

Archaeological Excavations at Cook's Quarry, West Heslerton
Interim Report on work undertaken between 2006 and 2010



Excavation of area 10AF in progress during 2007

The Landscape Research Centre

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Context

Archaeological excavations ahead of mineral extraction have been in progress at Cook's Quarry since the archaeological significance of the site was first identified in 1977, although material from a Beaker burial examined in early 1960's which including a Jet Bead necklace in Scarborough museum indicates that a lot of archaeological evidence was lost prior to the rescue excavations begun in 1977. Between 1977 and 1985 excavations at the quarry were funded as part of the national rescue archaeology programme managed by English Heritage and its former organisations. Since 2001 excavations have been undertaken ahead of mineral extraction on an occasional basis maintaining a buffer between the excavated area and that actively under extraction so that the archaeological evidence can be excavated in a timely fashion that allows mineral extraction to proceed without being held up by the excavations. Between 2005 and 2012 excavations took place in 2005 (area AE), 2007 (area AF), 2008 (area AG) and 2010 (area AH). With the areas examined being defined by mineral extraction activities rather than by the limits of particular zones of activity the evidence the work has demonstrated the very extensive nature of activity in the area and has revealed burial, ceremonial and domestic evidence from the Late Neolithic until the Early Iron Age, with a number of boundary ditches showing land divisions established and maintained until the post-roman period.

The archaeology of Cook's Quarry is of national importance in the context of later British Prehistory partly because of the range and density of activity but also because of the extraordinary levels of preservation observed in the 1970's and 1980's when blown sands were identified; these had protected extensive buried land-surfaces from damage from agriculture. The blown sand coverage in the areas examined since 2001 has been far lower than that encountered in the earlier excavations immediately to the east but conditions are still better than one would anticipate in most rural landscape areas in Britain. Archaeological geophysics and auger surveys have showed that Cook's Quarry sits within an extraordinarily intensively used landscape in which blown sand coverage remains a key factor in the importance of the buried archaeological evidence; what is astonishing is that the evidence of activity at Cook's Quarry has not been revealed either by the 30+ year programme of intensive air photography or by geophysical survey. The archaeology of Cook's Quarry would almost certainly have been overlooked if it had been assessed using conventional sampling programmes and is the perfect demonstration of the need to undertake total exposure with archaeological supervision as an approach to managing the archaeology of mineral extraction. The evidence from Cook's Quarry is important not because it is necessarily exceptional but because it has come to light and as such is exceptional.

Although the work programme at Cook's Quarry was originally developed within a framework of annual excavations at a larger scale than has in fact been necessary, this was based upon assumptions relating to the rate of extraction that were incorrect. There is good reason to believe that the evidence accruing from the excavations at the quarry, over more than 35 years, gives us an indication of what we might expect to find associated with any of the stream channels emerging from the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds draining across the sandy southern margins of the Vale of Pickering into the wetlands that formerly filled the centre of the Vale.

Results

Figure 1 shows the excavated areas of the northern part of Site 1, on the right hand (eastern) side in relation to the areas examined in a more piecemeal fashion on Site 10, the blue features which in part separate these two principal sites represent various courses of a braided stream which emerges from the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds 500m to the south, fed by a spring which remains active but was re-routed in the late Anglo-Saxon period.

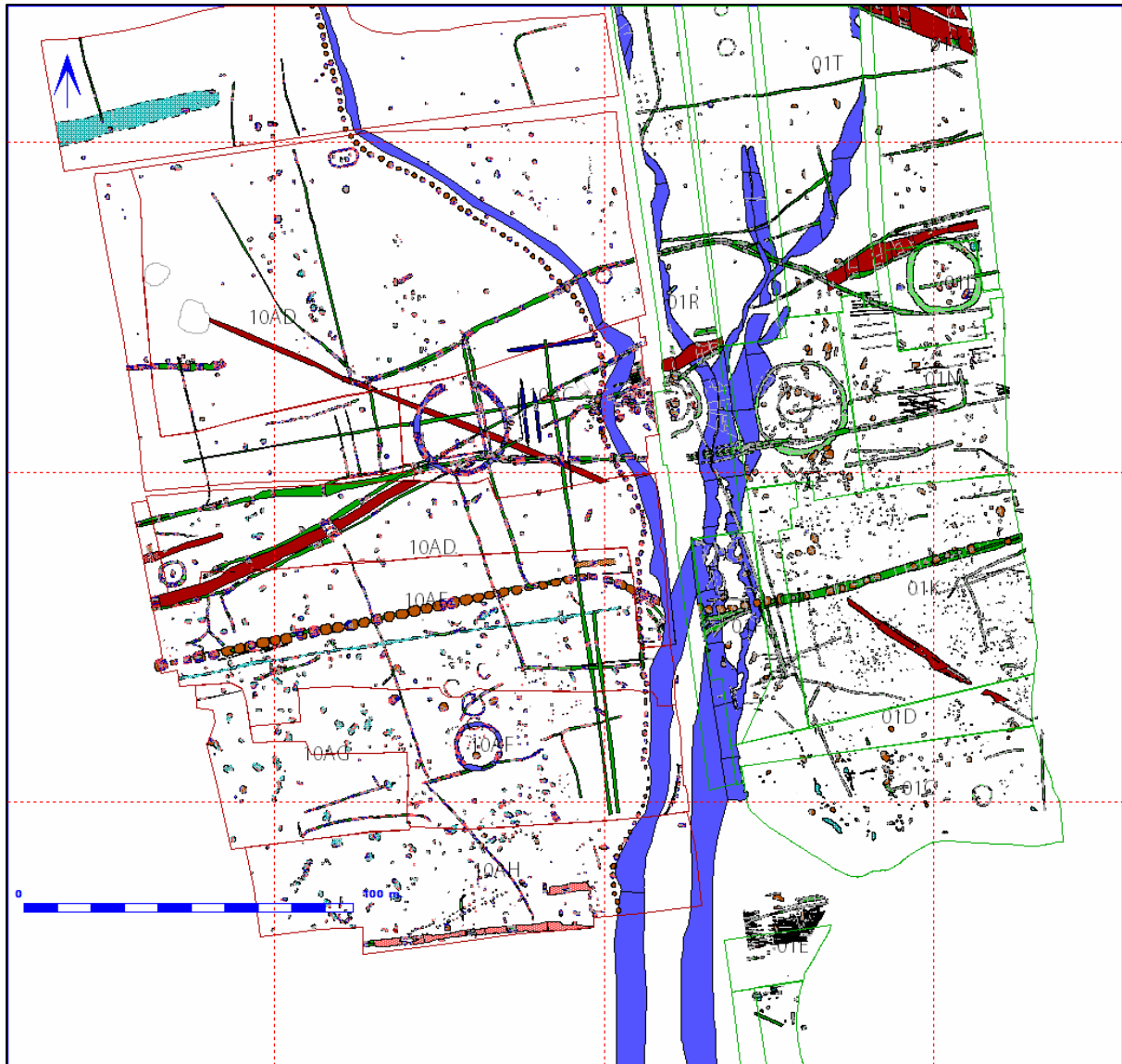


Figure 1: Plan showing excavation areas and features examined at Cook's Quarry Sites 1 and 10

The stream, with its multiple main channels, seems to have provided the focus for activity in the Late Mesolithic period and there is a clear increase in the density of Late Mesolithic material along the banks of the stream channel, it seems most likely that the stream channel provided a convenient and easily followed route through the landscape linking the wetlands in the centre of the Vale with the chalk uplands to the south.

In contrast with the areas further to the north, excavated between 2001 and 2004, the areas covering the southern half of Site 10 have less Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age funerary activity, but an increase in the levels of domestic activity at the same time. Towards the southern part of area 10AF, which is bisected by the massive pit-alignment first examined in 1980 to the east, the site of what appears to have been a Beaker Kiln was excavated. The interpretation of this feature, an area of burnt sands and clays, as a kiln owes most to what appears to be an associated pit containing a combination of large Beaker sherds and lots of fragments of fired perforated clay sheets which have been interpreted as kiln plates. The kiln plates would have been used within the bonfire kiln to control the rate of temperature change and thus reduce the chance of the pots being fired breaking during the firing process. If the interpretation is correct then this is the first example of a Beaker kiln site identified in Europe. The large number of sherds found in the associated pit may have been either wasters which had broken during firing, although there was little indication of the sorts of distortion one associates with waster fragments, or they may have been a source of grog. Grog or

ground up sherds appears to make up a very high percentage of Beaker ceramic fabric. Examination of the large Beaker ceramics assemblage will have to await completion of the full excavation, however preliminary examination indicates that we may have comb decorated fragments from pits which have been decorated with the same comb used in one of the funerary vessels excavated in the 1980's. Further south still a number of domestic Beaker pits contained large flint assemblages and in one case a quern stone and in another a hone stone. Associated with the domestic pits ring gullies from three round houses, highlight the importance of Cook's Quarry which has the rare combination of domestic, funerary and landscape boundaries relating to the Beaker period (c.2500BC-1800BC).

