (Allen & Robinson 1993), but nothing from Marsh Farm could prompt such a view. In fact the evidence to support even a basic agricultural economy is sparse; there being an almost total absence of indicators such as charred plant remains, pollen and macrofossils etc. Barley and wheat seeds were found charred in a pit outside the large enclosure, but there was too little to shed much light on the processes of acquisition and use. The single fragment of quern stone found in the terminal end of the large enclosure ditch may qualify the site as a grain using market, but not necessarily as a production centre. Quern stones have also been found at Ling Hall, Church Lawford where evidence of cereal production is equally evasive (Palmer 2002; Palmer in prep). Very small amounts of charred plant remains were also recovered from Park Farm leading to suggestions that cereal supplies were brought in from elsewhere (Moffett 1994, 23). The paltry assemblage of animal bone likewise demonstrates a degree of animal consumption but not the level of stock management. There was likewise an absence of corroborative evidence in the form of tools for secondary processing, with the exception of possible loom weights, that if not oven bricks, do imply that cloth was woven. Nevertheless in all probability the inhabitants were largely self sufficient and fully able to sustain themselves with the produce of their labours.

The later Iron Age has long been recognised as a period of population growth and any expansion in a community's population would require a synchronous increase in food and clothing production. It is now generally accepted (Lambrick 1992) that to compensate there was a shift to more arable farming. Permanent field construction is seen as one response to the pressures of intensification whereby animal populations have exceeded their grazing capacity (Pryor 1998, 82) and also to provide a strategy for diversification in arable regimes (*ibid* 79). This model does not seem to apply to Marsh Farm until the 1st-century AD. There currently is no evidence for field systems in this region prior to the Roman period, even though such features were apparently widespread in the Thames Valley (Yates 2001) and other regions in the preceding millennia (cf Pryor 1996). Their absence in this region could be seen as

evidence for a comparatively low intensity of land use relative to other regions at least until the Romano-British period.

The Arrow Valley Through Time

In the report on the work undertaken in advance of the new road scheme (Palmer 2000a) an attempt was made to summarise the then current state of knowledge and to provide a context for the valley's development through time, but it lacked a comprehensive Iron Age context. This work provides such a context, quite clearly demonstrating that the origins of the villa estate witnessed in the excavations of 1993 were rooted in the Iron Age.

An attempt was made to demonstrate that formalised land units or estates could have existed in the valley since the later Bronze Age, a time of wide scale land division over much of the country (*ibid* 217-8). Whilst the current excavations do not appear to contradict this model, no new evidence was identified to support the proposition. Nevertheless during the Mid-Late Iron Age a series of occupation foci were dotted along the western bank of the river in one such land unit, as defined by the Ban Brook to the south and the clothes-line enclosure system that crossed the hill-top at Broom to the north (Fig 1). Whether occupation in these foci was contemporary or consecutive is uncertain given the absence of any intra-site stratigraphy or a secure chronological framework, but it seems that a degree of overlap is probable.

A similar pattern is beginning to emerge in the extensively excavated Dunsmore region of central eastern Warwickshire in the middle-late Iron Age. On this flat plateau with very few natural boundaries, the land units/estates were set out in the earlier-middle Iron Age and were defined by a complex of pit alignments. The enclosed settlements were constructed along the alignments (Palmer in prep). This appears to be in contrast to other Warwickshire sites such as Walton in the Dene Valley (S Palmer 2006) and Coton Park on the clay lands between the Avon and Swift in north-east Warwickshire (Northants Archaeology 1998), where large unenclosed agglomerated settlements seem to have developed. Both these sites are awaiting full analysis but it appears initially that at Coton Park at least the settlement was significantly richer in terms of material culture compared to the Dunsmore and Arrow valley sites. However, it is debatable if this kind of 'wealth' was merely a different way of exhibiting status contrasting with the formal setting out and construction of enclosures.

The occurrence of a wide range of both enclosed and open settlements of the late first millennium BC in Warwickshire (Hingley 1996; Palmer nd) is widely reflected across southern Britain (Bevan 1999; Champion & Collis 1996; Fitzpatrick & Morris 1994; Haselgrove *et al* 2001). In the relatively extensively studied Thames Valley, predominantly unenclosed settlements are spaced every 1-2km and expansion during the Iron Age is credited with the shift towards more mixed agriculture and the seasonal use of marginal land. In contrast settlements in the Cotswolds seem to have been less densely concentrated and enclosed. Expansion here is thought to have generated the need for an increase in pastoralism, a concomitant increase in clearance and the need to protect herds within enclosures in times of trouble (Lambrick 1988, 125). The Arrow and Avon Valley evidence seems to indicate closely spaced settlement predominantly of enclosed form with expansion expressed by both open and enclosed settlement much later in the Iron Age. This apparent contrast in site form could perhaps be explained as a more sophisticated or more deeply nuanced level of settlement development.

There is no evidence from the Arrow Valley of familial conventions occasioning the subdivision of the enclosures (cf Collis 1996, 91), but the development of areas

outside the enclosures may correspond to the subdivision of the land-units themselves. This also appears true on Dunsmore where larger estates are divided by gullies in the later Iron Age and early Roman periods (Palmer 2002).

At the Marsh Farm complex the shift in the settlement foci proposed for the 1st-century AD (Palmer 2000a), although retaining the spatial distinction of the earlier phase, was accompanied by continued occupation in Area 2, whilst apparently absent in Area 9. This could imply that development continued in Area D (Fig 1) at the expense of Area 9 even though it was to return later in the form of the annexe. It is also worth considering the differences between each of the foci, which could be read as a deliberate attempt to distinguish between them. If this is an indication of ranking order (Ellis 1994, 108), it could perhaps be regarded as one result of population growth within a family unit. If so it appears to have dominated the inheritance pattern of the valley landscape well into the Romano-British period.

At Marsh Farm there was no evidence for a field system contemporary with the Iron Age phase and currently there is only limited evidence for such systems in the wider (county) region with the possible examples at Wasperton and Coton Park, which have yet to be corroborated (Palmer nd), and Ling Hall, Church Lawford (Palmer in prep). The agricultural implications of this are uncertain because we cannot know for sure what the reliance on bounded fields would have been. Given the widely held presumption that favours a mixed agricultural regime the debate hinges on whether bounded fields were needed to prevent animals eating crops. Their widespread early use in areas such as the Thames Valley would certainly suggest so, yet this could be a result of a higher settlement density where a level of protection from neighbouring herds was either necessary or culturally appropriate. In low-density areas the scale of such problems may have been much less, negating the need for fields, relying perhaps on the skill and goodwill of the herders.

The development of the field system in the 1st-century AD at Marsh Farm could therefore reflect an increase in population and herd size. The alignment of the fields on the earlier enclosures, whilst indicating the continued existence of the latter, may also support the idea that there were familial ties between them. Certainly when the trackway was driven through the centre of the fields in Area 2, to align with the unexcavated cropmark in Area 7 and the corner of the enclosure in Area 9, this suggests that the two former foci were linked in some way.

Development in the Roman Period

The sequence of phases of the combined Marsh Farm and A46 sites, which although not fully resolved, does allow some insight into the effects or otherwise of the Roman conquest and the subsequent transition from native farms to villa complex.

The initial focus during the Middle Iron Age appears to have been in the vicinity of the large enclosure in Area 9. The date of the construction of the enclosure remains uncertain but it was certainly used in the two or three centuries preceding the conquest, concomitantly with an area of open settlement in Area 2 and probably with the small enclosure adjacent to Area 4. It may reasonably be supposed that the occupants belonged to a single kin group and that they inhabited, worked, farmed and raised animals in an estate or land unit that extended from the Ban Brook to the south, to the hill top at Broom to the north, bounded by the river to the east and extending to the edge of the valley to the west. The dispersal of foci within the estate can reasonably be thought to reflect familial conventions such as partible inheritance, whereby the estate is subdivided between heirs. At this time trade is apparent in the form of pottery and a quernstone from regions to the south and west but there is no demonstrable external cultural affiliation.

Around the turn of the millennium the initial focus is no longer used as a domestic residence, but domestic activity continues to the south in Area 2. By the time the Roman army is ensconced at Alcester building techniques have changed to post-built constructions and new foci develop to the north-east in Area D and to the south-east in Area C1: similarly dated post-in-trench buildings occur in Alcester (Mahany 1994, fig 109). In the early roman period there is an increase in the use and discard of ceramics concomitant with the connection to a broader supply network. At the beginning of the 2nd-century AD the focus of occupation is less certain, being absent at Marsh Farm and perhaps peripheral to Areas C1 and D. At this time these areas all seem to have been integrated into a new field system that extends across the terrace. In the mid-late 2nd-century AD the focus is in Area C1, tucked away in a sheltered hollow on the 1st terrace. It is in the later 2nd to 4th centuries that the villa develops dispersed across Areas C1, C2, C3 and probably the extensive unexcavated cropmark complex to the south of Marsh Farm Quarry. During this period the annexe to the large enclosure is constructed and a cremation deposited in the gully.

IN CONCLUSION

The archaeological work at Marsh Farm Quarry between 1991 and 2000 has contributed important and significant details to our understanding of the human interaction with, and the development of, the Arrow Valley. It constitutes an invaluable adjunct to the work on the adjacent road scheme of 1993 (Palmer 2000a). It has provided details of the middle and late Iron Age context from which the Romano-British villa estate emerged and contributed understanding to the link with the Late Bronze Age activity on the hilltop at Broom. The combined work represents the most detailed and comprehensive study of an archaeological landscape so far available in the region and as such it will provide essential comparanda for any forthcoming studies.

Although the work encompassed a wide range of settlement types, aspects relating to death and burial were under represented; the Late Bronze Age cremation in Area E (Palmer 2000a) and the Romano-British cremation deposit in Area 9 constituting the only formal mortuary evidence from *c* 1000 years of occupation. Other elements crucial to the lives of the communities that lived in the valley that remain largely unknown include animal husbandry and the changing environment. Nevertheless important advances have been made in understanding population growth, agricultural intensification and social interaction.

The work in Areas 2 and 4 especially, demonstrates that the smaller features without obvious cropmark signatures can provide essential contextual information for the more obvious cropmark sites, as has been found in other landscape scale excavations in the gravel quarries at Church Lawford (Palmer 2002) and Wasperton (A Woodward pers comm).

Future research could profitably be spent on examining the wider valley landscape. Fieldwalking in the upper valley slopes and along the flood plain for instance could provide information relating to Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement patterns, Romano-British manuring patterns and satellite occupation sites. Targeted trial trenching at the discrete cropmark sites and potential finds scatters could also provide additional contextual data, perhaps relating to temporary settlement or transhumance and animal husbandry. Prospecting for and sampling of waterlogged deposits could provide invaluable data regarding the environmental changes that occurred in the valley. Pollen, macrofossils and waterlogged insects trapped in such deposits could potentially be combined with those found in 1993 and be used to describe both natural and anthropogenic agencies that have contributed to the development of today's environment.

