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Interim Archaeological Report



Project Name: Rillington South Lea Site 196

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Summary

An archaeological investigation was carried out on behalf of Mr. Frank Turner, the landowner of a site with planning permission for a new housing development in a pasture field to between Westgate Farm and the South Lea *cul de sac*. The site is identified within the Landscape Research Centre archive as Site 196. The development is due to take place in a number of stages, with the current excavation (September 2006) being the initial part of stage one. The development is centered on NGS grid reference SE 85243/74147 (see Figure 2).

Rillington, situated upon well drained sands and gravels in close proximity to the Yorkshire Wolds to the south and the wetlands that once dominated the environment covering much of the Vale of Pickering, is situated in position of important archaeological potential. The archaeological evidence for past activity in and around Rillington is best known from air photography and the discovery of a major cemetery complex, now a scheduled monument, immediately to the east of the village with a date range from the Neolithic to Early Medieval periods (c.3500BC – AD650).

Prior to excavation the Site 196 was surveyed on two occasions using fluxgate gradiometers, an initial survey undertaken, by the late Tony Paccito at a 1m*.5m resolution in 1997, the field was re-surveyed at higher resolution prior to excavation. The new survey allowed the features identified initially to be plotted at a greater precision and provided a better picture of the minor features (Figure 1 and see below Appendix One). The principal features identified in the survey are a pair of ditches flanking a presumed trackway running approximately SW-NE across the area. A number of other linear features intersecting these features are probably later. Although the survey identified the major linear features well the pits identified during excavation showed less well and it is clear that the geophysical survey only shows some of the evidence for past activity.

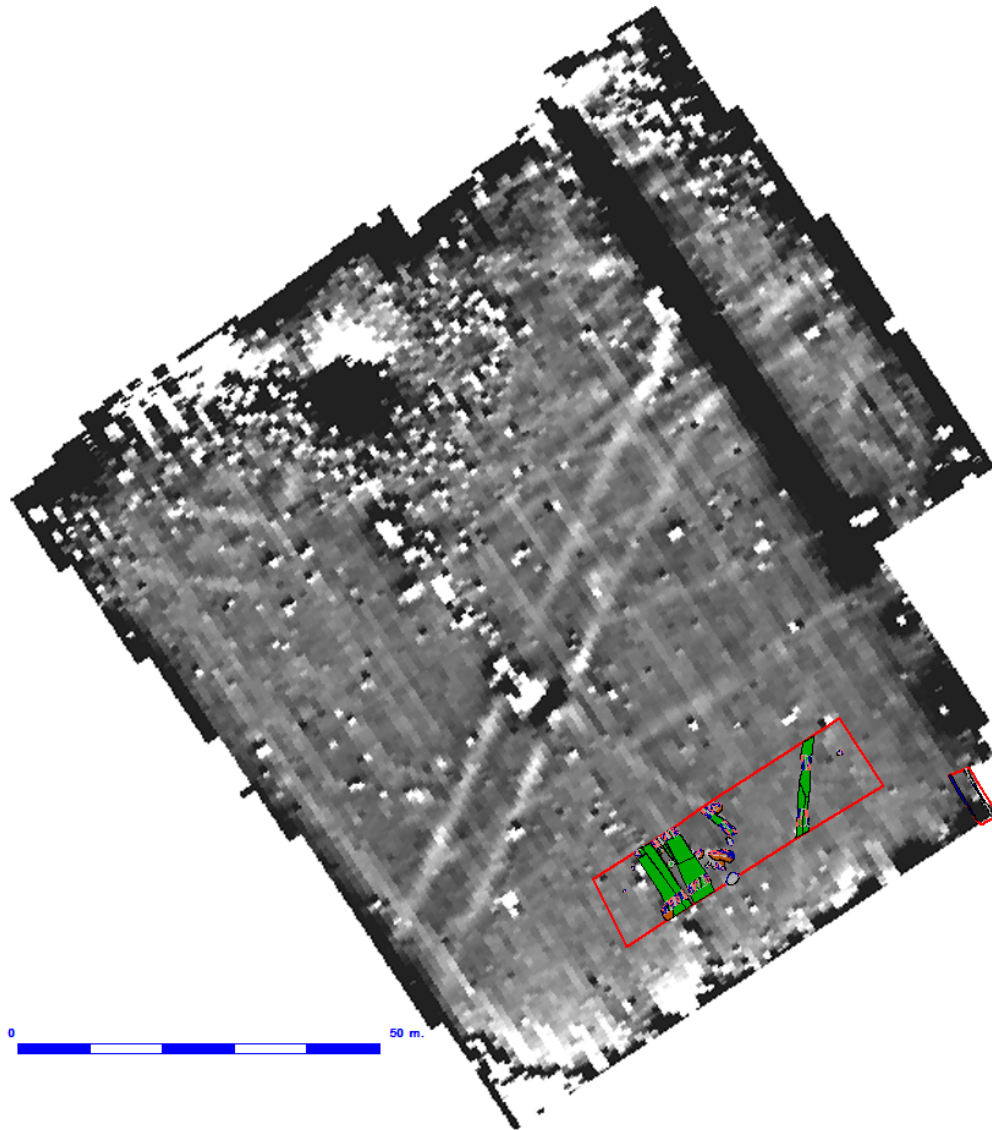


Figure 1 The excavation plan overlain on the results of the geophysical survey.

Excavations have revealed a number of important features contemporary with the Middle-Late Iron Age (c.500-100BC) square barrows which form a component of the scheduled monument. Burial in square barrows is identified in Eastern Yorkshire with the Arras culture and although a large number of square barrows are known, usually occurring in groups with associated flat-graves or unenclosed burials, associated settlement evidence has been more elusive. The evidence recovered here is particularly important as it includes what appear to be domestic pits but also evidence in the form of slag indicating metal working. The majority of the material recovered relates to Iron Age activity with small amounts of Roman and later material perhaps associated with night-soiling.

The site is important on account both of the evidence of domestic Iron Age activity and the fact that the area has not been deep-ploughed giving a greater chance for the survival of well preserved deposits. This latter fact has a particular bearing on the survival of domestic structures and particularly floor deposits; although none were encountered within the excavated area the evidence recovered from the pits indicates that domestic features are likely to exist near by. The presence of blown sand on the southern side of the Vale of Pickering between Rillington and Staxton is a nationally important feature of the archaeology of the area. The blown sands seem to originate as

Loess type deposits during or soon after the last glaciation when high winds would have blown across the frozen landscape. Evidence from research carried out in and around West Heslerton during the last 30 years indicates that sand dunes were a feature of the late prehistoric landscape and that from the Roman period onwards as larger areas were put under the plough some areas of the landscape became buried beneath accumulating layers of blown sand. This distinctive layer of red-ochre sand has protected buried archaeological evidence from damage from increasingly mechanised agriculture with deep ploughs. This situation is very rare in Britain where in most rural areas the archaeological deposits have been truncated by past agriculture. Changes in ploughing regimes and in the crops grown in the Vale of Pickering during the last two decades has meant that in many areas the blown sand deposits have been disturbed, become mobile again and the archaeological deposits beneath damaged or removed by deep ploughing.

In addition to the recovery of an important ceramic assemblage the excavations have revealed that animal bone survives well in the features making it likely that aspects of Iron Age diet and agricultural economy could be examined should further domestic pits be found elsewhere on the site. Further potential for the recovery of environmental evidence is limited, with the exception of carbonized material and charcoal fragments which do survive and could provide evidence for interpreting land use. The survival of animal bone is also important in terms of securing carbon fourteen dates which should be assessed when the excavations on Site 196 are complete.

At this stage, since excavation will continue in the future, the pottery assemblage has not been illustrated as the assemblage for the site as a whole is incomplete.



Figure 2 Location of the excavation trenches in red, to the south of the A64, on a *Getmapping* aerial photographic background

Known archaeology in the area

Although no cropmarks have been plotted on the site, aerial surveys of the area surrounding Rillington show evidence of both burial and settlement activity, including an enclosure system in the playing field of the primary school located immediately to the east of Site 196 (Stoertz, 1997, map one). Geophysical survey of the site, initially by T. Pacitto and then by the Landscape Research Centre (LRC), demonstrated that a number of linear features, including a trackway of probable Iron Age/Romano-British date would be encountered (see Appendix one).

Observation of the Site 196, on the ground reveals a removed medieval or earlier field boundary surviving as a slight bank running North to South through the field, the geophysical survey indicates flanking ditches on either side of the bank with large amounts of relatively recent debris filling the western ditch showing as a dense distribution of small magnetic anomalies. Shallow undulations following the alignment of this feature both to the east and west would indicate the presence of truncated Rig and Furrow, parts of the medieval strip field system, first established we believe in the Vale of Pickering during the ninth century, but establishing a landscape pattern that survived until the enclosure acts of the eighteenth century. There are no other surviving topographic features in the field that obviously relate to the archaeology.

Excavation methodology

After discussion with Mr. Turner, the building contractors and a representative of the North Yorkshire County Council planning department it was agreed that rather than attempt to excavate the wall footings by hand, with the almost inevitable result that areas would have to be extended to secure the necessary evidence to interpret features encountered, the whole building footprint should be stripped and examined. This approach makes interpretation of the evidence easier and is more cost efficient in terms of excavating and documenting the evidence in areas of relatively dense but unevenly distributed activity.



Figure 3 Stripping the site by machine

This initial stripping was carried out by machine using a 2m wide toothless bucket. First the topsoil was removed down to a windblown sand layer, which was checked to see if any features were cutting through it. If not, the windblown sand layer was then removed down to where the tops of the underlying archaeological features became visible (see Figure 3). The depth of the ploughsoil varied from 8cm to 27cm. The depth of the windblown sand varied from 28cm to 58cm. The combined overburden removed by machine varied from 46cm to 81cm (see Figure 4), with less material removed in the centre of the area.

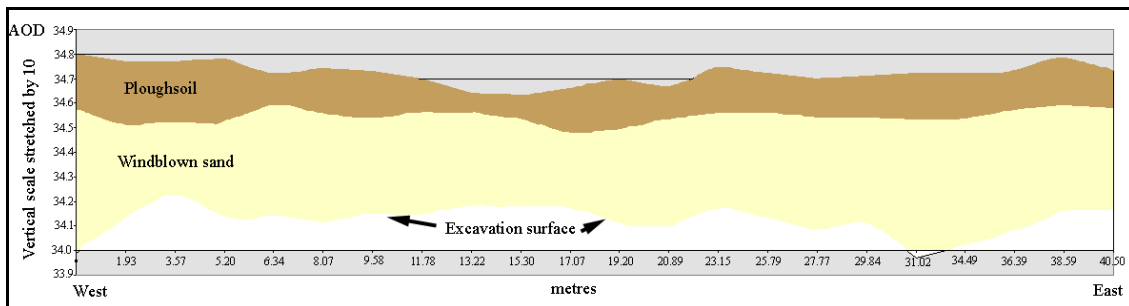


Figure 4 The profile of the ploughsoil and windblown sand along the northern edge of the excavated area (vertical scale exaggerated x10)

The excavation strategy was that at least 20% of all linear features should be excavated, and 50% of all discrete features. Should the feature prove to be of specific interest, or if no dating evidence was forthcoming, then more of the ditches and the second half of the discrete features would also be excavated. Sections were drawn at a 1:10 scale, and plans at 1:20. Unless there was a pertinent reason, all finds would be 3-

dimensionally recorded, using either a total station or a kinematic GPS, both of which provide sub-centimetre accuracy.

Discussion

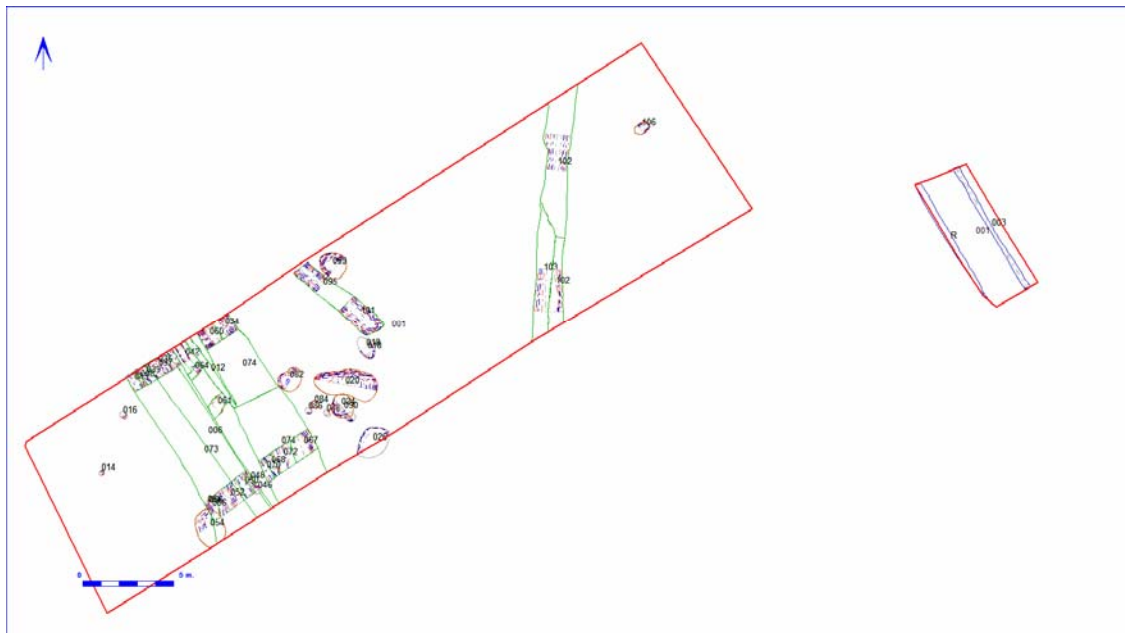


Figure 5 Plan showing the principal features with their context numbers

Each feature is discussed in detail in Appendix two, with this discussion section providing an overview of the findings from the excavation. The principal features examined can be seen in Figure 5 where they are shown with their context numbers.

