Archaeological mitigation at Dallington Gateway Harlestone Road, Northampton August to October 2014

Report No. 16/6

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Site Code: ENN107529
NGR: SP 7149 6338

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS No: molanort1-237527**	
Project title	Archaeological mitigation at Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northampton August to October 2014	
Short description	Between August and October 2014 MOLA Northampton carried out archaeological mitigation on land at Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northampton. The earliest feature was a posthole dated to the late Neolithic by a small Grooved ware assemblage. A scatter of worked flint, largely residual in later features such as the pit alignment, broadly spans the early Neolithic to early Bronze Age, and suggests that the nearby causewayed enclosure acted as a focal point for activity extending up to 1.1km away from the monument. Double posthole lines forming an avenue 3m wide and at least 60m long are undated, but a Neolithic to early Bronze Age date seems most likely. Fragments of a system of shallow and narrow linear ditches may be remnants of a middle to late Bronze Age field system. Parts of a rectangular double-ditch enclosure and an adjacent circular enclosure are also undated. A 193m length of a pit alignment was examined, with every pit investigated. Although many pits had heavily eroded upper edges, indicating that they had slowly silted, the sharply squared bases indicate that originally the alignment had comprised only rectangular pits. In some places the closely-spaced pits became interlinked through erosion. The small pottery assemblage from the secondary fills of the pits suggests a date at the transition from early to middle Iron Age, perhaps the mid-5th to mid-4th centuries BC.	
Project type	Excavation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Masters 1998 and Butler *et al* 2012), Trial Trenching (Walker & Wolframm-Murray 2012)	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/period	Neolithic/Bronze Age and Iron Age enclosures, pit alignment, ditches, posthole alignment, postholes, pits	
Significant finds	Neolithic pottery, worked flint, early to middle Iron Age pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northampton	
Study area	0.86 ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 71500 63350	
Height OD	90 to 95m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA	
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting (Clarke 2014); MOLA (2014)	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke	
Project Manager	Adam Yates, MOLA; Chris Clarke, CgMs Consulting	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	August 2014	
End date	October 2014	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	Event number: ENN107529	Pottery; animal bone; flint; photographs; plans and sections on permatrace
Paper		Site records; background data
Digital		Survey data; reports; digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological mitigation at Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northampton, August to October 2014	
Serial title & volume	16/6	
Author(s)	Chris Chinnock, Mo Muldowney	
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Abstract

Between August and October 2014 MOLA Northampton carried out archaeological mitigation on land at Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northampton. The earliest feature was a posthole dated to the late Neolithic by a small Grooved ware assemblage. A scatter of worked flint, largely residual in later features such as the pit alignment, broadly spans the early Neolithic to early Bronze Age, and suggests that the nearby causewayed enclosure acted as a focal point for activity extending up to 1.1km away from the monument. Double posthole lines forming an avenue 3m wide and at least 60m long are undated, but a Neolithic to early Bronze Age date seems most likely. Fragments of a system of shallow and narrow linear ditches may be remnants of a middle to late Bronze Age field system. Parts of a rectangular double-ditch enclosure and an adjacent circular enclosure are also undated. A 193m length of a pit alignment was examined, with every pit investigated. Although many pits had heavily eroded upper edges, indicating that they had slowly silted, the sharply squared bases indicate that originally the alignment had comprised only rectangular pits. In some places the closely-spaced pits became interlinked through erosion. The small pottery assemblage from the secondary fills of the pits suggests a date at the transition from early to middle Iron Age, perhaps the mid-5th to mid-4th centuries BC.

1 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of their client, CgMs Consulting commissioned MOLA to undertake archaeological mitigation work on the development site on land at Dallington Gateway, Harlestone Road, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 71500 63350**,** Fig 1). The works were required as mitigation following two geophysical surveys (Masters 1998 and Butler, *et al* 2012) and trial trench evaluation (Walker and Wolframm-Murray 2012) and as a condition on planning consent (DA/2012/0937) for residential development.

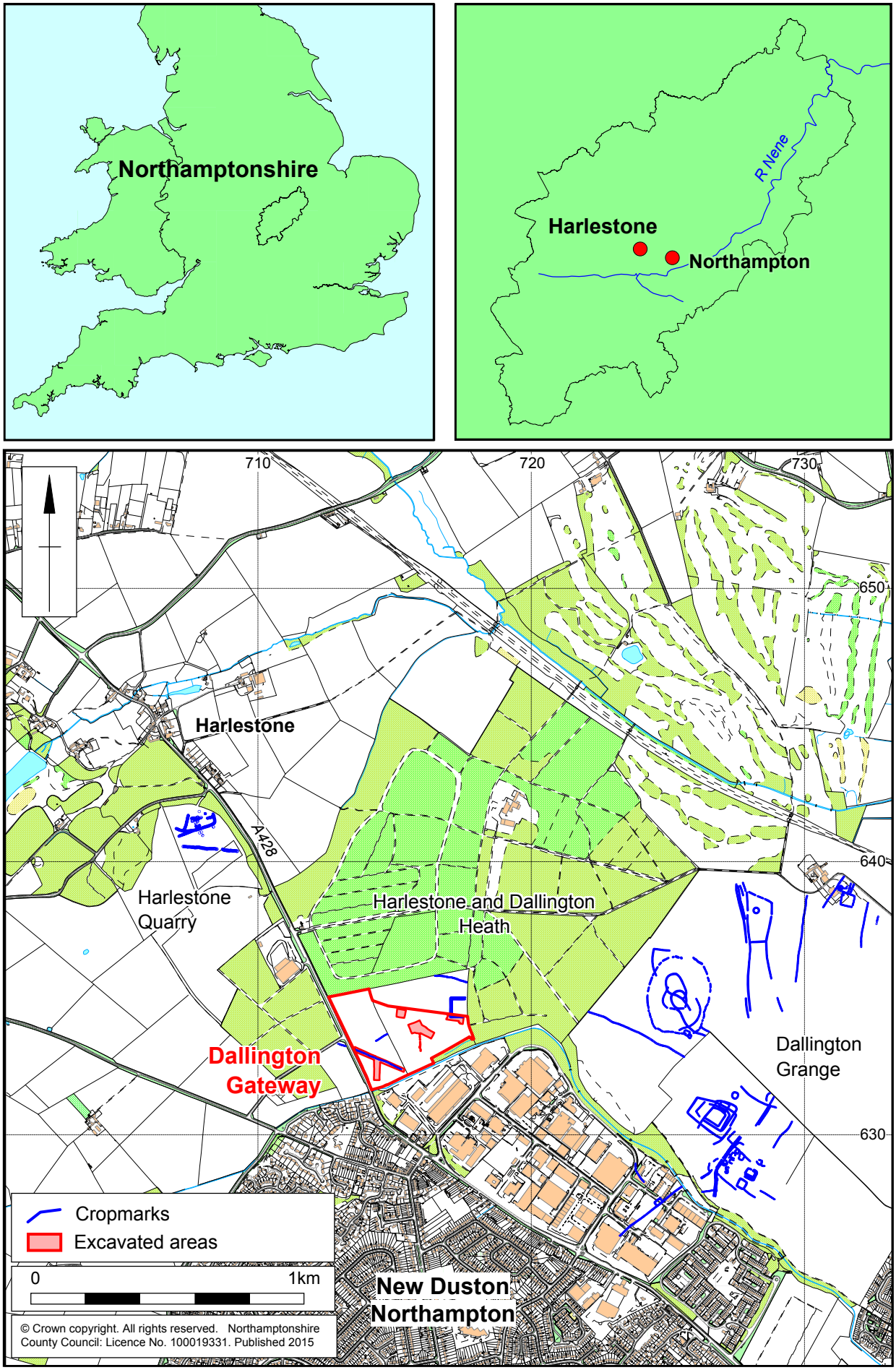
The extent of the works was specified by the Archaeological Planning Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (Clarke 2014), supplemented by a Project Design prepared by MOLA (2014).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-western edge of Dallington, north-west of Northampton. The development area is divided into two arable fields. To the east lies Harlestone Road and to the south the boundary is formed by Dallington Brook. The ground is highest close to the Harlestone Road where it is *c.*96m aOD, and falls gradually to the south and east. Close to the Dallington Brook the site lies at *c.*85m aOD.

The solid geology of the site consists of Northampton Sand Formation – sandstone, limestone and ironstone (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk). No superficial deposits have been recorded.



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Archaeological background

A range of heritage assets forming an extensive prehistoric landscape which comprise possible surviving Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks in nearby ancient woodland and proven below ground archaeological deposits have been identified (RCHME 1985). Since then a number of archaeological surveys have been undertaken, with the result that the extent and importance of archaeological remains within the site are well documented and understood.

Previous work includes fieldwalking, limited geophysical survey and trial trench excavation (NAU 1990, OAU 1991). The line of the proposed north-western bypass that passes though the site has also been subject to a two-phase desk-based assessment (DBA) (NAU 1992 and 1993). Extensive geophysical survey has been undertaken on land immediately to the east at Dallington Grange (ASDU 2006a and 2006b), to provide a clearer understanding of the known cropmark features and evaluation results. Further geophysical survey was undertaken in 2012 to evaluate the area of Dallington Gateway to investigate the known cropmark features in this area (Butler *et al* 2012). Most recently a trial trench evaluation investigated the area of proposed development and confirmed the presence of a pit alignment, enclosures and other associated archaeological features (Walker and Wolframm-Murray 2012). The location of the previous evaluation trenches and the recorded HER information including cropmarks has been summarised in Figure 2.

The archaeological background has been outlined by period in a desk-based assessment (DBA) produced by CgMs Consulting (Chadwick and Dicks 2006). The key points of this are repeated below with reference to findings of the earlier investigations where relevant. The site numbers referred to in the text below follow those of the CgMs Consulting DBA (*ibid.*) which do not necessarily correlate to earlier site number references from the previous evaluations. The areas known as Dallington Grange and Dallington Gateway are discussed as one entity for the purpose of the archaeological summary.

Neolithic

Fieldwalking on the study site identified a general scatter of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked and burnt flint (OAU 1991). Immediately to the east of the site, an area has been identified where the variety and quantity of worked flint tools coincides with evidence from cropmarks and geophysical survey that demonstrates the presence of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure (Fig 2: Site 1). Previous evaluation trenches have been targeted upon flint scatters identified during fieldwalking (OAU 1991).

Bronze Age

Evaluation trenching at the site did not identify any Bronze Age sub-surface remains, although some of the lithics collected during fieldwalking may date to this period. Within the wider study are, in October 2004, a metal detectorist discovered a middle/late Bronze Age hoard comprising of bronze axe heads, parts of a broken sword and pommel, together with ingots and assorted other materials. Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook an archaeological field survey in the area of the discovery (Foard-Colby 2005). The central enclosure, within the causewayed enclosure, is approximately 50m in diameter and has been interpreted as a possible late Neolithic or early Bronze Age henge monument.

Aerial survey has identified a ring ditch cropmark within the study area (Fig 2; Site 6) and others in adjacent areas (Fig 2; Sites 15, 16 and 17) (Chadwick and Dicks 2006). The cropmarks may represent the remains of plough damaged burial monuments of Bronze Age date.

Although, it seems probable that a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age henge monument and Bronze Age burial monuments occur within the wider study area, there is little current evidence for Bronze Age settlement remains within the present development area other than lithics encountered within the topsoil and subsoil horizons.

Iron Age

Aerial survey, fieldwalking and evaluation trenching identified the remains of a middle/late Iron Age settlement (Fig 2; Site 2) (NAU 1990). Geophysical survey has provided further information regarding the nature and extent of the settlement and possibly of more than one phase of occupation (ASDU 2006a and 2006b).

Other cropmarks have been identified which may be of late prehistoric date. These include the cropmarks of possible pit alignments (Fig 2; Sites 7, 8, 9, 11 and 17) and two cropmarks of possible enclosures (Fig 2; Sites 5, 6 and 12). The presence of a pit alignment and enclosures at Sites 9 and 12 has been confirmed by the results of a geophysical survey (Fig 2) (Butler *et al* 2012) and trial trench evaluation (Walker and Wolframm-Murray 2012). To the north-west of the site, further pit alignments were investigated at Harlestone Quarry (Fig 2) (Chapman *et al* 2015).

Roman

During the Roman period the study site lay *c.*5km north of the Roman road which linked a settlement at Duston, Northampton with the Roman town of *Bannaventa* (Whilton Lodge).

A cropmark complex has been identified to the east of the study site. Fieldwalking and evaluation trenching has confirmed this to be of Roman date with a possible Iron Age origin. The features in the area comprised substantial ditches and a series of gullies suggesting stock enclosures, boundary features, possible trackways and a stone lined well indicating a small settlement area (OAU 1991).

Saxon

During evaluation trenching in the vicinity of the nearby Neolithic causewayed enclosure, a number of features were identified which cut through the prehistoric features and the Roman plough-damaged layer (Fig 2; Site 4). No dating evidence was recovered from the features although early Saxon pottery was recovered from the topsoil and buried ploughsoil during machine removal. It is therefore, suggested that the majority of these features are of early Saxon date (OAU 1991).

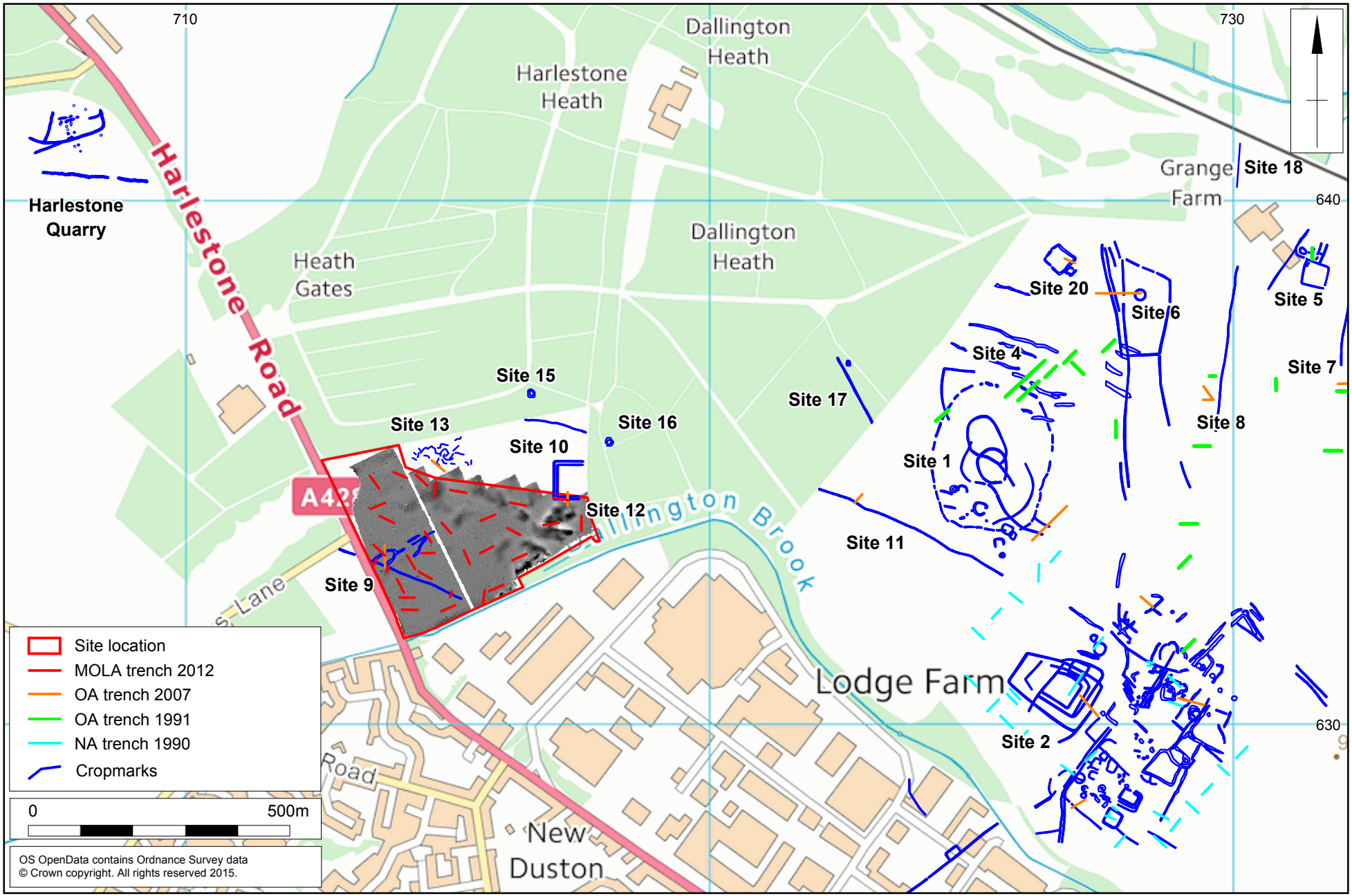
Medieval

The survival of insubstantial features cut through a Roman plough-damaged layer indicates that there has been little or no medieval or later plough damage on parts of the site (OAU 1991). Geophysical survey has identified areas of ridge and furrow. There is no evidence to suggest the study site was enclosed prior to the 17th century.

Post-medieval & modern

The 1662 Map of Dallington shows two buildings within the north-eastern part of the study site. The buildings appear to correspond with Grange Farm (Fig 2; Site 18) and Lodge Farm of which the latter has been demolished.

Study of the historical maps demonstrates that the majority of the site was in agricultural use during the post-medieval period. From the late 1480s until the 17th century the medieval open fields appear to have survived but in the 17th century land holdings were reorganised and enclosed fields were created.