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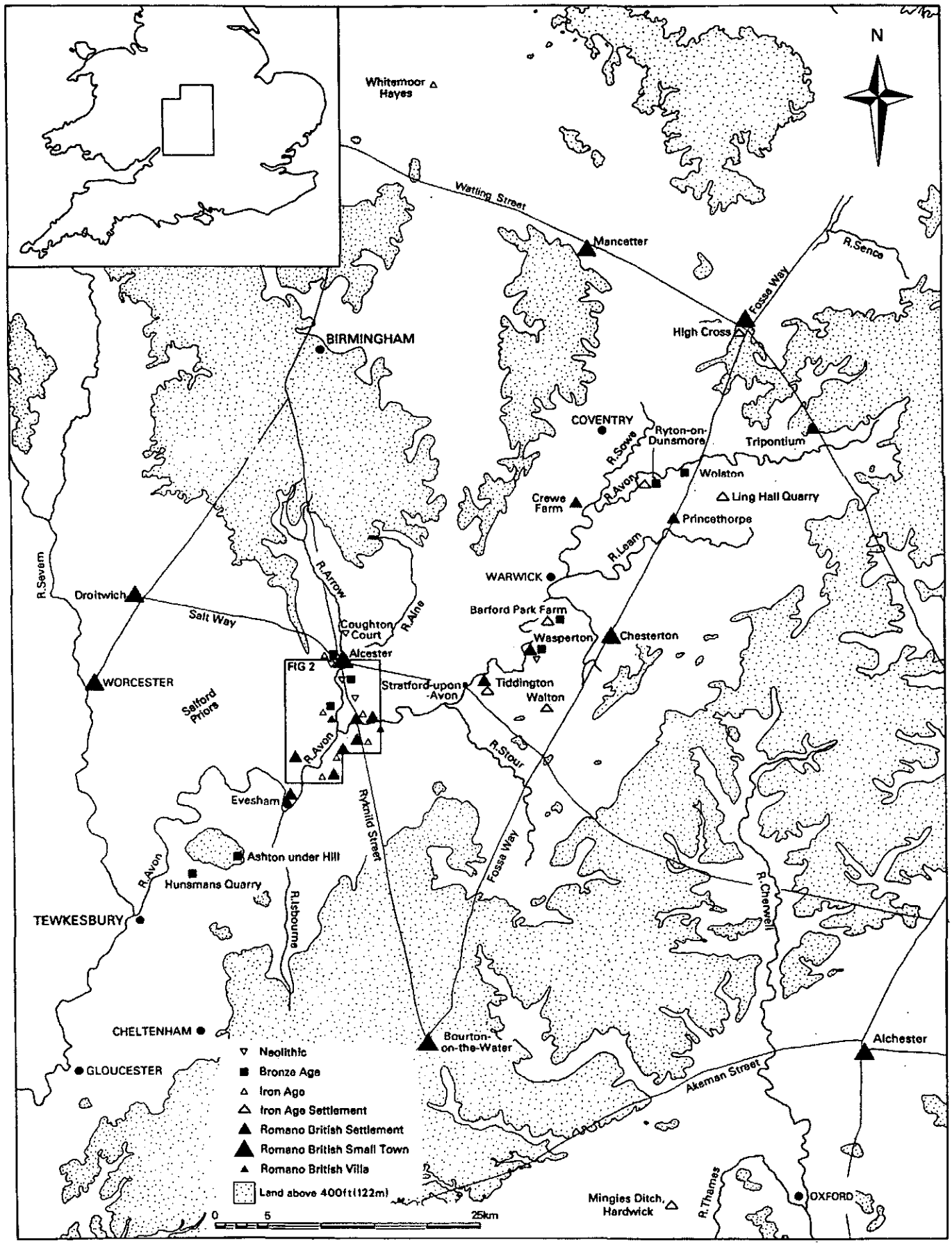