The evidence examined during the excavation and the finds recovered reflect activity from the Neolithic or Bronze Age to Medieval periods with most activity during the Middle-Late Iron Age. The excavations confirmed the presence of the linear anomalies identified within the geophysical surveys but also showed that smaller discrete features show poorly in the survey results and even though they do on occasion relate to magnetic anomalies these are such that they cannot readily be interpreted without excavation. In short, the excavated evidence suggests that the geophysical survey reflects only a small part of the evidence.

Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the area is attested by the presence of worked flints, particularly debris from the manufacture of flint tools, indicating activity nearby rather than casual loss of finished items. A single thumb-nail scraper is likely to be of Early Bronze Age date. The sands and gravels on the southern side of the Vale Of Pickering provided an ideal setting for settlement and early agriculture and flint debris like the material found at Rillington has a widespread distribution reflecting more intensive land-use than we might have considered in the past. No features contemporary with the flints recovered were identified. Clearly the scale of the excavation was very small and we should consider it likely that contemporary features may be found when additional areas are opened up nearby.

The most important phase of activity relates to the Middle to Late Iron Age, in the period between 500BC and 50BC and most probably in the latter half of this period. A series of features in the western half of the larger trench 196AB, include a small slot entering

from the northern side of the trench and terminating in the centre where a group of post holes may be related and indicate that the slot had contained some sort of fence. Two large pits, a smaller pit and a possible well produced much of the ceramic assemblage in association with animal bones including both sheep/goat and cattle, and in the case of the larger pit a number of fragments of slag; debris from iron working. The finds indicate that these features ultimately found their use as domestic rubbish pits; the metalworking debris most likely from domestic iron-working. One feature was unusual as it appeared to have been dug as a well, or perhaps represents an un-successful attempt to dig a well. Whatever the case a pit, which had originally been dug to a depth of more than 2.5m, which had to be emptied by machine as it was too unsafe to work in, rapidly filled with sand after which point the remaining dent in the top was filled with domestic material including late Iron Age pottery.

The clean breaks, size and frequency of the pottery in these pits indicates that the excavated area must be near to more complex and extensive domestic activity perhaps with a local industrial component and as such represents an important site of regional importance. There has been very little excavation of Middle to Late Iron Age settlement in Eastern Yorkshire and in Rillington the discovery of this domestic activity in relatively close proximity to the contemporary cemetery adds to the sites importance.

A small slot found in the Eastern half of the trench may be of Roman date, and although a few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered these may have arrived on site through night-soiling and their low density indicates that domestic activity from the Roman period is unlikely to be encountered elsewhere in Site 196.

Perhaps the most surprising feature of the site is the double ditched and banked boundary that runs through the field on a north-south alignment. This clearly survived as a visible feature into the 20th century, and fragments of post-medieval and modern material in the top of the filled ditches reflect this. The scale of the ditches, which show frequent re-cuts associated with maintaining the ditches, are considerably greater than we might have anticipated and it is likely that this boundary has considerable antiquity. The geophysical survey which shows the medieval Rig & Furrow indicates a broad gap to the furrows on either side suggesting that this boundary, with a broad headland on each side, is likely to be contemporary with or pre-date the Rig & Furrow; this suggests a date prior to the Norman conquest; making this a very long-lived boundary.

Although the number of features identified is not very great, the importance of this site lies in the lack of any other excavated sites of this period in the Vale of Pickering and its potential association with the nearby cemetery. Once excavation ahead of the development as a whole is complete radio-carbon dates will be needed to more precisely fix this site in time and further work will be needed to fully document and publish the important ceramic assemblage.

Finds summary and Distribution plots

A total of 553 finds from 18 features were 3-dimensionally recorded, with 84% of these deriving from only four features (see Table 1 and distribution plots Figure 6, Figure 7 and Figure 8). This is a far higher return than was anticipated, with the principal features producing important pottery assemblages including large parts of a number of individual vessels, probably indicating that the material was derived from nearby activity. By far the majority of the material is from Middle to Late Iron Age date. Further material was recovered in bulk from the unexcavated portions of the key features prior to backfilling and whilst a considerable body of material was recovered, including some very large vessel fragments it does not change the overall nature of the assemblage from each feature.

Context	Type	Pottery	Slag	Stone	Un/fired clay	Animal Bone	Flint	Charcoal	Snail	No
196AB00001	Machine clearance	2				1				3
196AB00018	Post hole	2	1	1		1				5
196AB00020	Pit	201	3	6	7	26	3	11		257
196AB00024	Pit	28		4	1	17		1		51
196AB00026	Well	30		1	1	12	1	2		47
196AB00054	Pit	3								3
196AB00061	Ditch	1								1
196AB00073	Ditch	10		4	1	2	5		3	25
196AB00074	Ditch	8		1	1	2	1		2	15
196AB00076	Animal burrow	3								3
196AB00082	Pit	2		1		4				7
196AB00084	Cremation pit?	1		1		2				4
196AB00088	Post hole					2				2
196AB00090	Post hole	1				3				4
196AB00099	Pit	5			4					9
196AB00102	Ditch	2		1						3
196AB00103	Ditch	1		1		1				3
196AB00104	Ditch	73	1	9	1	25				109
196AB00106	Pit	1						1		2

Table 1 The number of finds 3-dimensionally recovered from each feature

Material	Period	Number	Total sherd weight	Average sherd weight
Animal bone		99		
Flint		6		
Pottery	Iron Age	352	5649.1	16.04
Pottery	Roman & Romano-British	12	112.7	9.39
Pottery	Roman or Medieval	3	12.8	4.26
Pottery	Medieval	2	73.1	36.55
Pottery	Unclassified	3	5.9	1.96
Slag		5		
Stone		30		
Unfired clay		9		

Table 2 Breakdown of 3-dimensionally recovered finds by material

Generally speaking, the unabraded nature and large sherd size of the potsherds indicated that the site was relatively undamaged by modern ploughing. The preservation conditions were also good, signified by the condition of the sherds, with 178 classified as being in good condition, 124 as fair, and only 69 in poor condition.

Distribution plots

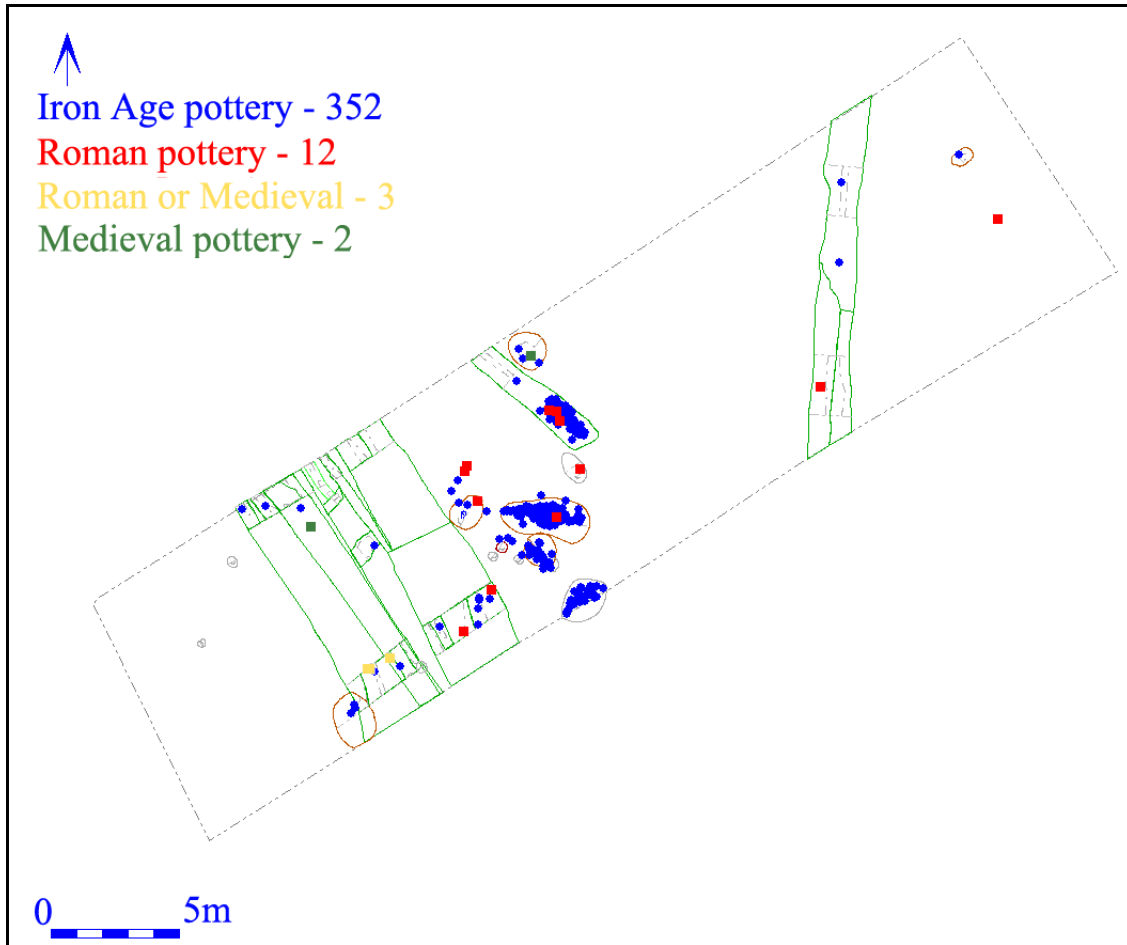


Figure 6 Distribution of potsherds by phase

The vast majority (94.6%) of all pot sherds recovered were Iron Age in date. Most of these sherds were from only four features; 2 pits, a ditch and a well.

