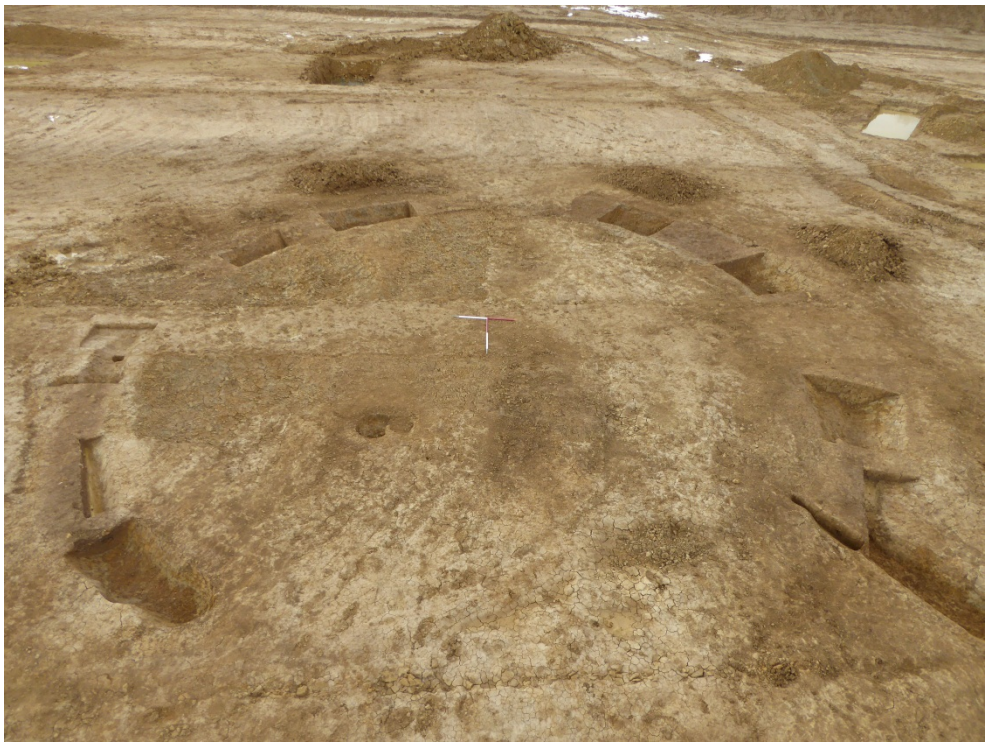

Archaeological excavation of land to the east of Bloxham Road, Banbury Oxfordshire November 2014 – March 2015

Report No. 16/83

Author: Claire Finn

Illustrations: Amir Bassir, Claire Finn

Project Manager: Adam Yates
Site Code: OXCMS 2014.244
NGR: SP 4457 3894

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Quality control and sign off**:**

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS No: Molanort1 -251288**	
Project title	Archaeological excavation of land to the east of Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, November 2014 – March 2015	
MOLA Northampton undertook a programme of archaeological excavation at Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. The excavation revealed a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, recut at least once, containing one roundhouse gully, pits and postholes. These features were dated to the late Iron Age by quantities of pottery recovered from the roundhouse gully and pits. Remnant medieval furrows were observed across the site. Post-medieval features included drainage gullies, planting gullies and an area of modern disturbance.		
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (BCC 2011), Trial Trench Evaluation (Carlyle 2012)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Late Iron Age ditched enclosure, roundhouse gully, medieval ridge and furrow	
Significant finds	Late Iron Age pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Oxfordshire	
Site address	Land to the east of Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire	
OS co-ordinates	SP 4457 3894	
Area (hectares)	0.47ha	
Height (aOD)	133m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originator	Richard Oram, Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Myk Flitcroft, CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor	Jim Burke, MOLA	
Project Managers	Adam Yates, MOLA	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	24/11/2014	
End date	26/03/2015	
ARCHIVES	**Location**	**Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical	Oxfordshire Museums Service Acc no: OXCMS:2014.244	Pottery; animal bone, tile, flint, slag; tobacco pipe; flots
Paper		Plans and sections on permatrace, client report, site records
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological excavation of land to the east of Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, November 2014 – March 2015	
Serial title & volume	16/83	
Author(s)	Claire Finn	
Page numbers	43	
Date	29 June 2016, revised 06 July 2017	

Contents

Figures

Tables

Archaeological excavation of land to the east of Bloxham Road, Banbury Oxfordshire November 2014 – March 2015