Fig. 1: The West Midlands: the Avon and Arrow valleys

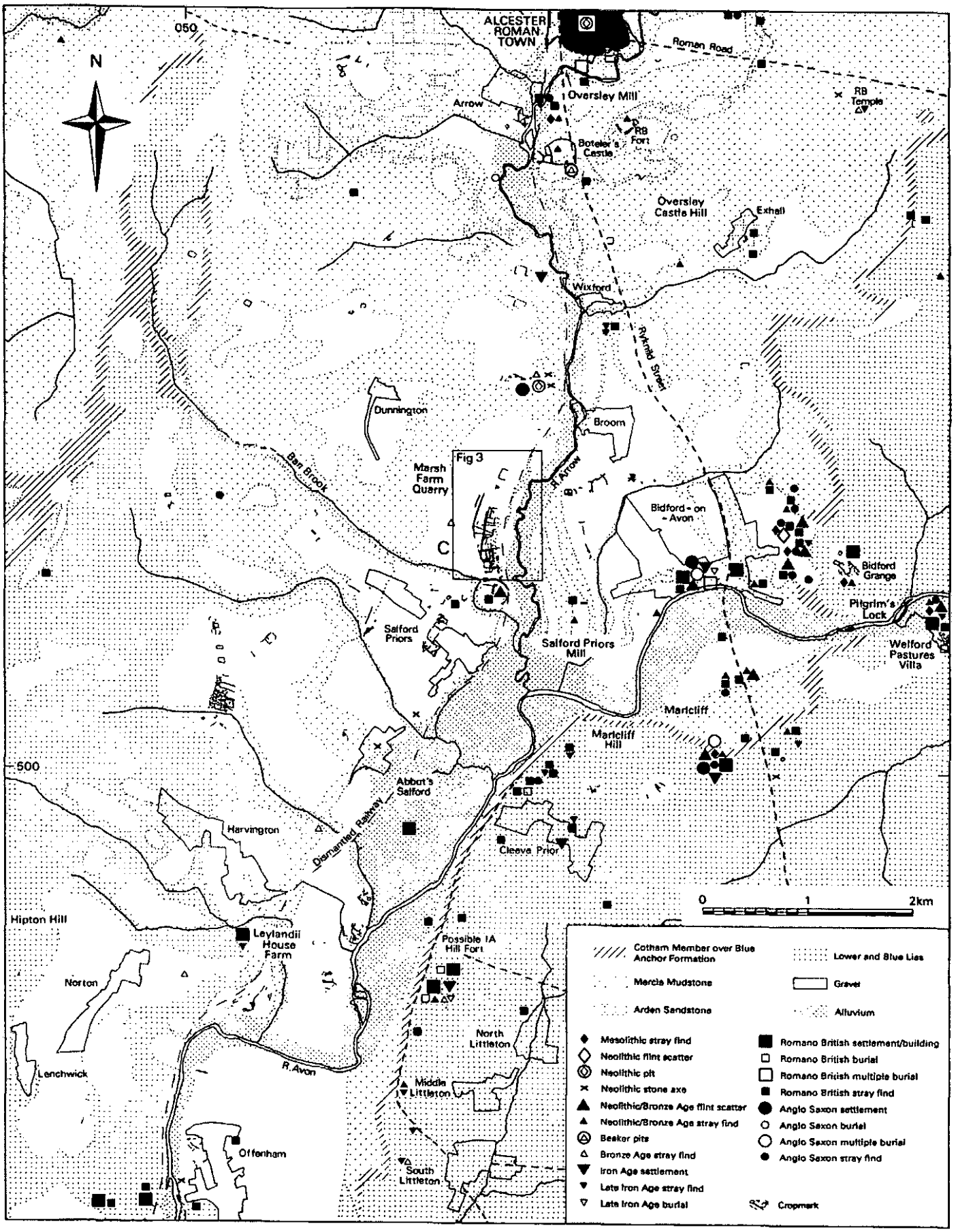

Fig. 2: Geology and archaeology in the Avon and Arrow valleys

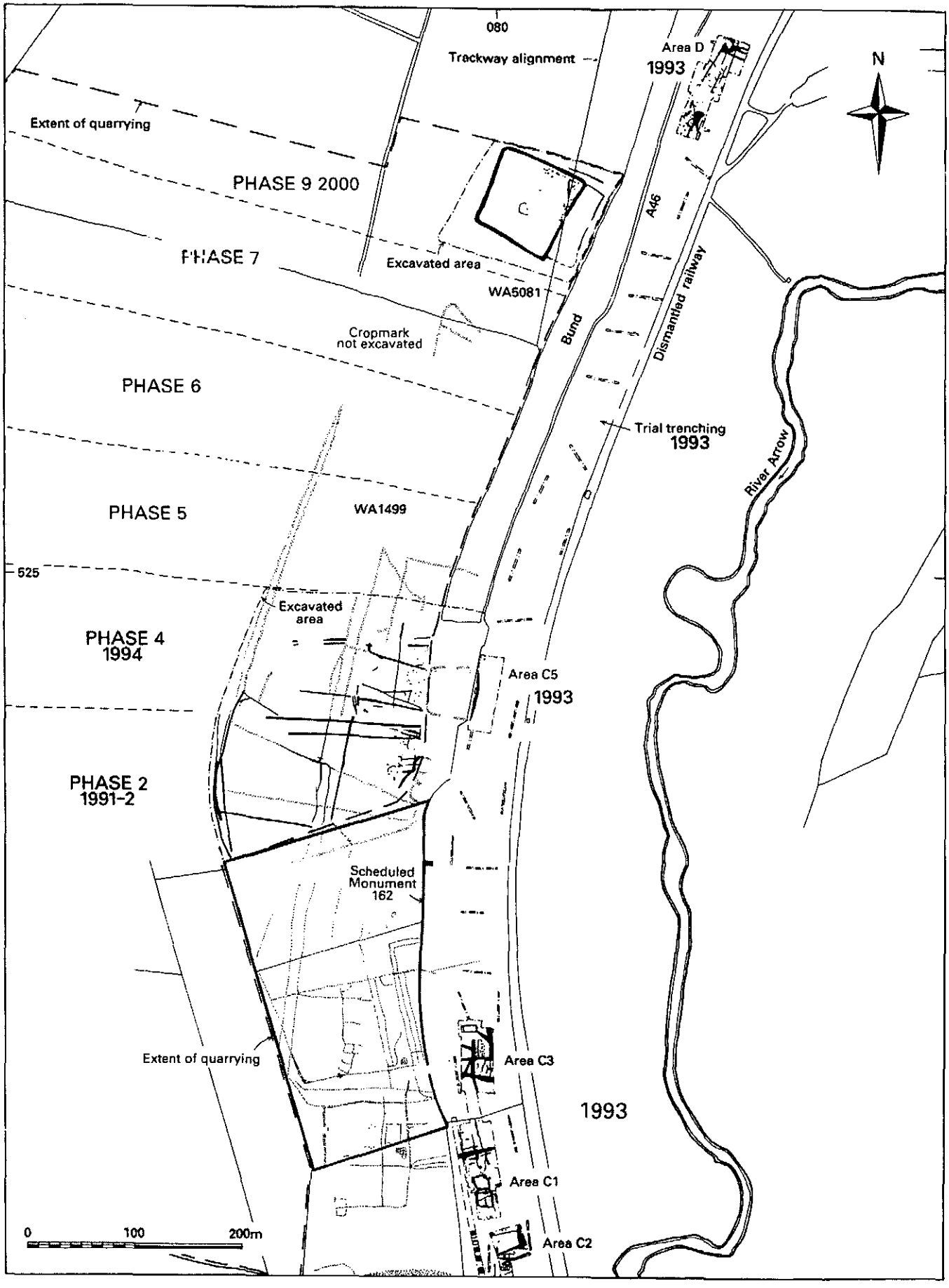

Fig. 3: Marsh Farm Quarry and the sites examined

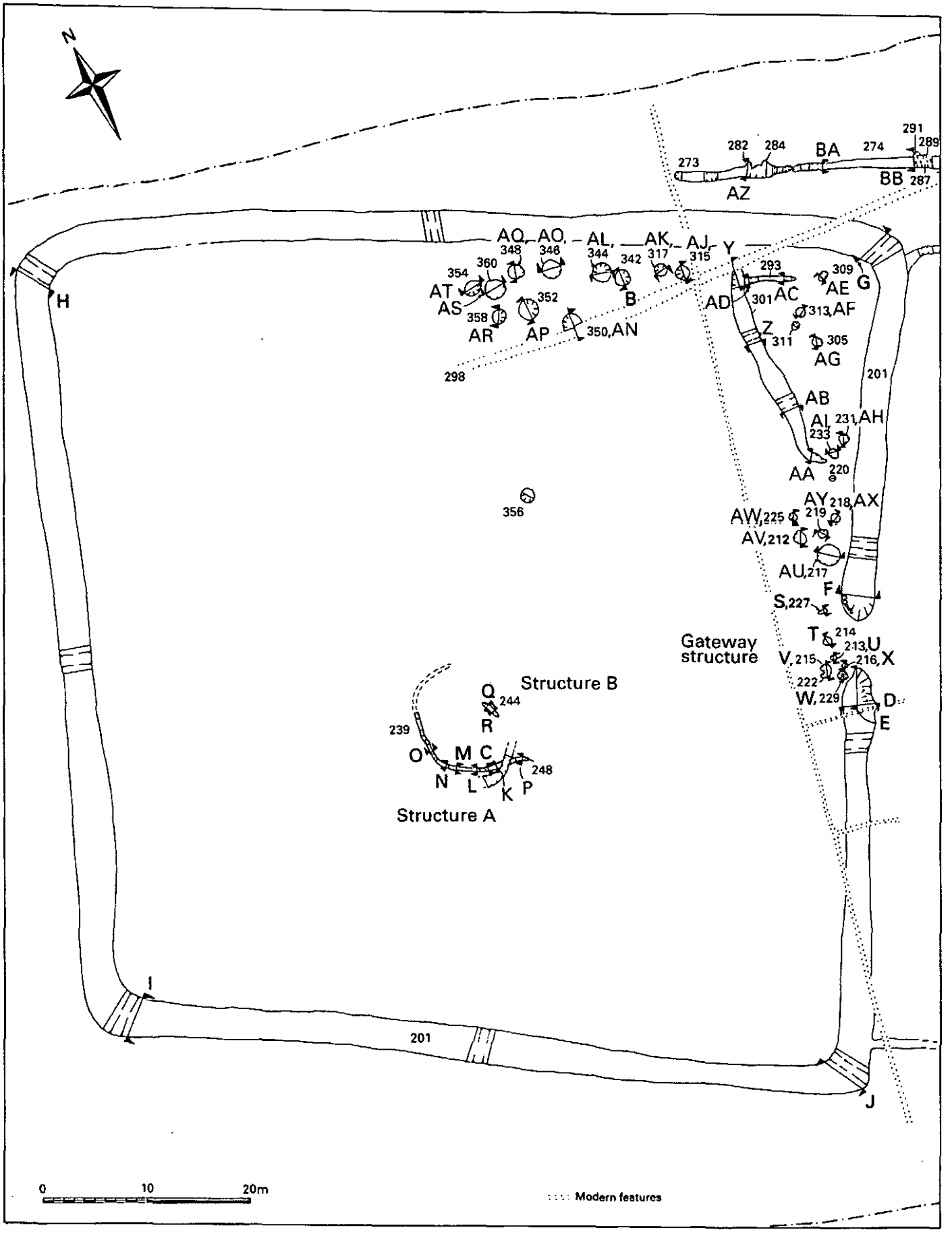