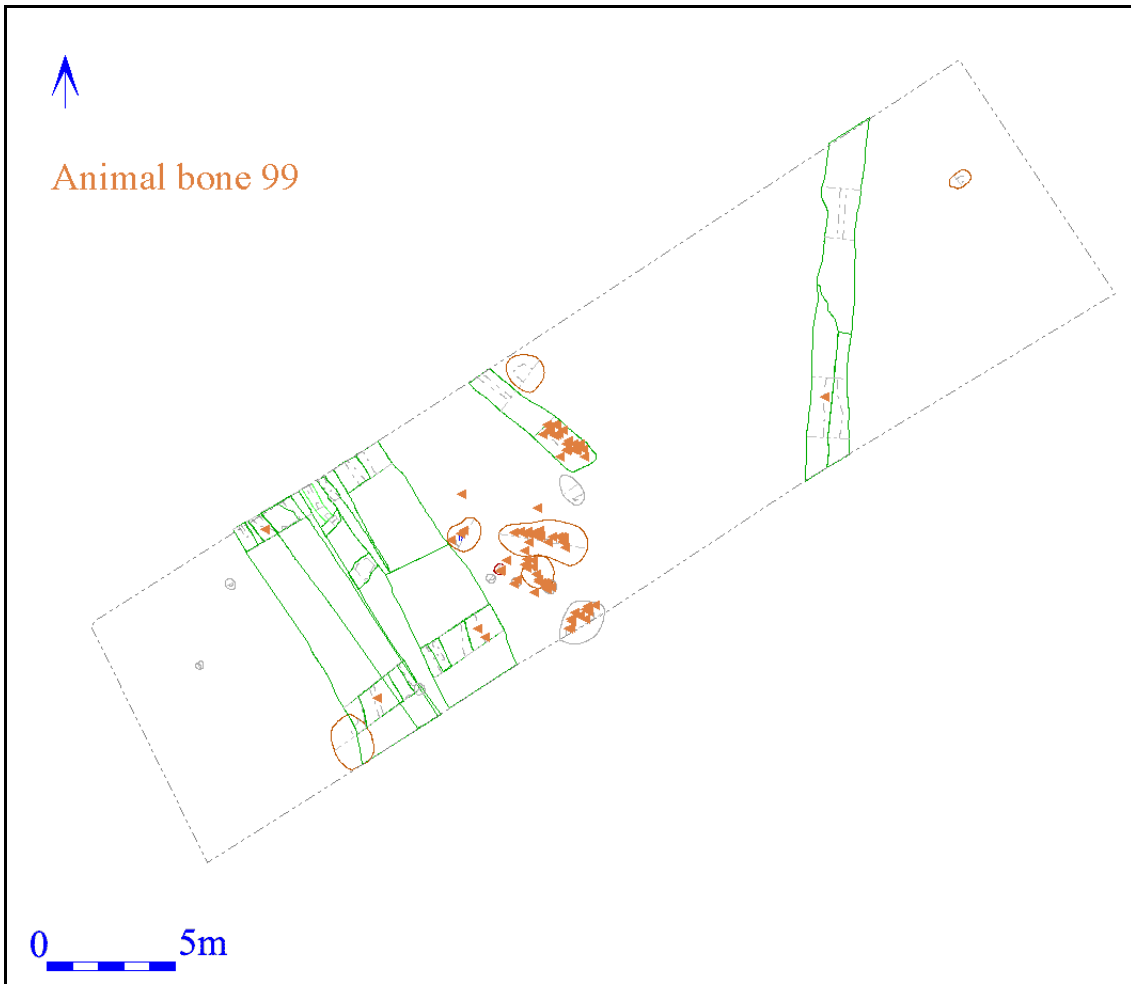


Figure 7 Distribution of animal bones

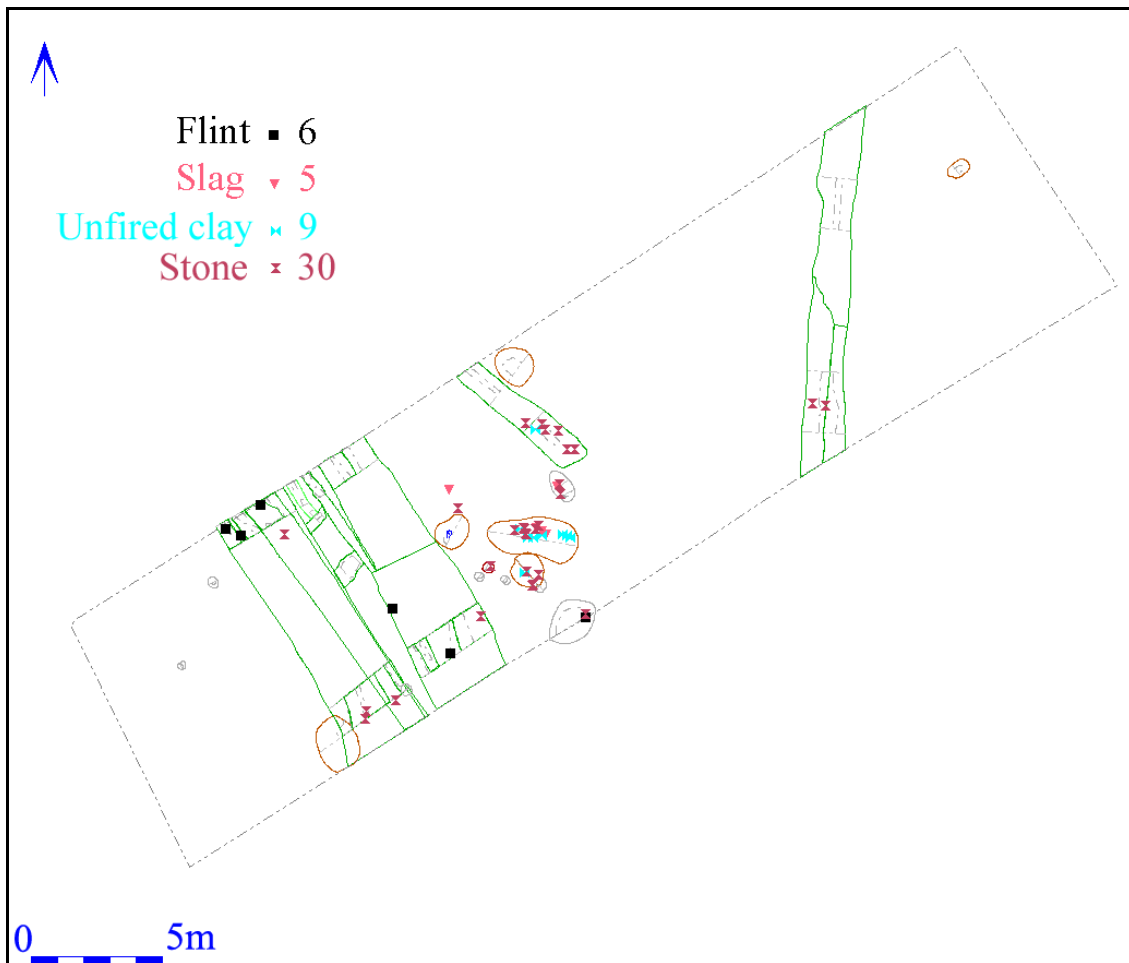


Figure 8 Distribution of other finds by material

The identification of a group of middle Iron Age features is particularly significant, as although a number of square barrow sites have been identified using remote sensing techniques, settlement sites of this period are rarely encountered in the Vale of Pickering. The quantity of storage and cooking vessels and the near complete nature of the pots, together with the associated animal bones found in the group of features indicate that a settlement site must be nearby.

Conclusion

The methods adopted in the field allowed this site to be properly assessed and reveal that in addition to the features clearly visible in the geophysical survey there are important features relating to domestic activity in the Middle to Late Iron Age. The approach to examination proved appropriate for this context and it is recommended that the same approach be adopted for the rest of the development programme.

Although limited in extent the excavation has shown that the site is well preserved and has not been compromised through deep ploughing. There is clearly potential for the recovery of regionally important evidence relating to Middle to Late Iron Age settlement and economy from the remainder of the development area. The excavation recovered an important ceramic assemblage which no doubt will be enhanced by further excavation ahead of development and offers important potential to refine our very limited understanding of the Late Iron Age.

Appendix one

The geophysical survey report

The site was magnetically surveyed by Tony Pacitto in November 1997 (see Figure 9).



Figure 9 Magnetic survey by Tony Pacitto (1997)

This survey was carried out using a 1m fluxgate gradiometer. Readings were taken at 50cm intervals along traverses 1m apart, and the sensitivity of the machine was set at 1 nT. The survey clearly showed the ditches of a trackway extending across the site, as well as ridge and furrow ploughmarks roughly in alignment with the modern boundary. However, also present were a number of fainter anomalies which were not so easy to interpret.

The LRC decided it would be worthwhile resurveying the area (see Figure 10) with new equipment (the Bartington Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer), where increasing the density of the readings to 25cm intervals along 1m traverses, with an increased sensitivity of 0.1 nT should allow the subtle anomalies to be more confidently interpreted.



Figure 10 Magnetic survey by the LRC (2006)

As can be seen in Figure 10, a combination of higher spatial resolution and increased sensitivity allowed for a much more confident interpretation of the anomalies than could previously be attempted. The interpretation is shown in Figure 11, where linear archaeological anomalies are coloured red, possible pits in brown, and ridge and furrow ploughmarks are coloured in a light blue. The excavation limits have been superimposed to allow a comparison with the excavated features.

A line of ferrous activity can be seen in the centre of the surveyed area, with the same alignment as the ridge and furrow. This can be attributed to a recently removed field boundary, with a small tree in the northern part of the field the only remnant of the boundary.

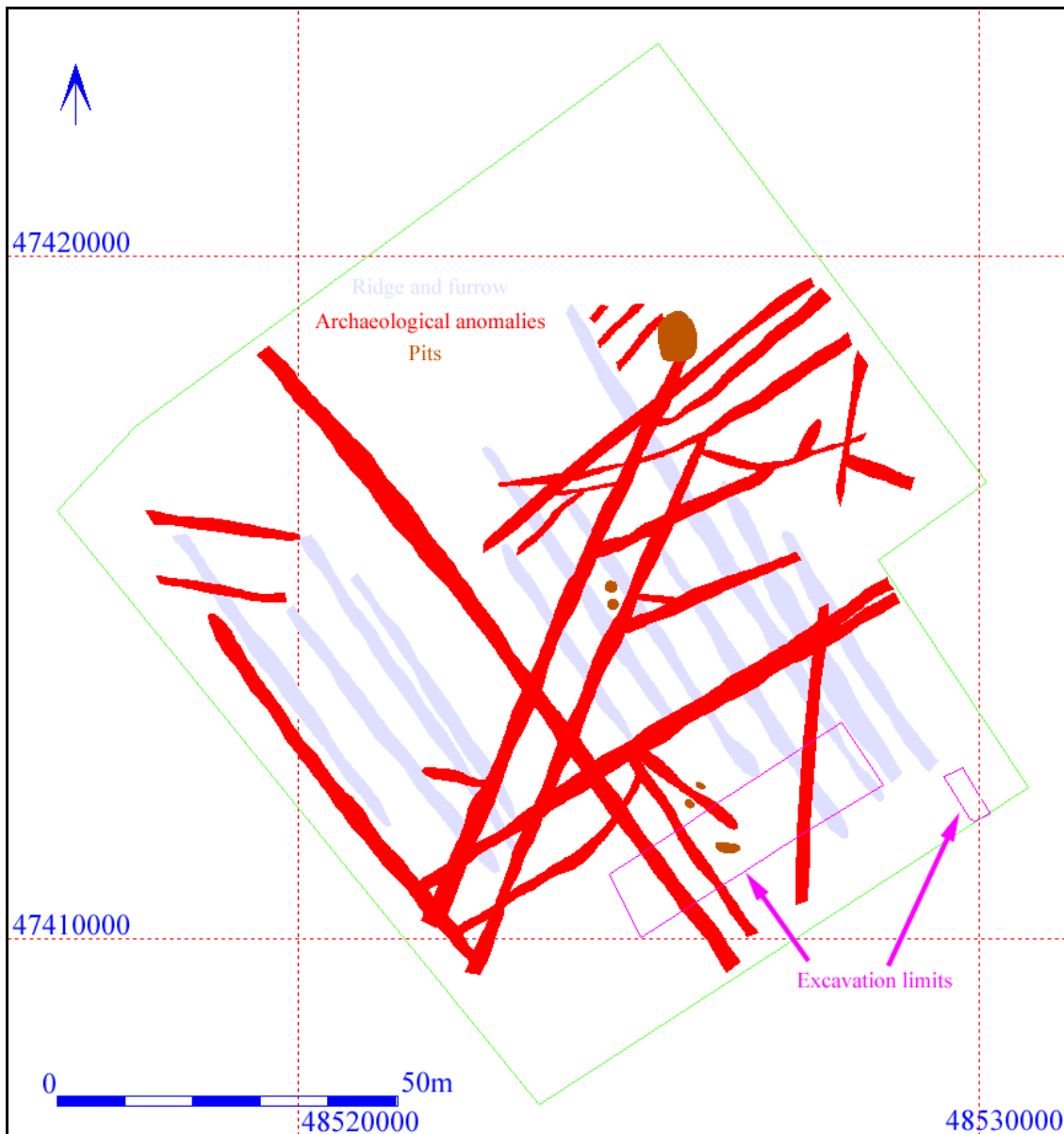


Figure 11 Interpretation of geophysical data, also showing limits of excavation

The correlation of the excavated features with the geophysical anomalies was good (see Figure 12, where excavated features detected by the magnetic survey are coloured red, and undetected features coloured blue), with all of the linear anomalies present. The ridge and furrow ploughmarks were not seen in the main excavation area, indicating that at this point they were ephemeral traces in the topsoil only. The anomaly identified as a pit was present, but a number of smaller pits and postholes around this pit were not seen in the geophysical data, either because they were too small or too shallow to be detected. More surprisingly, a well located just to the south of the pit was not represented in the geophysical data.

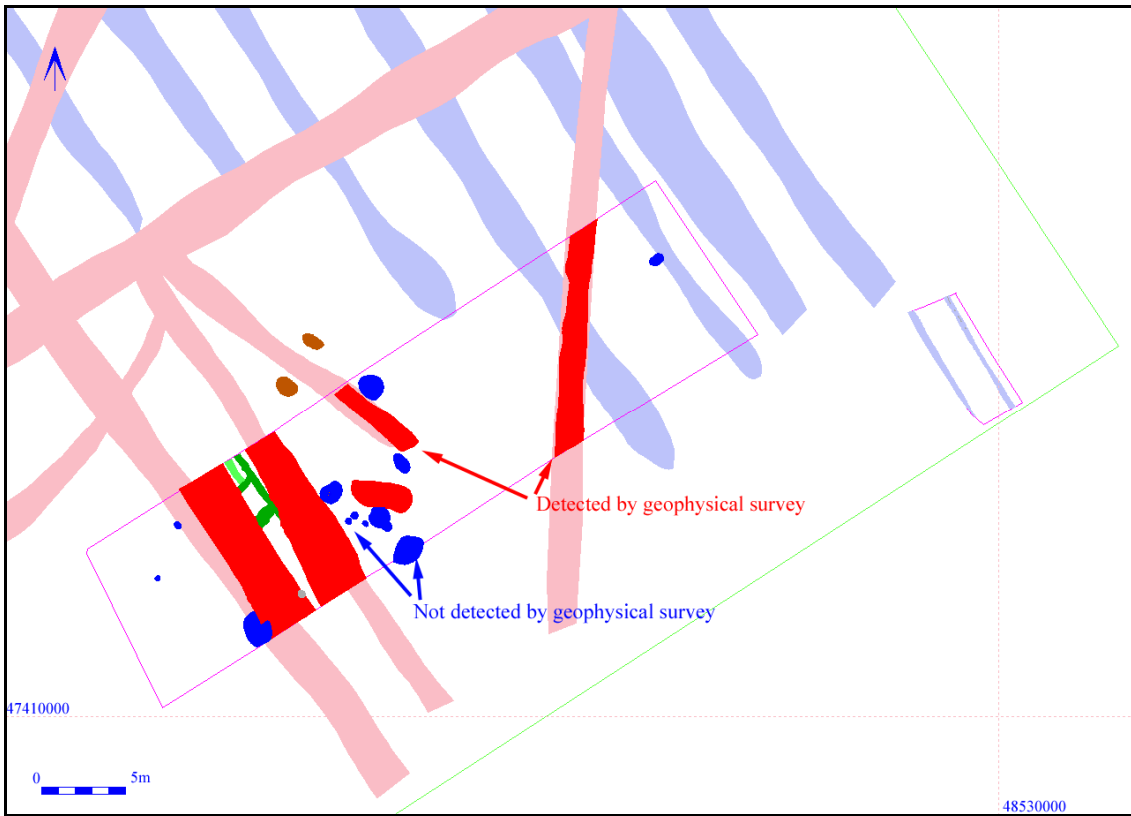


Figure 12 Correlation of excavated features with geophysical interpretation.