Abstract

MOLA Northampton undertook a programme of archaeological excavation at Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. The excavation revealed a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, recut at least once, containing one roundhouse gully, pits and postholes. These features were dated to the late Iron Age by quantities of pottery recovered from the roundhouse gully and pits. Remnant medieval furrows were observed across the site. Post-medieval features included drainage gullies, planting gullies and an area of modern disturbance.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client, to undertake a programme of archaeological excavation on land east of Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire (SP 44573894; Fig 1). Outline planning permission was sought from Cherwell District Council for a residential development of up to 145 dwellings with associated access and services (Planning Application: 12/00080/OUT). Planning permission was granted at appeal on 23 September 2013 (Appeal Reference: APP/C3105/A/12/2178521). The archaeological excavation was undertaken to fulfil Condition 9 of the planning permission, which required a programme of further archaeological work to be completed prior to development.

This report follows a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CgMs Consulting (Flitcroft 2014) which was approved prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The work mitigated the construction impacts on the archaeological resource within the approved scheme of works.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

Banbury is a market town and civil parish in the Cherwell District of Oxfordshire, on the River Cherwell. It lies 34 km north-west of the Oxford. The town has its origins in the early medieval period, growing from 5th-century Saxon settlement. Earlier Iron Age and Roman settlement in the area is also known. The proposed development site, which comprises a 5.8ha sub-rectangular arable field, is located to the south of Banbury, and to the east of Bloxham Road (A361). The site is bounded to the west by Bloxham Road and to the north by the route of Salt Way, a historic route now used as a bridleway, aligned east-west. Beyond this is an area of modern housing development. The eastern and southern limits of the site are defined by hedgerows. The area of the excavation comprised a smaller rectangular area, 0.47ha in size, situated in the north-east corner of the site (Fig 1).

The bedrock geology comprises Jurassic and Triassic Lias Group limestone, overlain by Whitby Mudstone Formation which comprises dark grey fossiliferous mudstone and siltstone (BGS 2015). The trial trench excavation identified an underlying natural of orangey-brown sandy silty clay with ironstone, overlain by a subsoil of soft brown clayey

sandy silt with ironstone pebbles between 0.10-0.20m deep. The overlying ploughsoil comprised soft, mid greyish-brown organic clayey silt between 0.30-0.20m deep. The site itself is relatively level, lying at 133m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.2 Historical and Archaeological background

An archaeological heritage desk-based assessment has previously been undertaken by EDP (Lewis 2012), which included a search of the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The following historic background is summarised from that document.

The DBA concluded that the site contained no designated heritage assets, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or registered battlefields. Five listed buildings are located within the vicinity of the site. These include a Grade II Listed late 17th-century farmhouse at Crouch Farm, 750m west of the site (HER 17814). A group of listed buildings is located south of the site within the grounds of Wykham Park. These comprise the 17th-century Wykham Park Hall and its walls, gate piers and iron gates (HER 11117 and 4730), and the 18th-century Tudor Hall School (HER 26120). Wykham Park itself lies 800m to the south of the site. The 18th-century farmhouse at Wykham Farm, to the south-east of the site, is Grade II Listed (HER 17186).

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic

Neolithic scrapers and a leaf-shaped arrowhead were found 800m to the north-west of the site on Crouch Hill (HER 2812). A polished Neolithic greenstone axe, probably find representing casual loss, was found 1km to the west of the site (HER 962). However, potential Neolithic settlement may be represented by a causewayed enclosure and pits identified over 700m south-west of the site by aerial photography (HER 16016 and 16996). A flint artefact (HER 4732) and undated oval enclosure (HER 5799) have also been identified further afield, around 1.2km to the south-west.

Bronze Age

A Bronze Age axehead was also recovered from Crouch Hill during the field survey (HER 2812). Two Bronze Age barrows have been identified from aerial photographs around 650m to the south-east of the site near Wykham Farm (HER 13471).

Iron Age and Roman

No Iron Age activity was previously known in the area of the site. A Roman villa site was recorded in the late 19th-century, 1km south of the site and on the edge of Wykham Park. The recorded finds included structures, a stone-vaulted kiln, human inhumations, a well, tesserae, coins, pottery and animal bone (HER 1713). The site is now built over. A small farmstead was partially excavated in the early 1960s to the west of the site south of Broughton Road (HER 5378). Finds included human bone, structural remains including a circular building, coins and a brooch. An undescribed Roman period spotfind is recorded close by (HER 26161).