Fig. 4: Area 9, middle-late Iron Age enclosure

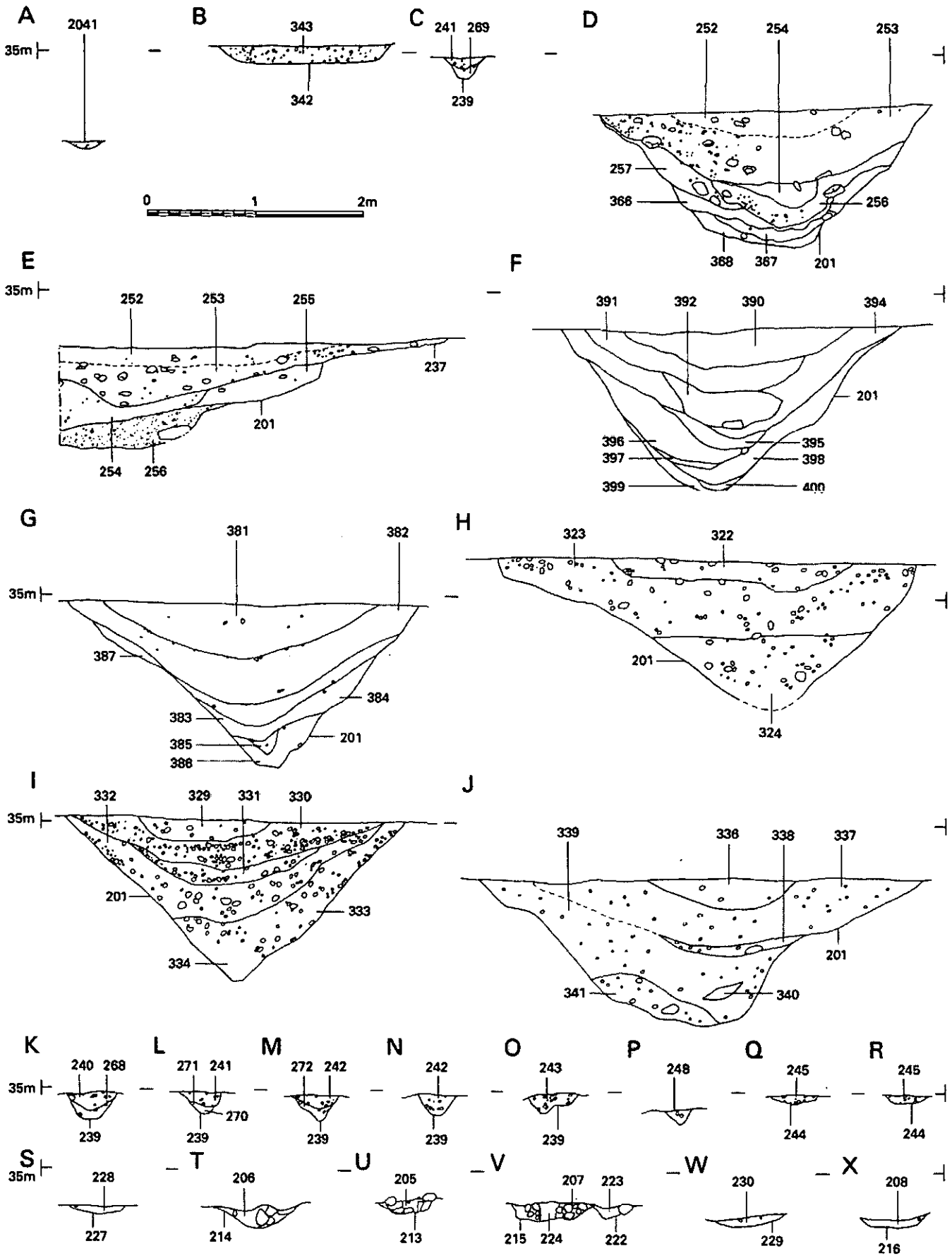

Fig. 5: Area 9 Sections A-X

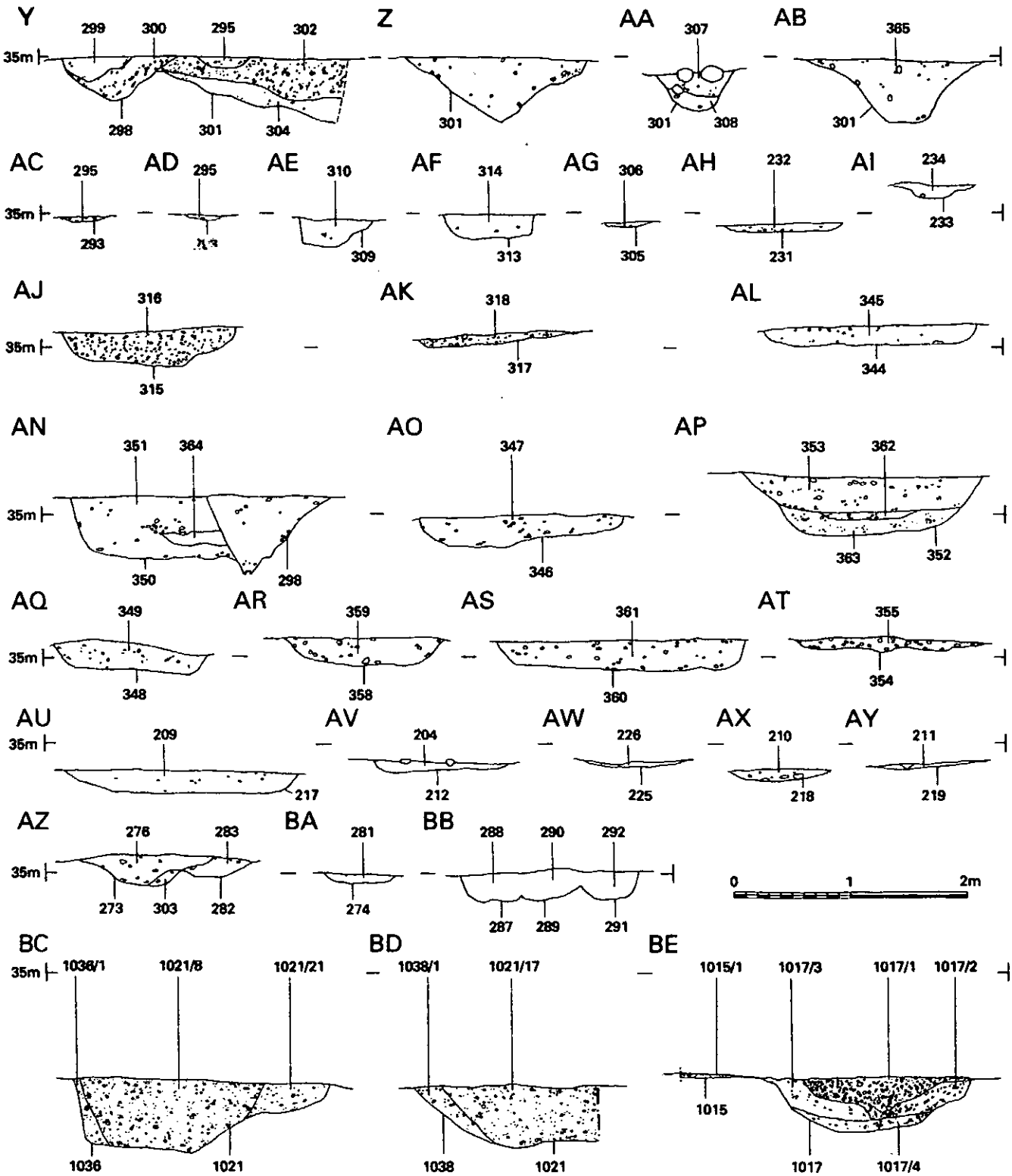

Fig. 6: Area 9 Sections Y-BB and Area 2 Sections BC-BE

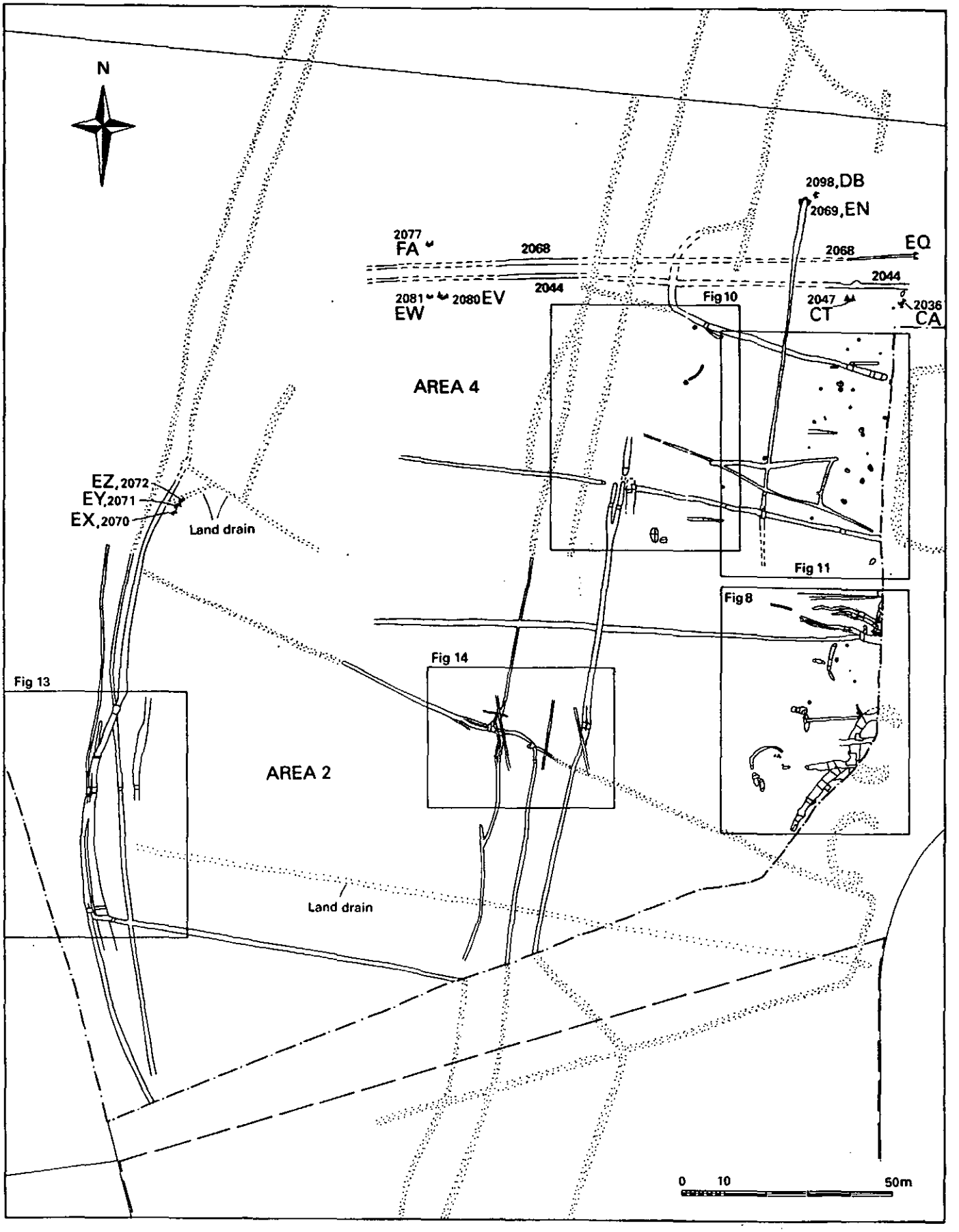