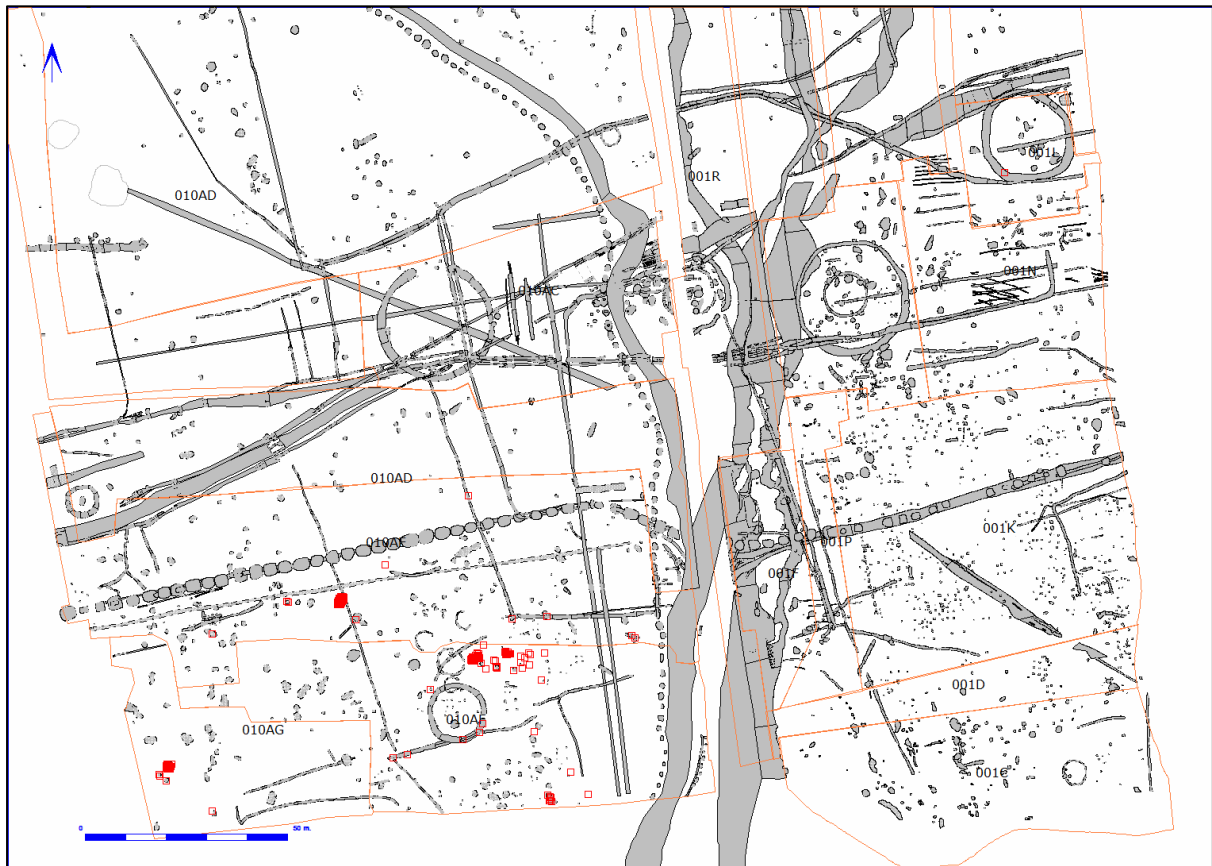


Figure 2: The Distribution of Beaker domestic material in Site 10

The massive post-pits, some with associated cremations, which for now are undated but are likely to pre-date the Beaker activity and may be as early as the late Mesolithic, based on similar and now dated features from Stonehenge and Ireland are not a feature of the southern part of the site but are concentrated to the north of the pit-alignment.

The dating of the main east-west pit-alignment in 10AE, remains problematic although it does pre-date the sinuous alignments of much smaller pits which are present on the banks of the stream channels and securely dated to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (c.1000-800BC). The initial construction of the large pit-alignment, which had a blocked entrance on the western bank of the stream channel, may date to the Neolithic and although a number of the pits were sampled the complete lack of charcoal or material culture evidence means that the date must remain in question.

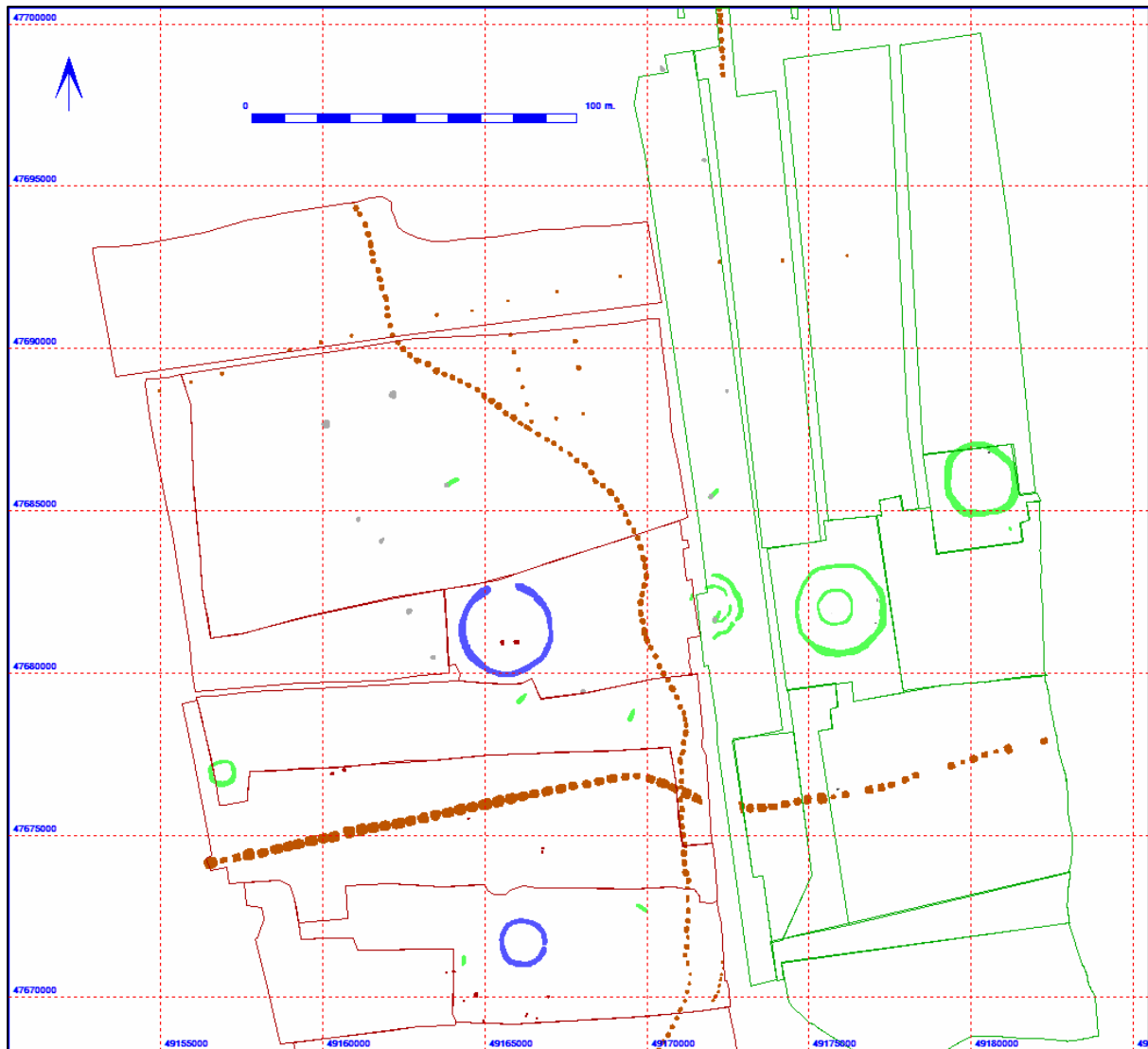


Figure 3: Barrows, Ring-Ditches, pits and pit-alignments

Area 10AF was not only important on account of the extensive domestic beaker activity but also because here a large ring ditch, with the truncated remains of a number of probable cremations, damaged by modern ploughing where the blown sand cover was either very thin or non-existent, forms the funerary component of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement which was excavated on the other side of the stream in the 1980's. Four poster buildings, possible granaries and the ditches of the Late Bronze Age field systems once again give a more rounded body of evidence than we are used to encountering. During the original excavations at Cook's Quarry an area of wheel-ruts, originally misinterpreted as plough-marks were considered to be of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, but on very limited evidence. This trackway, the northern boundary ditch of which ran along adjacent to the southern limit of excavation in 2010, can now be securely dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age; the trackway can also be traced to the west of the site for much more than a kilometre in the landscape geophysical surveys carried out by the LRC. The field systems defined by small fence/slots and ditches which can be dated to the Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age phase of activity may reflect a sort of in-field/out-field arrangement which would normally associate with the Medieval world. A gently curving avenue of posts less than 2.5 metres apart and pre-dating the trackway may relate to some sort of elaborate fencing bounding activity in the area yet to be excavated to the south. Also close to the southern edge of Site 10, a couple of pits containing large Grooved-Ware assemblages indicate that the area to the south may be the setting for middle Neolithic domestic activity; there was some indication of this in 1985 when a small ditch on the eastern side of the stream channels was dated from a number of fragments from a broken polished axe.