Scale 1:10,000 (A4)
710
730
640
630
Dallington Heath
Harlestone Heath
Dallington Heath
Heath Gates
Harlestone Quarry
Harlestone Road
Grange Farm
Site 18
Site 20
Site 6
Site 5
Site 4
Site 7
Site 15
Site 17
Site 16
Site 13
Site 10
Site 8
Site 1
A42
Site 12
Site 11
Site 9
Lane
Dallington Brook
Lodge Farm
Site 2
Road
New Duston
Site location
MOLA trench 2012
OA trench 2007
OA trench 1991
NA trench 1990
Cropmarks
0
500m
OS OpenData contains Ordnance Survey data
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Previuos archaeological work
Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The general aims of the investigation included:

- Mitigating the potential impacts from the proposed development of the site through archaeological recording, analysis and dissemination;
- Refining the date, nature, character and extent of the activity on the development site;
- Recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions;
- Creating an organised and indexed site archive;
- Analysing, interpreting and reporting on the findings from the fieldwork.

Specific research objectives will be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (English Heritage 1991 and Knight, *et al* 2012, replacing Cooper 2006) and will be used to enhance our understanding of the activity on the site. They include:

Iron Age

- Understanding the development of field systems land boundaries and how this relates to changes in the agrarian landscape;
- What are the economic, social or political roles of pit alignments;
- Whether there is any evidence for agricultural intensification;
- Contribute to understanding the relationship between settlement patterns and agricultural changes;
- Contribute to the understanding of the rural economy and diet.

The area to the north-west of Northampton, within which Dallington is situated, contains a number of pit alignments, with known examples excavated at Upton, St Crispins, and Harlestone Quarry in addition to other examples identified from cropmarks in the Dallington area. The site has the potential to add to the growing corpus of data about these sites within a relatively small area. This provides an opportunity to examine how these features may relate to each other and how topographic factors may have influenced their location (watersheds, rivercourses, etc).

4 METHODOLOGY

A programme of Strip, Map and Sample excavation was undertaken by MOLA as outlined in the WSI (Clarke 2014) and Project Design (MOLA 2014) and carried out over three months. Five separate areas (A to E) (Fig 3) were established over a selection of the archaeological remains identified during the previous phases of investigation as follows:

- Area A (925m^2): a shallow, undated narrow ditch;
- Area B (845m^2): the southern extent of a double-ditched enclosure;
- Area C (2915m^2): two undated ditches and a posthole;
- Area D (1475m^2): an undated, re-cut ditch;
- Area E (2466m^2): the pit alignment.

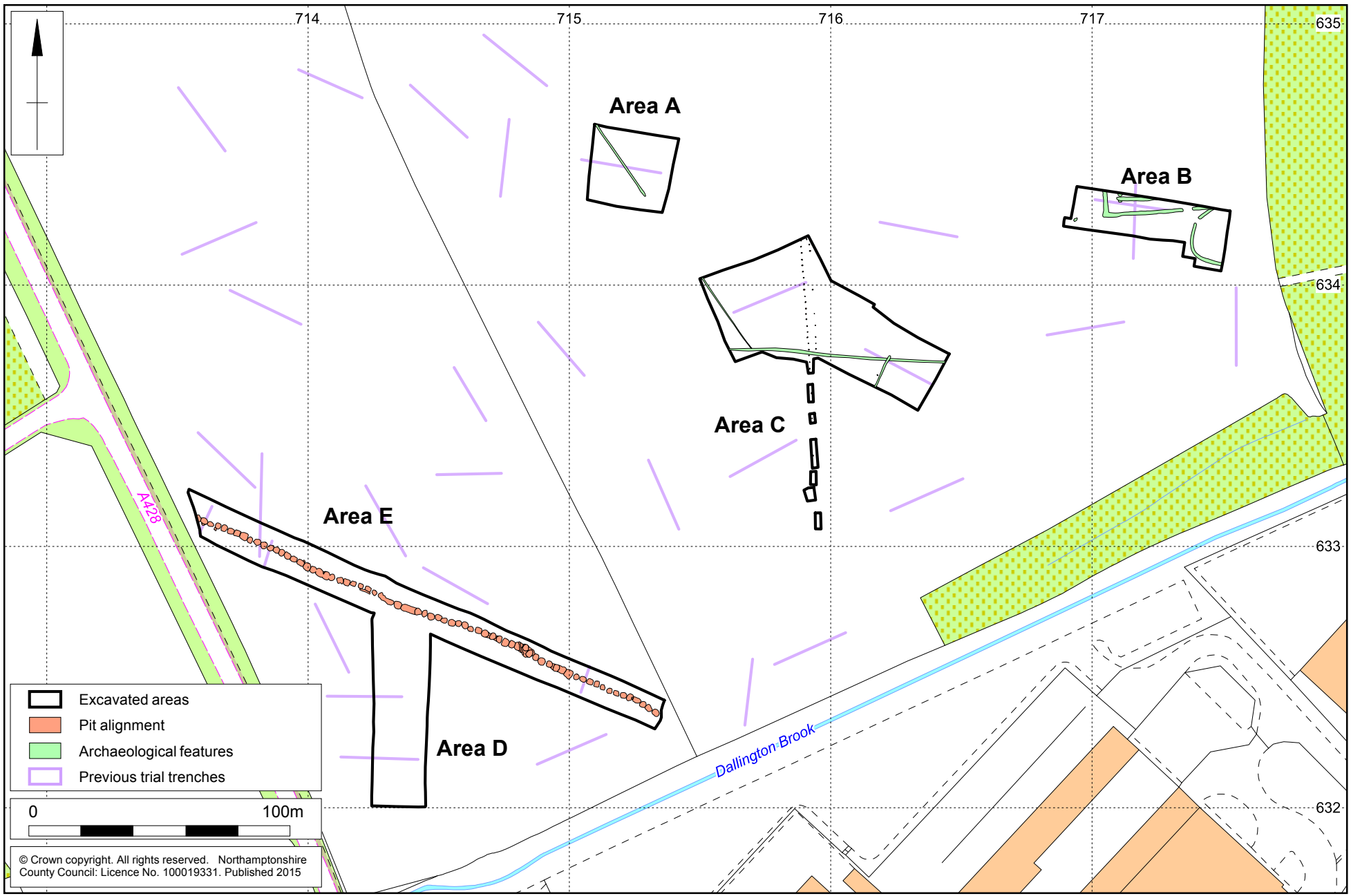
Removal of the topsoil and other overburden was carried out by tracked 360^{o} mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizon. In consultation with the NCC AO, Area B was partly extended to the south by *c*.112sq m to expose more of the additional enclosure that was identified, and Area C was extended to the south to establish whether two ditches aligned east to west were continuous, then further extended in irregularly-spaced small rectangular areas to determine the southward extent of the posthole alignment.

All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014c), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014a). All works conformed to the Heritage England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015).

The excavation areas were measured in and marked out, prior to the commencement of work, using Leica Viva GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid. The spoil heaps and excavated areas were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

The location of all archaeological features and deposits was initially plotted using GPS. This was subsequently supplemented by a detailed 1:50 plan of all archaeological deposits and features encountered following MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014b).

The excavation methodology was defined in the WSI (Clarke 2014) and Project Design (MOLA 2014a).



The excavation areas, showing archaeological features Fig 3

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The archaeological remains consisted of enclosure ditches, a double posthole alignment, a pit alignment, five ditches, a pit and two postholes (Fig 3).

5.1 A Neolithic posthole (Area C)

A single posthole, [74], was identified in Area C (Fig 9). It was located, respectively, to the south side of ditch [9/11/78/80/82/84] and was no bigger than 0.2m in diameter by about 0.15m deep. The posthole (Fig 10: Section 35) contained an assemblage of pottery sherds from a late Neolithic Grooved ware vessel (see Section 6.2, Figs 20 and 21).

5.2 A prehistoric posthole alignment (Area C)

A 40m-long linear double-alignment of thirty-three postholes on a north to south axis was exposed in Area C (Figs 9 and 11). The west side consisted of twenty-four postholes, whilst the east side had only nine, intermittently and irregularly-spaced. They were sub-circular or circular in plan and had predominantly V-shaped profiles with flat bases, although there were two examples with flat-based, U-shaped profiles. They varied in size between 0.25m and 0.5m in diameter and were between 0.1m and 0.25m deep (Fig 11). The fills were largely consistent throughout all of the excavated postholes and comprised friable, mid brown silty sand with some rare small stone inclusions.

The spacing between the east and west side of the posthole avenue ranged from 2.22m - 3.24m with the spacing widest in the central part of the alignment and narrower at either end. The spacing between the individual posts for each alignment varied; the eastern alignment was irregular and intermittent. In the western alignment, the first three southernmost posts were spaced at 14.28m, 9.61m and 9.40m, after which they were more regular; the next 20 posts were spaced at an average of 2.33m apart.

No finds were recovered from any of the postholes; none of the environmental samples were productive enough to provide any useful additional data. Full descriptions of each posthole can be found in Appendix A.

5.3 Possible field system (Areas A and C)

Sinuous ditch [9/11/78/80/82/84] aligned approximately east to west, was exposed for 85m near the southern edge of Area C (Figs 9 and 10: Sections 4, 39 and 40). It was 0.4m to 0.7m wide by 0.25m deep with a wide U-shaped profile at the west end, and a steeply-sided U-shaped profile at the east end. It was truncated by boundary ditch [5/7] and [16/13]. No finds were recovered.

A 360m-long, segmented boundary, aligned south-east to north-west, comprised ditch [5/7] and ditch [16/13] in Area A and Area C (Figs 3, 9 and 10: Sections 2 and 6). The north ditch [5/7] had a shallow, U-shaped profile and was 0.50m wide and between 0.04m and 0.10m deep. It had a terminal at the south-east end. The south ditch [16/13] extended across the west side of Area C and beyond its north and south limits and was more than 36m long. It had a U-shaped profile which had been truncated and damaged by root action and was 0.35m wide by 0.06m deep. No finds were recovered.

A third ditch (78), aligned south-south-west to north-north-east, was identified in Area C (Fig 9). It was very shallow and its survival was patchy. Although it was seen to pass across ditch [9/11/78/80/82/84] no relationship was discernible.

5.4 The square and circular enclosures (Area B)

Two enclosures and a single pit were present in Area B, in the north-east part of the development area (Fig 7). Whilst the geophysical survey did not identify the

archaeological features in this area, due to magnetic disturbance; it was able to define a spur of ironstone geology upon which these enclosures have subsequently been recorded (Butler *et al* 2012). A sub-circular enclosure comprised two curvilinear ditches, present at the northern edge of the area; additionally a large double ditched rectilinear enclosure was partially visible at the western edge of Area B (Figs 3 and 7).

Sub-circular enclosure

The visible extent of the sub-circular enclosure comprised two curvilinear ditches within the excavated area, which enclosed an area of approximately 231m^2. The terminals of the ditches formed opposing sides of a north-west facing entrance 2.10m wide (Fig 7). The southern ditch [196/199/475/477] was 1.00-1.50m wide, aligned east to west before turning gently to the north where it terminated at the entrance. The northern ditch [185/189] was 1.10m wide, aligned north-east to south-west where it terminated, forming the northern edge of the entrance. The enclosure ditch had a shallow irregular U-shaped profile with some erosion of the upper edges noted (Figs 4 and 8: Sections 67, 71 and 101). The fill generally comprised one or two gradually accumulated deposits, of mid brown-orange silty sand with occasional small fragments of ironstone and rare charcoal flecks throughout. A single flint piercer was recovered from the upper fill of the southern terminal; no other material was found.

Sub-circular enclosure ditch [196], looking south Fig 4

Rectilinear enclosure

The double-ditched enclosure comprised, two internal ditches (187, 203, 205) and two external ditches (182, 207, 213, 193), visible within the excavation area (Figs 3 and 7). An entrance, 3.30m wide, through the outer enclosure ditch is present on its southern edge. The entrance through the inner ditch was not visible though, based on recorded cropmark information, it is assumed to respect the outer entrance.

The outer ditch was between 1.28-1.74m wide and 0.42-0.46m deep with a wide U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 5 and 8: Section 66 and 77). The fills largely comprised mid grey-brown sandy silts with occasional ironstone and flint throughout; the fills appear to be naturally accumulated soils rather than discrete deposits of domestic material. The feature generally appears shallow for the size of the enclosure and it is

likely that a significant part of the feature has been truncated over centuries of intensive arable farming in the area, leaving only the largely sterile lower silting and erosion fills visible in section. A small group of flint tools and debitage, of Bronze Age or earlier date, was recovered from the outer ditch. No other dateable material was present in any of the excavated sections. At its easternmost point, this ditch cut the northern part of the sub-circular enclosure (Fig 8: Section 69).

Rectilinear enclosure, external ditch [182], looking west Fig 5

The internal ditch was at least partially segmented rather than one continuous ditch; the southern and western parts existed as two separate ditches (Fig 7). The ditches were approximately 1.90m wide and 0.50m deep with wide U-shaped profiles and concave bases (Figs 6 and 8: Section 74). The fill comprised friable dark red-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone fragments throughout. As with the outer ditch, no dateable material was present in any of the excavated sections.

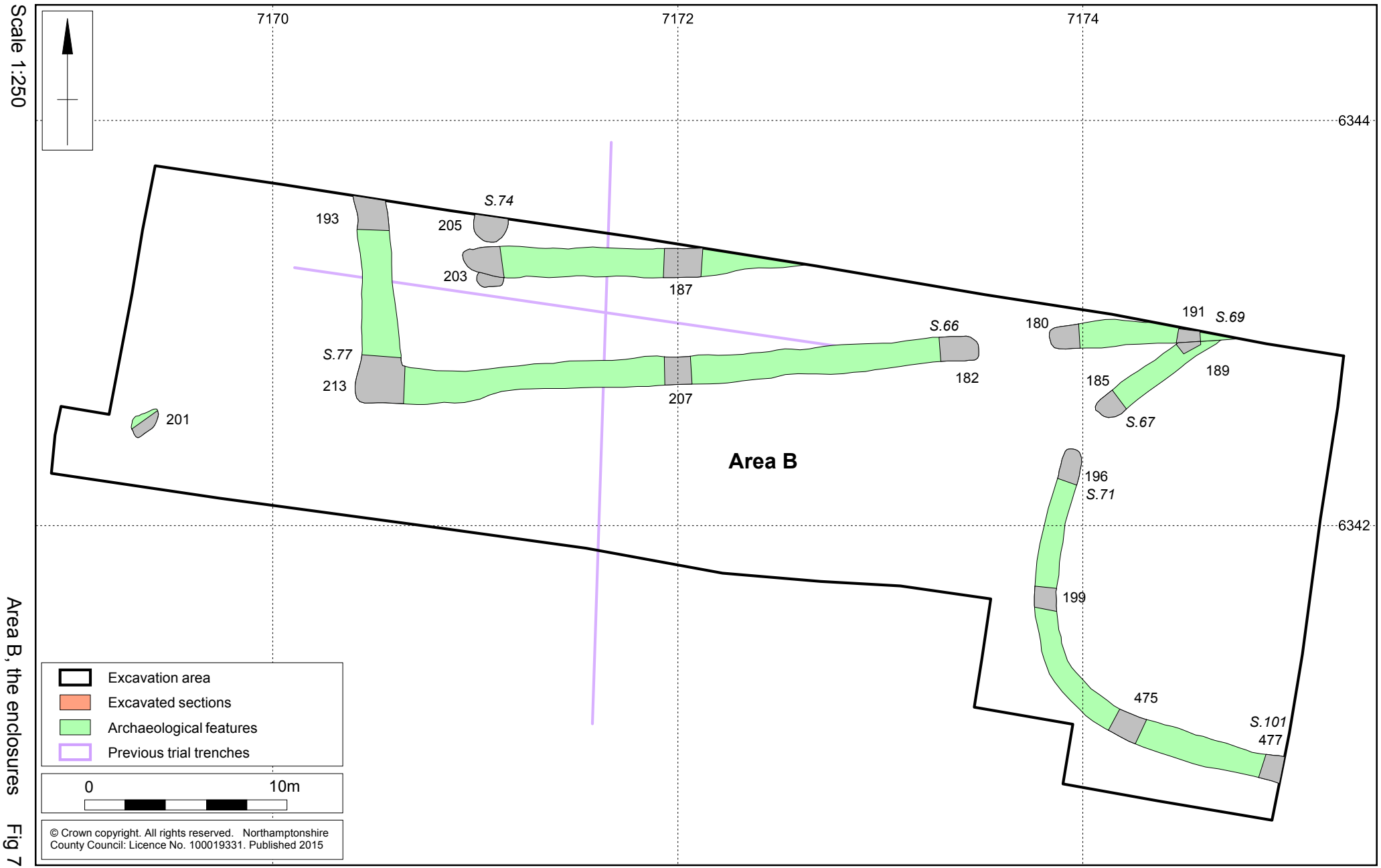
Rectilinear enclosure, internal ditch [205], looking north-north-east Fig 6

Despite only a small part of the double-ditched enclosure being visible within the area of excavation, cropmark data, recorded in the Historic Environment Record, suggests that the enclosure formed a square with parallel entrances midway through both ditches on its southern side. Assuming that this is an accurate reflection of the form of the enclosure, it is possible to extrapolate the approximate perimeter and enclosed area data from the south-eastern arm of the outer ditch which was present in the excavation area.