Fig. 7: General plan of Area 2 and Area 4

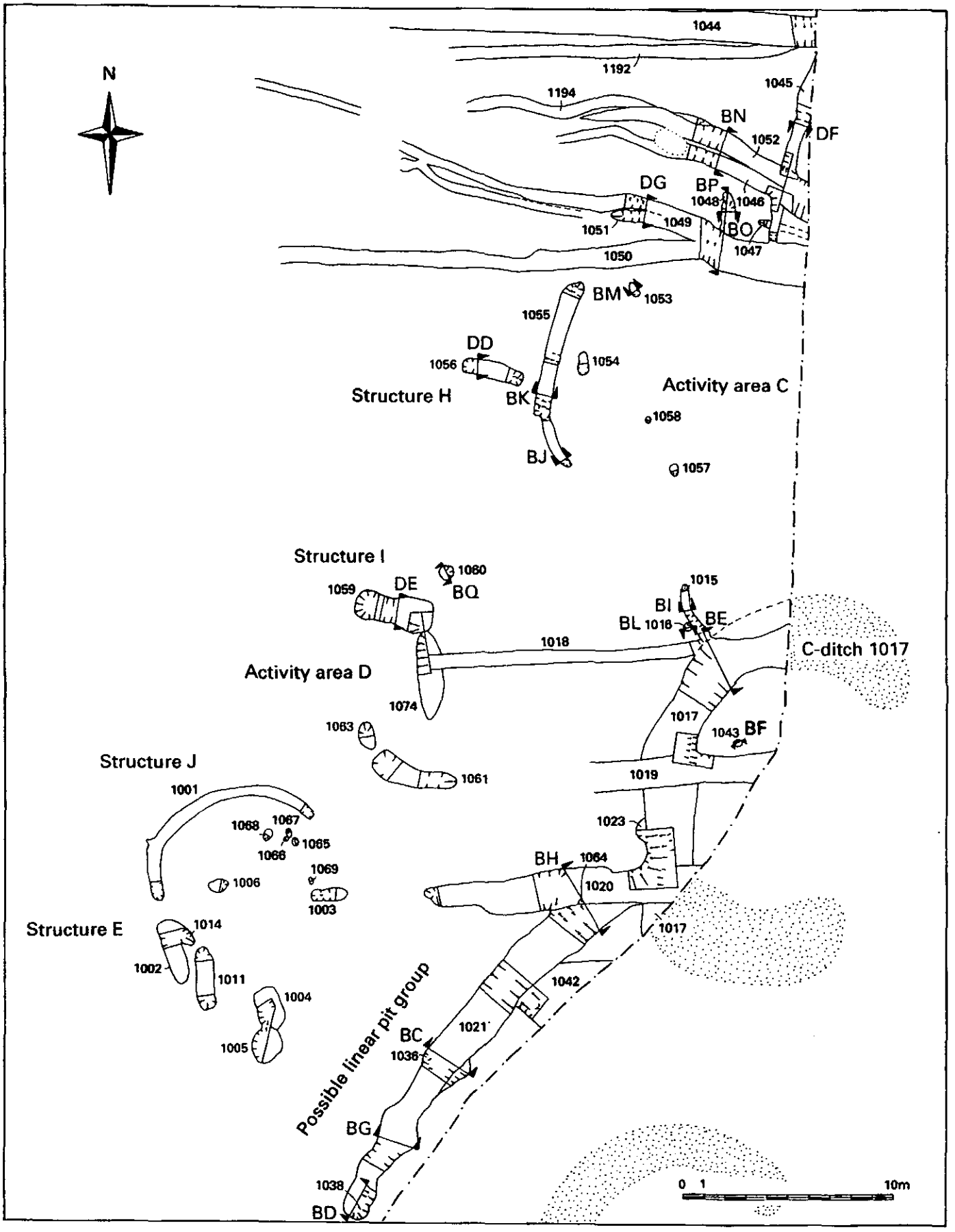

Fig. 8: Area 2 middle-late Iron Age settlement foci

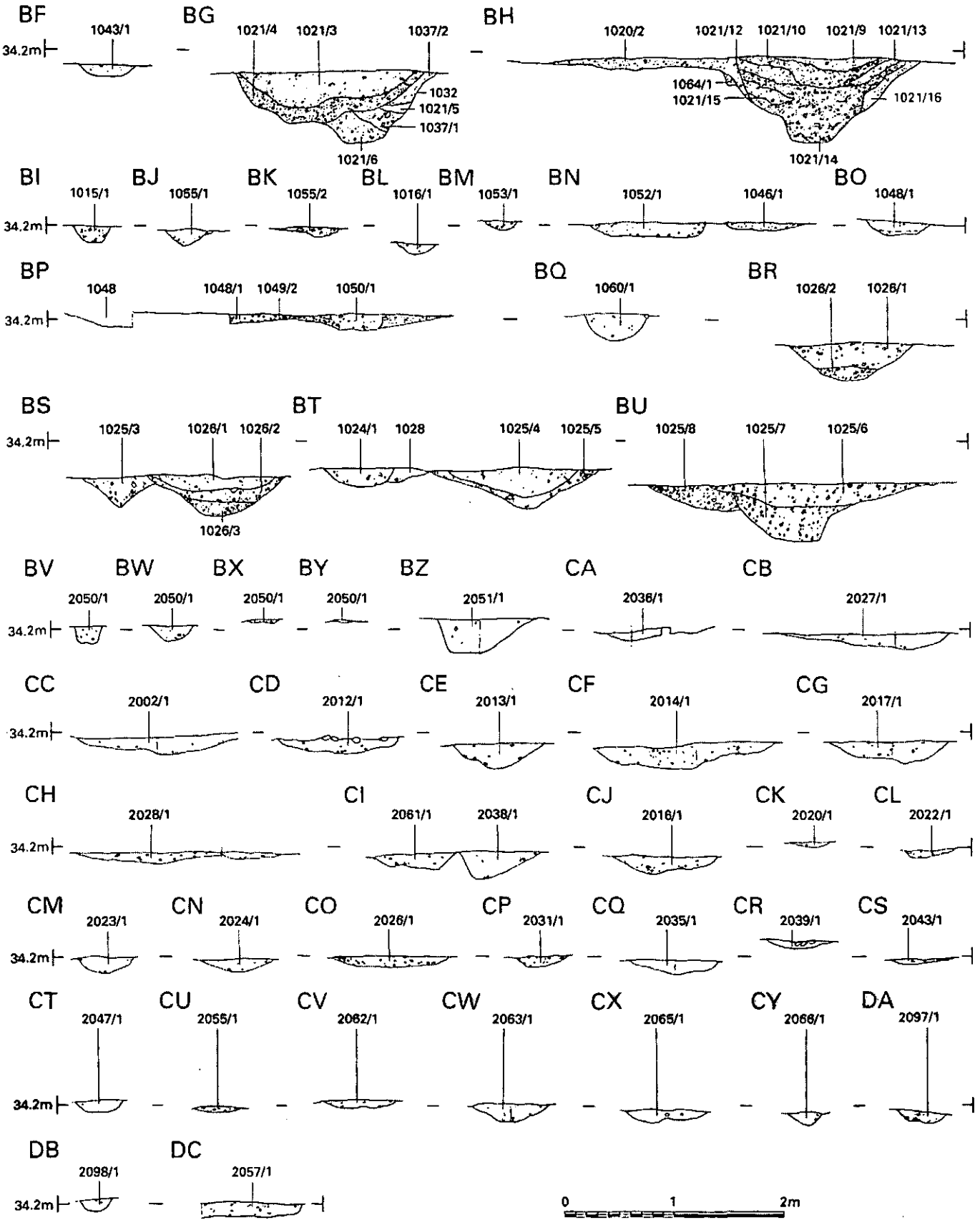

Fig. 9: Area 2 Sections BF-BU and Area 4 Sections BV-DC

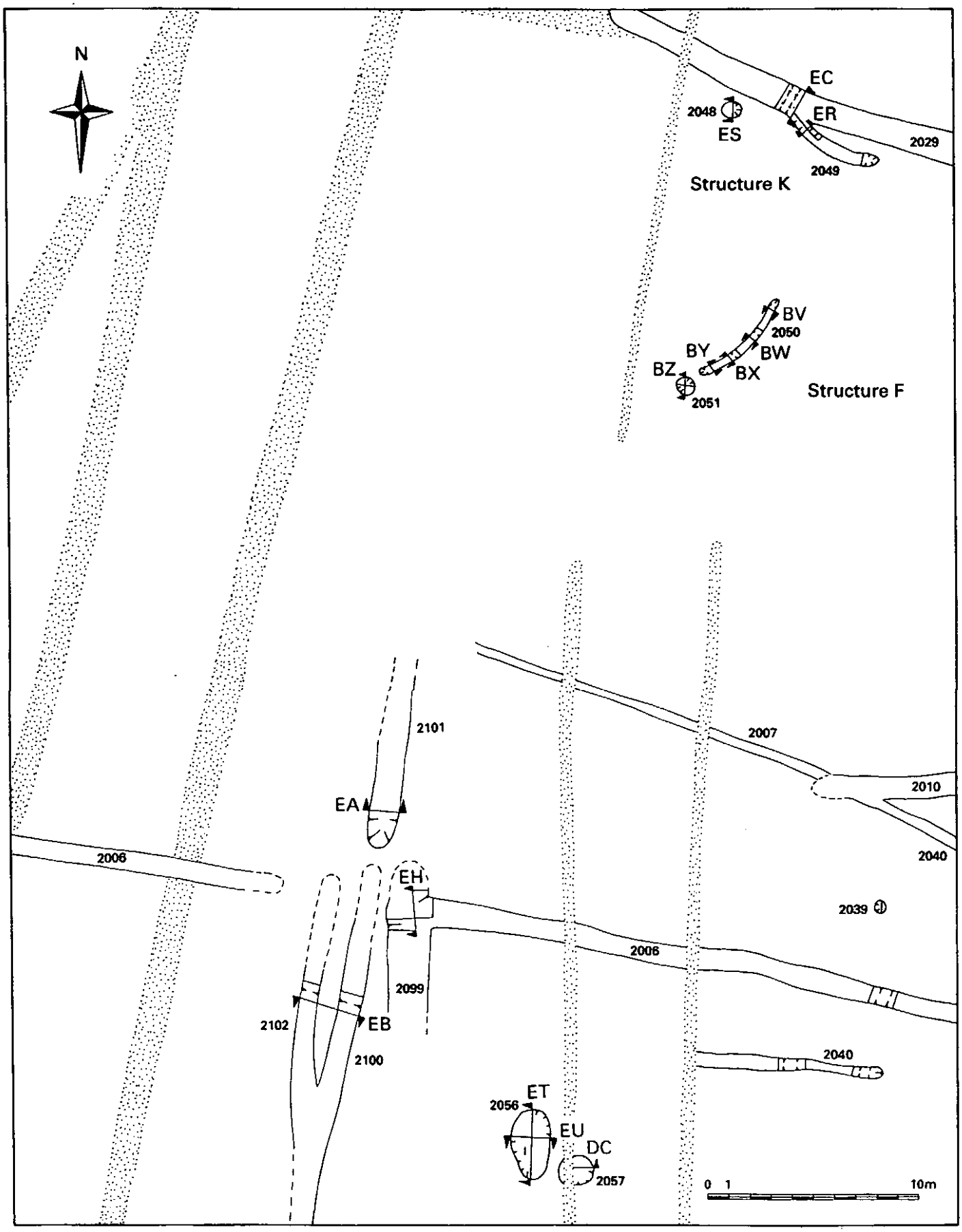