Appendix two

Individual feature discussion

The machine stripping – Area 196AA00001 (23.34 sq m) and area 196AB00001 (427.89 sq m)

Machine clearance of two small areas at the south-eastern corner of Site 196 was carried out with a 2m wide back acting toothless bucket (see Figure 3). The ploughsoil and windblown sand were removed by machine, to reveal the truncated remains of rig and furrow ploughmarks in area 196AA and a number of archaeological features in area 196AB. The only finds (other than modern activity) recovered from the topsoil were 2 potsherds (1 Roman and 1 Iron Age) and an animal tooth (cow).

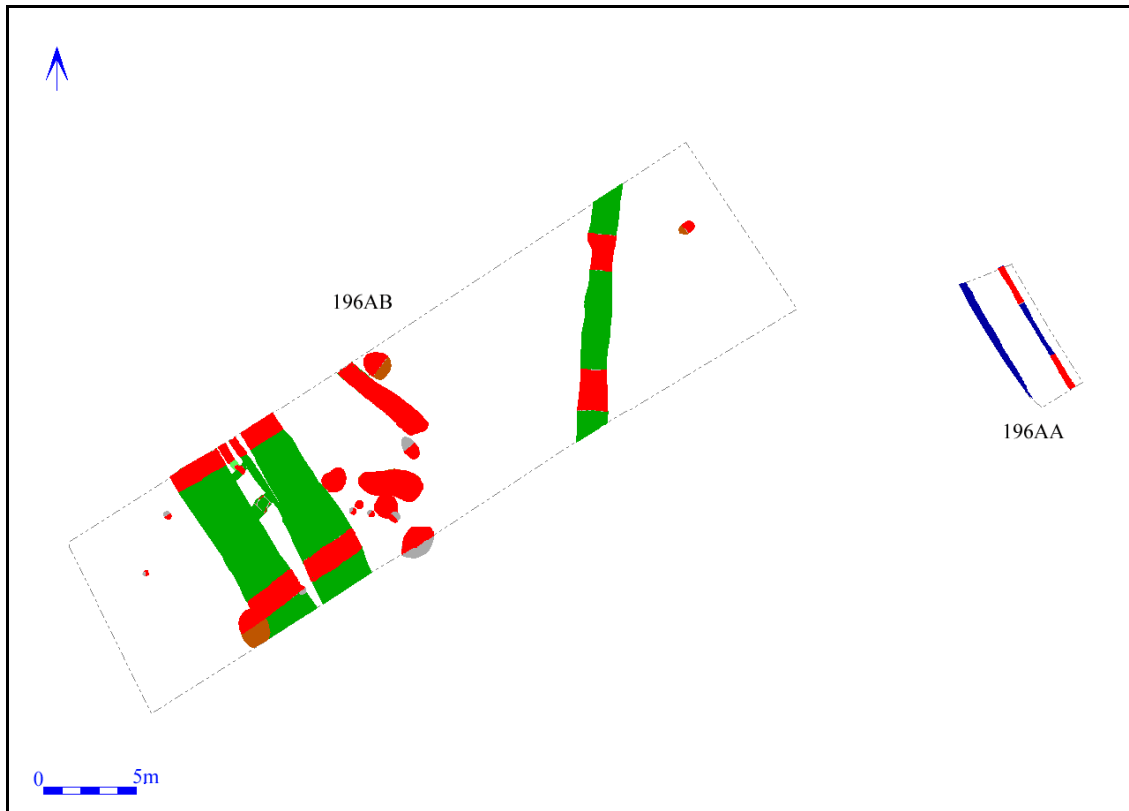


Figure 13 Plan showing all excavated segments in red

The windblown sand –196AB01001



Figure 14 Topsoil and windblown sand on the southern edge of the trench (section enhanced to bring out colour difference)

The windblown sand layer occurred immediately beneath the ploughsoil across the whole of the stripped area, and varied in depth from 46cm to 81cm, being deeper at the western and eastern sides of the trench and shallower in the centre (see Figure 4 for a profile along the northern edge of trench 196AB). No finds were recovered from this layer. It comprised a reddish (10YR 4/4) medium to fine sand, with a chalk gravel inclusion rate varying from 1 to 5 %.

Ridge and furrow

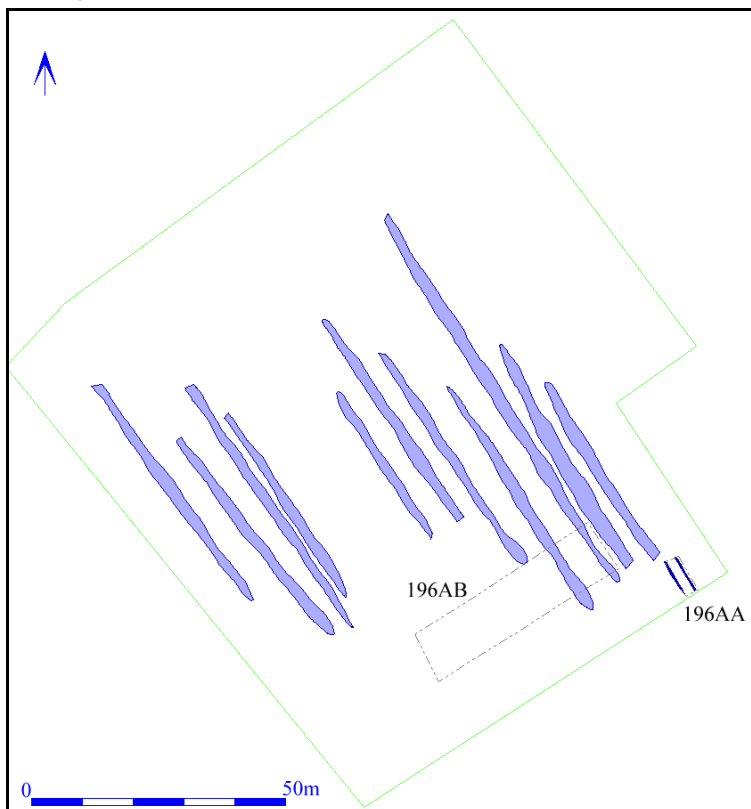


Figure 15 Ridge and furrow detected by geophysical survey (in light blue) and excavated (dark blue)

The shallow remains of the furrows (part of the Medieval ridge and furrow field system), were detected by the gradiometer survey. The truncated remains of the bottom of the furrow were excavated in trench 196AA, but were not present in trench 196AB, implying that the geophysical anomalies represented the ephemeral traces of these features in the topsoil and the upper part of the windblown sand.



Figure 16 Pre (left) and post excavation views of the shallow remains of furrow 196AA00002

The furrow base in trench 196AA was excavated (see Figure 16), with no finds recovered from this feature.

The post holes

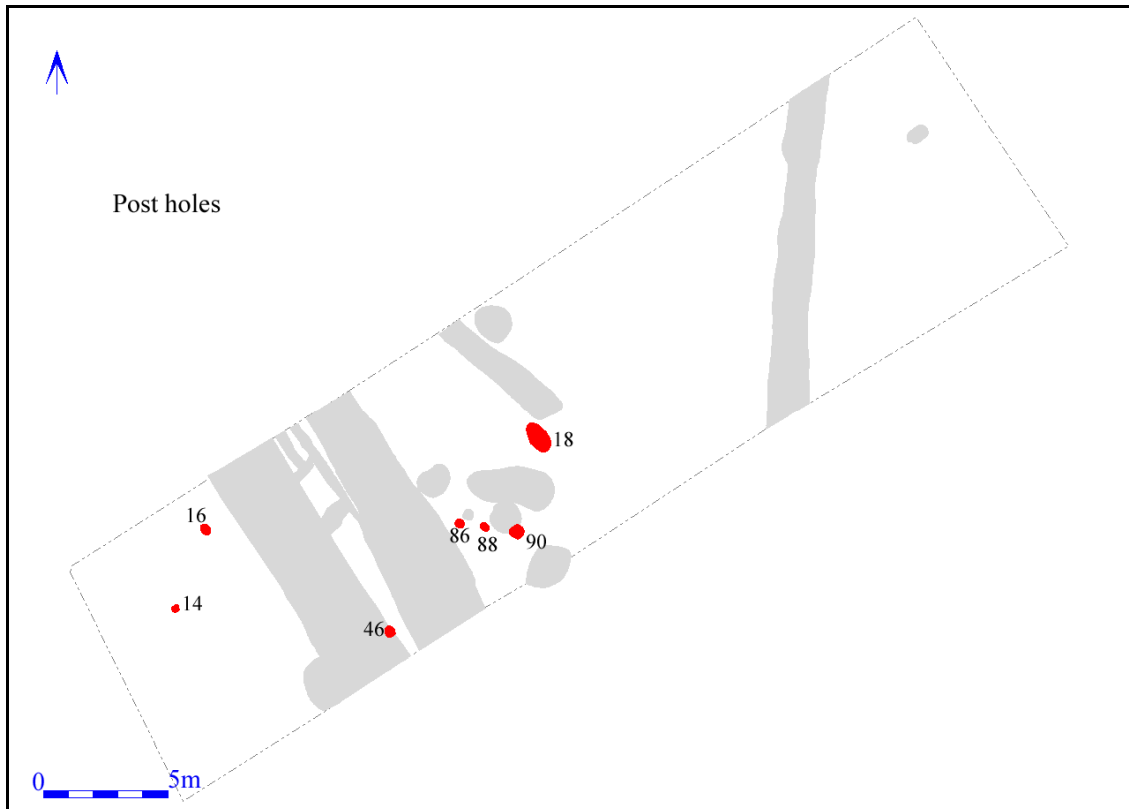


Figure 17 Location and excavation numbers of the post holes

Seven post holes were encountered during the excavation, with none of them forming any clear structural pattern, although there were three in a row in the central part of the excavation.

Features 196AB00014 and 196AB00016

These two features were originally believed to be post holes, but it is also possible that they were of a natural origin. No finds were recovered from either of these features.

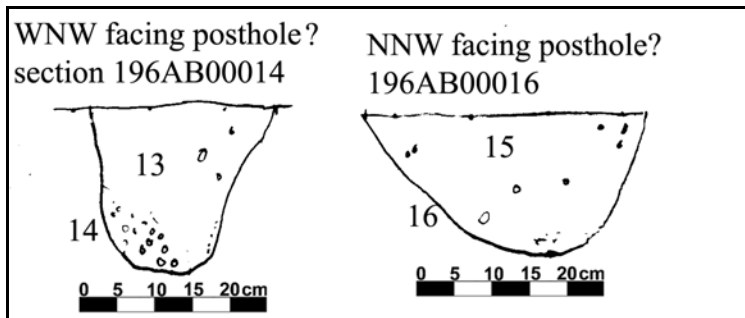


Figure 18 Section drawings of possible post holes 196AB00014 and 196AB00016

Post hole 196AB00046

Post hole 196AB00046 was located on the edge of ditch master 196AB00073, and was probably part of an earlier fence line to the east of the ditch. There were no finds from this feature, which was a darker (Munsell 10YR 4/3) medium sand. The feature was cut into sandy chalk gravel, with a U-shaped profile. In section, it appeared to be cut by ditch 196AB00048. See Figure 26 for section drawing.

Post hole 196AB00018

Although post hole 196AB00018 appeared to be ovate on the surface, a half section (southern half) demonstrated that it was probably the remains of a round post hole, which had been disturbed by animal burrowing. The fill of this post hole was a medium sand (Munsell 10YR 4/3) and had chalk inclusions of 10%. Finds were recovered from the surface of the feature, but no more were encountered during the excavation.

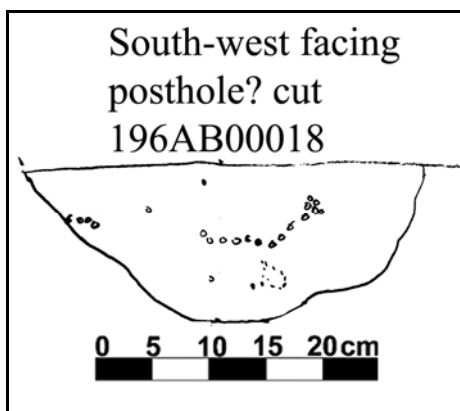


Figure 19 Section drawing of post hole 196AB00018

It was cut into sand and gravel natural, and was located just to the west of the terminus of ditch master 196AB00101.

Post holes 196AB00086, 196AB00088 and 196AB00090

The three remaining post holes, apparently in a line, were more interesting, not least because two of them produced finds (2 animal bone fragments from 196AB00088 and 3 animal bone fragments and an Iron Age sherd from 196AB00090). It is possible that these finds could have been derived from the pits in the vicinity, as these pits contained a high concentration of potsherds and animal bones.