Archiving and analysis

The comprehensive nature of the combined evidence from the two fields that lie to either side of the stream channels and the large areas over which the prehistoric evidence is distributed make detailed reporting during the ongoing excavation process difficult or at least incomplete. All data is fully checked, verified, digitised and integrated as each season is completed, specialist work on the prehistoric ceramics by Terry Manby and Ann Clarke in particular has also been conducted on a seasonal basis although concluding statements and site-wide analysis will have to await completion of the work.

Prof. Dominic Powlesland DUniv, FSA

On behalf of the trustees

The Landscape Research Centre

Appendix:

Discussion of the Beaker pits found at the West Heslerton Sand Quarry (Site 010)

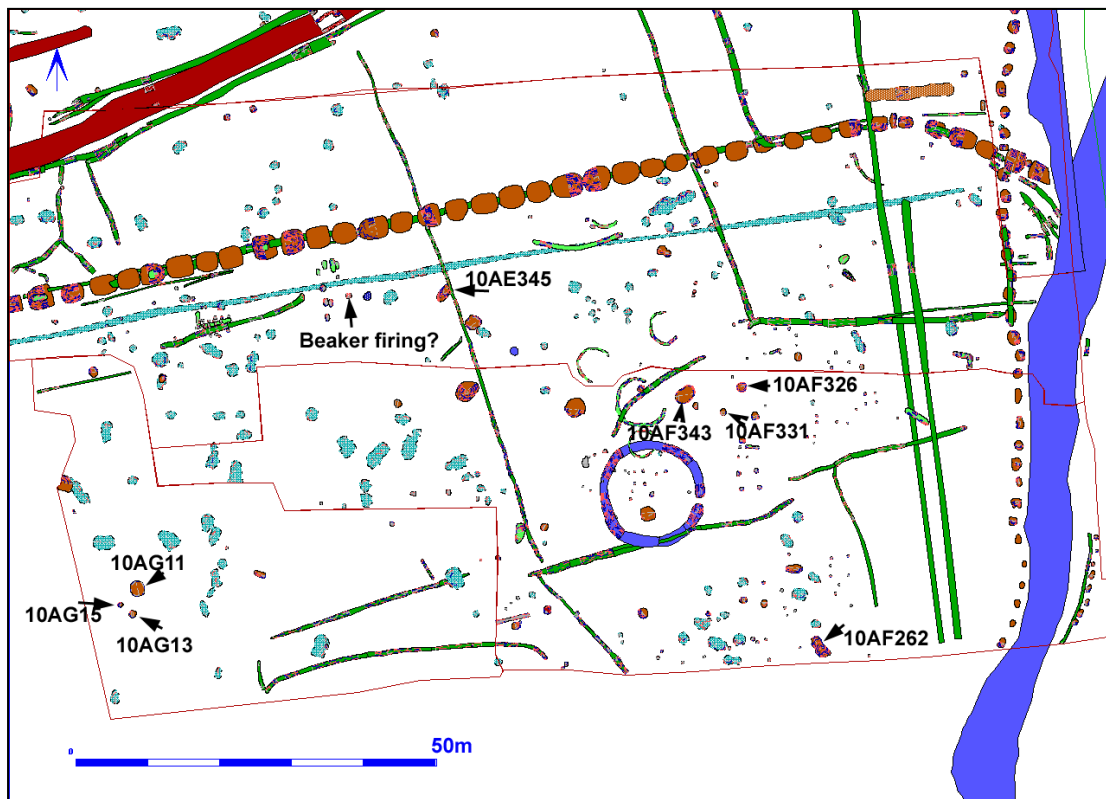


Figure 4 Location of Beaker period pits (area 10AE excavated in 2005, area 10AF excavated in 2007 and area 10AG excavated in 2008)

By the end of the 2008 excavation season, a total of eight Beaker period pits had been discovered (see Figure 4 for the location of the pits). Each pit is described in detail below.

Site 010AE pit number 010AE00345

The first Beaker period pit encountered was numbered 010AE00345, and proved to be one of the most interesting and informative. On the surface, there was nothing to indicate that this feature was going to be different from the many other pits already excavated to the north, apart from one potsherd and a number of burnt clay fragments which were found on the surface. Stratigraphically, the extreme eastern edge of the pit was cut by a ditch (see Figure 5), although at this point the only dating evidence produced by the ditch was classified as "generic Iron Age material", i.e. small abraded calcite gritted wares. As is common for the area, all of the features were much disturbed by animal burrowing.

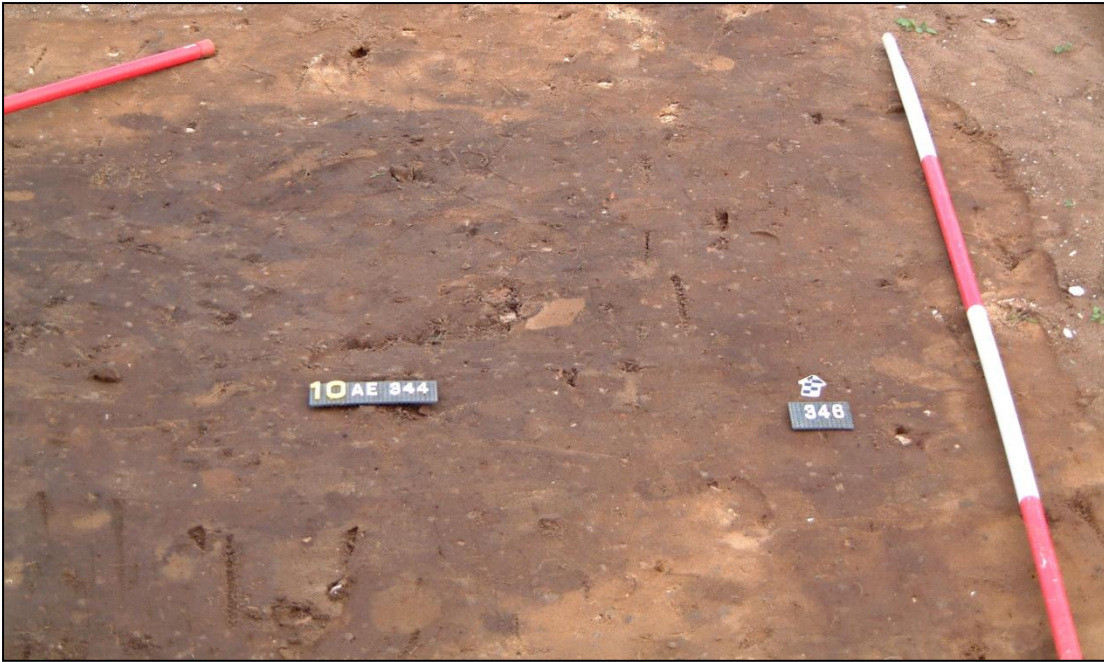


Figure 5 Pre-excavation view showing pit fill 344 cut by ditch 010AE000347 (fill number 346)

As soon as the excavation of the pit commenced, it became apparent that the density of finds was unusual for this area (in all, 680 objects were recovered). A total of 183 potsherds were found, the overwhelming majority of which were early Bronze Age, with 178 sherds classified as belonging to the Beaker period. The remaining 5 sherds were categorised as Prehistoric (4 sherds from contexts 205 and 390), and a single sherd from the upper fill 344 as having Iron Age date (presumably intrusive). Other finds from the pit were 177 burnt clay fragments, 5 of which had defined edges. It is likely that these were derived from the structure of the potential firing area located 10 metres to the west (see Figure 4 for location), although specialist analysis will be needed to confirm this. The remainder of the objects recovered were as follows: 5 animal bone fragments, 43 charcoal fragments, a single fragmentary hazel nut shell, 61 flints (including 19 scrapers and 1 knife fragment) and 166 non-local stone fragments (sandstone, dolomite and other igneous rocks).