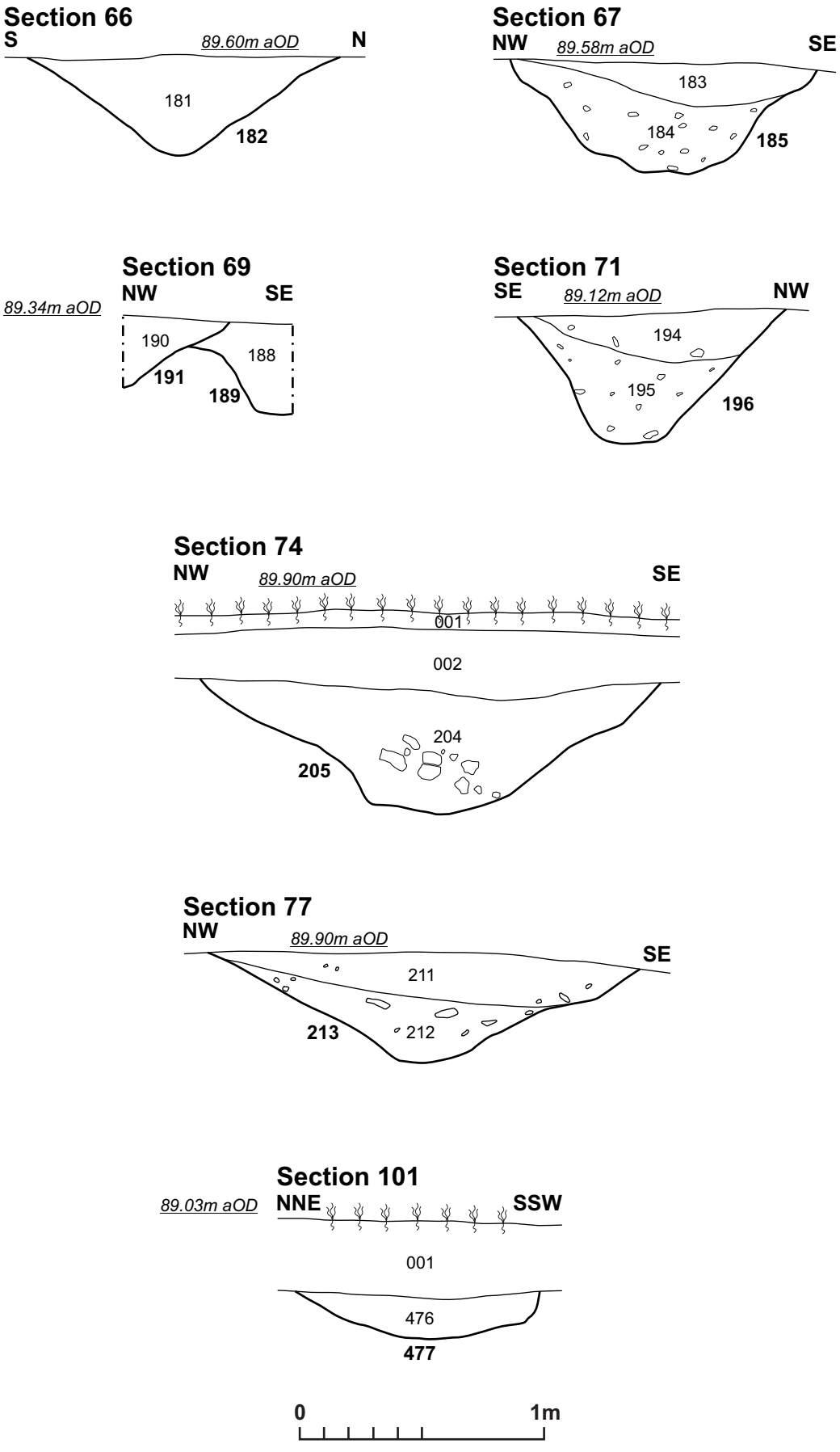
The internal perimeter of the outer ditch was approximately 240m, enclosing an area of 3600m^2 (3.6ha). The internal ditch perimeter would have been roughly 192m; enclosing an area of 2,304m^2 (0.23ha). This gives a good approximate indication of how much space may have existed within the enclosure, though provision should be made for an internal bank which may have existed along the inner edge of the internal ditch, thus reducing the useable space yet further.

Undated pit

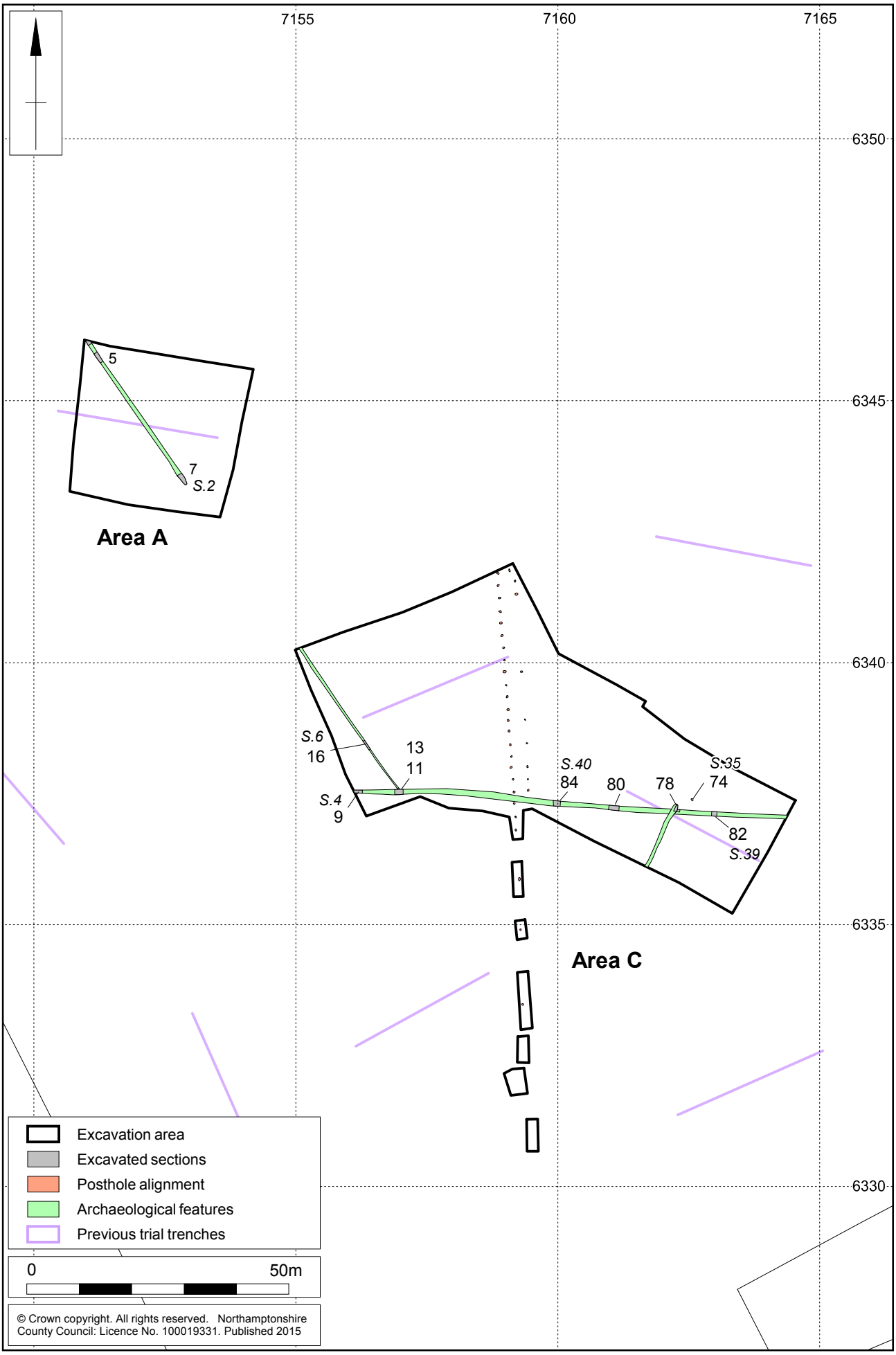
Pit [201] was located 10m south-west of the rectilinear enclosure (Fig 7). It measured 1.41m by 1.00m by 0.33m deep, was oval in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base. Nine sherds of pottery were recovered but they lacked the diagnostic features required to date more closely than broadly prehistoric.



Area B, the enclosures Fig 7

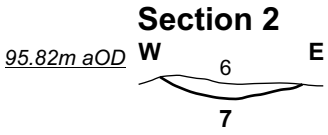


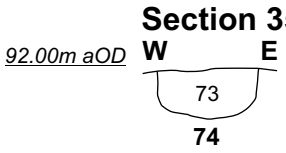
Scale 1:25 Area B, the enclosures, selected sections Fig 8

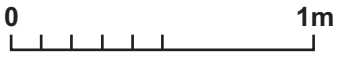


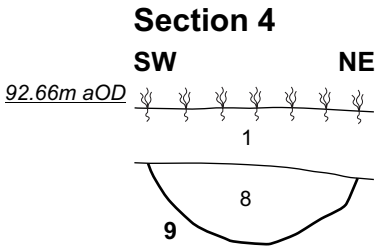
Scale 1:1000

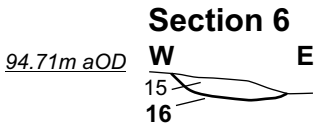
Areas A and C, the ditches and posthole alignment Fig 5

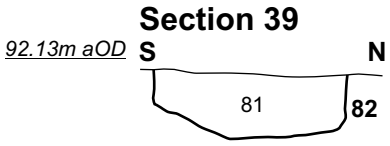


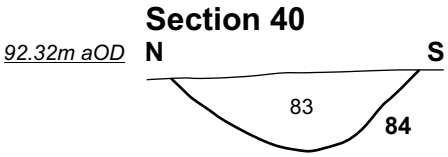




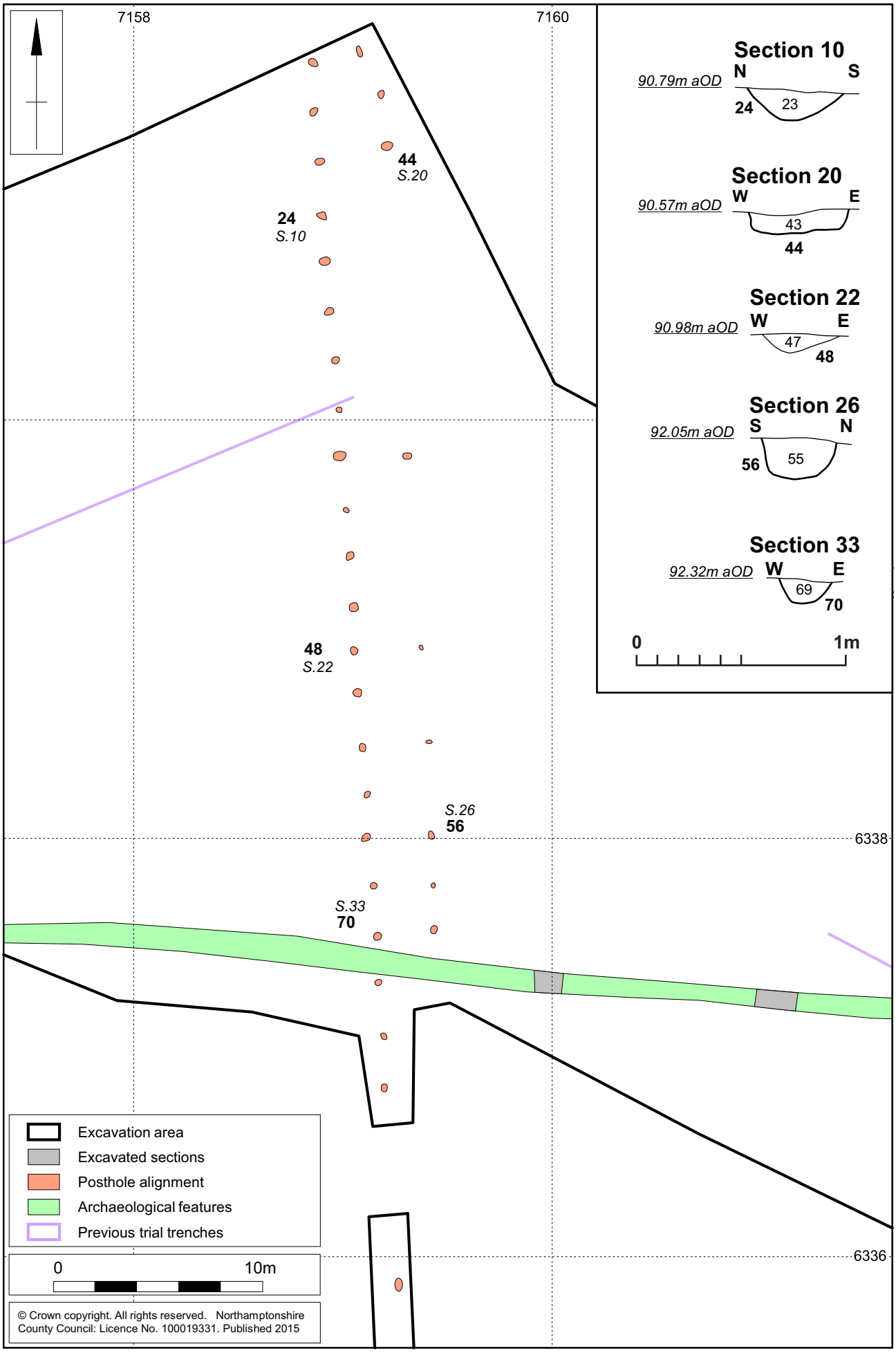








Scale 1:25 Area A and Area C, selected sections Fig 10



Scales 1:250 & 1:25

Area C, detail of posthole alignment Fig 11

5.5 Pit alignment (Area E)

In the south-western part of the development area a 193m length of a pit alignment, aligned north-west to south-east, comprising 71 pits (Area D/E) (Figs 3 and 17). The pits had previously been identified by aerial photography and subsequent geophysical and trial trench evaluation (Butler *et al* 2012; Walker and Wolframm-Murray 2012).

Pit [337] (foreground) and pit alignment, looking north-west Fig 12

Three of the pits [503], [603] and [1103] had been investigated during the preceding evaluation (Walker and Wolframm-Murray 2012). Each of the pits was half sectioned and the profile and fills recorded. Additionally, a sample of the pits that produced dateable evidence, such as pottery, was fully excavated. Full descriptions for each pit can be found in Appendix B.

A straight line can be drawn along the alignment which will intersect the majority of the pits; a slight wavering to the north was present in the south-eastern part of the pit alignment and reflects the micro-topography of the ground as it slopes toward the south-east. This suggests that a defined methodology was used to set out the pit alignment and the subsequent excavation.

The pits

The surface shape and size of the pits varied greatly along the alignment (Fig 17). The shape in plan ranged from sub-circular, sub-square to sub-rectangular. The level of variation in shape in plan is indicative of the variable natural material, the topography and the idiosyncratic effect they have on the erosion process in each pit.

The profiles of the pits, whilst irregular, were generally steep-sided and U-shaped with eroded upper edges with a flat or slightly concave base (Fig 13). The lower, un-eroded, edges of the pits have shown that the original shape and form of the pits was rectangular

with steep-sided, U-shaped profiles and flat sub-rectangular bases (Fig 14).

Pit [437] with eroded upper edges, looking north-west Fig 13

Pit [353], looking south-east Fig 14

Measurements taken between the pits, from centre to centre, show that the average spacing between the pits was originally 2.80m. In comparison the average spacing recorded for the pit alignment at Harlestone Quarry was 3.34m (Chapman *et al* 2015) and at Upton it was 3.00m (Walker and Maull 2010). With occasional exceptions the spacing remained remarkably consistent throughout the pit alignment. The average depth of the pits was 0.94m based on 66 pits where the full depth was observable. The depth of the pits remained consistent throughout the alignment.

The fill formation sequence

The fill sequence remained relatively consistent throughout the majority of the pits and comprised a series of gradually accumulated silting deposits. No evidence was recorded along the pit alignment to suggest any episodes of backfilling of the pits. However, the distribution of pottery indicated that some nearby activity had resulted in preferential deposition of material into the pits in the central part of the pit alignment. The fills were often difficult to differentiate and in some instances only one or two contexts were assigned to the fill compared to five or six recorded in others (Fig 18, sections 48, 52, 62, 88, 89, 105, 118 and 130).

Most of the pits were excavated through compact ironstone. In these instances the fill sequence broadly comprised three phases. The primary silt had accumulated against

the pit edges, preserving the original steep-sided edges, and above this level the sides had eroded back as the secondary fills accumulated more slowly. The primary fill was cleaner than the subsequent fills with typically fewer and smaller fragments of ironstone within the fill, though the exact nature of the inclusions varied with the natural through which the pits were excavated.

Pit [250], looking south-west Fig 15

The secondary deposit, which formed the bulk of the fill, generally comprised compact mid brown-orange to mid brown-yellow silty sand with much more frequent medium to large fragments of ironstone. This almost certainly represent a gradual accumulation of material washed in and eroded from an adjacent banks or small heaps which may have existed on one or both sides of the alignment. In most cases thin, more friable, mid-dark brown silty sand was present as the latest fill within the sequence; it contained a moderate amount of ironstone fragments and represents the final erosion of the bank material and levelling of the ground surface.

Toward the south-eastern end of the pit alignment, further downslope, the natural substrate changes from compact ironstone to light-mid yellow-brown silty sand with very few ironstone inclusions. The fill sequence in these pits follows the same pattern as the rest of the pit alignment although the erosion of the edges appeared less dramatic perhaps as a result of a more rapid deposition of the fill material (Fig 15). In a number of instances, fills assigned to the pits in this area of silty natural were described as ‘mottled’, ‘streaked’ or contained iron/manganese panning (Fig 15). The mottling and gleying of soils is a characteristic phenomenon of material re-deposited through the movement of water (Limbrey 1975, 237). It is likely that, given their grouping further down-slope, these pits may have been seasonally waterlogged with a high percentage of material deposited by water compared with the pits further up-slope

The observed erosion of the upper edges of the pits is indicative of a long period of use with many of the pits merging into one another where the intermediary soil has gradually broken down and washed into the pits (Fig 16). This was noted to a greater degree toward the south-eastern end of the alignment where a change in the geology was present from sand and ironstone to much more silty deposits further down slope. This resulted in a significantly quicker sequence of deposition though less erosion of the shape in plan. The advanced stage of erosion evident in the pits excavated through compact ironstone is further evidence for the significant length of time they must have remained open before their eventual backfilling.

Eroded and merged pits [178], [170] and [158], looking north-west Fig 16

In addition to the pits, there were two short segments of associated ditch or gully (Figs 17 and 19). Ditch [243] aligned north-west to south-east, was 4.15m long by 0.6m wide and 0.46m deep. It abutted pit [232] and was adjacent to pit [226]. No clear relationship was visible between the ditch and pit [232]. Ditch [446] aligned north to south was 5.1m long by 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep. It was sealed by layer (441), which also sealed pits [444], [464] and [414]. No finds were recovered.