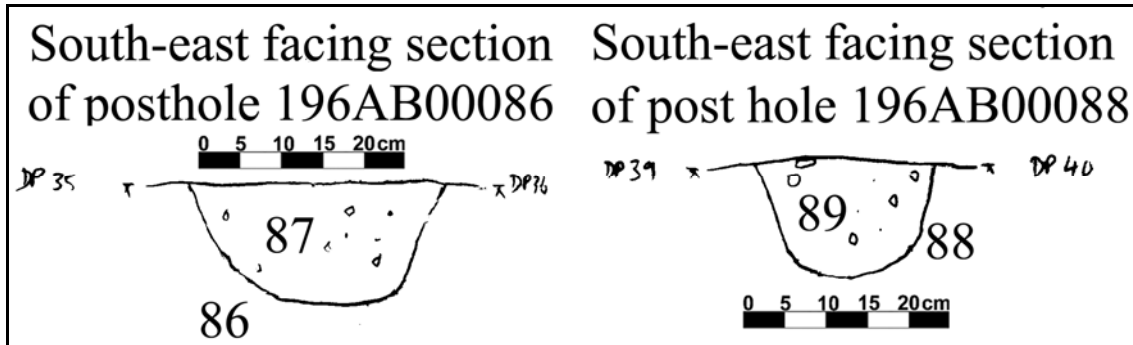


Figure 20 Section drawings of post holes 196AB00086 and 196AB00088

See Figure 40 for section drawing of post hole 196AB00090, which was cut by pit 196AB00024. All three post holes were filled with a fine to medium sand with 5% chalk inclusions, Munsell colour 10YR 4/2 (a darker 10YR 3/1 for 196AB00090)

The ditches

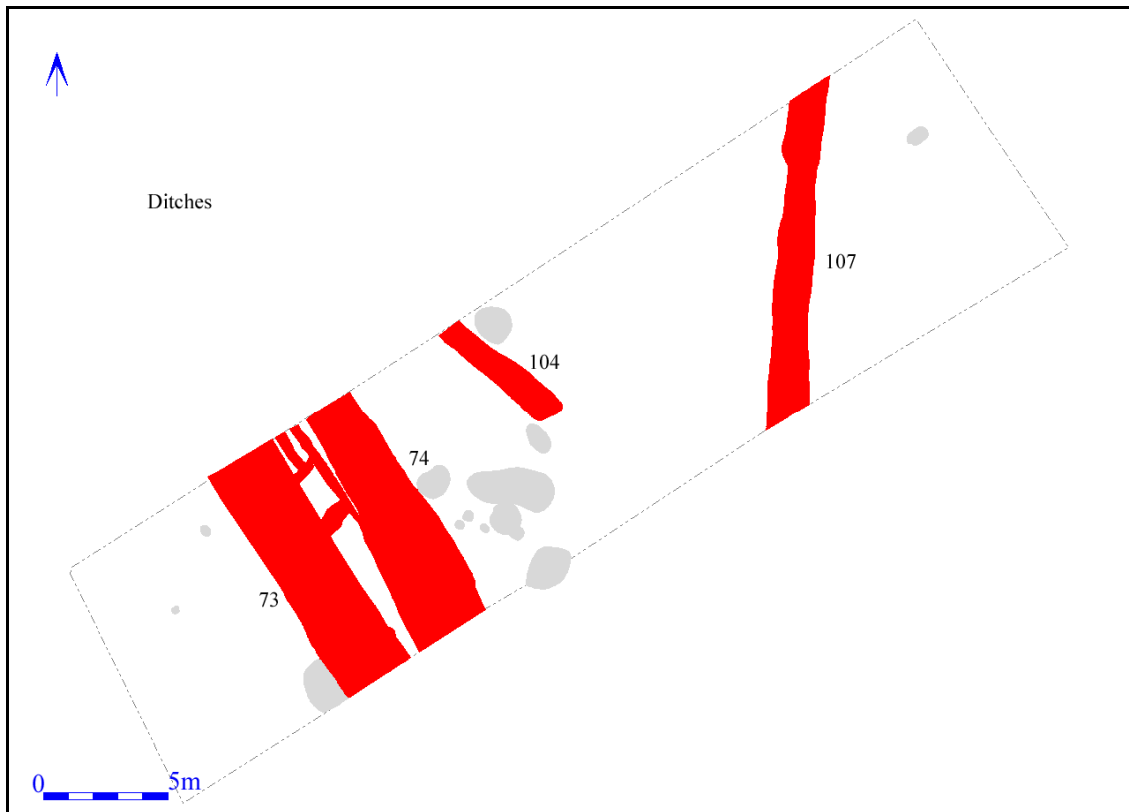


Figure 21 Location and excavation master numbers of the ditches

Master numbers 196AB00073 and 196AB00074

When dealing with complex ditch sequences, master (or group) numbers are issued to allow the multiple recuts of a ditch complex to be grouped together. An intricate sequence of recut ditches was encountered in the western half of the site, initially defined as two parallel ditch lines (see Figure 22).



Figure 22 Pre-excitation view of ditch masters 196AB00073 (left) and 196AB00074, looking north

Ditch master 196AB00073

The most complex sequence was encountered in 196AB00073, the western of the two ditch complexes. Here there was clear evidence of a long established boundary (see Figure 23), where a sequence of six ditch recuts (light purple) were sealed by a layer of windblown sand, before the final phase ditch and recut (light blue) cut through the blown sand deposit and were part of the post Medieval boundary which was removed in living memory, the remains of which can be seen as a line of ferrous activity in the geophysical data (see Figure 10 and Figure 12 for correlation).

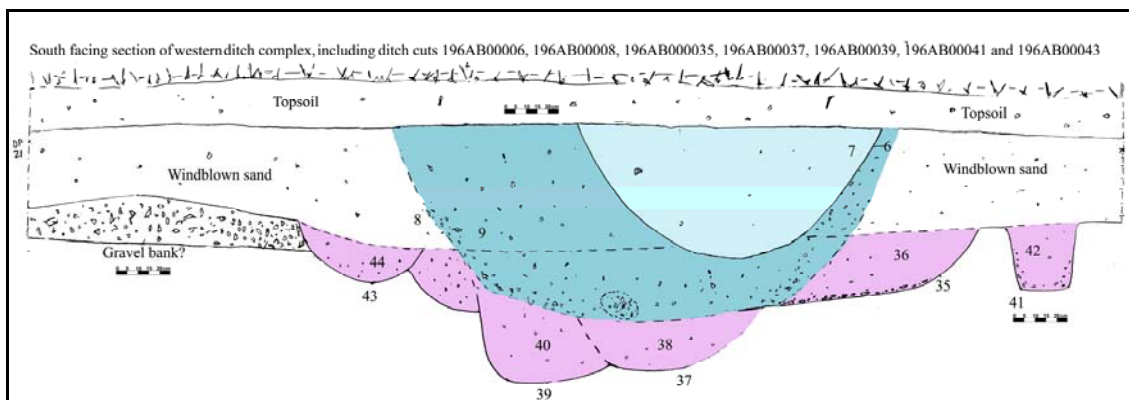


Figure 23 Section drawing of master 196AB00073, showing different ditch sequences

The fact that most of the ditch fills were filled with blown sand did not make disentangling the sequence easy (see Figure 24), where only slight colour and inclusion rate differences allowed the different recuts to be established (see Figure 25 for matrix).



Figure 24 Photographic view of the section drawn in Figure 23

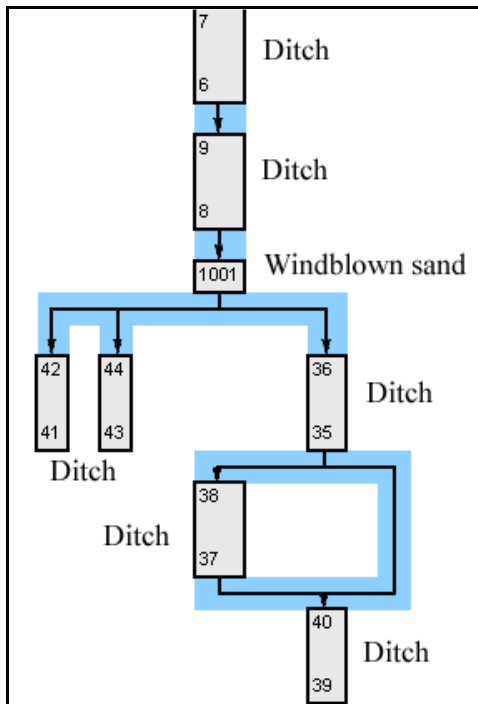


Figure 25 Stratigraphic matrix for the northern segment of ditch master 196AB00073

The southern excavated segment of ditch master 196AB00073 revealed a similar complexity (see Figure 26 for section and Figure 27 for matrix).

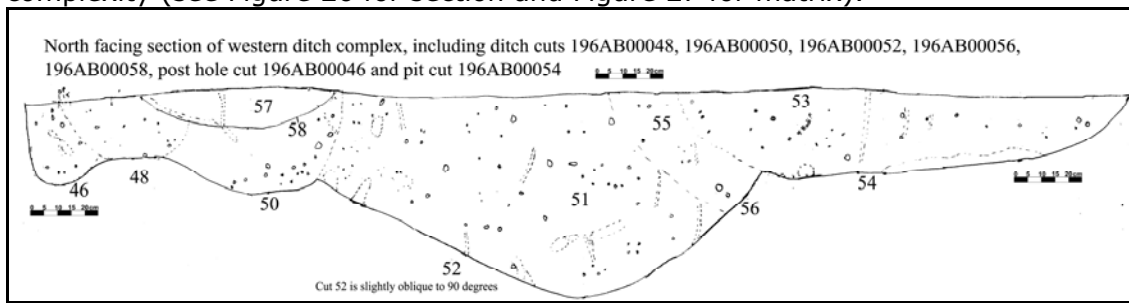


Figure 26 North facing section drawing of the southern excavated segment of ditch master 196AB00073

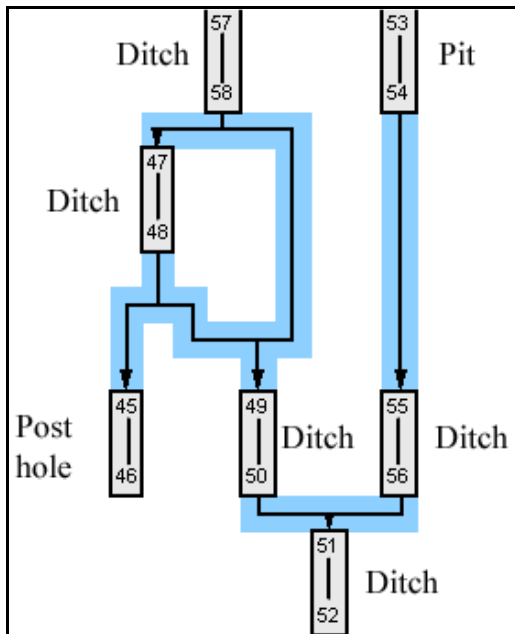


Figure 27 Stratigraphic matrix for the southern segment of ditch master 196AB00073

Fill	Cut	Period	Type	Sub-type	
196AB00007	196AB00006	IRON AGE/R-B	SHERD		Latest phase
196AB00007	196AB00006	MEDIEVAL	SHERD	GREEN-GLAZED	
196AB00007	196AB00006		STONE		
196AB00008	196AB00008		SHERD		
196AB00009	196AB00008	PREHISTORIC	FLINT BLADE	CORE PREP	
196AB00057	196AB00058	MEDIEVAL	SHERD		
196AB00057	196AB00058		SNAIL SAMPLE		
196AB00057	196AB00058	MODERN	BRICK FRAGMENT		RED SANDSTONE
196AB00057	196AB00058		STONE		
196AB00044	196AB00043	IRON AGE/RB	SHERD		Middle phase
196AB00044	196AB00043	PREHISTORIC	FLINT FLAKE	CORE PREP	
196AB00047	196AB00048	IRON AGE/RB	SHERD		
196AB00038	196AB00037	PREHISTORIC	FLINT FLAKE	CORE PREP	
196AB00038	196AB00037	PREHISTORIC	FLINT FRAGMENT		
196AB00040	196AB00039	IRON AGE/RB	SHERD		
196AB00040	196AB00039		BONE FRAGMENT		
196AB00051	196AB00052	IRON AGE/RB	SHERD		Earliest phase
196AB00051	196AB00052	MEDIEVAL	SHERD		
196AB00051	196AB00052	MEDIEVAL	SHERD		
196AB00051	196AB00052		STONE		
196AB00051	196AB00052		BONE FRAGMENTS		
196AB00051	196AB00052		STONE		
196AB00051	196AB00052		STONE		

Figure 28 Finds from all phases of ditch master 196AB00073

As can be seen in Figure 28, only 22 finds were recovered from all phases of the western ditch complex. The finds of Medieval pottery in both the earliest and latest phases of the sequence allow us to establish that the boundary is Medieval in date. The finds of 5 Iron Age or Romano-British sherds are most likely derived from the pits and ditches to the east. The mobility of worked flint in sand is demonstrated by the finds of four fragments (out of a total of only six from the entire site).

Ditch master 196AB00074

The easternmost of the two parallel ditches was less complex than 196AB00073, with only four ditches found in both the northern (see Figure 29) and southern (see Figure 30) of the excavated segments. There was no evidence for any later ditch cutting through the windblown sand in this eastern ditch, so all four of the ditches may be broadly contemporary with the corresponding group of six ditches sealed by the windblown sand in the western ditch complex.