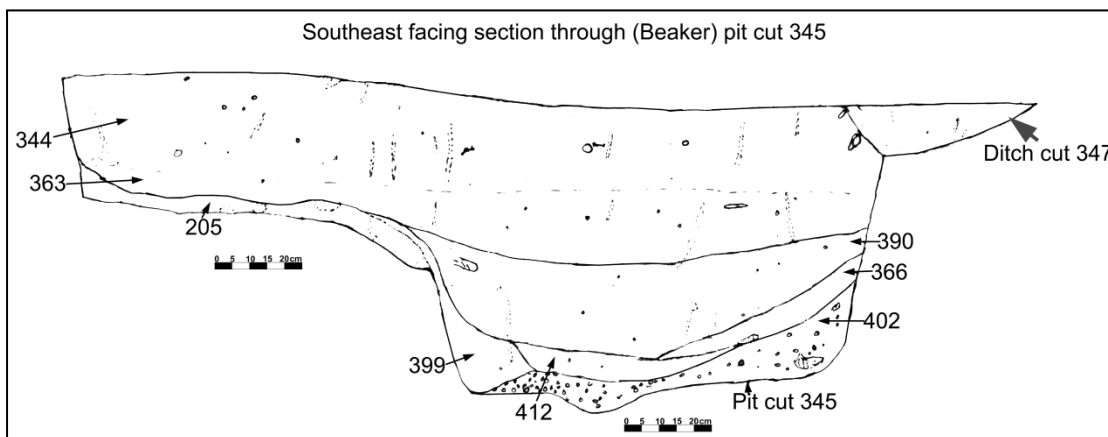


Figure 6 Section drawing of Beaker pit 010AE000345

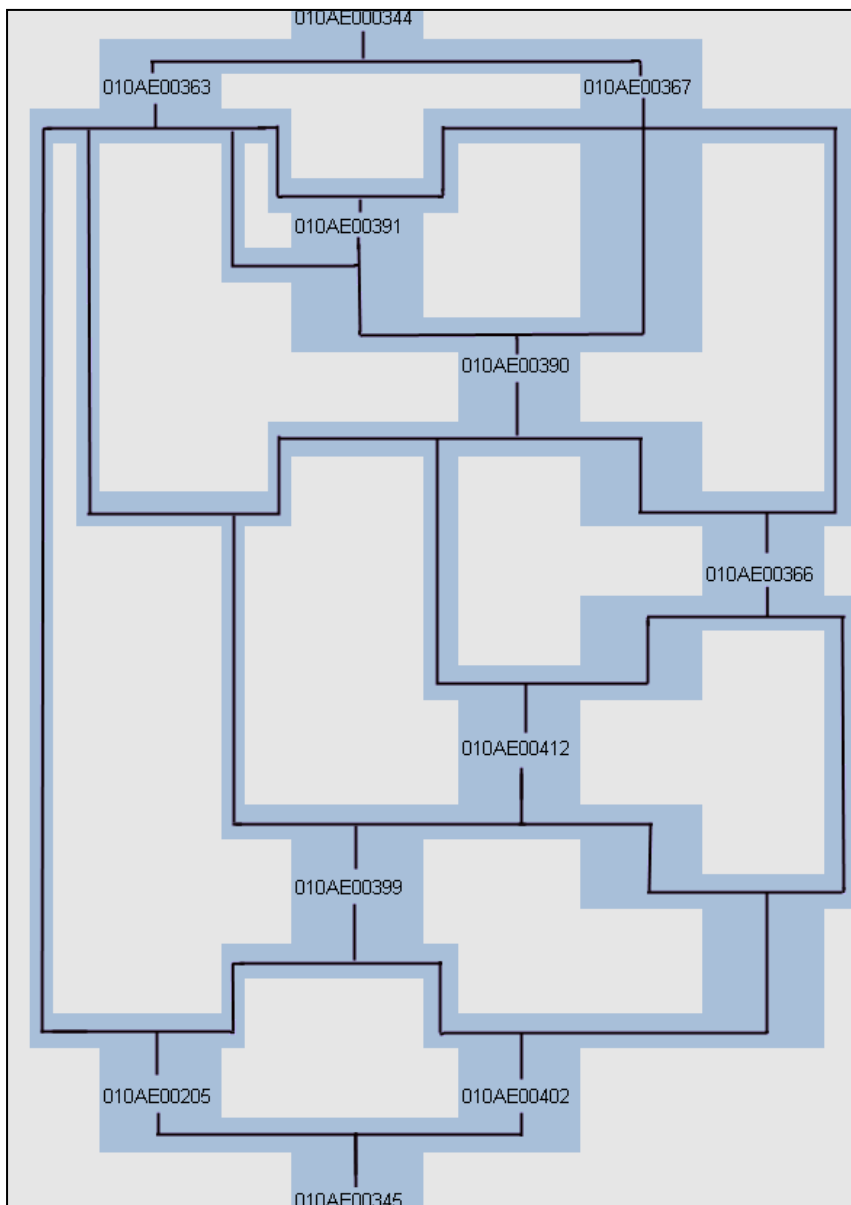


Figure 7 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AE00345 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)

The pit was cut into sand and gravel, with an unusual profile. It was shallower in the west (see Figure 9), with two "steps" (at roughly 40cm and 60cm) before the deeper (93cm), more regular sub-rectangular cut in the east. It was aligned ENE, and may have been associated with a fragmentary kiln base and clay deposit some 10 meters to the west.

Based on the evidence gleaned from the section (see Figure 6), it appears that the pit was initially a relatively shallow (30-40cm deep) feature, which after being filled to a depth of 5-6cm with the dark primary fill 010AE00205, was then almost immediately recut as a deeper pit in the east. The pit was then filled with a complex sequence of activity, as detailed below. Note that fills 367 and 391 were only present near the side of the pit, and did not reach the centre, hence are not represented in the section.



Figure 8 Beaker pit cut 010AE00343 partially excavated (note Beaker sherds in section and on the base)

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AE00345 in stratigraphic sequence

Fill number 010AE00205

The primary fill, initially seen as a line of dark material encountered only around the south-western edge of the pit. Contained pottery including Beaker sherds, stone and two flint scrapers. A lump of unfired clay sat on the interface between this and fill 344 above. This fill was much darker than any of the other fills in the pit, and charcoal samples were lifted as individual 3-D recorded finds, as well as bulk samples being taken. The darkest parts of the fill were a Munsell colour 10YR 2/1, with the remainder being 10YR 3/1. The deposit lay directly onto natural sand and gravel, and was found only in the shallower, western side of the pit. There were very few inclusions.

Fill number 010AE00402

A mixed redeposited natural fill, sealed by the darker fills 366 and 412. This was the primary fill in the deeper eastern part of the pit. It contained non-local stone, a small flint flake and a fragment of bone. Towards the eastern edge of the deposit was a lump of very badly fired pottery, lying on a number of sherds. Very near the base of the cut, a sizable fragment of Beaker base was found.

Fill number 010AE00399

A much lighter, browner fill beneath the darker fill 390. This contained decorated Beaker pottery and non local stone. Also found were a small local flint hammerstone and flint scrapers, discovered mainly around the northern edge. The fill was present around the outside of the western and northern half of the deeper eastern cut. Because of the similarities of the fills, it is possible that some finds from this deposit may have been lifted under fill number 390.

Fill number 010AE00412

One of the lower fills in the Beaker pit, this was only recognized when removing the northern half of the feature. It contained non-local stone and a number of decorated Beaker sherds.

Fill number 010AE00366

Fill of Beaker pit, initially noted curving round the south-eastern edge of the feature. A line of redeposited natural (367) overlay this deposit. Both were sealed by deposit 363. Finds include flint flakes, non local stones and decorated Beaker pottery. The inclusions were chalk gravel, varying from 15-25%.

Fill number 010AE00390

Fill of Beaker pit, sealed by 363 and 391 (see Figure 8 where this context has just been reached in the northern half). This fill was very similar to fill 363 above, and contained a similar assemblage. However, it is clearly seen in section as having a slightly darker colour. It was a medium sandy fill, with less than 5% chalk inclusions. Contained decorated Beaker pottery (including some large sherds), as well as flint flakes, stone, an unusually shaped piece of chalk, and 2 bone fragments. A number of larger non-local stone was found towards the base of this deposit.

Fill number 010AE00391

Stony, mainly redeposited natural with some mixed darker sand. It was sealed by deposit 367 and by fill 363, and overlay fill 390. It contained a flint blade, a flint core and a pot boiler which may have been used as a hammerstone. It did not reach the centre of the pit and is thus not represented on the section drawing.

Fill number 010AE00367

Redeposited natural fill of Beaker pit, initially noted curving round the south-eastern edge of the feature. It overlay fill 366. Both were sealed by deposit 363. Finds were encountered, but in a much lower density than the other fills. It did not reach the centre of the pit and is thus not represented on the section drawing.

Fill number 010AE00363

Fill immediately beneath final fill 344. Distinguished from 344 by being a very slightly yellower, sandy colour. It soon turned darker, and the slightly lighter colour noted above was due to animal action. The finds density seemed slightly lower, although the find types in both contexts were similar. Both contained burnt clay, charcoal, flint flakes and implements and decorated Beaker potsherds. The fill was medium sandy, with less than 5% local flint inclusions.

Fill number 010AE00344

Pit fill which contained 18 finds on the surface alone, including mostly burnt clay, with some worked stone and a single potsherd. The initial shovel scrape across the surface revealed a further 7 finds. It was evident on the surface that the pit was cut by ditch 347 along its north eastern edge. The first spit across the southern half contained 18 finds, notably a decorated (Beaker?) sherd, with a line of circles between horizontal lines. As excavation continued, more decorated Beaker sherds were encountered, as well as part of a hazel nut shell. At the bottom of the fill, a large part of the rim and side of a Beaker was encountered. The fill was a relatively dark medium sand, with up to 5% local flint inclusions.