The finds and environmental results

Worked flint and pottery were recovered from twenty-seven of the pits. There was no discernible trend or distinctive distribution of the flint, but there was a concentration of pottery from nine of the pits, which were located towards the middle of the exposed section of the alignment. Whilst the small pottery assemblage recovered from the pit alignment showed little in the way of diagnostic features, it has been dated to the early Iron Age period.

Two bulk soil samples were taken from the pit alignment. Soil was bulk sampled from fill (344) of pit [345], and fill (286) from pit [289] (Table 3). Other than occasional small pieces of charcoal and charred root stem, no environmental evidence was recovered from these samples. The charcoal is likely to be residual material and no further analysis can be made at this time.

Later activity

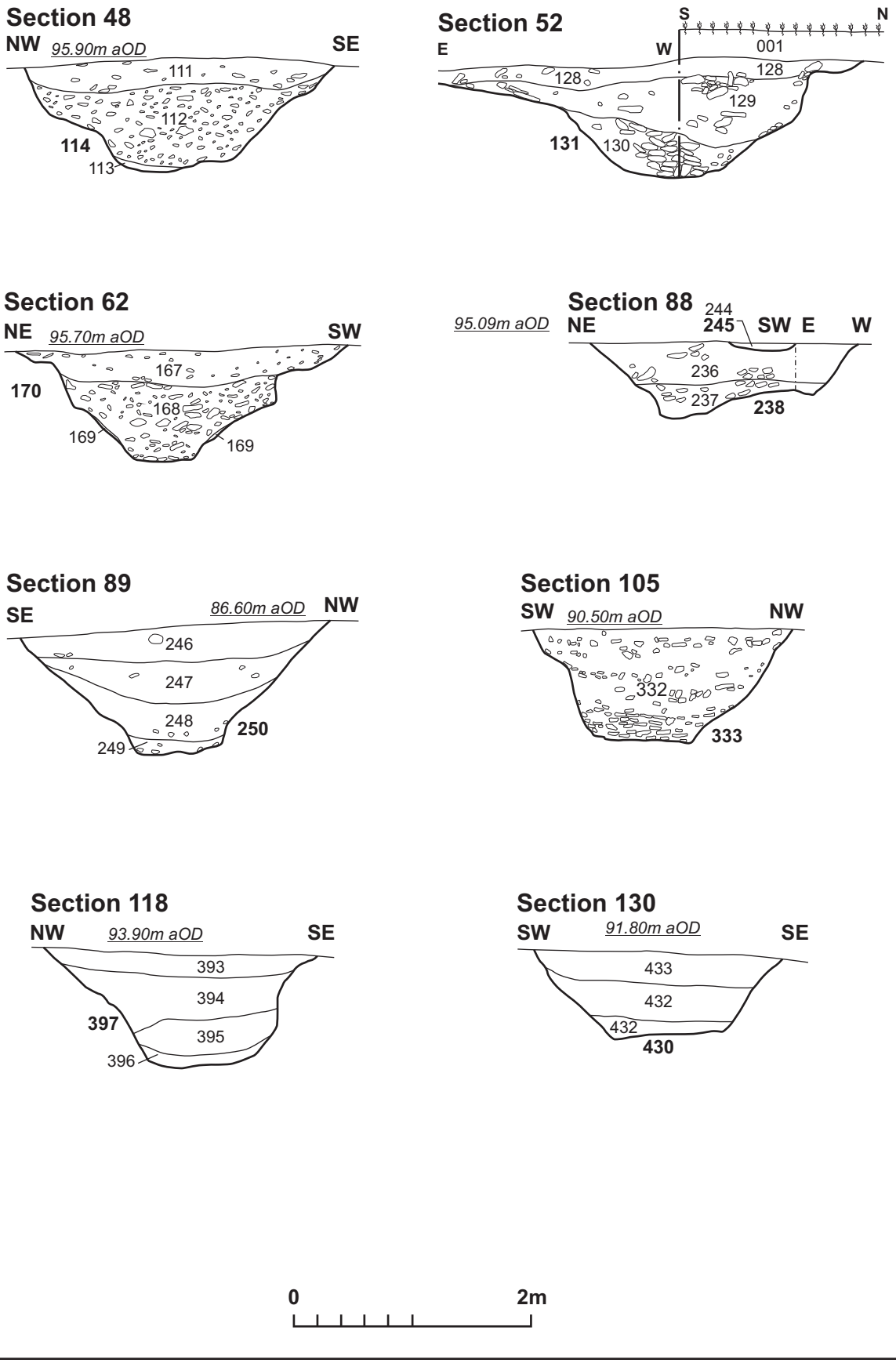
Some animal disturbance was present within and along the edges, at several points, along the pit alignment.

Linear furrows, aligned north-east to south-west, were present in the central part of the excavation area (Fig 17). These are indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation practices which characterised the open fields during the medieval period.

7140
7145
7150
6330
6325
S.52
131
503
S.48
114
603
S.62
170
158
178
S.88
238
S.105
333
345
353
337
397
S.118
437
1103
430
S.130
250
S.89
289
Area E
Area D
A428
Excavated areas
Excavated sections
Pit alignment
Archaeological features
Furrow
Natural banding
Previous trial trenches
0
25m

Scale 1:500

Areas D and E, the pit alignment Fig 17



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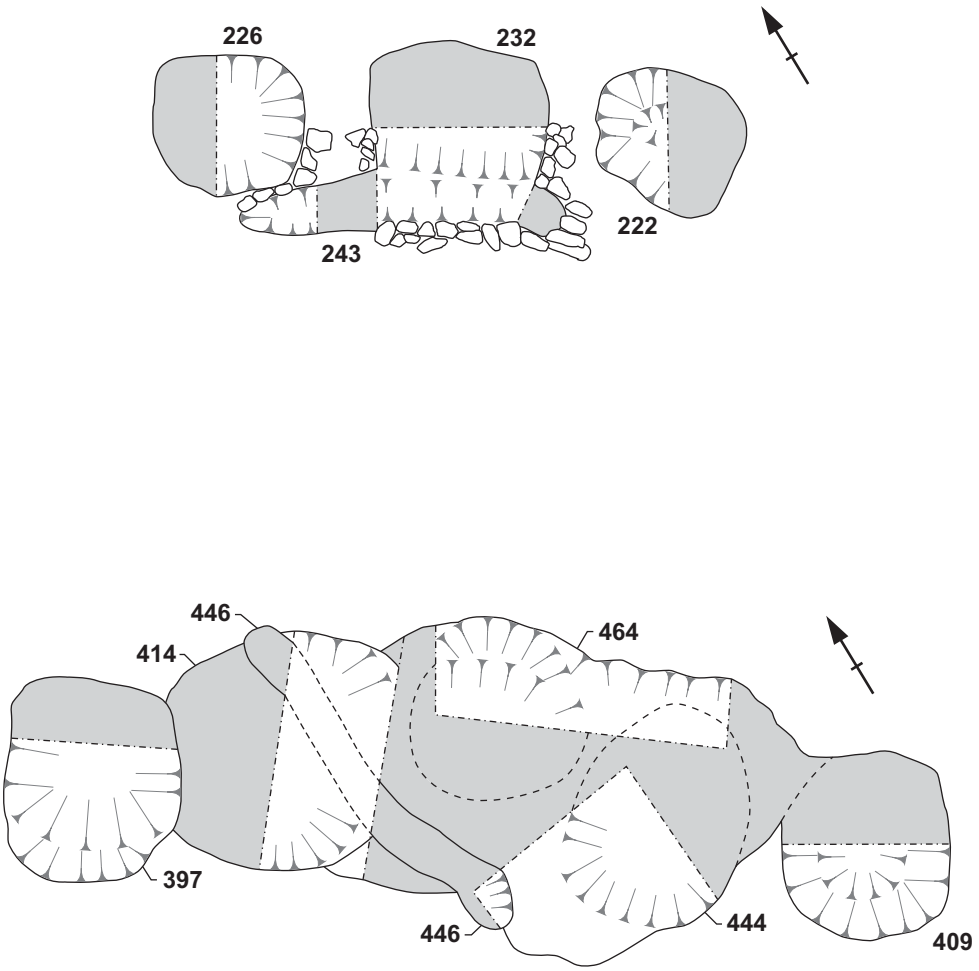
Area E, pit alignment, selected sections Fig 18



Scale 1:100 Area E, ditches 243 and 446 within pit alignment Fig 19

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 **The flint** by Andy Chapman

A total of 87 flints have been studied. Some obvious recently shattered flint pebbles were rejected, but it is still likely that the shattered pieces group contains accidental shattering of both ancient and modern origin. A majority, 57 flints, were residual finds from the pits of the pit alignment. A further 13 flints, largely small flakes, possibly primary debitage, are from the double-ditched enclosure, which might suggest that this was of Bronze Age or earlier date. A further 17 flints came from other features or were unstratified.

Table 1: Quantification of all worked flint

Type	Number	Percentages
Core	4	4.6%
Core rejuvenation (CRF)	4	4.6%
(All core related	8	9.2%)
Flake	14	16.1%
Flake (cortical)	25	28.7%
(All flakes	39	44.8%)
Blade	13	14.9%
Blade (utilised)	7	8.0%
(All blades	20	23.0%)
Scraper (end)	2	2.3%
Scraper (hollow)	1	1.1%
Scraper (disc)	2	2.3%
Piercer	1	1.1%
Leaf arrowhead	2	2.3%
Flint axe	1	1.1%
Misc. retouch	3	3.4%
(All retouched	12	13.8%)
Shattered piece	8	9.2%
Total	**87**	

Raw material

The raw material is dominated by vitreous translucent flint ether dark grey-black or pale grey-brown to light brown in colour. A proportion of the flints, including many of the larger pieces are in an opaque stony flint, varying from white, through light grey to grey in colour. The cortex is typically light brown. The high proportion of flakes that retain areas of cortex and the small size of the cores indicates that small flint nodules from the local gravels were the major source of raw material.

Cores and core rejuvenation flakes

The cores and the core rejuvenation flakes (CRF) have all come from small pebble cores, measuring up to 40mm long, some with surviving areas of cortex. There is a small blade core, worked from a single platform and another more irregular core in a stony flint, white to light grey, has been worked from platforms at either end, in succession, with irregular flakes removed. There is also a probable core tablet, struck across a core at right angles to remove a thin plate and establish a new striking platform. This is an early feature, suggesting a possible late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date for some of the assemblage.

Flakes and blades

The assemblage is dominated by flakes (39, 44.8%), many of which are irregular, squat and hard hammer struck, and probably date to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. A majority of the flakes still retained areas of cortex, showing the small size of the flint nodules utilised as cores.

The material from fill (211) of the outer ditch [213] of the double-ditched enclosure, includes three small flakes in light brown flint, with four measuring only 11-13m long, the smallest flakes from the site. There is also a larger blade-like flake with edge damage from utilisation, a small blade (broken) and a fragment from a bladelet only 7mm wide, also in brown flint. This appears to be a small group including some primary debitage possibly all from the same core, which must either have been deposited directly into the open ditch or were eroded in from a surface deposit or an earlier shallow feature. If they had been deposited directly into the ditch, it would indicate a possible early Neolithic date for the enclosure, because of the presence of three blades. It is suggested below that the preferential use of light coloured flint is characteristic of early Neolithic assemblages. A smaller group from the fill (206) of ditch [207], also part of the outer ditch system, is very different in nature as includes a larger cortical flake, 57mm long, probably the first removal from a pebble core, and two cortical flakes, up to 33m long, both with blue-grey surface patination, although all three pieces are again in light brown flint.

The small assemblage of flint from fills (206) and (211) of the outer ditch [207/213] of the double-ditched enclosure are in pale brown flint, as are a number of the blades and one of the two leaf arrowheads from other contexts, types that are characteristic of the early Neolithic. It has been suggested previously for assemblages of residual flint at the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (Chapman 2015) that the early Neolithic component showed a preference for using light brown flint. A flint assemblage from Chester Farm, beneath Irchester Roman Town, dominated by late Mesolithic and early Neolithic material, also contained a high proportion in pale-coloured flint (Chapman 2012). It is therefore suggested that at Dallingon Gateway too, the occurrence of light brown flint may be indicative of the early Neolithic element of the assemblage, although here there are too few demonstrable early tool types to confirm the connection.

Although flakes dominated the assemblage, blades are quite common (20), 23.0% of the assemblage. Of these, seven show irregular edge damage through use as cutting blades, but there are no serrated blades. The largest blade in vitreous flint is 37mm long (broken) by 21mm wide, but there is a larger example, 53mm long by 27mm wide in mottled grey-white stony flint, and also an exceptionally long example for Northamptonshire at 69mm long by 18mm wide (Fig 20). This piece is in opaque grey flint and has extensive irregular damage along the full length of both edges. The proportion of blades suggests that there is a strong early Neolithic component to the assemblage.

The longest blade, from pit [226] in the pit alignment (Scale 10mm) Fig 20

Tools

There are 12 recognised tools and pieces with miscellaneous retouch, making up 13.8% of the entire assemblage. This is a high proportion of the assemblage: for comparison, 298 flints associated with a Neolithic mortuary enclosure at Tansor included 34 tools, 11.4% of the assemblage (Chapman 1997, table 1), while at the Briar Hill causewayed enclosure classified tools and miscellaneous retouched pieces made up 16.6% of the assemblage, 567 out of 3367 flints (Bamford 1985, table 4).

Scrapers

There are two end scrapers, both formed on thick, ridged blades and both from pits in the pit alignment. Both examples have asymmetrical profiles, with the thinner edge showing some edge damage, perhaps through use as a cutting blade (Fig 21). There are also two discoidal scrapers, which are characteristic of the early Bronze Age. More unusual is a core rejuvenation flake that has been reworked to form a deep notch retouched to form a hollow scraper from curvilinear ditch terminal [196], Area B (Fig 22).

End scraper from fill of pit [178] in the pit alignment (Scale 10mm) Fig 21

Hollow scraper from the fill (194) of ditch [196] (Scale 10mm) Fig 22

Piercer

From the fill (194) of ditch [196], there is an irregular piece of shattered flint, which has been retouched along two edges to create a point (Fig 23).

Irregular piece of flint retouched to form a pointed piercer (scale 10mm) Fig 23

Leaf-shaped arrowheads

From the fill (88) of pit alignment pit [91] there is leaf arrowhead (SF1) in light brown translucent flint, 23mm long (broken) by 18m wide, with the dorsal surface finely pressure-flaked, while the ventral surface has minimal marginal retouch (Fig 24). From the fill (283) of pit alignment pit [289] there is a leaf arrowhead (SF51) in dark grey-brown translucent flint, 26mm long (broken) by 19mm wide. The shape is more irregular, but perhaps partly as a result of later edge damage, and the pressure flaking on the dorsal side is less well executed. The ventral side again has retouch on the margins only. The leaf arrowhead is particularly iconic of causewayed enclosure sites, with a total of 18 being recovered from the causewayed enclosure at Briar Hill Northampton (Bamford 1985, 76).

The dorsal (left) and ventral sides (right) of leaf arrowheads SF1 and SF51 (Scale 10mm) Fig 24

Flint axe

The butt end of a polished flint axe, in pale grey-brown opaque flint, came from the fill (97) of the pit alignment pit [100]. The remaining fragment is up to 40mm long, 56mm wide and 31mm thick with an oval section (Fig 25).

Butt end of polished flint axe (Scale 10mm) Fig 25

Discussion

The overall quantity of worked flint is far more than would be expected from the average pit alignment and its environs. For instance, excavation of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditched enclosure, scattered pits and a pit alignment at nearby Harlestone Quarry produced a total of only 18 residual flints during excavations in 2006, 2007, 2011 and 2014 across a total area of 4.1ha (Chapman *et al* 2015).

The quantity here must therefore reflect the presence of nearby activity spanning the early Neolithic to late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. It has been suggested that the material from the outer ditch of the double-ditched system may be either a primary deposit or the result of secondary deposition from earlier deposits disturbed by erosion of the ditch sides. Unfortunately, there is no other dating evidence for this enclosure, but there are no obvious parallels for square double-ditched enclosures of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. It is therefore unlikely that the double-ditched enclosure provided a focus for activity in the early Neolithic to late Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

It must be concluded, therefore, that it was the nearby presence to the east of a causewayed enclosure and probable henge that provided a sufficient focus of activity from the early Neolithic through the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age to generate a significant increase in the deposition of flint at a distance of 0.7-1.1km away. While at Harlestone Quarry, 1.6-1.9km distant from the causewayed enclosure, there was no such effect.

A similar concentration of flint has also been recorded at Bedford, Cambridge Road, which lies between 1.2 and 1.9km west of the Cardington causewayed enclosure. Here the enhanced surface flint deposition extended to 1.8km beyond the causewayed enclosure (Chapman and Chapman, forthcoming).

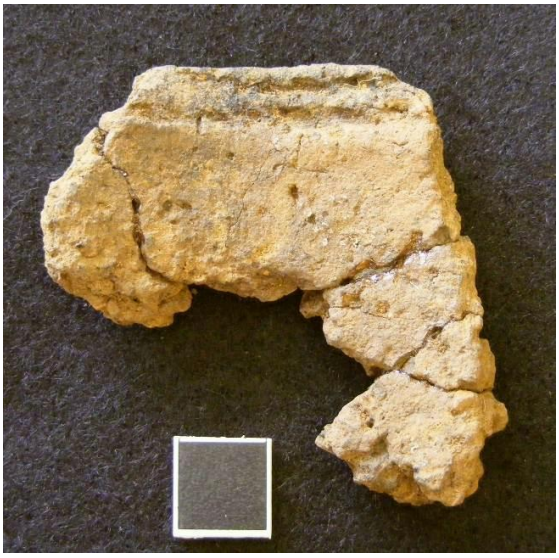
6.2 The prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

The excavation produced a total of 102 sherds of pottery weighing 620g, an average sherd weight of 5.3g. This includes part of a single Grooved ware vessel of the late Neolithic from an isolated posthole. The largest group is from the pits of the pit alignment, 85 sherds weighing 570g, an average sherd weight of 6.7g (Table 2). There is little diagnostic material, but the broad characteristics are consistent with the expected early Iron Age date.