Fig. 10: Area 4 (western part) Structure F and boundaries

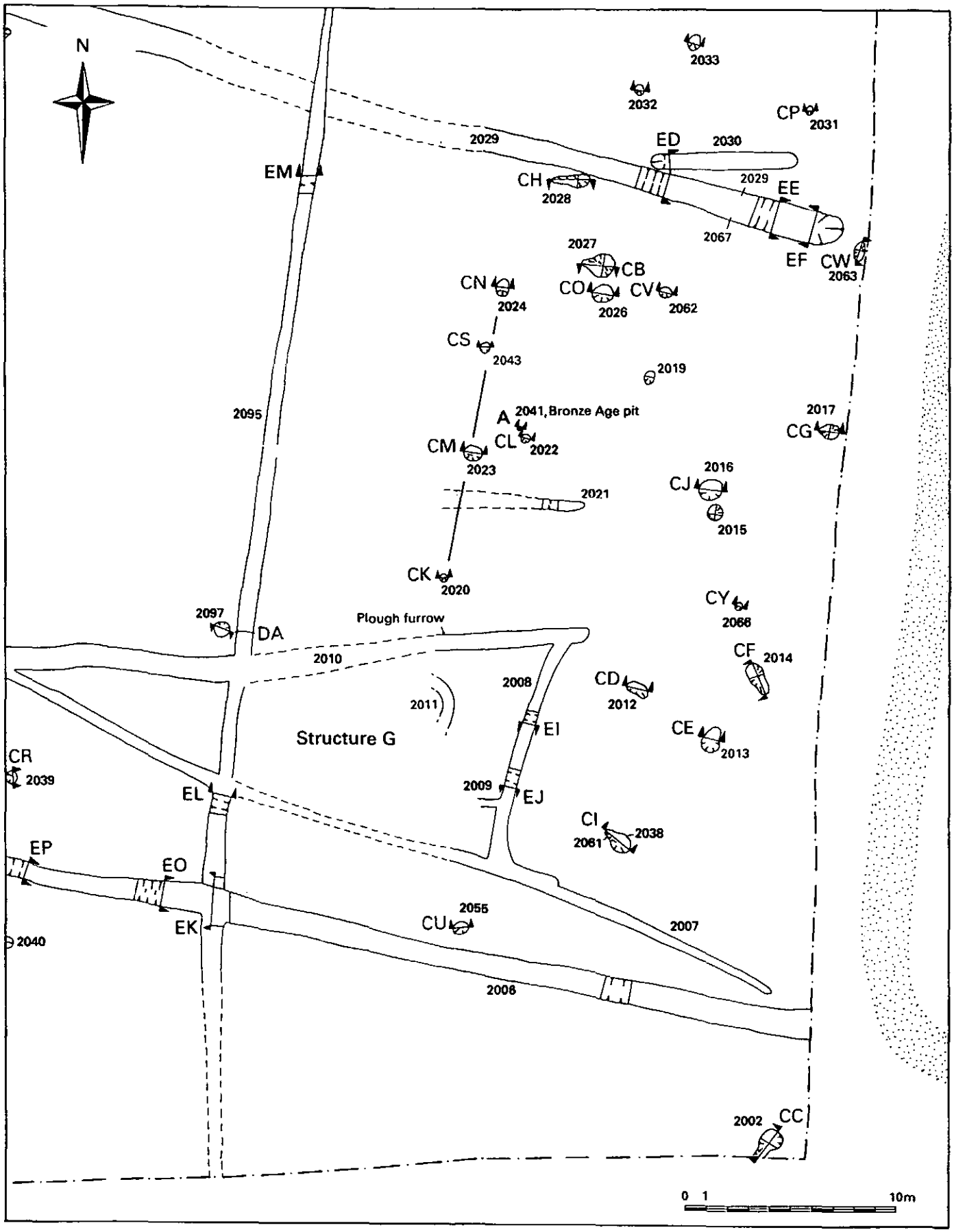

Fig. 11: Area 4 (eastern part) pit groups, Structure G and boundaries

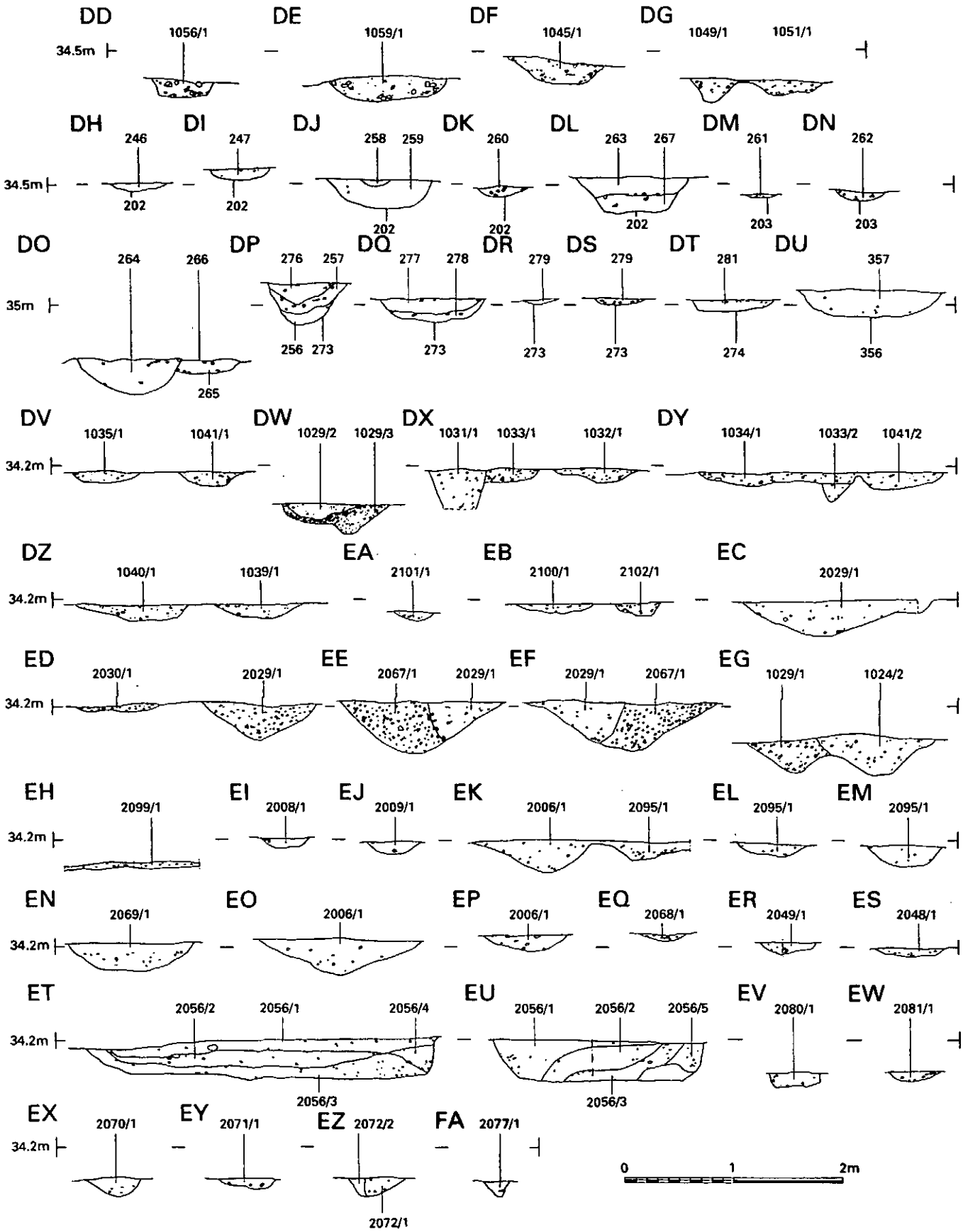

Fig. 12: Area 2 Sections DD-DG, Area 9 Sections DH-DU and Area 4 Sections DV-FA