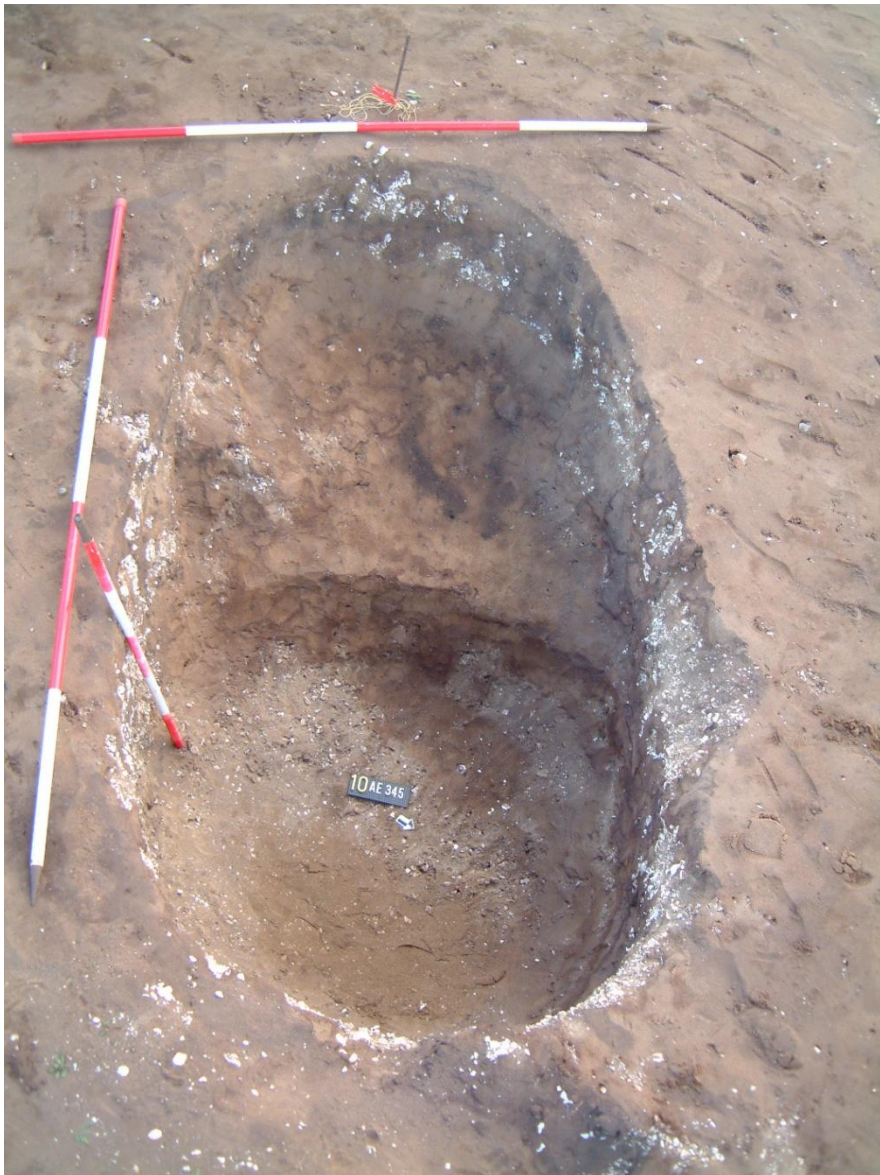


Figure 9 Fully excavated Beaker pit cut 010AE00343

Site 010AF pit number 010AF00262



Figure 10 Beaker pit 010AF00262 prior to the removal of the section baulks



Figure 11 Beaker pit 010AF00262 fully excavated

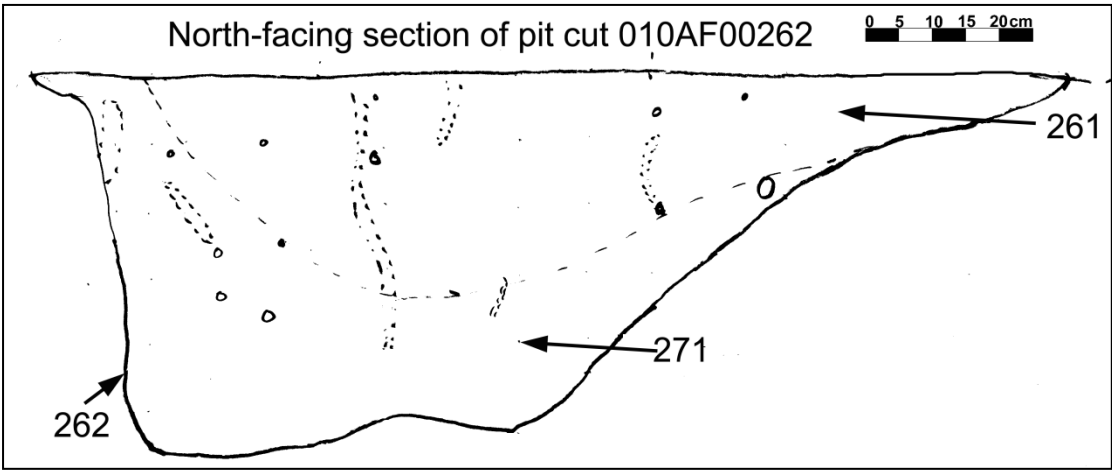


Figure 12 North facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AE000262

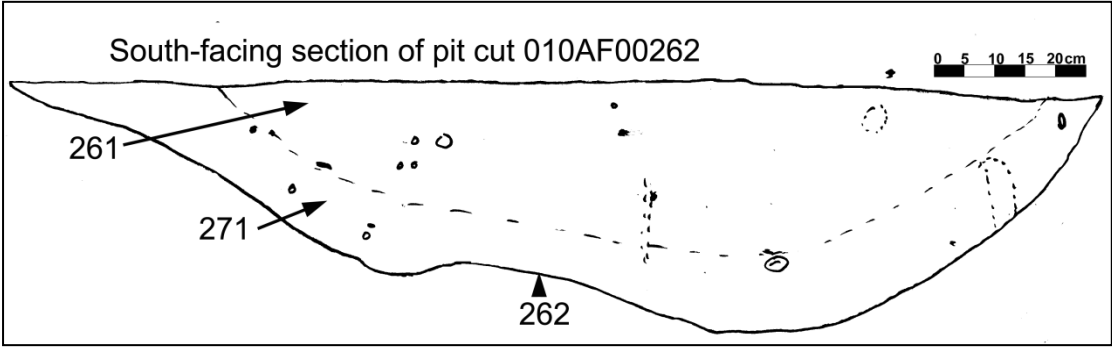


Figure 13 South facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AE000262

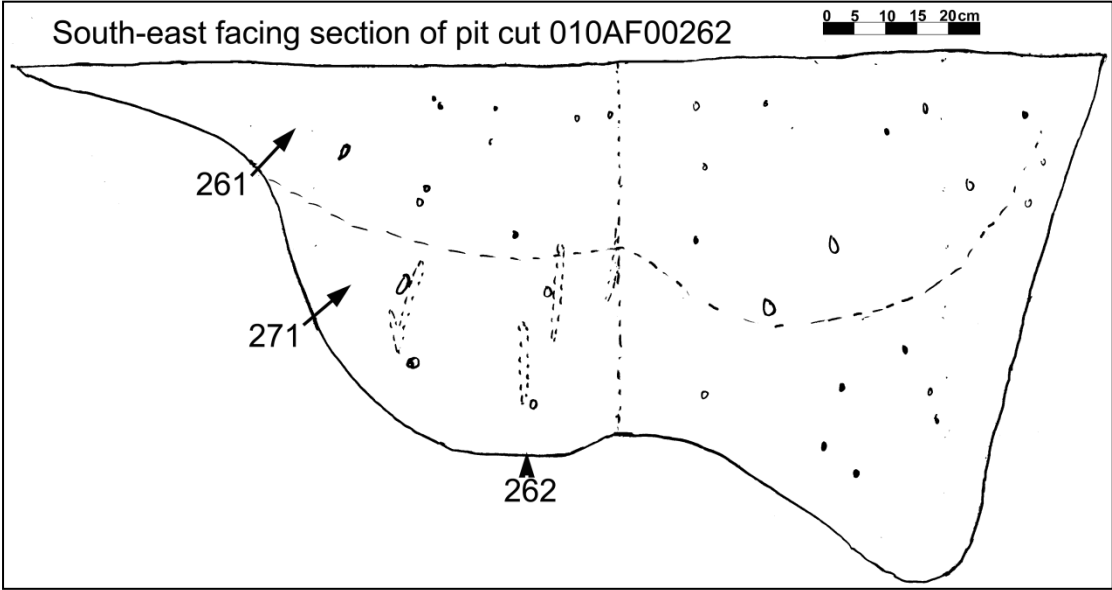


Figure 14 South-east facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AE000262