Neolithic pottery

The fill (73) of posthole [74] produced three non-joining sherds (after reconstruction), weighing 31g, from a small jar, probably barrel-shaped with an upright or slightly inturned rim. The fabric contains no obvious mineral inclusions and is dark grey with dark grey surfaces. The rim has an internal chamfer or bevel that is decorated with two rows of twisted cord decoration (Fig 26). Immediately below the rim the external surface is decorated with an oblique band, 13mm wide, of four parallel grooves. The individual flat-bottomed grooves are 2mm wide separated by ridges just over 1mm wide. The band of decoration extends to 30mm below the rim, where it gives way to a similar band running vertically (Fig 27). The bands were perhaps made with a four-pronged comb, but too little survives to be certain of the full decorative scheme, but potentially it would have comprised repeated oblique and vertical bands set at intervals around the vessel.

The internally bevelled rim with cord decoration, the bands of incised external decoration and the vessel form are all consistent with Grooved ware vessels of the late Neolithic (Gibson and Woods 1997, 179-181). It would be broadly contemporary with the possible henge at the centre of the nearby causewayed enclosure.



Grooved ware from posthole [74] showing internally bevelled rim with twisted cord decoration (Scale 10mm) Fig 26

Grooved ware from posthole [74], showing rim and oblique and vertical bands of combed decoration (Scale 10mm) Fig 27

Other pits

The fill (200) of pit [201] in Area B, close to the square enclosure, produced nine sherds, weighing 14g, eight in shelly fabrics and one in a sandy fabric, from three vessels.

The pit alignment

The majority of the pottery from the pits of the pit alignment is in fabrics containing shell, although often this has been lost to leaching, 87% by sherd count. There are some sherds in sandy fabrics, 12%, and a single sherd contains pellets of grog (Table 2).

The 16 body sherds from the fill (167) of pit [170] are all from the base, 10mm thick, and the body, 6mm thick, of a shelly-ware vessel, with a grey core and internal surface and grey-brown burnished external surface. Both early and middle to late Iron Age assemblages include vessels with burnished surfaces.

The large group from the fill (216) of pit [218] come from a single poorly-preserved vessel, with numerous soft, eroded and pitted body sherds, with a light grey-brown core and orange-red surfaces. There are some similarly abraded rim sherds but a single rim sherd, apparently from the same vessel, is in fresh condition. It has a smoothed surface, and the everted rounded rim has a narrow ridge along the top (Fig 28).

Rounded rim with ridge from pit [218] (Scale 10mm) Fig 28

Table 2: Quantification of pottery from the pit alignment

Fill	Cut	Fabric 1 Shell	Fabric 2 Sandy	Fabric 3 Grog	Total Sherds	Weight (g)	Sherd families
88	91	2	1	-	3	8	2
156	157	-	1	-	1	1	1
167	170	16	-	-	16	54	1
216	218	8	-	-	8	190	1
259	263	-	1	-	1	1	1
272	274	7	-	-	7	2	
283	289	9	-	-	9	34	1
284	289	17	-	-	17	140	1
299	303/306	-	-	1	1	15	1
305	306	7	-	-	7	57	2
332	333	-	1	-	1	6	1
336	337	6	5	-	11	31	2
351	353	2	-	-	2	30	1
385	387	1	-	-	1	1	1
Total		**68**	**9**	**1**	**85**	**570g**	
%		**88%**	**10%**	**1%**	**Ave**	**6.7g**	

The fills (283) and (284) of pit [289] produced multiple sherds from a distinctive vessel with a flat base, 9-11mm thick and thin walls, 5mm thick. The fabric contains shell and has a grey core with orange-brown surfaces. The fabric is soft, and all the sherds have abraded edges, indicating that the vessel had been broken and exposed to the elements before deposition in the pit. Despite the quantity of material, the body sherds are plain and there is no rim, but the curvature indicates that this was a large diameter, but thin-walled jar.

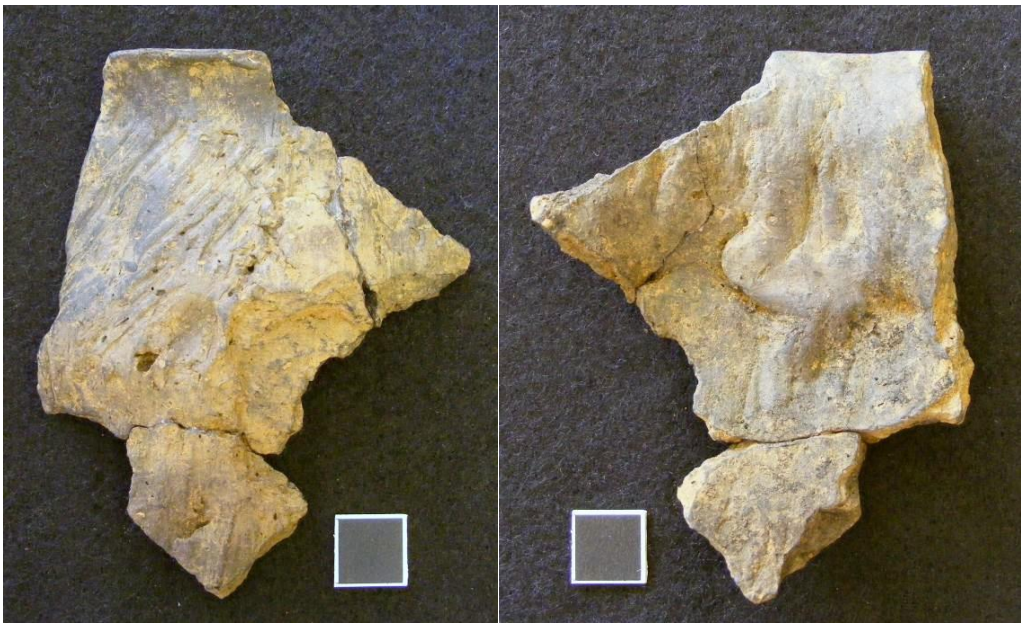
The final fill (299) above pits [303] and [306] produced the only sherd containing grog; a plain body sherd with a light grey core and pink-orange surfaces.

From the fill (305) of pit [306] there is part of a flat base and a sherd from a rounded rim.

From the fill (336) of pit [337] there is a simple upright rim with regular fingernail incised notches (Fig 29).

Rim sherd with fingernail incised notches from pit [337] (Scale 10mm) Fig 29

From the fill (351) of pit [353] there is a partial profile of a small jar, with a pronounced shoulder or carination, 50mm below the rim. It has a simple flat-topped rim and the body is decorated with oblique scoring, possibly executed with a comb. The decoration continues below the shoulder, but aligned nearer to the vertical. The fabric is dark grey throughout, with the inner surface extremely uneven, with deep finger impressions at the shoulder, showing how it was pushed out by the potter. The outer surface is only slightly less uneven (Fig 30).



Small shouldered jar from pit [353] with scored decoration (left) and deep finger impressions on the inside marking the shoulder (right) (Scale 10mm) Fig 30

The small assemblage from the pits of the pit alignment shows few diagnostic features. Those that are present: a high proportion of vessels with oxidised surfaces, one fingernail

decorated rim, a vessel with a marked shoulder or carination and a dominance of plain body sherds are consistent with the expected early Iron Age date for pit alignments, although the shouldered vessel also has scored decoration, which is usually associated with the middle Iron Age. This may suggest that a date at the transition from early to middle Iron Age, perhaps the mid-5th to mid-4th centuries BC may be tentatively suggested for at least the accumulation of the upper fills of the pits in the pit alignment. There is certainly an absence of the extreme carinated forms and fingertip decorated bodies that characterise late Bronze Age/early Iron Age assemblages.

The pottery distribution shows clustering, with eight of the 26 pits between pit [157] in the west and pit [353] in east producing pottery. Of the 18 pits west of pit [157] only one [091] produced pottery and of the 27 pits east of pit [353] only three produced pottery.

6.3 Plant macrofossil and other remains by Val Fryer

Excavations at Dallington recorded pits, postholes and other discrete deposits. Although artefacts were scarce, the typology of the features suggested that most were of probable Iron Age date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area and eight were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLA Northampton and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds, leaves, buds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

Table 3: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	***1***	***2***	***3***	***4***	***5***	***6***	***8***	***9***
Fill/cut No.	***19/20***	***53/54***	***71/72***	***73/74***	***201***	***208***	***344/345***	***286/289***
Feature type	***ph***	***ph***	***ph***	***ph***	***Pit***	***Depos***	***Pit Al***	***Pit Al***
Cereals								
Avena sp. (grains)	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Hordeum sp. (grains)	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-
(rachis internode frag.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	xcf	-
Triticum sp. (grains)	-	-	-	-	xx	-	-	-
(spikelet base)	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-
Cereal indet. (grains)	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-
Herbs								
Arrhenatherum sp. (tuber frag.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Bromus sp.	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-
Fabaceae indet.	-	xcf	-	-	xcf	-	x	-
Galium aparine L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
Corylus avellana L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	-	xxx	xxxx	xx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	xx	xxxx	xx	xxxx	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	-	x	xx	xx	xxx	x
Charcoal >10mm	-	-	-	-	x	-	x	-
Charred root/stem	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xcf	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indet. tuber frag.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Other remains								
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-
Burnt/fired clay	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x
Small coal frags.	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
Sample volume (litres)	***10***	***10***	***10***	***10***	***40***	***10***	***40***	***40***
Volume of flot (litres)	***<0.1***	***<0.1***	***<0.1***	***<0.1***	***<0.1***	***<0.1***	***<0.1***	***<0.1***
% flot sorted	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***	***100%***

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare ph = posthole Depos. = deposit Pit Al = Pit Alignment

Results

Of the eight assemblages, four are from postholes (samples 1–4), one is from a pit (sample 5), two are from pits in a pit alignment (samples 8 and 9) and one is from a non-specific deposit (sample 6). The posthole assemblages are all small and sparse, containing little other than small fragments of charcoal/charred wood. However, sample 2 [53] does include a single seed or possible small legume (Fabaceae) and sample 1 [19] contains a fragment of what appears to be heather (Ericaceae) stem. Other remains are also scarce, with the assemblage from sample 3 ([71]) containing only one fragment of charcoal and a small piece of coal (almost certainly intrusive within the feature fill).

Although the pit assemblages are also small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume), those from pit [201] and pit alignment pit [345] both contain cereals, chaff, seeds and moderate to high densities of charcoal/charred wood. Preservation is generally good, although occasional grains are puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Oat (Avena sp.), barley (Hordeum sp.) and wheat (Triticum sp.) grains are recorded along with spelt wheat (T. spelta) glume bases, and seeds include specimens of brome (Bromus sp.), small legumes, goosegrass (Galium aparine) and persicaria (Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia). Sample 8, from the pit alignment, also contains fragments of hazel (Corylus avellana) nutshell.

The assemblages from samples 6 and 8 are again very limited in composition, although both do contain small pieces of charcoal.

Conclusions

In summary, all eight assemblages are small and relatively limited in composition. The posthole assemblages are particularly sparse, and it would appear most likely that the few remains which are recorded are derived from scattered refuse which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

The two samples taken from the pit alignment are possibly derived from either agricultural detritus or domestic midden waste: whilst the material was probably deliberately placed within the pit fills, there is insufficient to suggest that either feature was primarily intended for use as a refuse pit. The remaining assemblages are again sparse, and both are probably largely derived from scattered detritus.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Overview

Prior to the current excavations a combination of aerial photography, geophysical survey and trial trenching had shown that the development area contained a pit alignment, part of a square-cornered, double-ditch enclosure, a few disjointed sections of ditch and some possible pits. These and some additional, previously unknown, features have been investigated and an unusually large finds assemblage for a site of this type, comprising predominantly pottery and flint, has indicated use of this location from the early Neolithic period into the middle Iron Age. The remains identified sit within a known prehistoric landscape that includes, to the east on Dallington Heath, an important prehistoric monument complex consisting of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, a probable later Neolithic henge monument, several lengths of pit alignment and also areas of Iron Age and probable Roman settlement.

7.2 A late Neolithic posthole

A posthole in Area C contained fragments of a Grooved Ware pottery vessel. It was located near to an undated, but possibly contemporary posthole. These may relate to the linear ditches and posthole alignments present in this area though this is only suggested based on their spatial relationship rather than any physical or stratigraphic relationship.

7.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

A substantial scatter of worked flint was recovered, largely as residual material re-deposited into the fills of the pits in the pit alignment. This quantity can be seen as defining an extramural area of activity around the focal point of, and extending up to 1.1km away from, the causewayed enclosure

7.4 A prehistoric posthole alignment

A double-posthole alignment, was identified in Area C. The alignment was not observed during the previous surveys and interventions and does not appear to respect any of the other features except ditch [9], aligned east to west, which produced no dateable evidence.

The unusual aspect of the posthole alignment was the lack of symmetry. Only nine postholes were present on the east side of the alignment and were sited singly or in groups of three. The course of the alignment was sporadically investigated to the south where it was observed to rapidly narrow to a single alignment and become intermittent, similar to the east side. The last identified posthole at the south end coincided with a local high point, but whether this is significant is unknown.

Whilst the posthole alignment did not produce any dating evidence, similar avenues have been noted elsewhere in Northamptonshire. An avenue identified as part of the Raunds Area Project comprised segmented and irregular ditches and tree hollows. This avenue was radiocarbon dated to the early Neolithic 3860-3620 Cal BC (Harding and Healey 2007).

7.5 A possible late Bronze Age field system

Segmented linear ditches were present in Areas A and C, aligned north-west to south-east, east to west and north-east to south-west. Only a portion of the linear ditch system was observable and no finds were recovered from the excavated sections. However, by analogy with similar field systems recorded as part of the Raunds Area Project, a middle to late Bronze Age date is suggested.

7.6 Square and sub-circular enclosures

A sub-circular enclosure not identified via previous surveys, was only partially exposed in Area B. Although undated, it was cut by the outer ditch (at least) of the large square-cornered double-ditched enclosure. A flint piercer was recovered from the fill of the sub-circular enclosure; its light colour indicating a possible Neolithic date. There are other indicators of early prehistoric activity on the site comprising flint core and rejuvenation flakes retaining features indicative of the late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date, though definitive dating of this earlier enclosure remains inconclusive.

As the entire enclosure was not exposed during the excavations or revealed through geophysical survey or aerial photography it cannot be ascertained at this juncture whether it comprised a single ditch with single entrance or a series of segmented ditches with multiple entrances.

A double-ditched rectilinear enclosure lay to the immediate north of the sub-circular enclosure and was demonstrably later than the sub-circular enclosure. The double-ditched enclosure contained an assemblage of flint that has been broadly dated to the Bronze Age period or earlier. However, at this stage it is considered unlikely that the small flint assemblage, whilst likely to have derived from a nearby deposit, can be considered secure dating evidence for the enclosure.

Other double-ditched square and rectilinear enclosures identified within Northamptonshire and elsewhere in England have generally been dated to the late Iron Age and early Roman period. Examples at Blackthorn (Williams 1974) and Briar Hill in Northamptonshire (RCHME 1985) are significantly less regular in shape when compared with the excavated example from this site and the example here is conspicuous in the paucity of finds. A further example can be found to the south-west of the site, in the area at Dallington Grange, though it too is much less regular in shape. It should be noted, however, that so little of the enclosure was available for investigation within the excavation area that no concrete conclusions on its date can be made at this time.

Only a small percentage (25%) of the whole enclosure was investigated so there is likely to be a bias in the finds assemblage and secure dateable evidence may be forthcoming if further investigations are carried out.

7.7 The early to middle Iron Age pit alignment

The pit alignment is comparable to a number of other examples from Northampton and Northamptonshire, such as at nearby Harlestone Quarry (Chapman *et al* 2015), Briar Hill (Jackson 1974; Bamford 1985), and Upton (Carlyle 2010; Foard-Colby and Walker 2010; Walker and Maull 2010). When dated, these examples were found to be predominantly early Iron Age in date. At Upton the lower silts of one pit produced a surprisingly late date, implying that the pit was still substantially open at the beginning of the middle Iron Age (4th century BC) (Walker and Maull 2010).

The Dallington alignment is perhaps most closely comparable to that at Briar Hill with regard to shape and positioning, although none of the aforementioned alignments were so closely spaced as to almost form a ditch as is seen here. Despite this difference there is no evidence to suggest that the alignment served a different purpose and it can be assumed that it was like other known examples, a territorial boundary marker.

As with many other pit alignments, the level of erosion of the upper edges of the pits at Dallington is significant. This may suggest that the pit alignment existed as an extant earthwork for a considerable length of time before disappearing from the landscape,

either through disuse or re-purposing of the land.

Like many other recorded pit alignments, the location of the alignment was associated with prominent features within the landscape. The Dallington alignment lies along the edge of a contour, the land dropping away to the south and east. Recent excavations west of Daventry have identified a pit alignment which had been set out along a ridge and stops at the edge of the promontory, respecting a large sub-circular enclosure.

Whilst no direct relationship can be drawn between the pit alignment and the other archaeological features on site, it is clear that the alignment forms part of the rich archaeological landscape around Dallington Heath. Further investigation of the area will help to determine if and how the pit alignment relates to the other monuments identified in the immediate vicinity.

Two sections of ditch or gully were identified amongst the pits. Although no dating was recovered, they were likely to be broadly contemporary with the later use or later infilling of the pits, suggesting they were middle Iron Age in date.

7.8 Regional research agendas

It was anticipated that the site would reveal archaeological features from the Iron Age and that it had the potential to contribute to the relevant regional research agendas. These are discussed below.

Despite the recovery of a small assemblage of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts from some of the excavated features, and flint scatters recorded which extend from the causewayed enclosure to the east, not enough evidence exists to confidently address the research agendas for this period. However, this material should be considered alongside future results for these periods, as more of the Dallington landscape is investigated.

Iron Age research agendas

- Understanding the development of field systems land boundaries and how this relates to changes in the agrarian landscape;
- What are the economic, social or political roles of pit alignments;
- Whether there is any evidence for agricultural intensification;
- Contribute to understanding the relationship between settlement patterns and agricultural changes;
- Contribute to the understanding of the rural economy and diet.