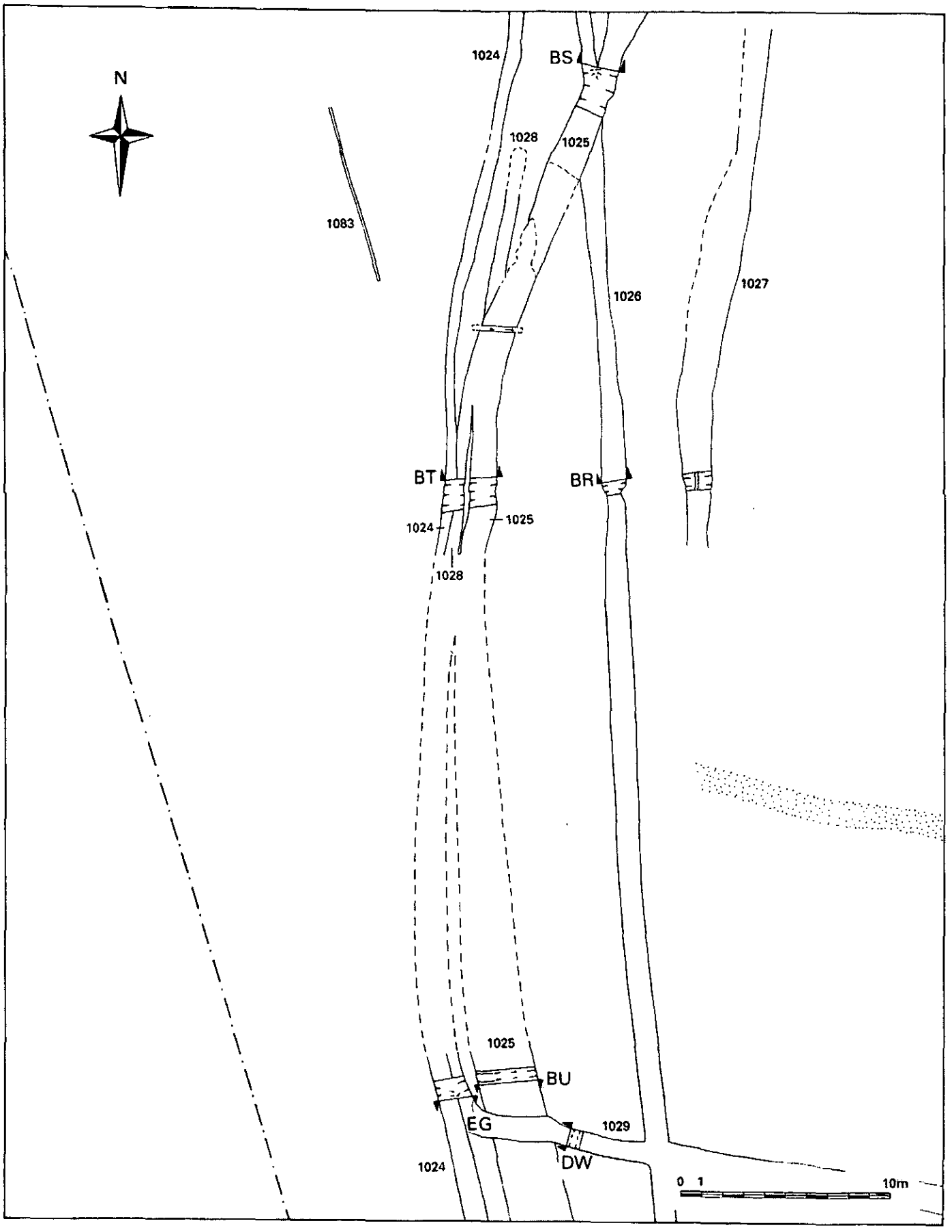

Fig. 13: Area 2 (western part) boundaries

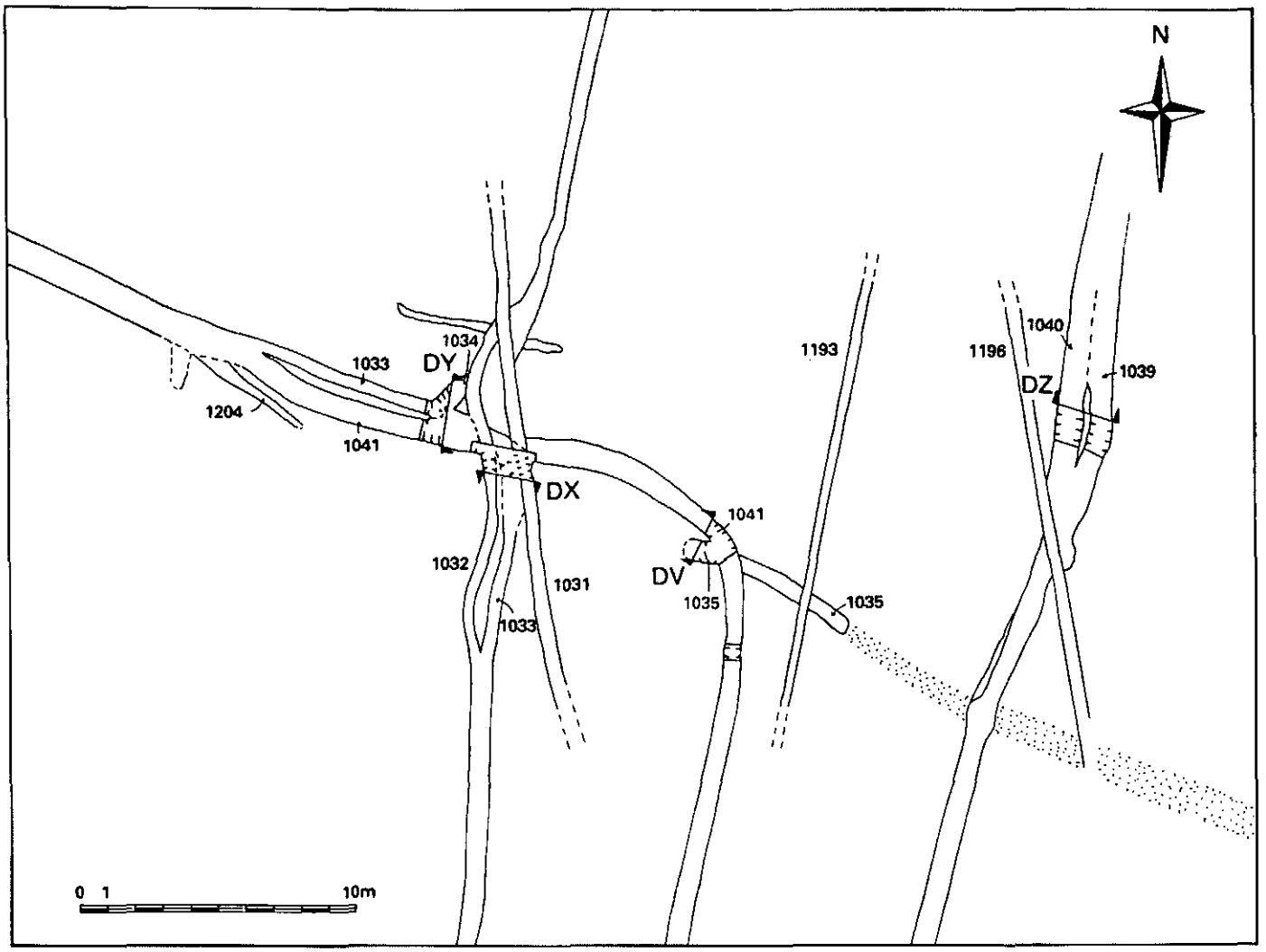

Fig. 14: Area 2 (central part) boundaries

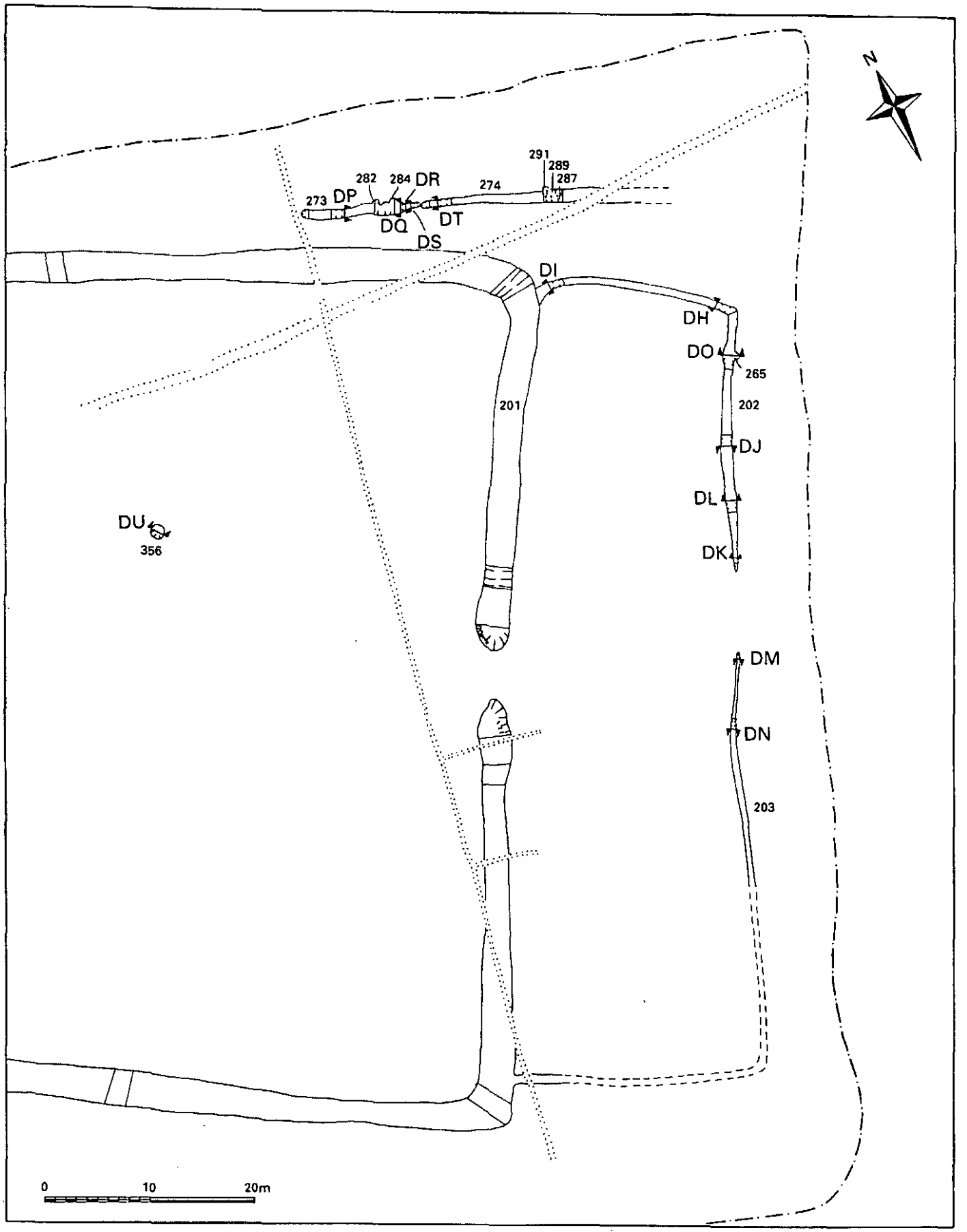

Fig. 15: Area 9 Romano British annexe (Phase 5)