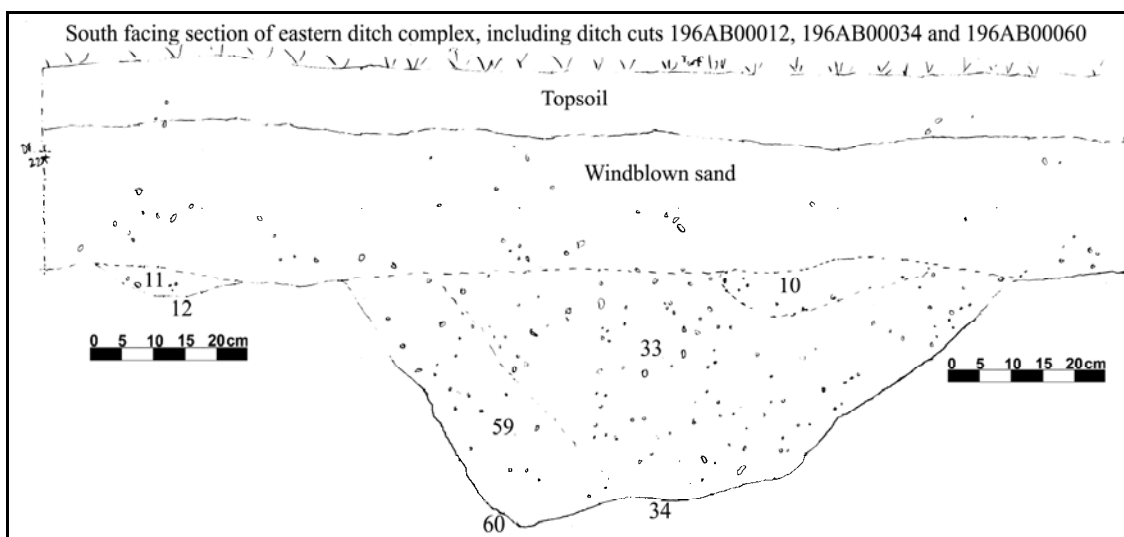


Figure 29 Section drawing of ditch master 196AB00074 (northern segment)

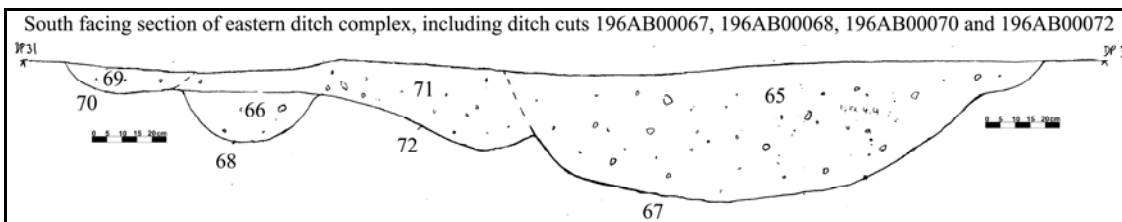


Figure 30 Section drawing of ditch master 196AB00074 (southern segment)

Fill	Cut	Period	Type	Sub-type	
196AB00011	196AB06034	PREHISTORIC	FLINT FLAKE	CORE PREP	Latest phase
196AB00074	196AB00074		BRICK FRAGMENT		
196AB00033	196AB00034		SNAIL SAMPLE		Middle phase
196AB00033	196AB00034		SNAIL SAMPLE		
196AB00065	196AB00067	IRON AGE	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067	R-B	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067	ROMAN	SHERD	GREY WARE	
196AB00065	196AB00067	IRON AGE	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067	IRON AGE	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067	IRON AGE	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067	IRON AGE	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067	IRON AGE	SHERD		
196AB00065	196AB00067		SNAIL SAMPLE		
196AB00065	196AB00067		SNAIL SAMPLE		
196AB00065	196AB00067		STONE	BASIC IGNEOUS	
196AB00065	196AB00067		TOOTH	COW	
196AB00065	196AB00067		BONE FRAGMENTS		
196AB00066	196AB00068	PREHISTORIC	FLINT FRAGMENT	CORE REJUV	

Figure 31 Finds from all phases of ditch master 196AB00074

As can be seen in Figure 28, only 18 finds were recovered from all phases of the western ditch complex, with no finds from the earliest phase. The only later find was a modern brick fragment found on the surface of an unexcavated segment of the ditch. The finds of 8 Iron Age or Roman sherds may be derived from the pits and ditches to the east, although it is possible that the eastern ditch complex is an earlier boundary which was re-established to the west in the Medieval period.

Ditch master 196AB00104

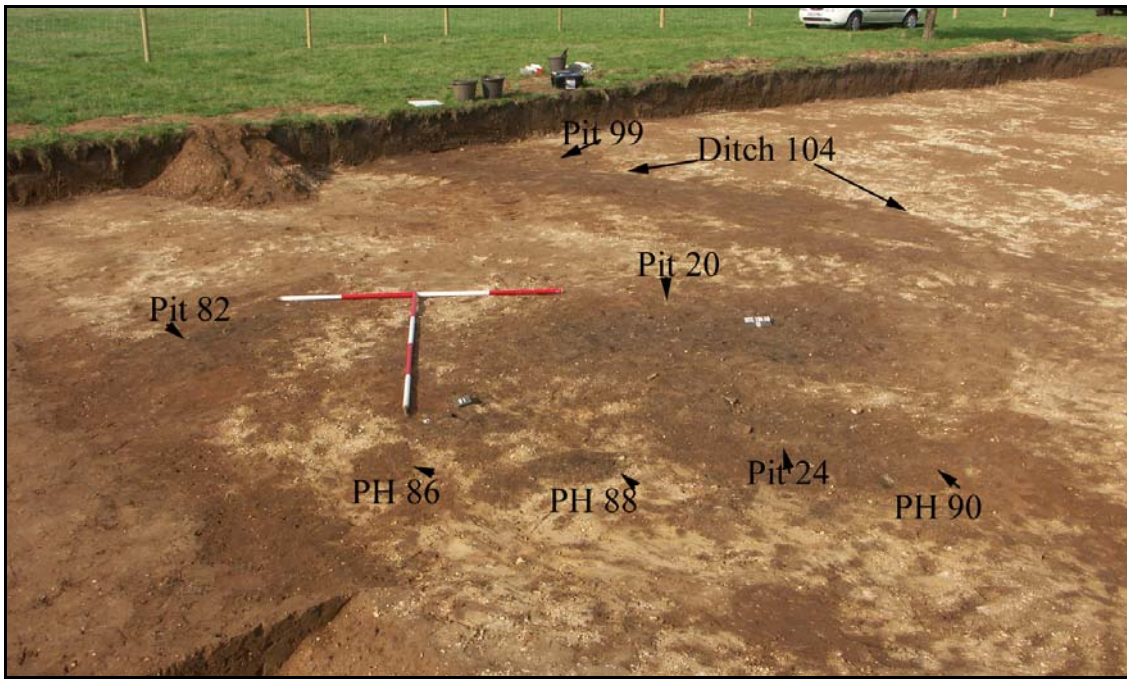


Figure 32 Pre-excitation view of central area from the south

Initially, the terminus of the ditch in the centre of the trench was excavated. It soon became evident that the ditch contained a high density of Iron Age pottery as well as animal bones (see Figure 6 and Figure 7 for distribution plots).

The primary fill (196AB00094) was differentiated from fill 196AB00004 above by containing a higher (7%) chalk gravel inclusion rate, and was a slightly lighter 10YR 4/3. Finds included pottery (9 Iron Age sherds) and animal bone (six fragments, of which one was burnt), although not in the quantities found in the upper fill.

The upper fill (196AB00004) was characterised by having a large number of unabraded pot sherds. Some of these were obviously joining sherds of a large, thick-walled (cooking or storage vessel?), and animal bones were found in association with the pot. Sixty-four sherds were found, of which 3 were Romano-British, 1 Roman and the remainder Iron Age. Nineteen animal bones were recovered, mostly of cow, although both sheep and pig were each represented by a single tooth. Also found were sandstone (quern?) fragments, a lump of calcite, two igneous rock fragments and a small lump of iron slag. Surface finds included a similar rim form to other sherds found in nearby pits 20 and 26. The soil Munsell colour varied from 10YR3/4 given in the context record to a lighter 10YR4/3.

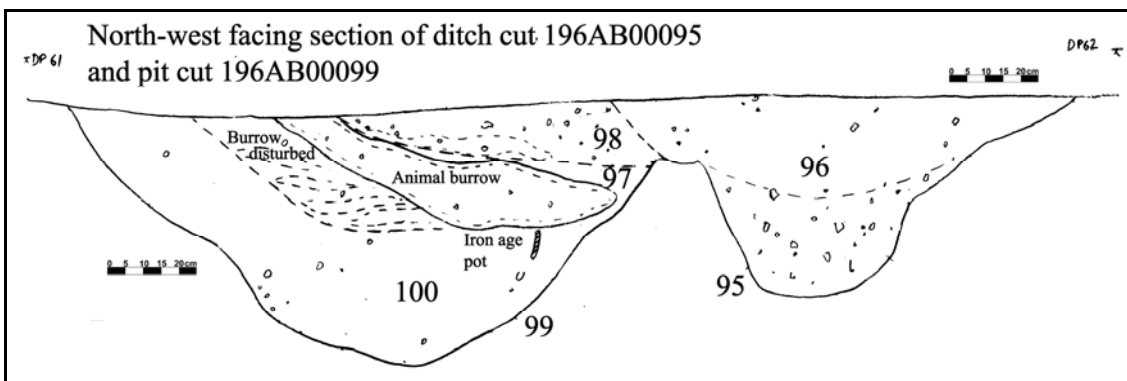


Figure 33 Section drawing of pit 196AB00099 and ditch 196AB00095

Because of the importance of the finds, the remainder of the ditch was excavated in its entirety, although this time the finds were recovered by context only. A similar assemblage to that encountered in the initial excavated segment was recovered, including large unabraded pot sherds and associated animal bones.

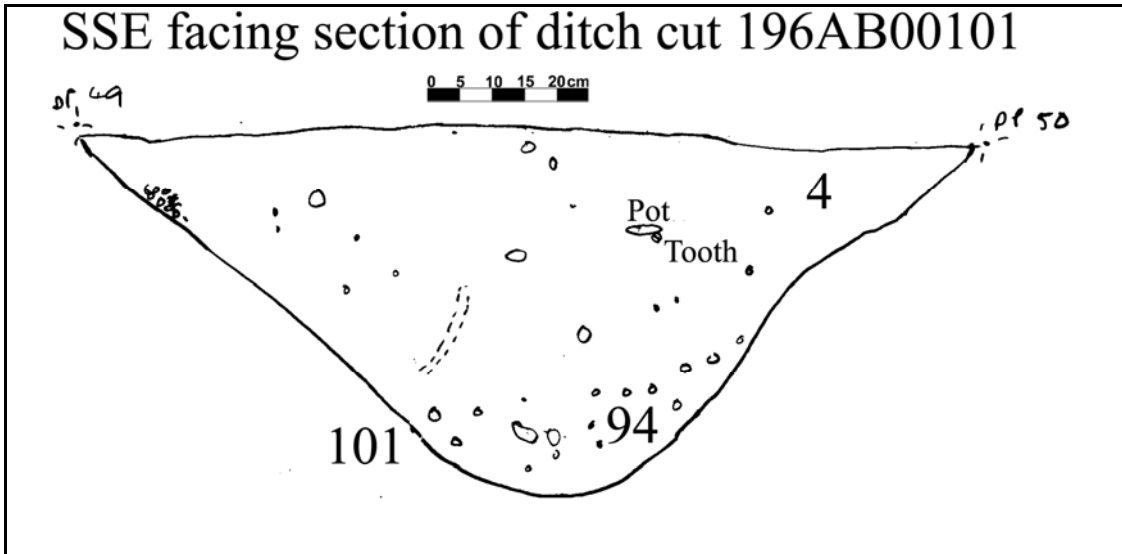


Figure 34 Section drawing of ditch master 196AB00104, ditch cut 196AB00101

Ditch master 196AB00107

Ditch 196AB00107 ran diagonally across the western end of the trench. It was immediately apparent that the original ditch had a bank to the east, made up of the chalk gravel into which the feature had been cut. This bank had subsequently slumped back into the ditch (see Figure 35), before the ditch was recut (see Figure 36 for section drawing).



Figure 35 Pre-excavation view of ditch master 196AB00107, from the south

Only six finds were recovered from this feature, three from the gravel slump, of which one was a Romano-British sherd, and three from the fill of the recut ditch, of which two were either Iron Age or Romano-British sherds.