Due to the lack of dating evidence there is limited scope to relate the pit alignment to the undated enclosures and other features on site. This makes it difficult to assess the impact and ability to address the local research questions for the Iron Age period. Nevertheless, the evidence gathered as part of this excavation adds significant data to the gathering corpus of information for the archaeology around Dallington Heath. It is suggested that as work continues at Dallington Grange the archaeological remains discussed in this report should be considered alongside any future developments to better target the questions posed by the local research agendas. Given the growing collection of data, the economic, social or political roles of pit alignments could best be investigated by a targeted study which looks at the known examples together.

Due to the paucity of finds and small quantities of plant macrofossils, the site provides a rather limited assemblage with regard to understanding the activity on site particularly the rural economy and diet. Comparing it to other similar sites with better finds assemblages may shed more light on use of these monuments.

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APPENDIX A: TABLE OF CONTEXTS BY AREA

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(001)	Topsoil	Firm, mid grey-brown silty loam with infrequent small to medium sub angular stone inclusions. Fairly clear boundaries.	-	-
(002)	Subsoil	Very little subsoil in sites A-C and E.	-	-
(003)	Natural	Mixed iron stone and sandy natural alluvium in sites A and C.	-	-

Area A

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(004)	Fill of [005]	Friable mid brown silty sand with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	L = 2.00m W = 0.52.00m D = 0.10m	-
[005]	Ditch	Linear ditch, aligned north to south, shallow sides with uneven base.	L = 2.00m W = 0.52.00m D = 0.10m	-
(006)	Fill of [007]	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	L = 2.00m W = 0.47m D = 0.04m	-
[007]	Ditch	Linear ditch, aligned north to south, shallow sides and an uneven and irregular base.	L = 2.00m W = 0.47m D = 0.04m	-

Area B

Context	*Type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
(179)	Fill of [180]	Compact mid orange-brown silty sand.	W = 1.05m D = 0.44m	SF25
[180]	Ditch	Terminal end of ditch aligned east to west with steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 1.05m D = 0.44m	-
(181)	Fill of [182]	Friable dark grey-brown sandy loam with ironstone and flint throughout.	W = 1.28m D = 0.41m	-
[182]	Ditch	Terminal end of ditch aligned east to west with a V-shaped profile.	W = 1.28m D = 0.41m	-
(183)	Fill of [185]	Loose mid orange-brown slightly silty sand with rare small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 1.23m D = 0.15m	-
(184)	Fill of [185]	Loose mid light orange-brown slightly silty sand.	W = 1.13m D = 0.33m	-
[185]	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with sloping sides and U-shaped profile with uneven base.	W = 1.26m D = 0.44m	-

Context	*Type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
(186)	Fill of [187]	Loose, mid red-brown slightly silty sand. Occasional medium sub-rounded pieces of stone.	W = 1.2.00m D = 0.38m	-
[187]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned east to west with moderately sloping sides and uneven base.	W = 1.2.00m D = 0.38m	-
(188)	Fill of [189]	Compact, light orange-brown sand.	W = 0.45m D = 0.35m	-
[189]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west with moderately sloping sides and flat base.	W = 0.45m D = 0.35m	-
(190)	Fill of [191]	Compact, mid brown-orange silty sand.	W = 0.45m D = 0.30m	-
[191]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west with steep sloping sides and flat base.	W = 0.45m D = 0.30m	-
(192)	Fill of [193]	Friable, orange-brown loamy sand. Ironstone, flint and sand	W = 1.48m D = 0.56m	-
[193]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north to south with V-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.48m D = 0.56m	-
(194)	Fill of [196]	Loose, mid orange-brown slightly silty sand with small stones and charcoal flecks.	W = 1.02.00m D = 0.20m	SF26
(195)	Fill of [196]	Loose, mid brown-orange slightly silty sand. Occasional small-mid size ironstone, rare charcoal flecks.	W = 0.90m D = 0.38m	-
[196]	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with sloping sides and flat base.	W = 1.10m D = 0.54m	-
(197)	Fill of [199]	Loose, mid orange-brown slightly silty sand. Rare charcoal flecks and small stones.	W = 1.07m D = 0.17m	-
(198)	Fill of [199]	Loose, mid brown-orange slightly silty sand. Occasional small-mid size ironstone, rare charcoal flecks.	W = 0.87m D = 0.20m	-
[199]	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with steep sloping sides to flat base.	W = 1.07m D = 0.37m	-
(200)	Fill of [201]	Firm, mottled dark brown-grey to brown-orange loamy sand. Charcoal, burnt stone, flint ironstone.	W = 1.14m D = 0.33m	Sample 5
[201]	Pit	Oval pit with vertical sides and flat base.	L = 1.41m D = 0.33m	-
(202)	Fill of [203]	Friable dark red-brown silty sand. Occasional small-medium, sub-angular stones, including ironstone.	W = 2.05m D = 0.50m	SF31 flint
[203]	Ditch	Terminal end of ditch aligned north-west to south-east with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base.	W = 2.05m D = 0.50m	-

Context	*Type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
(204)	Fill of [205]	Loose and friable dark red-brown silty sand. Occasional med-large, sub-angular stones/ironstone.	W = 1.90m D = 0.50m	-
[205]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned south-west to north-east, moderately sloping sides and an uneven base.	W = 1.90m D = 0.50m	-
(206)	Fill of [207]	Firm, brown-grey loamy sand with flint and ironstone throughout.	-	SF27-30
[207]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned east to west with V-shaped profile.	-	-
(208)	Fill of [210]	Firm, mixed black to grey-black silty sandy loam with burnt stone/flint and charcoal wood fragments.	W = 0.64m D = 0.2.00m	Sample 6
(209)	Fill of [210]	Lens of burnt sand.	-	-
[210]	Ditch	Irregular linear ditch aligned north to south with irregular base and sides.	W = 0.75m D = 0.24m	-
(211)	Fill of [213]	Friable, dark redd-brown silty sand with occasional, small sub-rounded stones.	W = 1.8m D = 0.19m	SF32-38, flint
(212)	Fill of [213]	Friable, mid red-brown silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded stones.	W = 1.8m D = 0.47m	SF39, flint
[213]	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with moderately sloping sides and an uneven concave base.	W = 1.8m D = 0.47m	-
(474)	Fill of [475]	Friable, light grey-brown with orange mottled silty sand. Ironstone and sandstone fragments.	W = 0.80m D = 0.26m	-
[475]	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.80m D = 0.26m	-
(476)	Fill of [477]	Friable, grey-yellow silty sand with infrequent sandstone.	W = 0.99m D = 0.16m	-
[477]	Ditch	Slightly curvilinear ditch aligned east to west with U-shaped profile and slightly concave base.	W = 0.99m D = 0.16m	-

Area C

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions**	**Artefacts/ Samples**
(008)	Fill of [009]	Friable, light brown, silty sand, infrequent small sub-angular stone inclusions.	W = 0.70m D = 0.25m	-
[009]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 0.70m D = 0.25m	-
(010)	Fill of [011]	Friable, mid orange-brown, silty sand, infrequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	W = 0.42m D = 0.25m	-
(011)	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east, U- shaped profile with a fairly flat base.	W = 0.42m D = 0.25m	-

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(012)	Fill of [013]	Friable, mid brown, silty sand, infrequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	W = 0.65m D = 0.35m	-
[013]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west with U-shaped profile and irregular base.	W = 0.65m D = 0.35m	-
(015)	Fill of [016]	Friable, mid brown, silty sand with infrequent small sub-angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.36m D = 0.06m	-
[016]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north to south with very shallow sides and a fairly flat base.	W = 0.36m D = 0.06m	-
(017)	Fill of [018]	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Fairly frequent small to large angular iron stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	L = 0.29m W = 0.35m D = 0.15m	-
[018]	Posthole	Sub-circular posthole, U-shaped profile with fairly steep sides and fairly flat base.	L = 0.29m W = 0.35m D = 0.15m	-
(019)	Fill of [020]	Friable, medium brown with some orange mottling sandy silt. Rare small to medium angular ironstone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	L = 0.20m W = 0.42m D = 0.10m	Sample 1
[020]	Posthole	Sub-oval in plan with shallow U-shaped profile and flat base.	L = 0.20m W = 0.42m D = 0.10m	-
(021)	Fill of [022]	Friable, mid brown silty sand with some rare small stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	L = 0.22m W = 0.46m D = 0.12.m	-
[022]	Posthole	Sub-oval posthole with very shallow U-shaped profile and irregular base.	L = 0.22m W = 0.46m D = 0.12.m	-
(023)	Fill of [024]	Friable, mid brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	L = 0.22.m W = 0.45m D = 0.14m	-
[024]	Posthole	Sub-oval posthole with narrow U-shaped profile and flat base.	L = 0.22.m W = 0.45m D = 0.14m	-
(025)	Fill of [026]	Friable, mid brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	L = 0.28m W = 0.30m D = 0.19m	-
[026]	Posthole	Sub-Circular posthole with narrow U-shaped profile and flat base.	L = 0.28m W = 0.30m D = 0.19m	-
(027)	Fill of [028]	Friable, mid dark brown silty sand with rare small stones. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.40m D = 0.19m	-
[028]	Posthole	Sub-oval posthole with steep sloping sides and concave base.	W = 0.40m D = 0.19m	-

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(029)	Fill of [030]	Loose dark grey silt with rare stones.	L = 0.45m W = 0.30m D = 0.9m	-
[030]	Posthole	Sub-Circular posthole with U-shaped profile and concave base.	L = 0.45m W = 0.30m D = 0.9m	-
(031)	Fill of [032]	Friable mid brown silty sand with occasional small stones. Clear boundaries.	Ø = 0.37m D = 0.25m	-
[032]	Posthole	Circular posthole with steep, almost vertical sides and fairly flat base.	Ø = 0.37m D = 0.25m	-
(033)	Fill of [034]	Friable light brown silty sand with rare small angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.33m D = 0.06m	-
[034]	Posthole	Circular posthole with very shallow and fairly sloping sides and flat base.	W = 0.33m D = 0.06m	-
(035)	Fill of [036]	Friable dark brown-grey loam.	L = 0.38m W = 0.23m D = 0.19m	-
[036]	Posthole	Circular posthole with sharp sides and flat base.	L = 0.38m W = 0.23m D = 0.19m	-
(037)	Fill of [038]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones. Clear boundaries.	Ø = 0.35m D = 0.90m	-
[038]	Posthole	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile and uneven base.	Ø = 0.35m D = 0.90m	-
(039)	Fill of [040]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones. Clear boundaries.	Ø = 0.42m D = 0.18m	-
[040]	Posthole	Circular posthole with sloping sides and concave base.	Ø = 0.42m D = 0.18m	-
(041)	Fill of [042]	Loose orange-grey sandy clay. Not clear boundaries.	W = 0.76m D = 0.15m	-
[042]	Posthole	Irregular oval posthole with undercut steep sides and irregular base.	W = 0.76m D = 0.15m	-
(043)	Fill of [044]	Fairly compact slightly dark grey-brown loam.	L = 0.51m W = 0.28m D = 0.09m	
[044]	Posthole	Circular possible posthole with very shallow irregular profile.	L = 0.51m W = 0.28m D = 0.09m	-
(045)	Fill of [046]	Friable light brown silty sand with rare small sub angular stone inclusions. Fairly clear boundaries.	W = 0.34m D = 0.09m	-
[046]	Posthole	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile, very steep sloping sides and fairly flat base.	W = 0.34m D = 0.09m	-

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(047)	Fill of [048]	Friable mid-dark grey-brown silty sand with rare small stones. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.37m D = 0.80m	-
[048]	Posthole	Roughly rectangular posthole with sloping sides and concave base.	W = 0.37m D = 0.80m	-
(049)	Fill of [050]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with rare small stones. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.35m D = 0.10m	-
[050]	Posthole	Irregular posthole with sloping sides and uneven base.	W = 0.35m D = 0.10m	-
(051)	Fill of [052]	Loose mid brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.25m D = 0.07m	-
[052]	Posthole	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile, steep and straight sides and flat base.	W = 0.25m D = 0.07m	-
(053)	Fill of [054]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones inclusions. Clear boundaries.	Ø = 0.40m D = 0.20m	Sample 2
[054]	Posthole	Circular posthole with sloping sides and concave base.	Ø = 0.40m D = 0.20m	-
(055)	Fill of [056]	Fairly compact light grey loam with numerous mainly small stone fragments.	L = 0.38m W = 0.22m D = 0.21m	-
[056]	Posthole	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile and concave base.	L = 0.38m W = 0.22m D = 0.21m	-
(057)	Fill of [058]	Friable mid brown silty sand with rare small sub angular stone inclusions. Fairly clear boundaries.	W = 0.24m D = 0.12m	-
[058]	Posthole	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile, fairly steep and straight sides irregular base.	W = 0.24m D = 0.12m	-
(059)	Fill of [060]	Friable mid light grey loam with frequent small stones.	L = 0.28m W = 0.17m D = 0.16m	-
[060]	Posthole	Circular posthole with U-shaped profile and flat base.	L = 0.28m W = 0.17m D = 0.16m	-
(061)	Fill of [062]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones. Clear boundaries.	Ø = 0.43m D = 0.20m	-
[062]	Posthole	Circular posthole with sloping sides and fairly flat base.	Ø = 0.43m D = 0.20m	-
(063)	Fill of [064]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones.	Ø = 0.30m D = 0.15m	-
[064]	Posthole	Circular posthole with sloping sides and fairly flat base.	Ø = 0.30m D = 0.15m	-
(065)	Fill of [066]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with rare small stones. Clear boundaries.	Ø = 0.40m D = 0.24m	-

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
[066]	Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sides and flat base.	Ø = 0.40m D = 0.24m	-
(067)	Fill of [068]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with rare small stones.	Ø = 0.40m D = 0.23m	-
[068	Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sides and flat base.	Ø = 0.40m D = 0.23m	-
(069)	Fill of [070]	Friable mid brown sandy silt with rare small sub angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.26m D = 0.13m	-
[070]	Posthole	Circular posthole. U-shaped with fairly steep sides and flat base.	W = 0.26m D = 0.13m	-
(071)	Fill of [072]	Loose mid brown silty sand with frequent small to medium angular iron stone inclusions.	W = 0.30m D = 0.16m	Sample 3
[072]	Posthole	Circular posthole. West side is very steep, almost vertical; the E side is fairly gradual. Concave base.	W = 0.30m D = 0.16m	-
(073)	Fill of [074]	Friable mid grey loam.	L = 0.33m W = 0.22m D = 0.16m	Sample 4
[074]	Posthole	Circular posthole. U-shaped profile with concave base.	L = 0.33m W = 0.22m D = 0.16m	-
(075)	Fill of [076]	Friable dark grey silt with occasional small stones throughout.	L = 0.26m W = 0.15m D = 0.11m	-
[076]	Posthole	Sub-oval posthole with irregular steep sides and irregular concave base.	L = 0.26m W = 0.15m D = 0.11m	-
(077)	Fill of [078]	Friable mid brown silty sand with occasional small to medium size stones. Fairly clear boundaries.	W = 0.70m D = 0.20m	-
[078]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with U-shaped profile and uneven base.	W = 0.70m D = 0.20m	-
(079)	Fill of [080]	Loose mid brown-orange silty sand with occasional small angular iron stones. Clear boundaries.	W = 0.65m D = 0.15m	-
[080]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-west to south-east with fairly straight sides and slightly concave base.	W = 0.65m D = 0.15m	-
(081)	Fill of [082]	Friable to semi-compacted dark brown silty semi loam with occasional small stones throughout.	L = 0.72m W = 0.69m D = 0.21m	-
[082]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west with steep sides.	L = 0.72m W = 0.69m D = 0.21m	-

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(083)	Fill of [084]	Friable mid orange-brown slightly silty sand with occasional small iron stones. Fairly clear boundaries.	W = 0.82m D = 0.25m	-
[084]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west with sloping sides and flat base.	W = 0.82m D = 0.25m	-
(085)	Fill of [086]	Friable orange sandy silt with ironstone throughout.	W = 0.78m D = 0.13m	-
[086]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned east to west with irregular sides and uneven base.	W = 0.78m D = 0.13m	-

Area D

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(325)	Fill of [326]	Friable mid grey-yellow with grey streaks sandy loam. Occasional (5%) small ironstone with no visible sorting and natural inclusions.	W = 1.90m D = 0.23m	-
[326]	Furrow?	Linear furrow aligned north to south with gently sloping sides and irregular base.	W = 1.90m D = 0.23m	-

Area E

Pit alignment is listed separately in Appendix B. This list includes other features encountered alongside the pit alignment in Area E.