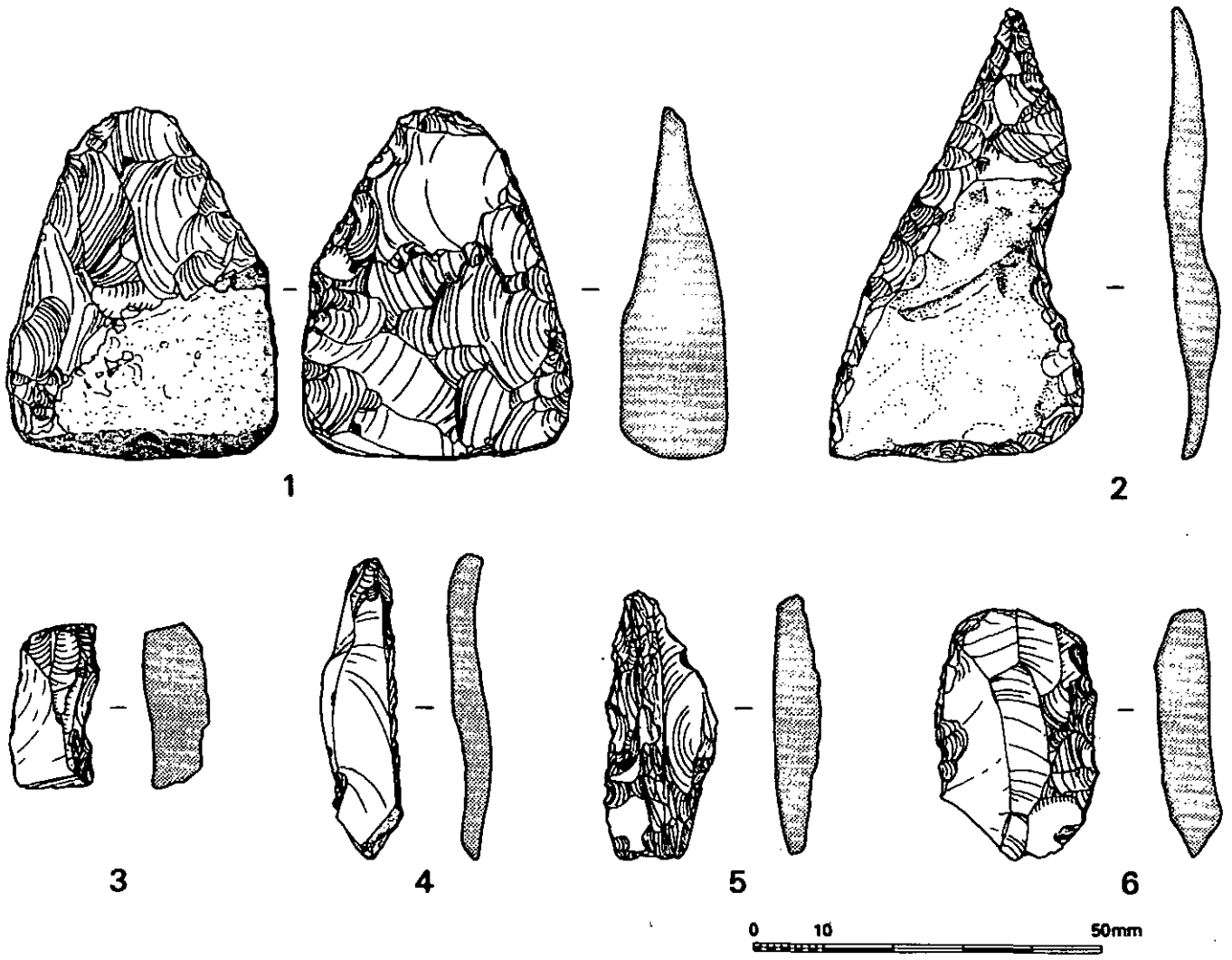

Fig. 16: Selected flint tools

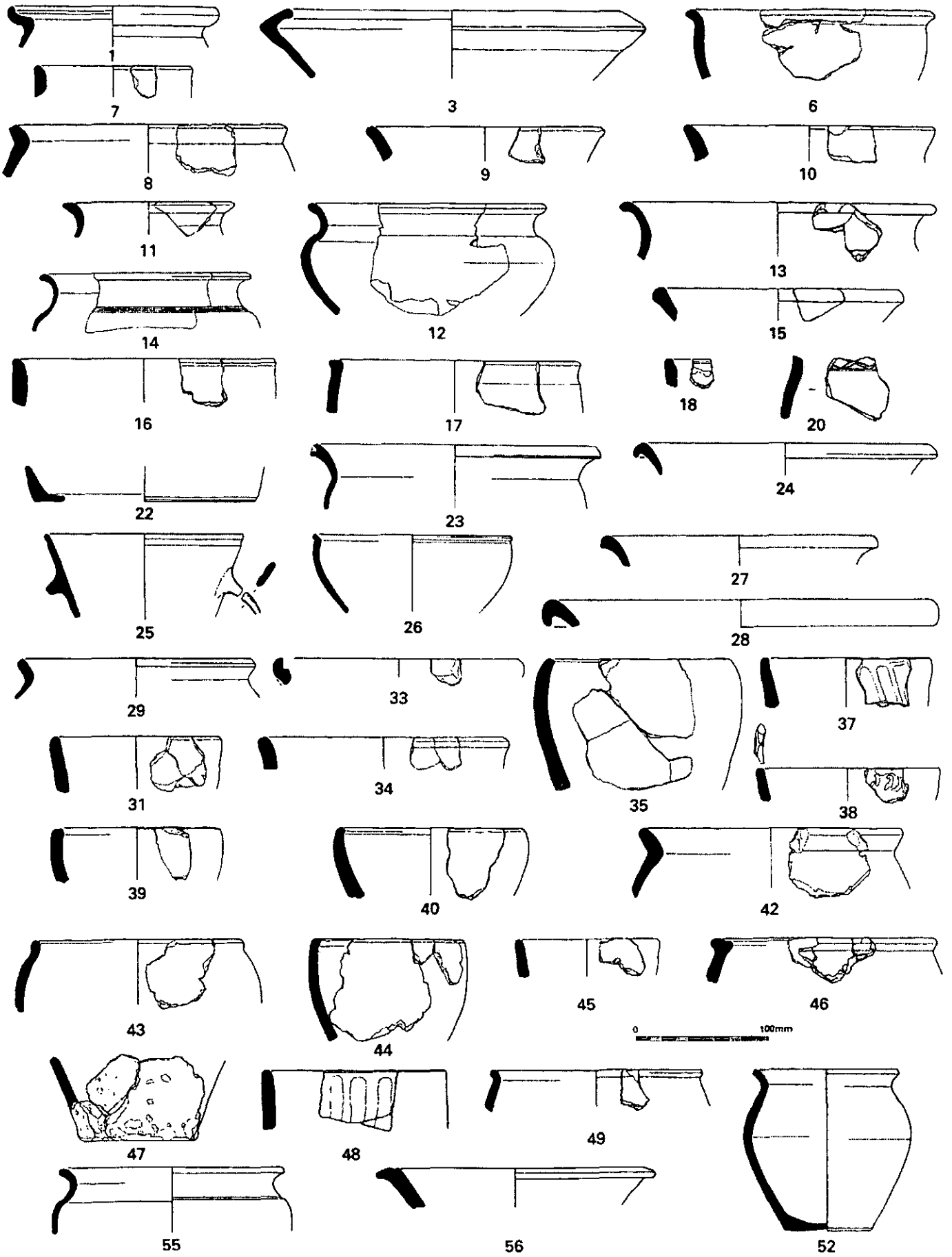

Fig. 17: Iron Age and Romano-British pottery

Plate I: Area 9 during excavation viewed from the north-east

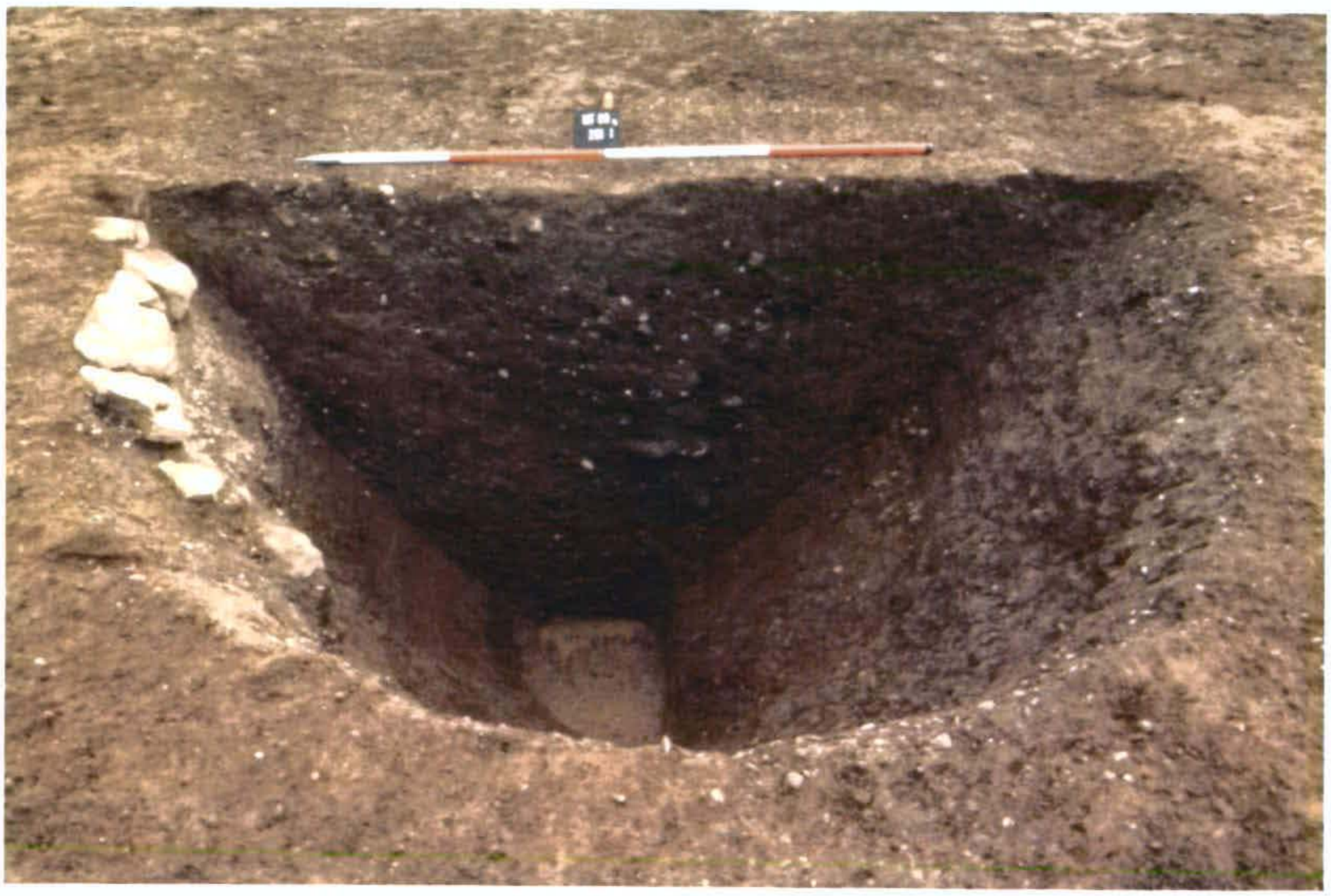

Plate II: Area 9, Phase 3 enclosure ditch **201** terminal end viewed from the south

Plate III: Area 9, Phase 3 Structure A viewed from the east

Plate IV: Area 9, Phase 3 posthole **213** showing fill **205** viewed from the west

Plate V: Area 2, Phase 3B C-shaped ditch **1017** viewed from the north-west

Plate VI: Area 2, Phase 3 Activity Area C (**1055**) viewed from the south

Plate VII: Area 4, excavation between windrows viewed from the south

Plate VIII: Area 4, Phase 3 Structure F viewed from the north-east

Plate IX: Area 2, Phase 4 Structure J viewed from the north-west

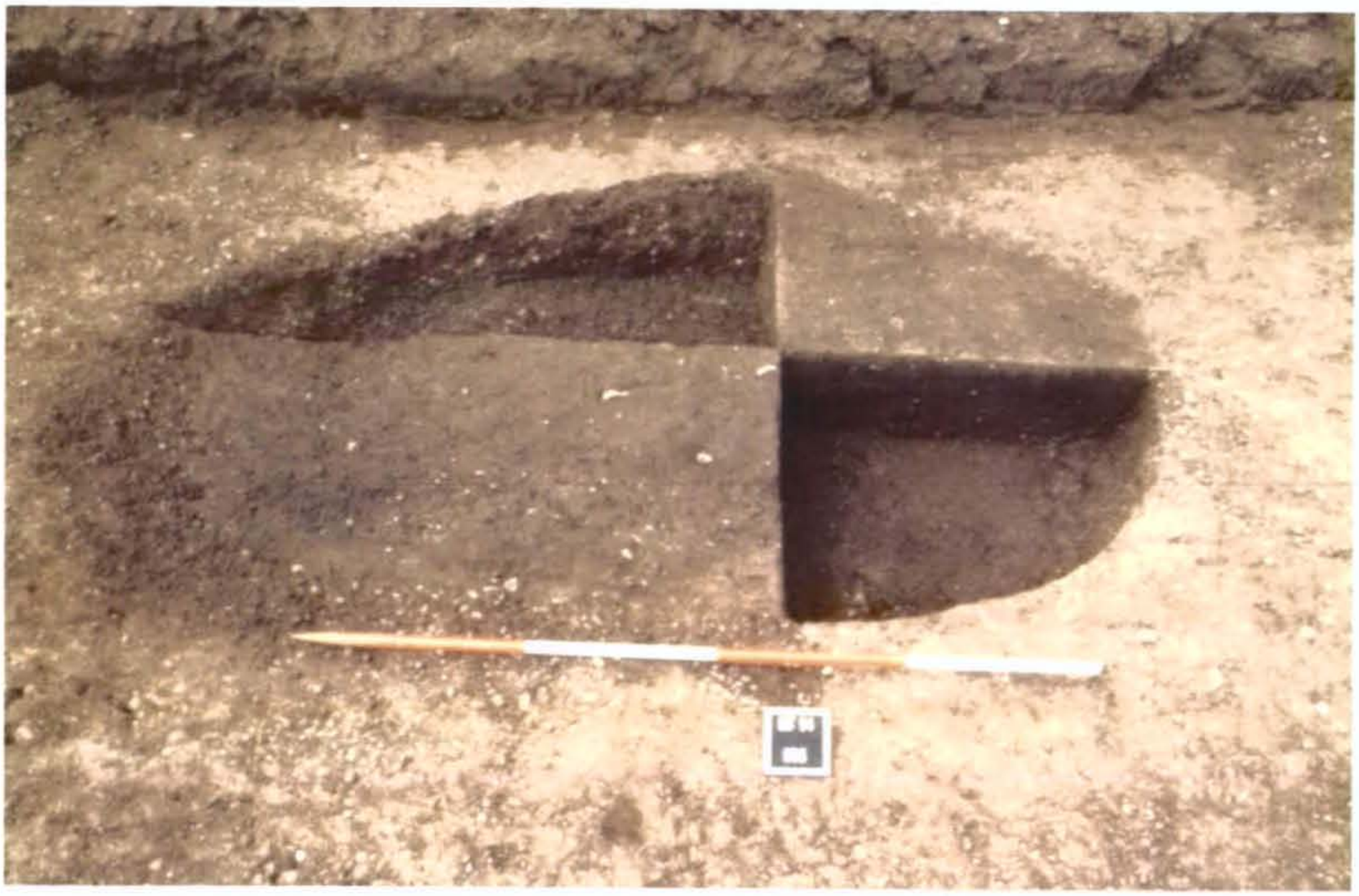

Plate X: Area 4, Phase 5 pit **2056** viewed from the east

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Field Archaeology Projects Group, Warwickshire Museum Field Services
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