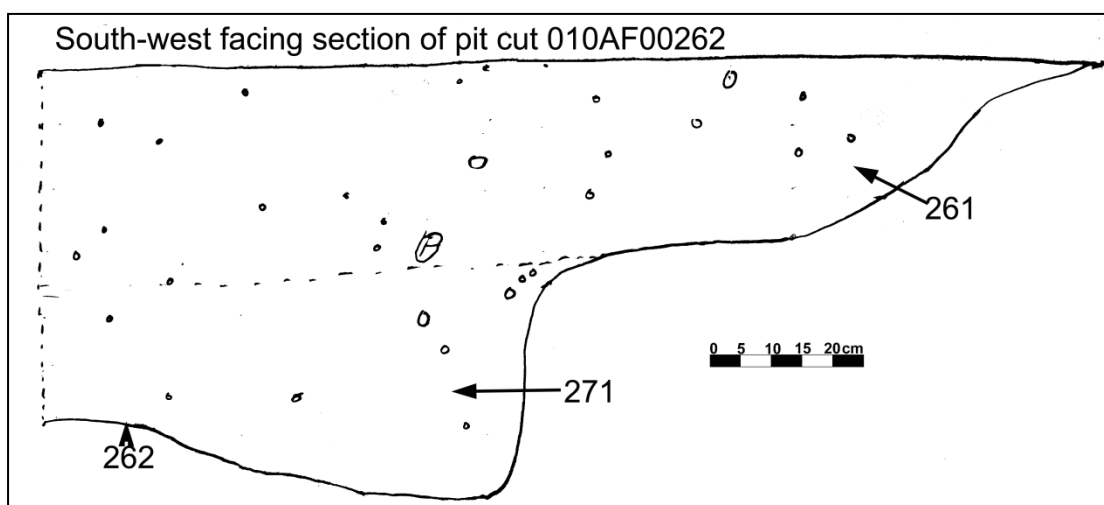


Figure 15 South-west facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AE000262

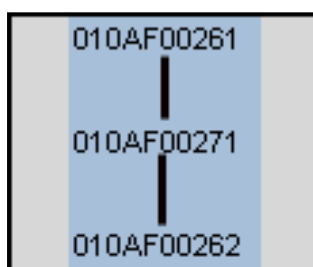


Figure 16 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AF00262 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AF00262 in stratigraphic sequence

The pit was cut into natural sand, and was deeper towards the south. It appeared as though 2 or even three posts may have been present in the southern half of the pit. The eastern edge of the pit was very steep-sided, whereas the rest of the pit had a shallow V-profile down to around 30cm. In all 10 Beaker sherds were recovered. Interestingly, also found were 2 flint tempered Neolithic sherds. There were 31 fragments of burnt clay, 12 flints (including two scrapers), 1 single hazel nut shell, and 11 non-local stone fragments.

Fill number 010AF00271

This was the primary fill of pit cut 262. It was a darker fill, with less material culture than in fill 261 above. It contained sparse pottery and a flint object, with some burnt sandstone. Local flint inclusions of up to 5%, some up to 10cm in diameter.

Fill number 010AF00261

Upper fill of a beaker period pit, which was confined to the central part of the pit. It was predominantly a blown sand deposit, overlying the primary fill 271. It contained sherds from at

least 2 different beakers, one an AOC type and the other with diagonal line decoration. Sherds of the AOC beaker were also found meters away to the east, indicating plough damage of the surface of the feature. Flint waste flakes and tools (including a large thumbnail scraper and a number of blades) were present. A large number of burnt clay fragments were also found, some with an edge. Most of the finds were in the upper part of the fill, although there were finds throughout. Charcoal for dating was collected by context only.

Site 010AF pit number 010AF00326

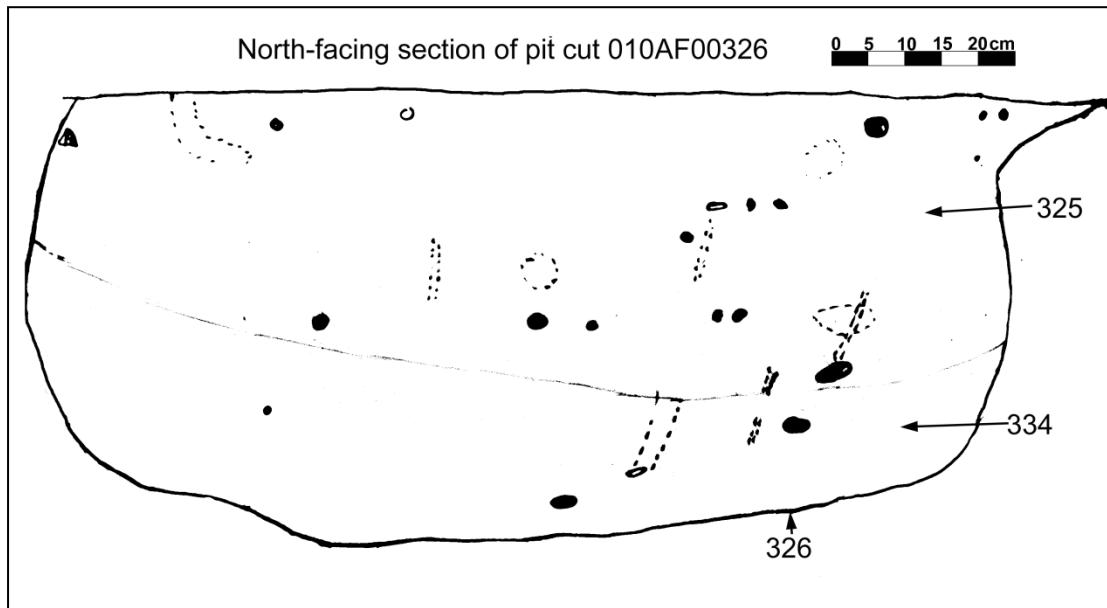


Figure 17 North facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AF00326



Figure 18 Half section through Beaker pit 010AF00326

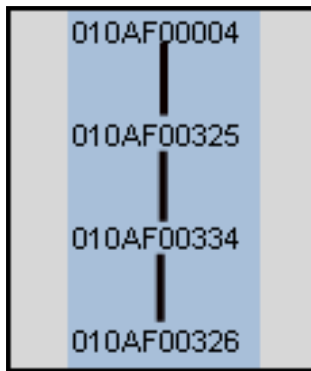


Figure 19 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AF00326 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AF00326 in stratigraphic sequence

This was an ovate pit cut into natural yellow sand. The pit was slightly undercut at 25cm below the excavated surface. It was steep sided with a regular flat base. After the half section was drawn the remainder of the pit was excavated. 32 potsherds were recovered, of which 19 were identified as Beaker. Three carbonised hazel nut shells and one other charcoal sample were found. The remainder of the finds were 8 flint flakes, and a very high density (237) fragments of burnt and unburnt non-local stone (mostly igneous or sandstone).

Fill number 010AF00334

Primary fill of pit cut 326. It was differentiated from fill 325 above because it became visibly lighter. It also contained less material, although burnt stone was found down to the base.

Fill number 010AF00325

Fill of an ovate pit, located just to the south of the northern limit of excavation. It soon became apparent that the pit was full of burnt non-local stone, although the burning had not taken place in situ. Other finds included a reddy-brown flint flake (with retouch), and potsherds from at least 2, possibly 3 different beakers. Small amounts of charcoal were also retrieved, as well a fragment of carbonised hazelnut shell. Before the pit had been defined, a discrete concentration of finds had been noticed, and were lifted under number 4.

Fill number 010AF00004

This number was issued to distinguish a discrete concentration of finds within the buried soil zone (010AF00003). Finds were mostly non local stone (broken pot boilers) with some pottery. The fill was later excavated under number 325.

Site 010AF pit number 010AF00331



Figure 20 Half section through Beaker pit cut 010AF00331

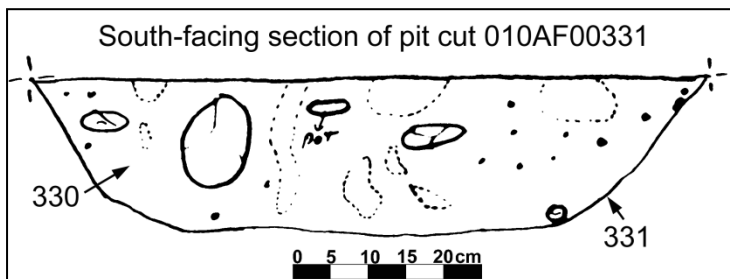


Figure 21 South facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AF00331

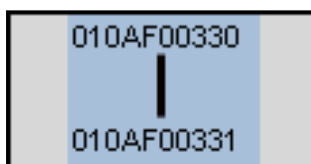


Figure 22 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AF00331 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AE00331 in stratigraphic sequence

This was cut into natural sand with a very regular flat base and V-shaped profile. After the half section was drawn, the remainder of the pit was excavated. All 10 potsherds recovered were

classified as Beaker. Four flints were found, (1 scraper), and two charcoal fragments. The remainder of the finds were 20 fragments of non-local stone.