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(152)	Fill of [153]	Compact light white-orange sandy-silt containing frequent stone.	W = 1.40m D = 0.50m	-
[153]	Ditch?	Linear ditch aligned south-west to north-east. Uneven edges and flat base.	W = 1.40m D = 0.50m	-
(165)	Fill of [166]	Friable mid orange-brown sandy-silt containing frequent small and medium sized limestone.	W = 2.91m D = 0.07m	SF15
[166]	Furrow	North-south aligned linear ditch with very shallow profile, irregular edges and base.	W = 2.91m D = 0.07m	-
(239)	Fill of [240]	Hard mid grey-brown with patchy grey sandy loam. Frequent small and medium size stones with sub-angular stones, poorly sorted.	W = 2.70m D = 0.55m	Pottery
[240]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north to south with U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and a round base with pockets of organic inclusions (root disturbance).	W = 2.70m D = 0.55m	-
(241)	Fill of [243]	Fairly compact mid red-brown silty sand with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones.	W = 0.65m D = 0.24m	Pottery

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(242)	Fill of [243]	Loose and friable dark red-brown silty sand. Moderate small to medium angular and sub-angular stones with occasional small sub-angular pieces of flint.	W = 0.50m D = 0.22m	-
[243]	Gully	Linear gully aligned north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and an uneven concave base.	W = 0.65m D = 0.46m	-
(244)	Fill of [245]	Moderate, orange light brown sandy silt with small ironstones and some root action.	W = 0.05m D = 0.05m	-
[245]	Gully	Linear gully aligned north to south, shallow with gradual sides and break of slope and a flat base.	W = 0.05m D = 0.05m	-
(415)	Fill of [416]	Hard mid dark grey brown silty sand with ironstone inclusions (1%)	W = 0.80m D = 0.22m	SF68/69 flint
[416]	Gully	Linear gully aligned north-south, the south-west side slopes 30% the north east side is disturbed by [417]	W = 0.80m D = 0.22m	-
(417)	Fill of [418]	Compact mid dark grey brown silty sand with ironstone inclusions (7%) and root disturbance	W = 1.00m D = 0.60m	Clay pipe
[418]	Tree bole	Irregular in plan, the south west side is disturbed the north east side is steep.	W = 1.40m D = 1.20m	-
(421)	Fill of [423]	Compact light orange-brown silty sand with ironstone inclusions.	W = 1.20m D = 0.20m	SF67
(422)	Fill of [423]	Hard light orange-yellow brown sand with ironstone inclusions.	W = 0.50m D = 0.20m	-
[423]	Gully	Linear gully aligned north to south, the north-east side is disturbed, the south-west side slopes to a rounded base	W = 1.20m D = 0.40m	-
(424)	Fill of [418]	Compact light orange-brown grey silty sand with ironstone inclusions.	W = 1.46m D = 1.00m	-
(445)	Fill of [446]	Friable mid red-brown silty sand with ironstone fragments.	W = 0.76m D = 0.25m	-
[446]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north to south with shallow gently sloping sides to a concave base	W = 0.76m D = 0.25m	-
(451)	Fill of [452]	Friable to firm mid dark brown sandy silt with occasional small-mid size stones and charcoal flecks	W = 1.04m D = 0.22m	-

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
[452]	Tree bole	Ephemeral in plan with long side oriented north-west to south-east, sides slope to concave base	W = 1.04m D = 0.22m	-
(453)	Layer	Loose light yellow-white brown silty sand with rare small stone inclusions. Truncated by [452] and [459].	W = 0.62m D = 0.24m	-
(454)	Layer	Friable to loose mid red-brown silty sand with rare small stone inclusions.	W = 0.70m D = 0.14m	Sample 7
(463)	Fill of [464]	Friable mid red-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone fragments and charcoal flecks.	W = 1.18m D = 0.24m	-
[464]	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north-east to south-west with broadly sloping sides to a concave base.	W = 1.18m D = 0.24m	-
(474)	Fill of [475]	Friable light grey-brown with orange mottling silty sand, with ironstone and sandstone fragments.	W = 0.80m D = 0.26m	-
[475]	Gully	Curvilinear gully, U-shaped in profile with sharper north side to flattish base.	W = 0.80m D = 0.26m	-
(476)	Fill of [477]	Friable grey-yellow silty sand with infrequent sandstone inclusions.	W = 0.90m D = 0.16m	-
[477]	Gully	Curvilinear gully, U-shaped in profile with slightly concave base.	W = 0.90m D = 0.16m	-

APPENDIX B: PIT ALIGNMENT CONTEXT INVENTORY

Pits are arranged in order from north-west to south-east. See Figure 17

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(128)	Fill of [131]	Not fully excavated	Mid brown-orange loamy sandy clay	-
(129)	Fill of [131]	Not fully excavated	Orange-yellow sandy loam. SF11, SF12	-
(130)	Fill of [131]	Not fully excavated	Yellow-orange sandy loam.	-
[131]	Pit	Not fully excavated	U-shaped profile and flat base.	First pit in sequence. Not fully visible in excavation.
(504)	Fill of [503]	W = 1.50m D = 0.64m	Light grey-brown silty sand	-
(505)	Fill of [503]	W = 2.00m D = 0.38m	Light grey-brown silty sand	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
[503]	Pit	W = 2.00m L = 3.00 D = 0.84m	Large sub-circular pit with U-shaped profile and concave base.	2.70m
(104)	Fill of [107]	W = 2.50m D = 0.20m	Firm dark brown sandy clay with moderate ironstone and flint throughout.	-
(105)	Fill of [107]	W = 1.85m D = 0.64	Firm mid orange-brown sandy loam with ironstone and flint.	-
(106)	Fill of [107]	W = 0.90m D = 0.20m	Firm mid orange-brown sandy loam, moderate ironstone.	-
[107]	Pit	W = 2.50m D = 0.95	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.00m
(097)	Fill of [100]	W = 2.05m D = 0.21m	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional small angular ironstone throughout. SF13	-
(098)	Fill of [100]	W = 1.77m D = 0.72m	Friable mid brown silty sand with frequent small-medium angular ironstone and rare charcoal flecks throughout.	-
(099)	Fill of [100]	W = 1.35m D = 0.10m	Friable mid-light brown-yellow sand with rare charcoal flecks.	-
[100]	Pit	W = 2.05m D = 0.99m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.50m
(087)	Fill of [091]	W = 2.42m D = 0.7m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
(088)	Fill of [091]	W = 2.40m D = 0.75m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent small-large ironstone fragments and rare charcoal flecks throughout. SF1, SF2, SF71	-
(089)	Fill of [091]	W = 1.32m D = 0.14m	Friable mid grey silty sand with occasional small ironstone fragments and charcoal flecks.	-
(090)	Fill of [091]	W = 0.16m D = 0.52	Friable mid-light orange-yellow sand with rare charcoal flecks.	-
[091]	Pit	W = 2.42m D = 0.95m	Sub-square/rectangular pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.80m
(092)	Fill of [096]	W = 2.80m D = 0.10m	Firm dark orange-brown sandy loam with occasional patches of sand, moderate ironstone and flint throughout.	-
(093)	Fill of [096]	W = 2.53m D = 0.50m	Firm mid yellow-brown sandy loam with ironstone and flint.	-
(094)	Fill of [096]	W = 1.56m D = 0.22m	Firm mid yellow-brown sandy loam with ironstone and flint.	-
(095)	Fill of [096]	W = 0.71m D = 0.14m	Friable mid yellow-brown sandy loam with moderate ironstone throughout.	-
[096]	Pit	W = 2.80m D = 0.94m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.60m

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(115)	Fill of [118]	W = 2.30m D = 0.30m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium ironstone fragments.	-
(116)	Fill of [118]	W = 1.90m D = 0.45m	Friable light yellow-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(117)	Fill of [118]	W = 1.00m D = 0.33m	Friable light brown-yellow silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
[118]	Pit	W = 2.30m D = 1.08m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(119)	Fill of [123]	W = 3.00m D = 0.20m	Friable mid brown silty sand with moderate ironstone and rare charcoal flecks.	-
(120)	Fill of [118]	W = 0.30m D = 0.40m	Friable mid yellow-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(121)	Fill of [118]	W = 2.00m D = 0.35m	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(122)	Fill of [118]	W = 1.93m D = 0.10m	Friable light-brown silty sand.	-
[123]	Pit	L = 2.00m W = 3.00m D = 0.86m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and concave base.	2.70m
(108)	Fill of [110]	W = 2.18m D = 0.32m	Compact mid-dark brown-orange silty sandy clay with moderate ironstone.	-
(109)	Fill of [110]	W = 2.30m D = 0.64m	Compact light brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
[110]	Pit	W = 2.30m D = 0.90m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.00m
(111)	Fill of [114]	W = 2.65m D = 0.26m	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with moderate ironstone and rare charcoal flecks. SF9	-
(112)	Fill of [114]	W = 2.52m D = 0.70m	Friable mid yellow silty sand with frequent ironstone and rare charcoal flecks.	-
(113)	Fill of [114]	W = 0.58m D = 0.06m	Friable mid yellow sand with rare charcoal flecks.	-
[114]	Pit	W = 2.65m D = 0.97m	Sub-rectangular/oval with steep irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(124)	Fill of [127]	W = 2.70m D = 0.20m	Compact dark red-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
(125)	Fill of [127]	W = 2.70m D = 0.66m	Friable mid red-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone and flint. SF10	-
(126)	Fill of [127]	W = 2.70m D = 0.86m	Friable mid red-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
[127]	Pit	L = 2.75m W = 2.70m D = 0.86m	Sub-circular pit with steep irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(605)	Fill of [603]	W = 0.80m D = 0.20m	Mid orange-brown sandy silt.	-
(606)	Fill of [603]	W = 1.80m D = 0.36m	Mid orange-brown sandy silt.	-
(607)	Fill of [603]	W = 2.00m D = 0.28m	Mid brown/orange-brown sandy silt.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
[603]	Pit	W = 2.50m D = 0.90m	Irregular sub-square pit with eroded U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.50m
(140)	Fill of [143]	W = 2.26m D = 0.38m	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with moderate ironstone and rare charcoal flecks.	-
(141)	Fill of [143]	W = 2.18m D = 0.72m	Friable mid brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(142)	Fill of [143]	W = 0.50m D = 0.10m	Friable light orange-yellow-grey mixed sand.	-
[143]	Pit	W = 2.26m D = 1.15m	Sub-rectangular pit with irregular steep-sided profile and flat base.	2.30m
(132)	Fill of [135]	L = 1m ex. W = 2.50m D =0.25m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(133)	Fill of [135]	W = 2.50m D = 0.20m	Friable mid orange silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(134)	Fill of [135]	L = 2m ex. W = 1.5m D = 0.45m	Loose mid grey-orange silty sand with frequent ironstone throughout.	-
[135]	Pit	L = 1.5m ex. W = 2.70m D = 1.06m	Sub-circular pit with steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.50m
(144)	Fill of [147]	W = 2.55m D = 0.30m	Friable mid brown-grey sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-
(145)	Fill of [147]	W = 1.80m D = 0.32m	Friable mid brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(146)	Fill of [147]	W = 1.35m D = 0.50m	Loose mid brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
[147]	Pit	W = 2.55m D = 1.10m	Sub-circular pit with eroded U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(148)	Fill of [151]	W = 2.05m D = 0.25m	Friable dark red-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
(149)	Fill of [151]	W = 2.05m D = 0.66m	Compact mid red-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone and flint.	-
(150)	Fill of [151]	W = 2.05m D = 0.91m	Friable mid red-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
[151]	Pit	L = 2.75m W = 2.05m D = 0.91m	Sub-circular pit with steep-sided profile and flat base.	3.00m
(136)	Fill of [139]	W = 2.52m D = 0.23m	Compact mid dark brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone and flint.	-
(137)	Fill of [139]	W = 2.70m D = 0.35m	Compact light brown-orange silty sandy clay with moderate ironstone throughout.	-
(138)	Fill of [139]	W = 2.08m D = 0.45m	Friable light brown-orange loam sand with frequent ironstone.	-
[139]	Pit	W = 2.70m D = 1.03m	Sub-circular with squared base, Irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(158)	Fill of [161]	W = 2.70m D = 0.24m	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-
(159)	Fill of [161]	W = 1.93m D = 0.56m	Friable mid-light orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone throughout.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(160)	Fill of [161]	W = 1.04m D = 0.12m	Friable light-orange-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
[161]	Pit	L = 2.40m W = 2.70m D = 0.85m	Sub-circular pit with irregular/eroded U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m
(154)	Fill of [157]	W = 2.27m D = 0.15m	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with moderate ironstone.	-
(155)	Fill of [157]	W = 2.23m D = 0.23m	Friable mid grey-brown, silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(156)	Fill of [157]	W = 1.66m D = 0.54m	Friable light red-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone. Pottery, flint	-
[157]	Pit	L = 1.19m W = 2.27m D = 0.92m	Sub-rectangular with steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m
(167)	Fill of [170]	W = 2.82m D = 0.31m	Friable mid dark grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone, flint and rare charcoal flecks. Pottery, flint, SF17-23	-
(168)	Fill of [170]	W = 1.84m D = 0.68m	Friable mid brown silty sand with frequent ironstone, flint and charcoal flecks. SF24	-
(169)	Fill of [170]	W = 0.40m D = 0.15m	Loose mid-light brown-yellow sand.	-
[170]	Pit	W =2.82m D = 0.95m	Sub-rectangular in plan with rectangular base. Irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(175)	Fill of [178]	W = 3.32m D = 0.28m	Friable mid-dark grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(176)	Fill of [178]	W = 2.28m D = 0.55m	Friable mid brown silty sand with frequent ironstone. SF14, SF16	-
(177)	Fill of [178]	W = 1.62m D = 0.18m	Firm light brown-yellow sand with moderate ironstone.	-
[178]	Pit	L = 2.70m W = 2.36m D = 0.94m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.20m
(162)	Fill of [164]	W = 2.50m D = 0.17m	Compact mid-dark brown, silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
(163)	Fill of [164]	W = 2.47m D = 0.70m	Compact light brown-orange loam sand with moderate ironstone.	-
[164]	Pit	W = 2.70m D = 0.90m	Sub-circular in plan with rectangular base. Irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.50m
(171)	Fill of [174]	W = 3.25m D = 0.39m	Compact dark red-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(172)	Fill of [174]	W = 3.25m D = 0.65m	Compact mid red-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
(173)	Fill of [174]	W = 3.25m D = 0.75m	Friable dark grey-brown silty sand, moderate ironstone.	-
[174]	Pit	W = 3.25m D = 0.75m	Sub-circular, U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.60m
(214)	Fill of [215]	W = 2.50m D = 1.00m	Mid brown-orange silty sand with frequent angular stone.	-
[215]	Pit	W = 2.50m D = 1.00m	Sub-circular/square with steep-sided, irregular, U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(216)	Fill of [218]	W = 2.04m D = 0.14m	Mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	-
(217)	Fill of [218]	W = 2.00m D = 0.80m	Mid-light grey-brown silty sand with occasional small-large ironstone fragments and rare charcoal flecks. SF40-42	-
[218]	Pit	W = 2.04m D = 0.92m	Large sub-square pit with steep U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	3.10m
(223)	Fill of [226]	L = 2.86m W = 2.15m D = 0.28m	Compact light grey-brown silty sand with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones throughout. Some post-medieval glazed pottery recovered from the upper part of the fill.	-
(224)	Fill of [226]	L = 2.86m W = 2.15m D = 0.44m	Compact mid red-brown silty sand with frequent medium-large sub-angular stones. Animal bone, SF43-44	-
(225)	Fill of [226]	L = 2.86m W = 2.15m D = 0.18m	Friable dark red-brown silty sand with moderate medium sub-angular stones.	-
[226]	Pit	L = 2.86m W = 2.15m D = 0.90m	Sub-circular pit with steep sided U-shaped profile and concave base.	3.10m
(230)	Fill of [232]	L = 2.80m W = 0.65m D = 0.24m	Firm mid red-brown silty sand with angular ironstone and flint fragments throughout.	-
(231)	Fill of [232]	L = 2.80m W = 0.65m D = 0.46m	Firm mid orange-brown to mid brown-grey sandy silt with angular fragments of ironstone throughout.	-
[232]	Pit	L = 2.80m W = 0.65m D = 0.46m	Sub-rectangular pit with steep sides and flat base.	2.80m
(221)	Fill of [222]	W = 1.80m D = 0.15m	Compact light brown-orange sandy silt with frequent angular ironstone fragments.	-
(227)	Fill of [222]	W = 1.75m D = 0.58m	Compact mottled brown-orange silty sand with frequent angular ironstone fragments throughout. Worked flint	-
[222]	Pit	W = 1.80m D = 0.73m	Sub-circular pit with irregular steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.50m
(236)	Fill of [236]	W = 1.74m exc. D = 0.38m	Compact mid red-orange to pale brown sandy silt with frequent angular ironstone.	-
(237)	Fill of [236]	W = 1.35m exc. D = 0.28m	Firm mid red-pale brown sandy clay-silt with frequent ironstone throughout.	-
[238]	Pit	L = 3.90m W = 2.50m D = 0.66m	Sub-circular to sub-oval in plan. Upper edge eroded, irregular U-shaped profile and concave base.	1.40m