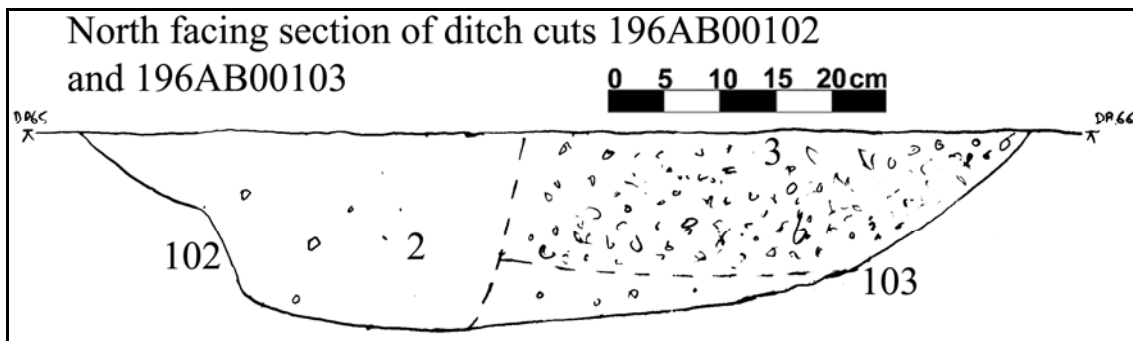


Figure 36 Section drawing of ditch cuts 196AB00102 and 196AB00103

The pits

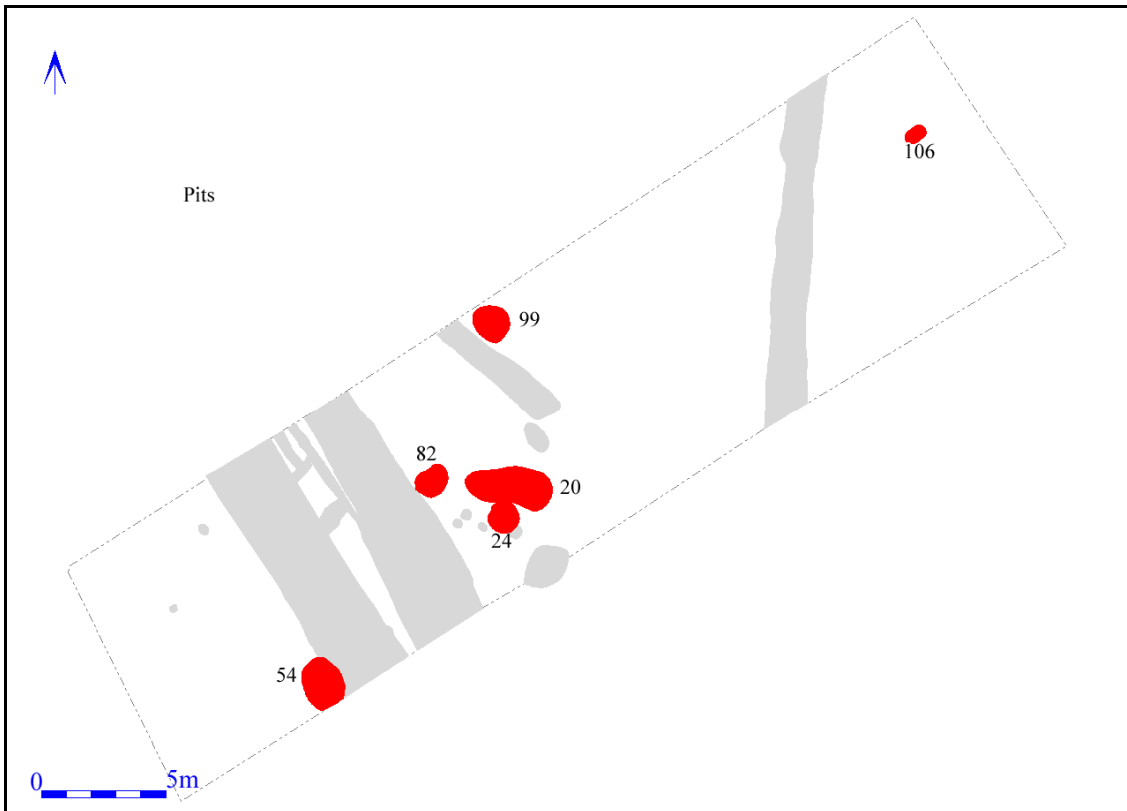


Figure 37 Location and excavation numbers of the pits

Six pits were excavated, most of which were situated in the central part of area 196AB.

Pit 196AB00020

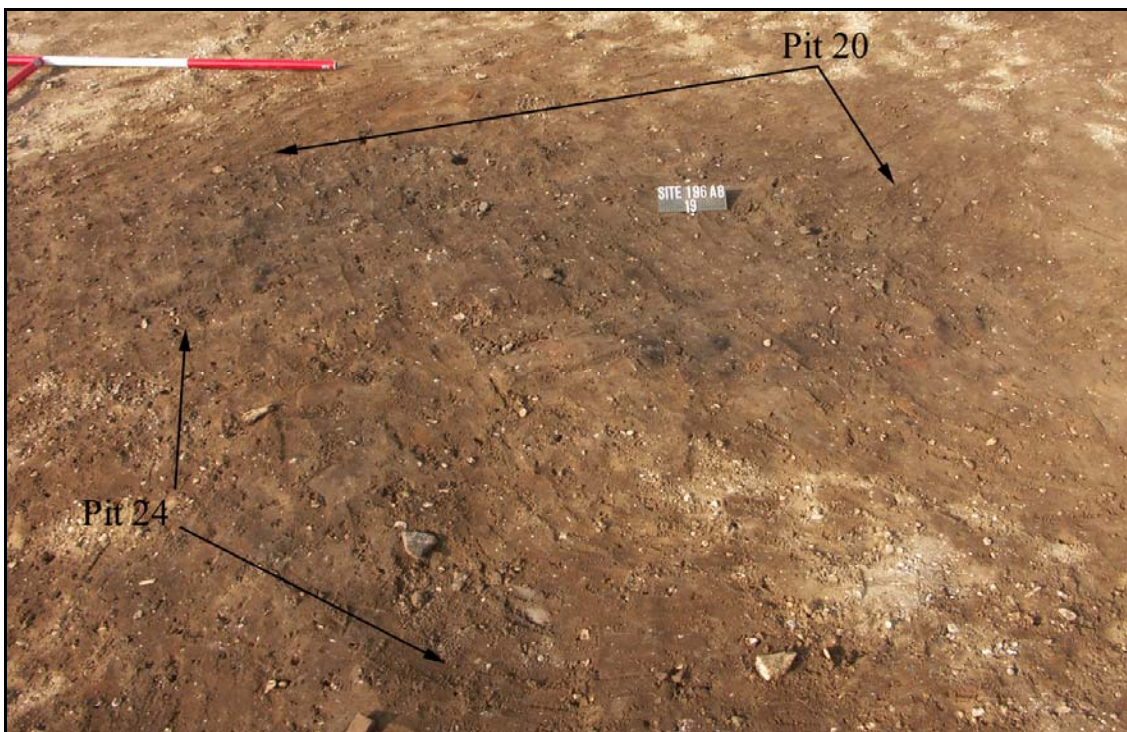


Figure 38 Pre-excavation view of pits 196AB00020 and 196AB00024 from the south

Even before excavation, it was clear that pit 196AB00020 was unusual, in that a number of sherds were visible on the surface of the feature (see Figure 38 for pre-excavation view).

196AB00092 was the primary fill of the pit. It sloped in from the east, extending across two thirds of the length of the pit. It was comprised of a reddish sandy soil (Munsell colour 10YR 5/4), with 10% chalk gravel inclusions. Finds were 11 sherds of Iron Age pottery, 4 lumps of unfired green clay and a fragment of animal bone (rib).

The primary fill was sealed by 196AB00093. This fill occurred on the western side of the pit only. It was not recognised as being noticeably different from fill 196AB00080 during excavation, so any finds from this fill were lifted under fill 80. In section, it could be seen that this fill was very slightly darker than fill 80 (although both were given a Munsell colour of 10YR 4/3), with a similar (roughly 7%) chalk inclusion rate.

Fill number 196AB00080 was a much sandier fill than 196AB00019 above with up to 10% chalk inclusions. It extended towards the centre of the pit, although only present on the eastern side. It contained pottery (14 Iron Age sherds) a fragment of unfired clay, and animal bone (10 fragments of which 3 were sheep), though not in the quantities found in fill 19.

Fill 196AB00019 contained 175 mostly unabraded pot sherds (1 unassigned, 1 Romano-British and 173 Iron Age). It appears that at least 3 or 4 different vessels are present. Two sherds had pie crust decoration around the rim, and the full profile of another (undecorated) pot was also recovered. Also present were 11 charcoal fragments, 11 animal bone fragments, 2 unfired clay fragments and 3 small lumps of iron slag. The fill was dark (10YR 3/1 with burnt material and 10YR 3/3 for the rest), and contained a number of larger (up to 10cm in diameter) chalk rocks, as well as two hammer-stones.

Fill 196AB00079 was the final event. It was a dark fill (10YR 3/3) located only in the central part of the pit. It was characterised by areas of reddish burnt sand, although they were not indicative of in situ burning. Finds were 2 Iron Age sherds and 4 small fragments of burnt animal bone.

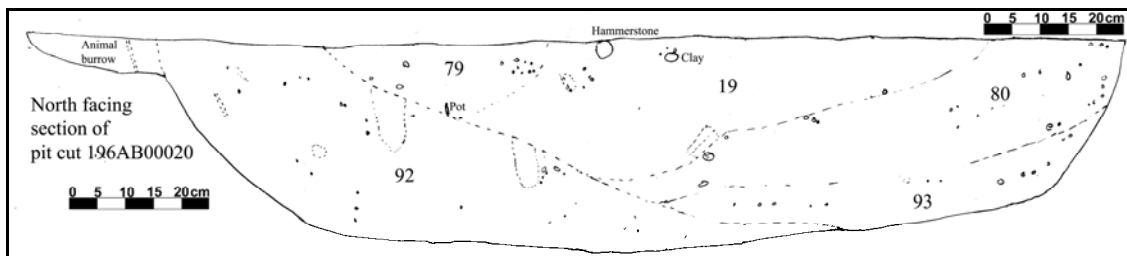


Figure 39 Section drawing of pit 196AB00020

Upon completion the pit appeared almost as a figure 8 shape on its southern side. It was cut down through sand and gravel to a soft, pure yellow sand, and had a regular flat base.

Pit 196AB00024

Pit 196AB00024, like pit 196AB00020, was characterised by having a number of pottery sherds visible on the surface (see Figure 38).

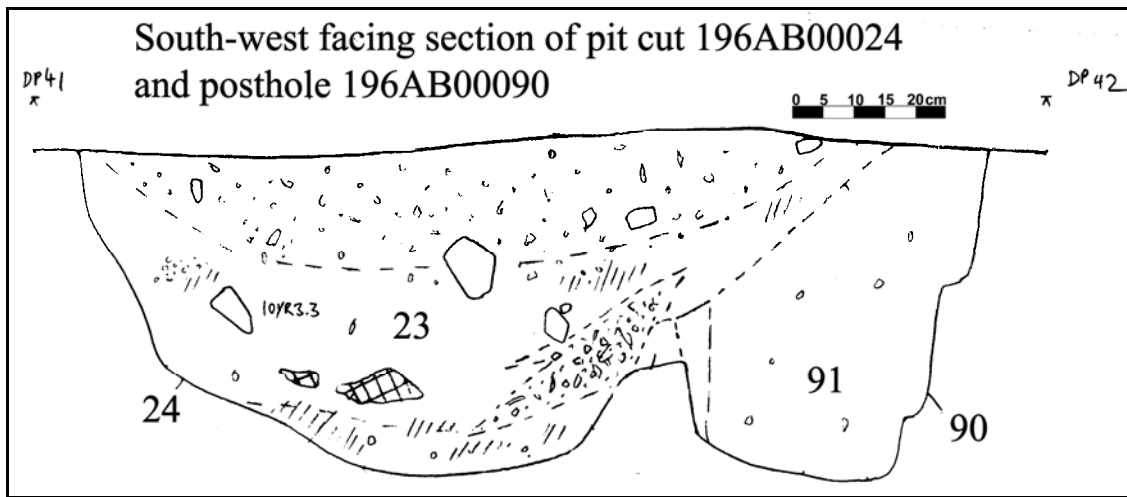


Figure 40 Section drawing of pit 196AB00024

Fill number 196AB00023 was a dark brown sandy fill (10YR 3/3) with 5% chalk gravel inclusions. It contained pottery (28 Iron Age sherds) a fragment of unfired clay, charcoal and animal bone (17 fragments of which 2 were sheep). Although this comprised the majority of the fill, subtle differences were apparent in the section, including lenses of redeposited natural gravel and darker sand deposits, richer in carbonised material. It was noted in excavation that much of the pot and animal bone was associated with these carbonised concentrations.

This pit was sub-circular in plan with an undulating U-shaped profile. It was cut into the natural sand and chalk gravel, and cut through post hole 196AB00090 in the south.

Pit 196AB00054

Pit fill 196AB00053 was a light (10YR 4/4) coloured medium sandy fill, with 3-5% chalk gravel inclusions. The only finds were three small, similar fabric, abraded pot sherds, of Iron Age date. It is possible that these were derived from the Iron Age ditch and pits located to the east.

The pit was a regular, ovate shape, with a reasonably flat base. It was cut into sand and chalk gravel. Although the relationship with ditch 56 was not clearly established (see Figure 26 for section drawing), the excavator felt that the most likely relationship was that the pit was later.

Pit 196AB00082

196AB00083 was a dark brown medium sand fill, with 5% chalk gravel inclusions. The fill contained 3 small fragments of animal bone, 1 Iron Age pot sherd and occasional flecks of charcoal. A large fragment of a saddle quern stone was also found, together with part of a red sandstone fragment. A sheep burial had been cut into the top of this pit fill.

The pit was ovate in plan and had a roughly bowl-shape profile, cut into natural sand and chalk gravel. It was located immediately to the west of ditch master 196AB00074, and although very close to the ditch edge, there was no direct stratigraphic relationship.