Fill number 010AF00330

Finds included many potsherds, predominantly towards the centre of the pit. Also recovered were a number of non-local stones, as well as 3 flint fragments. Inclusions were of sparse local flints.

Site 010AF pit number 010AF00343



Figure 23 Pre-excitation view of pit 010AF000343 (arrowed)

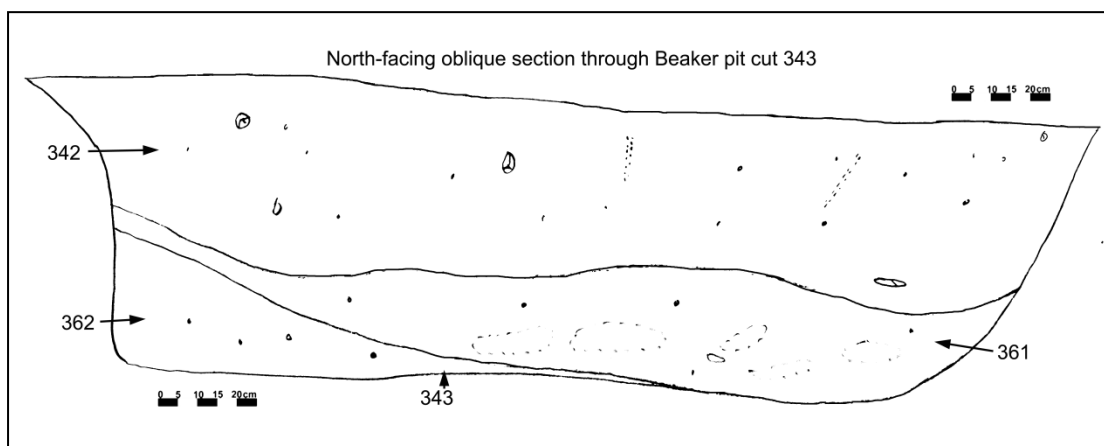


Figure 24 North facing section drawing of Beaker pit 010AF000343

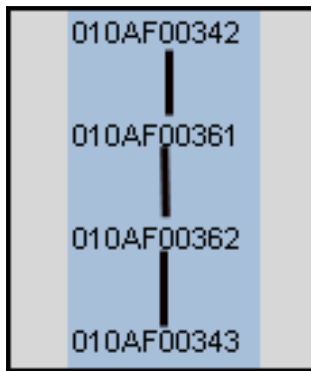


Figure 25 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AF00343 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AE00343 in stratigraphic sequence

The pit was cut into sand and sand & gravel, with a regular straight-sided flat based profile. It was undercut along the eastern edge (see Figure 28). The top of the pit had been disturbed by modern activity, and a dark green glass fragment was intrusive. Also some modern root bark was recovered. However the pit produced a further 535 finds. There were 71 potsherds of which 55 could be classified as Beaker in date, from at least three different vessels. Unusually, an animal bone (partial cow tooth) was found near the chalk gravel edge. A total of 124 flints were recovered, including 15 scrapers and 13 blades. Six charcoal fragments were found, as well as 16 burnt clay, 3 fired clay and 1 unfired clay fragment. A total of 307 non-local stones were found, most igneous or sandstone fragments. Of particular interest were the finds of a partial saddle quern (sandstone) and three polished stone axe fragments (see Figure 26).



Figure 26 Showing polished stone axe fragment lying on deposit 010AF00361

Fill number 010AF00362

Primary sandy fill beneath the burnt area 361. Finds included beaker sherds and burnt stone, though not in the quantities found above this layer. Most of the finds were near the top, with virtually no finds towards the base. Unusually, animal bones were preserved, mostly near the chalk gravel edges of the pit.

Fill number 010AF00361

Much darker, burnt layer in the base of pit 343 (see Figure 27). Contained Beaker sherds and many fragments of burnt broken rock, together with small charcoal deposits.



Figure 27 View from the north-east showing fill 361 partially excavated

Fill number 010AF00342

Upper fill of a Beaker period pit. It contained Beaker potsherds from at least two vessels, as well as a large number of burnt non local stone; including potboilers and part of a saddle quern. Also present were charcoal flecks, and some larger fragments of charcoal. Of note were 3 fragments of polished stone axe, the largest found near the north-western edge of the pit, at the interface with burnt deposit 361 below. A number of finds from this context were erroneously lifted using the context number 010AF00340, which was in fact a small pit located to the south-east. Fortunately, all of the finds were three-dimensionally recorded, so that it was evident that the "real" context 010AF00340 contained only 5 finds (numbered 010AF00340AA to 010AF00340AE in the main object database). The remainder of the 010AF00340 finds belong with context 010AF00342 and have been included in the totals given above.



Figure 28 Overhead view showing Beaker pit 010AF00343 fully excavated

Site 010AG pit number 010AG00011

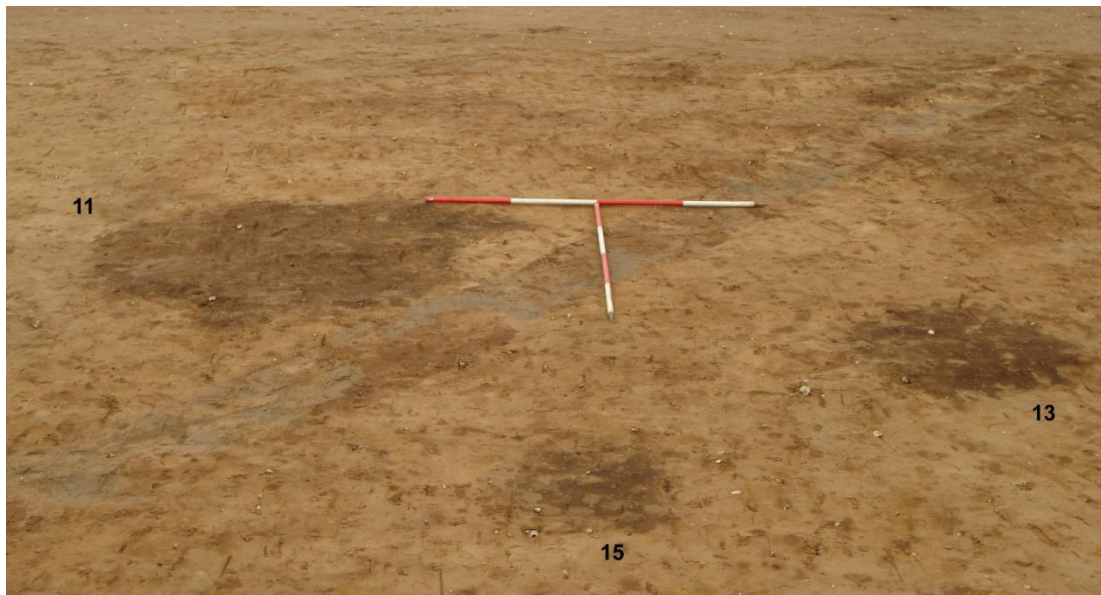


Figure 29 Showing the relative location of the three beaker pits from the west

Figure 29 is a pre-excitation view of the group of three Beaker pits excavated in the 2008 season. The line running diagonally through the photograph is a modern sewage pipe, fortuitously just missing the large pit 010AG00011.

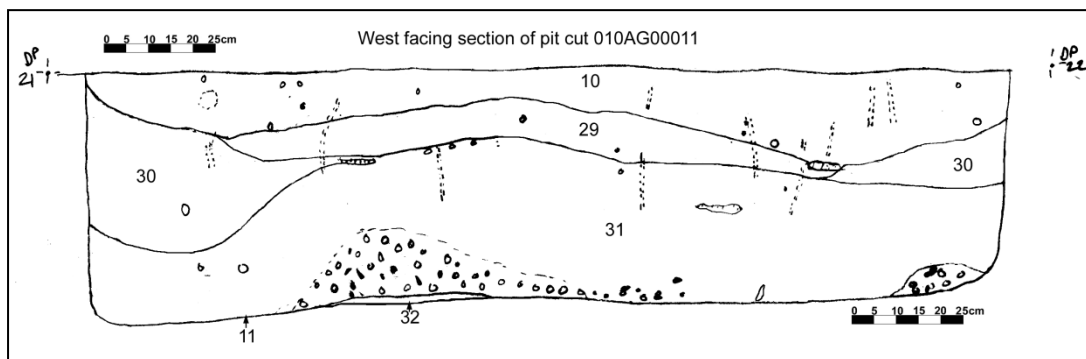


Figure 30 West facing section through Beaker pit cut 010AG00011

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AG0011 in stratigraphic sequence

The pit was cut into sand and sand & chalk gravel, with a very regular flat based profile. The edges of the pit were virtually vertical. This was the northernmost and largest of a group of three Beaker period pits. The fill of the pit was unusual, in that the earliest deposits were deepest in the centre

of the pit (see Figure 30 for section drawing and Figure 32 for photograph). The pit produced a total of 83 finds. Of these, a number were organic, with one animal tooth, 2 hazelnut shells and 8 charcoal samples being recovered. Other finds were 6 non-local stones and one fragment of fired clay. Ten flints were recovered, comprising 1 scraper, 1 core, 2 nodules (hammerstones?), 3 flakes and three blades. By far the most significant assemblage was the pottery, and of the 56 sherds recovered, 55 were Beaker sherds. The Beaker pottery was recovered from all of the fills (apart from the very shallow primary fill 010AG00032).