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(254)	Fill of [256]	W = 1.90m D = 0.46m	Mid-light brown-orange, silty clay sand with occasional small fragments of ironstone. SF47	-
(255)	Fill of [256]	W = 1.30m D = 0.30m	Compact mid-light brown-orange silty sand with frequent medium fragments of ironstone. SF48	-
[256]	Pit	W = 1.90m D = 0.80m	Sub-circular pit with eroded upper edges, steep U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.00m
(272)	Fill of [274]	W = 2.80m D = 0.58m	Firm light orange-brown sandy silt with moderate angular ironstone and occasional small angular flint throughout. Pottery	-
(273)	Fill of [274]	W = 2.80m D = 0.46m	Firm light orange-brown sandy silt with moderate angular ironstone and occasional small angular flint throughout.	-
[274]	Pit	L = 2.80 W = 2.00m D = 0.80m	Sub-rectangular/oval, irregular steep sloping sides, eroded upper edges and flat base.	3.30m
(264)	Fill of [267]	W = 2.05m D = 0.28	Friable dark orange-brown sandy silt with occasional angular ironstone and small flint nodules throughout.	-
(265)	Fill of [267]	W = 1.84m D = 0.60m	Friable light orange-brown sandy silt with frequent small angular ironstone and small flint nodules throughout.	-
(266)	Fill of [267]	W = 2.05m D = 0.50m	Compact mid orange-brown sandy clay silt with frequent ironstone throughout.	-
[267]	Pit	W = 2.80m D = 0.80m	Large pit, sub-circular in plan with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(318)	Fill of [321]	W = 2.30m D = 0.51m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional small angular ironstone fragments.	-
(319)	Fill of [321]	W = 1.62m D = 0.46m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional small ironstone fragments.	-
(320)	Fill of [321]	W = 0.48m D = 0.26m	Friable mid red-purple-brown sandy clay with rare small ironstone fragments.	-
[321]	Pit	L = 1.10m W = 2.30m D = 0.95m	Sub-oval, irregular steep sloping sides, uneven, irregular flat base.	2.60m
(299)	Fill of [303]	W = 3.80m D = 0.19m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with occasional small ironstone fragments. Pottery	-
(300)	Fill of [303]	W = 2.92m D = 0.52m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with moderate to frequent small angular ironstone fragments throughout.	-
(301)	Fill of [303]	W = 2.04m D = 0.57m	Friable mid orange-brown , sandy silt with ironstone fragments throughout.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(302)	Fill of [303]	W = 1.74m D = 0.14m	Friable mid dark orange-brown sandy silt with occasional small ironstone fragments.	-
[303]	Pit	L = 1.39m W = 3.00m D = 1.10m	Sub-rectangular, irregular steep sloping sides , irregular flat base.	2.80m
(304)	Fill of [306]	Data not present in archive	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent medium ironstone fragments.	-
(305)	Fill of [306]	Data not present in archive	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with occasional small ironstone fragments. Pottery	-
[306]	Pit	Data not present in archive	Sub-circular in plan.	2.90m
(268)	Fill of [271]	W = 2.40m D = 0.20m	Friable mid yellow-brown slightly sandy silt with ironstone. SF50	-
(269)	Fill of [271]	W = 2.20m D = 0.36m	Friable mid brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(270)	Fill of [271]	W = 1.44m D = 0.50m	Compact light brown-yellow silty sand, frequent ironstone.	-
[271]	Pit	L = 2.70m W = 2.45m D = 0.92m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m
(278)	Fill of [280]	W = 2.80m D = 0.20m	Compact mid brown-orange sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-
(279)	Fill of [280]	W = 2.40m D = 0.90m	Compact dark brown-orange sandy silt with moderate ironstone. Worked flint	-
[280]	Pit	W = 2.80m D = 1.10m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(290)	Fill of [293]	W = 2.30m D = 0.36m	Compact mid grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone	-
(291)	Fill of [293]	W = 1.90m D = 0.32m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(292)	Fill of [293]	W = 1.20m D = 0.28m	Friable dark red-brown sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-
[293]	Pit	L = 3.10m W = 2.30m D = 0.96m	Sub-square pit with irregular U shaped profile and flat base.	2.50m
(313)	Fill of [316]	W = 2.30m D = 0.22	Firm mid orange-brown sandy loam with moderate ironstone and rare charcoal flecks.	-
(314)	Fill of [316]	W = 1.68m D = 0.56m	Firm mid orange-brown sandy loam with frequent ironstone.	-
(315)	Fill of [316]	W = 0.38m D = 0.34m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy loam with frequent ironstone.	-
[316]	Pit	W = 2.30m D = 1.12m	Sub-oval pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edge and concave base.	3.10m
(332)	Fill of [333]	W = 2.20m D = 0.98m	Friable dark grey-orange sand with moderate ironstone.	-
[333]	Pit	W = 2.20m D = 0.98m	Sub-rectangular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m
(309)	Fill of [312]	W = 2.60m D = 0.30m	Compact mid-dark brown-orange sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(310)	Fill of [312]	W = 2.35m D = 0.38m	Compact light orange-brown snady silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(311)	Fill of [312]	W = 1.30m D = 0.30m	Friable light orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
[312]	Pit	W = 2.60m D = 0.85m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.60m
(342)	Fill of [345]	W = 2.56m D = 0.11m	Friable light grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone	-
(343)	Fill of [345]	W = 2.50m D = 0.64m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone and charcoal flecks.	-
(344)	Fill of [345]	W = 0.82m D = 0.25m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone and occasional charcoal flecks. Sample 8	-
[345]	Pit	W = 2.57m D = 0.87m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.60m
(334)	Fill of [337]	W = 1.83m D = 0.03	Friable dark grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(335)	Fill of [337]	W = 2.86m D = 0.34m	Friable mid brown-orange sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-
(336)	Fill of [337]	W = 1.50 D = 0.43	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone and occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery, SF65	-
[337]	Pit	W = 2.86m D = 0.80	Sub-rectangular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.20m
(350)	Fill of [353]	W = 1.80m D = 0.20m	Firm mid grey-brown sandy loam with moderate ironstone and flint.	-
(351)	Fill of [353]	W = 1.70m D = 0.45m	Compact mid orange-brown sandy loam with moderate ironstone and flint. Pottery	-
(352)	Fill of [353]	W = 1.40m D = 0.35m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy loam with moderate ironstone and flint.	-
[353]	Pit	W = 1.80m D = 1.00m	Sub-circular with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(338)	Fill of [341]	W = 2.76m D = 0.20m	Friable light grey-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(339)	Fill of [341]	W = 2.32m D = 0.43m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(340)	Fill of [341]	W = 1.60m D = 0.45m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone and occasional charcoal flecks.	-
[341]	Pit	W = 2.76m D = 1.00m	Sub-oval pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.10m
(391)	Fill of [390]	W = 2.60m D = 0.29m	Friable mid brown-grey silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(392)	Fill of [390]	W = 2.60m D = 0.70m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with moderste ironstone.	-
[390]	Pit	W = 2.65m D = 0.99m	Sub-circular with asymmetrical, irregular U-shaped profile and concave base.	2.60m
(381)	Fill of [384]	W = 2.18m D = 0.16m	Friable light brown-grey sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(382)	Fill of [384]	W = 1.83m D = 0.60m	Friable mid red-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone, occasional flint and charcoal flecks.	-
(383)	Fill of [384]	W = 1.68m D = 0.28m	Friable mid red-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone and occasional charcoal flecks.	-
[384]	Pit	W = 2.18m D = 1.02m	Sub-circular/oval pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(376)	Fill of [380]	W = 2.90m D = 0.20m	Compact mid -dark brown-grey-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(377)	Fill of [380]	W = 2.70m D = 0.40m	Compact mid-dark orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(378)	Fill of [380]	W = 1.90m D = 0.32m	Friable light orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(379)	Fill of [380]	W = 1.35m D = 0.28m	Compact mid-dark orange sand with moderate ironstone.	-
[380]	Pit	W = 2.90m D = 1.18m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.60m
(393)	Fill of [397]	W = 2.50m D = 0.19m	Friable light grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(394)	Fill of [397]	W = 1.78m D = 0.52m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(395)	Fill of [397]	W = 1.18m D = 0.30m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone and occasional charcoal flecks.	-
(396)	Fill of [397]	W = 0.92m D = 0.10m	Friable mid brown sandy silt.	-
[397]	Pit	W = 2.50m D = 0.96m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.60m
(410)	Fill of [414]	W = 1.90m D = 0.16m	Compact mid-dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(411)	Fill of [414]	W = 1.70m D = 0.52m	Compact light orange-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(412)	Fill of [414]	W = 1.50m D = 0.36m	Friable light orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(413)	Fill of [414]	W = 1.42 D = 0.44m	Firm light orange-brown sand with occasional ironstone.	-
[414]	Pit	W = 1.84m D = 1.20m	Sub-square pit with irregular steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(460)	Fill of [462]	W = 2.12m D = 0.42m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(461)	Fill of [462]	W = 1.90m D = 0.30m	Friable mid brown-yellow silty sand.	-
[462]	Pit	W = 2.12m D = 0.65m	Sub-circular pit with U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(441)	Fill of [444]	W = 2.20m D = 0.17m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(442)	Fill of [444]	W = 2.20m D = 0.67m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone, rare charcoal flecks.	-
(443)	Fill of [444]	W = 1.14m D = 0.24m	Friable mid brown-yellow silty sand.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
[444]	Pit	W = 2.20m D = 0.94m	Sub-square pit with U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.90m
(405)	Fill of [409]	W = 2.24m D = 0.04m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(406)	Fill of [409]	W = 2.20m D = 0.37m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone. Worked flint	-
(407)	Fill of [409]	W = 1.64m D = 0.26m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone, rare charcoal flecks.	-
(408)	Fill of [409]	W = 0.90m D = 0.18m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand.	-
[409]	Pit	W = 2.24m D = 0.75m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(434)	Fill of [437]	W = 2.74m D = 0.40m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(435)	Fill of [437]	W = 1.92m D = 0.25m	Friable mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(436)	Fill of [437]	W = 1.18m D = 0.20m	Friable mid yellow-brown sand with rare ironstone.	-
[437]	Pit	W = 2.66m D = 0.85m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	3.30m
(469)	Fill of [462]	W = 2.24m D = 0.08m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(470)	Fill of [473]	W = 2.24m D = 0.44m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(471)	Fill of [473]	W = 1.42m D = 0.21m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(472)	Fill of [473]	W = 1.30m D = 0.18m	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand with rare ironstone.	-
[473]	Pit	W = 2.24m D = 0.84m	Sub-square pit with U-shaped profile, eroded edges and flat base.	3.10m
(465)	Fill of [468]	W = 2.60m D = 0.16m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(466)	Fill of [468]	W = N/A D = 0.50m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(467)	Fill of [468]	W = N/A D = 0.51	Friable mid brown silty clay sand with frequent ironstone.	-
[468]	Pit	W = 2.60m D = 0.85m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and concave base.	2.70m
(447)	Fill of [450]	W = 1.40m D = 0.49m	Friable mid yellow-brown silty sand with rare ironstone.	-
(448)	Fill of [450]	W = 2.80m D = 0.77m	Friable mid-light orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	-
(449)	Fill of [450]	W = 1.85m D = 0.19m	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with rare ironstone.	-
[450]	Pit	W = 2.80m D = 1.07m	Sub-circular pit with steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.60m
(455)	Fill of [459]	W = 2.20m D = 0.26m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(456)	Fill of [459]	W = 1.78m D = 0.30m	Friable mid-light orange-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(457)	Fill of [459]	W = 1.52m D = 0.50m	Friable mid-light orange-brown silty sand with moderate ironstone.	-
(458)	Fill of [459]	W = 1.50m D = 0.30m	Friable mid brown silty sand with rare ironstone.	-
[459]	Pit	W = 2.50m D = 1.04m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	3.20m
(431)	Fill of [430]	W = 1.20m D = 0.18m	Friable mid brown-red sandy silt with occasional ironstone and flint. SF70	-
(432)	Fill of [430]	W = 1.84m D = 0.30m	Friable dark brown-orange sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(433)	Fill of [430]	W = 2.10m D = 0.28m	Firm dark orange-brown clay loam.	-
[430]	Pit	W = 2.10m D = 0.72m	Sub-square pit with square base. Irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m
(1104)	Fill of [1103]	W = 2.00m exc. D = 0.80m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy gravel/silt.	-
(1105)	Fill of [1103]	W = 0.58m D = 0.10m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with gravel.	-
(1106)	Fill of [1103]	W = 0.50m D = 0.26m	Mid orange-brown sandy silt with gravel.	-
[1103]	Pit	W = 2.50m D = 0.80m	Sub-oval pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(425)	Fill of [429]	W = 2.20m D = 0.20m	Firm light orange-brown sandy silt with occasional ironstone.	-
(426)	Fill of [429]	W = 1.56m D = 0.60m	Firm mid orange-brown with grey-brown mottling silty sand with occasional ironstone. SF66	-
(427)	Fill of [429]	W = 0.64m D = 0.62m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone and flint.	-
(428)	Fill of [429]	W = 0.94m D = 0.24m	Friable mid yellow-orange sand with rare ironstone.	-
[429]	Pit	W = 2.24m D = 0.90m	Sub-square pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.80m
(399)	Fill of [402]	W = 0.98m D = 0.20m	Firm mid red-brown sandyclay silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(400)	Fill of [402]	W = 1.16m D = 0.19m	Friable mid orange-brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(401)	Fill of [402]	W = 2.32m D = 0.80m	Friable mid brown sandy silt with moderate ironstone.	-
[402]	Pit	W = 2.32m D = 1.08m	Sub-rectangular pit with U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.50m
(388)	Fill of [398]	W = 2.10m exc. D = 0.48m	Friable mid pink-red sandy silt with moderate ironstone and flint.	-
(389)	Fill of [398]	W = 1.10 D = 0.20m	Firm mid brown-red clay loam with frequent ironstone.	-
[398]	Pit	W = 2.10m D = 0.82m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.00m
(385)	Fill of [387]	W = 2.00m D = 0.21m	Friable mid pink-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone. Pottery	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(386)	Fill of [387]	W = 1.57m D = 0.32m	Friable mid pink-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(403)	Fill of [387]	W = 1.11m D = 0.18m	Friable mid pink-brown silty sand with frequent ironstone.	
(404)	Fill of [387]	W = 0.89m D = 0.15m	Firm mid pink-brown silty clay sand with occasional ironstone.	
[387]	Pit	W = 2.00m D = 0.81m	Sub-circular pit with irregular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.80m
(354)	Fill of [360]	W = 1.22m D = 0.32m	Firm mid red-brown sandy clay silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(355)	Fill of [360]	W = 0.94m D = 0.05	Firm mid orange silty clay.	-
(356)	Fill of [360]	W = 1.62m D = 0.31m	Friable mid red-brown sandy clay silt with occasional ironstone.	-
(357)	Fill of [360]	W = 0.57m D = 0.05m	Firm mid orange silty clay.	-
(358)	Fill of [360]	W = 1.94m D = 0.56m	Friable mottled light brown to mid brown sandy silt with occasional ironstone.	-
(359)	Fill of [360]	W = 0.84m D = 0.42m	Friable mid red-brown sand with occasional ironstone.	-
[360]	Pit	W = 2.04m D = 0.93m	Sub-rectangular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.90m
(328)	Fill of [331]	W = 1.36m D = 0.26m	Friable mid red-brown sandy clay silt with frequent ironstone.	-
(329)	Fill of [331]	W = 2.12m D = 0.69m	Friable mid red-brown sandy clay with frequent ironstone and flint and rare charcoal flecks.	-
(330)	Fill of [331]	W = 2.42m D = 0.40m	Friable mid red-brown sandy clay with occasional ironstone fragments.	-
[331]	Pit	W = 2.42m D = 0.96m	Sub-rectangular pit with irregaular U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.70m
(361)	Fill of [367]	W - 2.10m D - 0.24m	Firm mid brown silty sand with rare small stones and charcoal flecks.	
(362)	Fill of [367]	W - 1.84m D - 0.14m	Friable mid red-brown-grey silty sand and clay with occasional ironstone.	
(363)	Fill of [367]	W - 1.80m D - 0.32m	Firm mid-light red-brown with white patches, silty sand, rare stones and charcoal flecks.	
(364)	Fill of [367]	W - 1.88m D - 0.22m	Firm mid red-brown light grey streaks silty sand with some clay and rare small stones and charcoal flecks.	
(365)	Fill of [367]	W - 2.06m D - 0.16m	Friable mid brown-orange silty sand and rare small stones. Manganese staining.	
(366)	Fill of [367]	W - 0.30m D - 0.22m	Friable mid brown-red sand.	
[367]	Pit	W - 2.56m D - 0.98m	Sub-rectangular pit with steep-sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	2.70m

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(294)	Fill of [298]	W = 1.63 D = 0.39m	Firm mid orange to light brown sandy clay with occasional ironstone.	-
(295)	Fill of [298]	W = 1.22m D = 0.20m	Firm mid orange clay silt.	-
(296)	Fill of [298]	W = 2.62m D = 0.49m	Friable mid brown sandy clay with occasional ironstone and rare charcoal flecks. SF63-64	-
(297)	Fill of [298]	W = 2.98m D = 0.38m	Friable mid red-brown sandy silt with occasional ironstone flint and charcoal flecks. SF 61-62	-
[298]	Pit	W = 2.98m D = 1.06m	Sub-rectangular pit with irregular U-shaped profile and flat base.	3.00m
(246)	Fill of [250]	W = 2.43m D = 0.32m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone and flint, rare charcoal flecks. SF45	-
(247)	Fill of [250]	W = 2.26m D = 0.34m	Firm mid-light white-yellow with orange mottling sandy clay with rare ironstone and rare charcoal flecks.	-
(248)	Fill of [250]	W = 2.00m D = 0.34m	Firm light white-grey with mid brown-mottling sandy clay with rare ironstone and charcoal flecks.	-
(249)	Fill of [250]	W = 0.82m D = 0.12m	Compact mid orange sandy clay with occasional ironstone.	-
[250]	Pit	W = 2.43m D = 1.14m	Sub-rectangular pit with U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	2.70m
(259)	Fill of [263]	W = 2.90m D = 0.29m	Friable mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional ironstone, flint and charcoal flecks. SF49	-
(260)	Fill of [263]	W = 2.90m D = 0.52m	Friable light brown with white mottling sandy clay with occasional ironstone.	-
(261)	Fill of [263]	W = 0.80m D = 0.29m	Firm mid orange with white streaks silty clay with rare ironstone.	-
(262)	Fill of [263]	W = 1.52m D = 0.45m	Firm light orange-brown with white streaks, sandy clay with occasional ironstone.	-
[263]	Pit	W = 2.90m D = 1.02m	Sub-rectangular pit with U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and flat base.	3.30m
(283)	Fill of [289]	W = 3.20m D = 0.21m	Friable mid yellow-brown silty sand with rare ironstone and flint. Pottery, SF51-53	-
(284)	Fill of [289]	W = 3.20 D = 0.20m	Friable mid brown-grey with orange mottling and iron panning throughout. Silty sand with occasional ironstone.	-
(285)	Fill of [289]	W = 0.24m D = 0.10m	Friable mid grey silty sand with rare small stones and charcoal flecks.	-
(286)	Fill of [289]	W = 2.80m D = 0.70m	Firm mid mottled brown-grey silty clay sand with occasional ironstone and rare charcoal flecks. SF54-60	-
(287)	Fill of [289]	W = 0.92m D = 0.10m	Firm mid brown-orange sandy clay.	-

Fill and cut	Type	Dimensions	Description of context and associated finds	Pit spacing centre to centre, NW-SE (approx.)
(288)	Fill of [289]	W = 1.32m D = 0.18m	Firm mid-light grey clay with rare ironstone.	-
[289]	Pit	W = 3.20m D = 1.20m	Sub-square pit with U-shaped profile and flat base.	Last pit in sequence

- Pits excavated as part of the trial trench evaluation (Walker, Wolframm-Murray 2012)

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