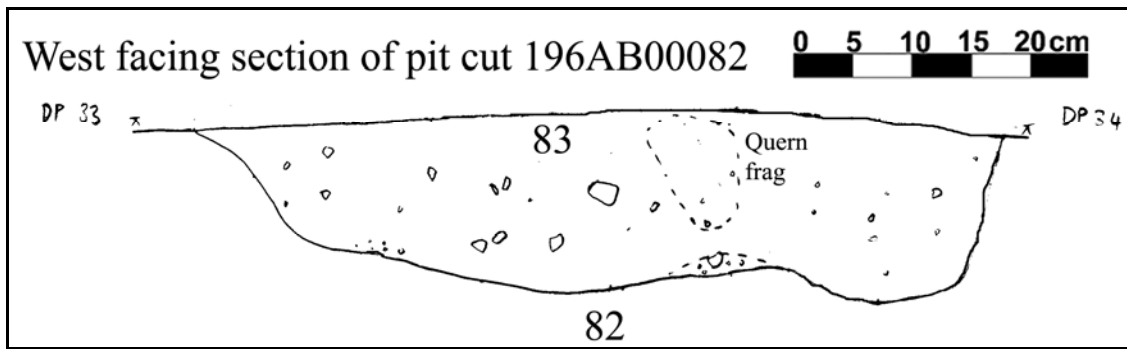


Figure 41 Section drawing of pit 196AB00082

Pit 196AB00099

Fill 100 was a dark brown (10YR 3/4) sandy fill with 8% chalk inclusions. The upper part of the fill was heavily burrowed and contained intrusive medieval (1 sherd of green-glazed pottery) and 3 fragments of modern brick. The lower uniform and undisturbed proportion contained 4 sherds of Iron Age pottery, and these indicate the most likely date for the pit.

The pit cut was located at the eastern edge of ditch cut 196AB00095 (see Figure 33 for section drawing). It was partially cut by this ditch and the top of the pit had been heavily burrowed. The pit was circular in plan and had a V-shaped profile, and was cut into natural sand and chalk gravel.

Pit 196AB00106

The fill contained a single abraded Iron Age pot sherd. There was slight charcoal flecking throughout, although it proved difficult to collect a viable sample.

The pit was ovate in plan, had a regular U-shaped profile, and was cut into natural sand and gravel.

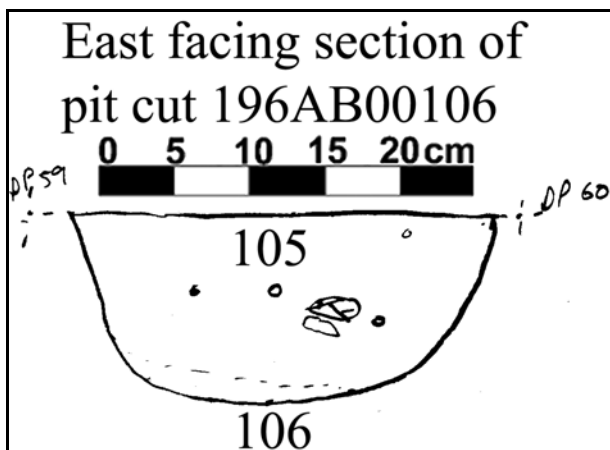


Figure 42 Section drawing of pit 196AB00106

The well 196AB00026

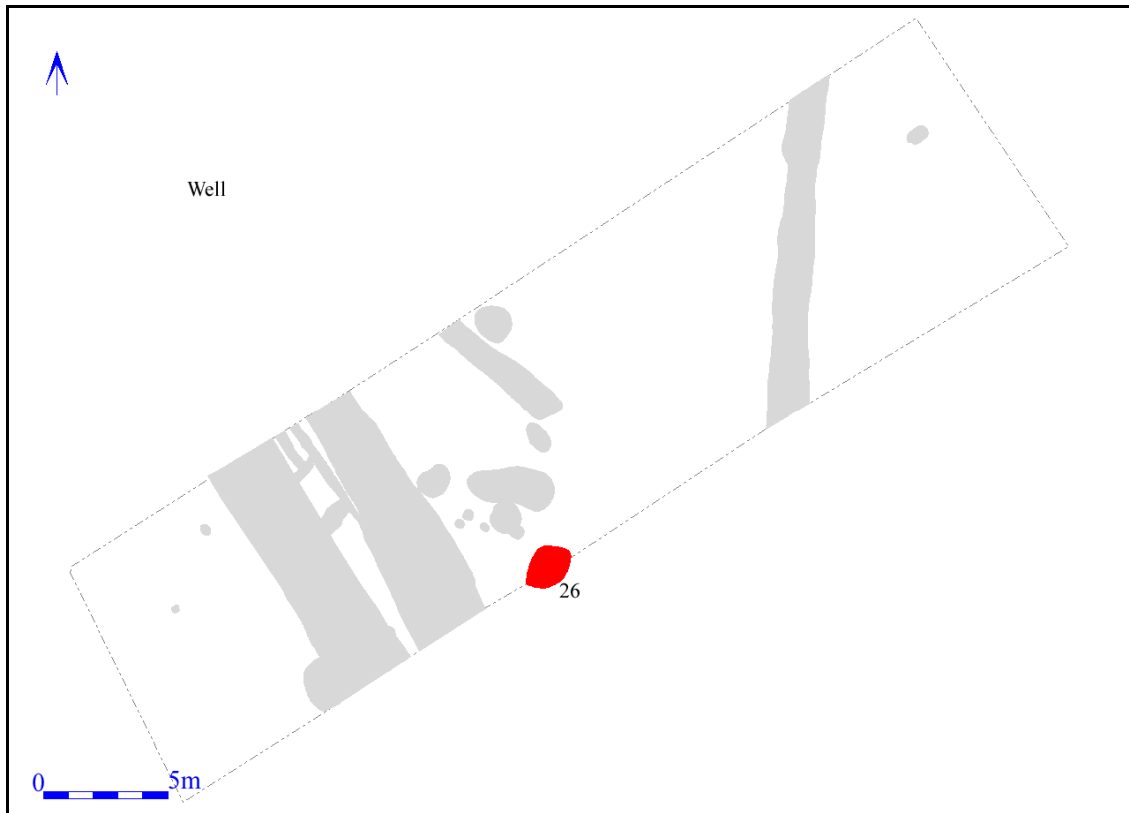


Figure 43 Location and excavation number of the well

When excavation began, it was believed that this was another of the group of Iron Age pits in the centre of area 196AB. This interpretation was initially borne out by the similarity of the finds from the feature. However, it soon became clear that this feature was much deeper than the others, with almost vertical sides.

This sub-rectangular feature was located mid-way along the southern edge of the area, and extended beneath the north facing section of the trench. It was initially hand-excavated to a maximum depth of 140cm, whereupon a portion of the standing section collapsed, and it was deemed too dangerous to continue. For this reason only one fill context (196AB00025) was allocated, although at least two fills were apparent in section (see Figure 44). The upper fill was a dark brown (10YR 3/4) slightly silty sand containing 12 animal bones, 2 lumps of charcoal, 1 flint scraper, 1 fragment of fired clay, 1 igneous rock and 30 sherds of Iron Age pot. The lower fill was a homogenous redeposited sand and gravel natural with occasional pot. The remaining fill of the feature was excavated by JCB to a final depth of 250cm from the top of the modern turf surface. The well was initially subject to a period of natural infilling with the remaining hole being infilled in the later Iron Age.

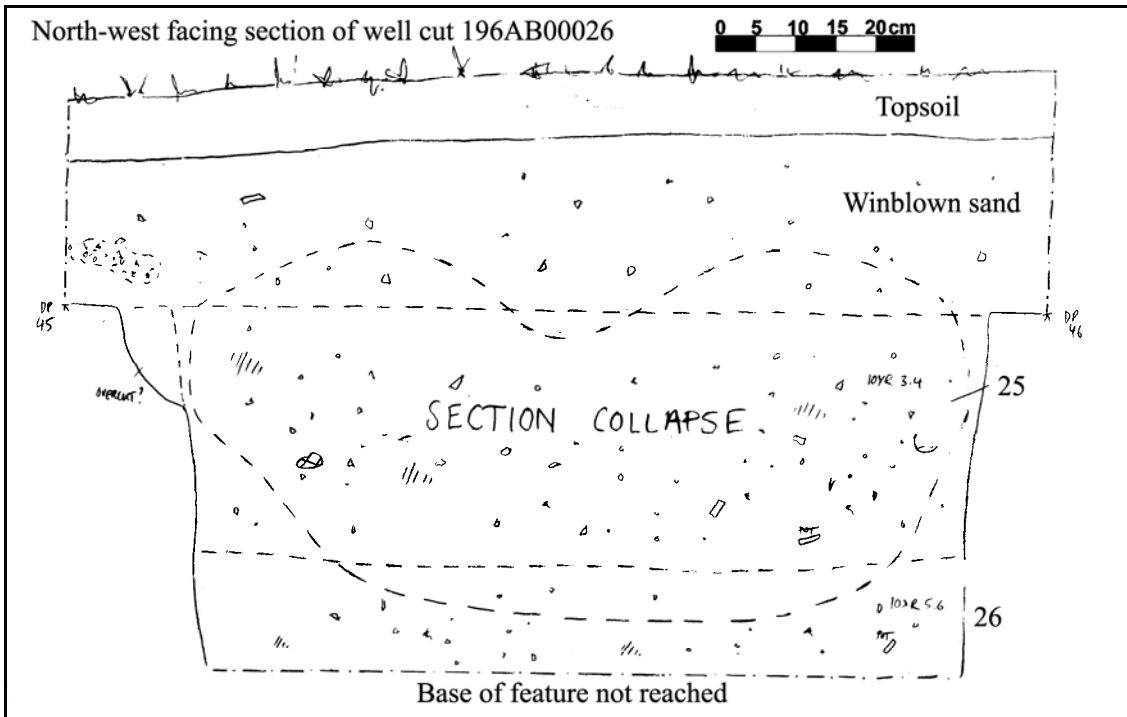


Figure 44 Section drawing of well 196AB00026

Possible Cremation Pit? 196AB00084

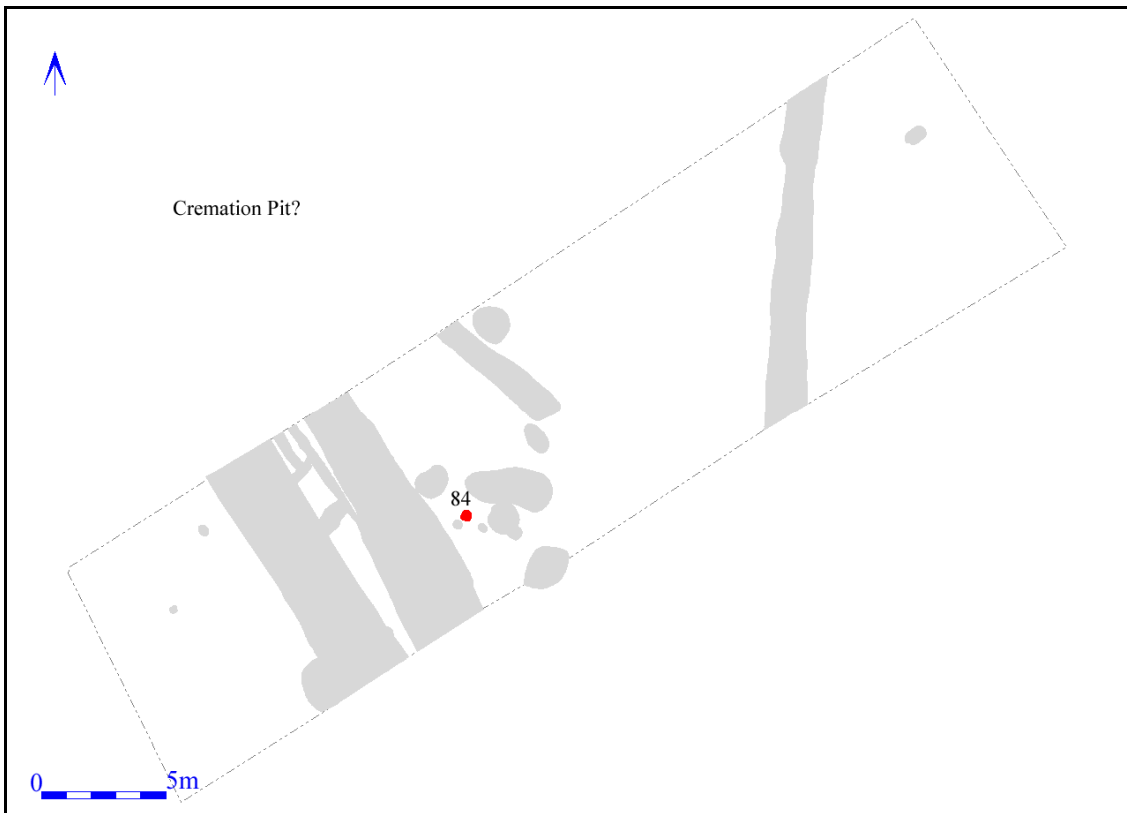


Figure 45 Location and excavation number of the possible cremation pit

Fill 196AB00085 was a dark brown (10YR 3/2) sand containing occasional gravel and a single small fragment of highly burnt bone. The feature was severely plough-truncated and only the very base remained, so it is not possible to be certain whether it was the remains of a cremation pit or another post hole, but what remained of its fill was different in character to the fills of the three nearby post holes.

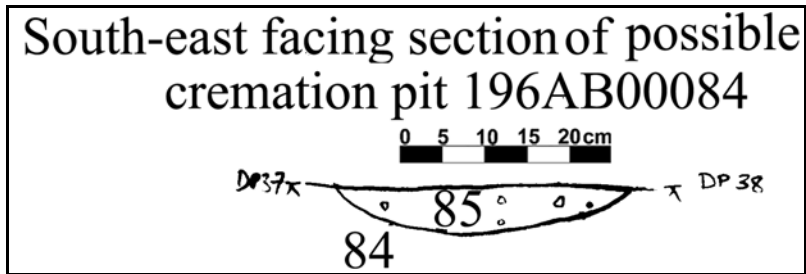


Figure 46 Section drawing of the truncated remains of a possible cremation pit 196AB00084

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Stoertz, C. (1997). Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds - Aerial photographic transcriptions and analysis. RCHME.