Fill number 010AG00032

Dark primary fill located mainly in the south-western edge of the pit, although it just reached the section in one area. There were no finds and no charcoal flecks.

Fill number 010AG00031

Redeposited natural fill comprising sand and chalk gravel. Unusually for this type of deposit, a number of large Beaker sherds were present.

Fill number 010AG00030

Sandy fill found round the edges of the pit. Finds included a number of Beaker sherds, although all of these were found in the southern half of the pit.

Fill number 010AG00029

This was a much darker fill than 10, with more charcoal flecking. The first spit across this fill contained 4 beaker sherds and a flint scraper. The fill continued to produce further pottery and charcoal fragments. An environmental sample was taken from the unexcavated half.

Fill number 010AG00010

Flint blade found on the surface of this large pit. The first spit across the western half produced at least 3 decorated beaker sherds, together with flint flakes, non-local stone and two small fragments of hazel nut shell. This proved to be the final fill of the pit, and was a quite dark sandy deposit, though not as dark as 010AG00029 below.

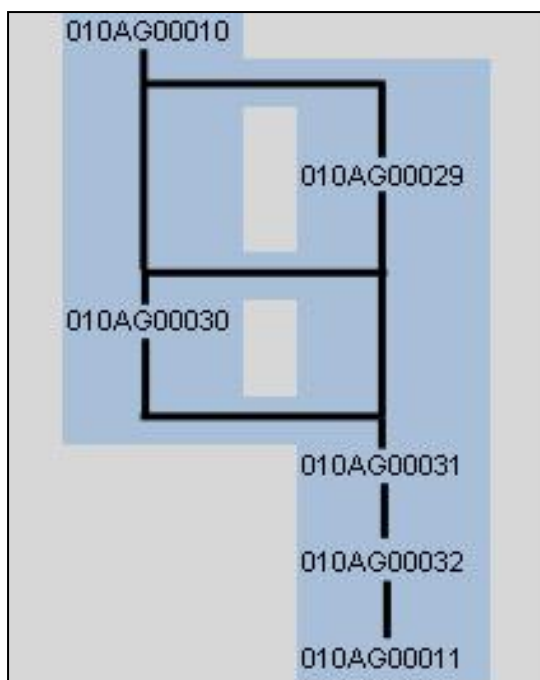


Figure 31 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AG00011 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)



Figure 32 West facing half section of Beaker pit 010AG00011



Figure 33 Overhead view of fully excavated Beaker pit 010AG00011

Site 010AG pit number 010AG00013



Figure 34 Overhead view of Beaker pit cut 010AG00013 half-sectioned showing broken quern stone

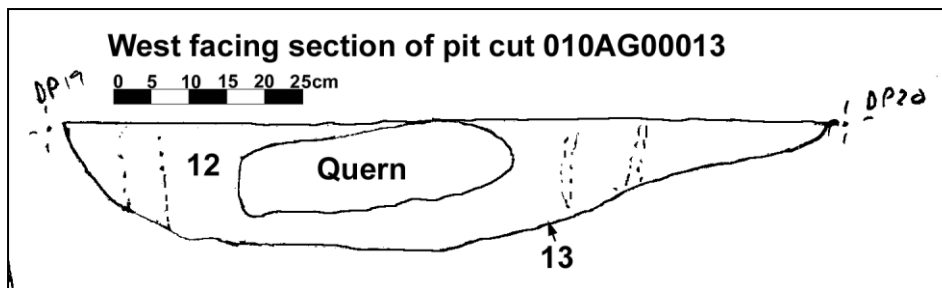


Figure 35 West facing section through Beaker pit cut 010AG00013

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AG00013 in stratigraphic sequence

The pit was cut into sand, with a regular flat based profile. It had a much gentler slope to the south. It was the southernmost of a group of three Beaker period pits.

Fill number 010AG00012

A Beaker rim sherd was found on the surface of this small pit. As soon as excavation of the western half began, a large saddle quern fragment was encountered. Although the second half of the feature was removed after the half-section was drawn, no further finds were encountered. One charcoal sample was taken.



Figure 36 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AG00013 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)

Site 010AG pit number 010AG00015

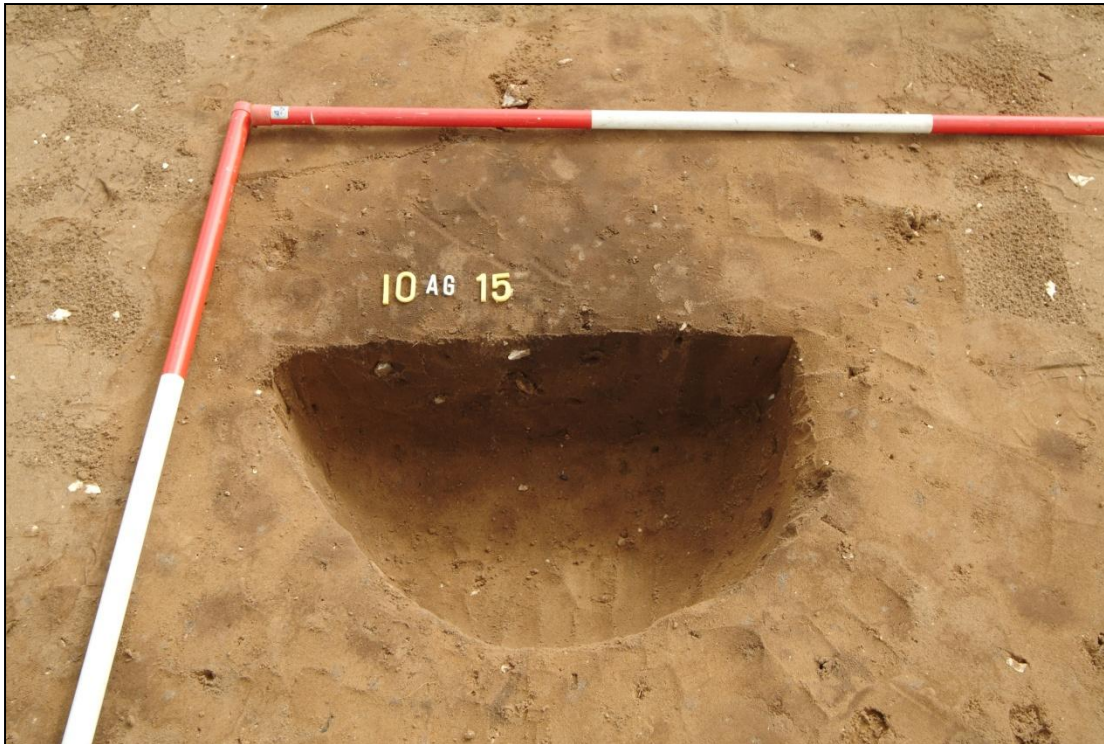


Figure 37 View of Beaker pit cut 010AG00015 half-sectioned from the west.

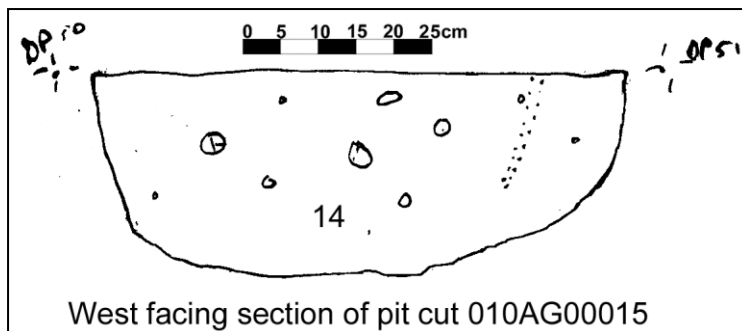


Figure 38 West facing section through Beaker pit cut 010AG00015

Description of the fills from pit cut number 010AG00015 in stratigraphic sequence

The pit was cut into sand, with a regular flat based profile (see Figure 37 and Figure 38 for section drawing). It was the westernmost of a group of three Beaker period pits.

Fill number 010AG00014

Fill of a small pit (one of a group of three beaker pits). The pit contained only 2 beaker sherds, with no charcoal flecking. Inclusions were <3% local flint and chalk gravel inclusions.



Figure 39 Matrix for Beaker pit cut 010AG00015 (all direct stratigraphic links shown in blue)