Medieval

A medieval deer park, bounded by a ditch, lies to the north-west of the site on the summit of Crouch Hill (HER 11119). Historical records date the enclosure of the hill as parkland for Hugh de Avalon in 1215. Medieval pottery recovered from the base of the hill on the north side is thought to represent manuring deposits (HER 15850).

Wykham Park to the south originated in the medieval period, with the manor being issued a licence to crenelate in 1331 (HER 11118). The site of a former medieval chapel is recorded to the north of the Manor House (HER 2574). A Deserted Medieval

Village (DMV) lies within the boundary of the park, possibly to the south-west of the house where a hollow-way and rectilinear enclosures have been identified from cropmarks (HER 1100). In this area, deep ploughing pulled up curved ironstone blocks from a well in the 1980s, and pottery and other finds have also been identified.

The northern boundary to the site is defined by a track known as Salt Way (HER 8857). It has been hypothesised that this track is a remnant of a salt transportation network, either locally, or from production centres in the West Midlands to London and the south.

Post-medieval

Wykham Hall and the surrounding estate underwent changes and additions during the post-medieval period. The parkland around the hall was created by the Chamberlayne family sometime before 1688 (HER 11116).To the east of the park boundary, a post-medieval fishpond was constructed (HER 4731).

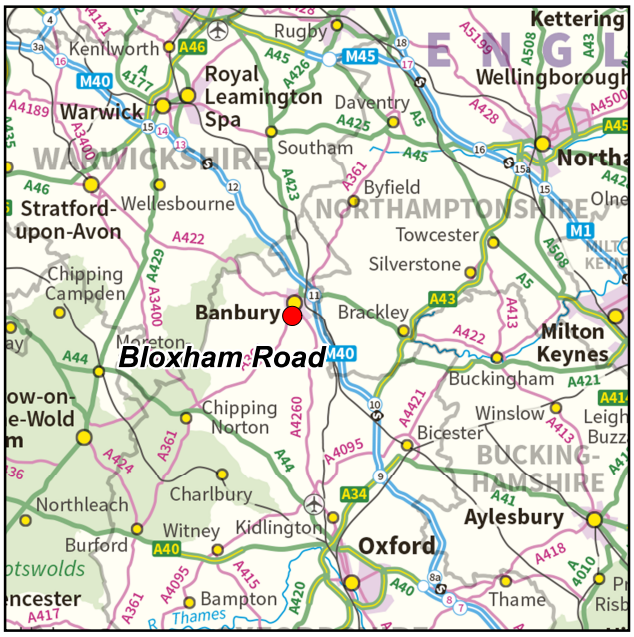
Some industrial activity also took place in the vicinity of the site during this period. To the north-west of the site, a clay extraction pit and brickyard formerly stood (HER 12572), the former noted on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1883. A post-mill in that location was demolished by 1823. A larger area of quarries to the north are also recorded on the 1883 Ordnance Survey Map (HER 85).

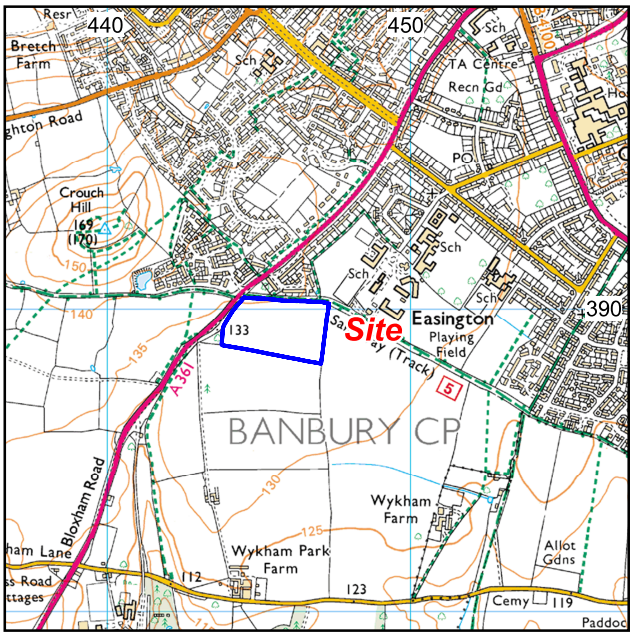
Previous archaeological work

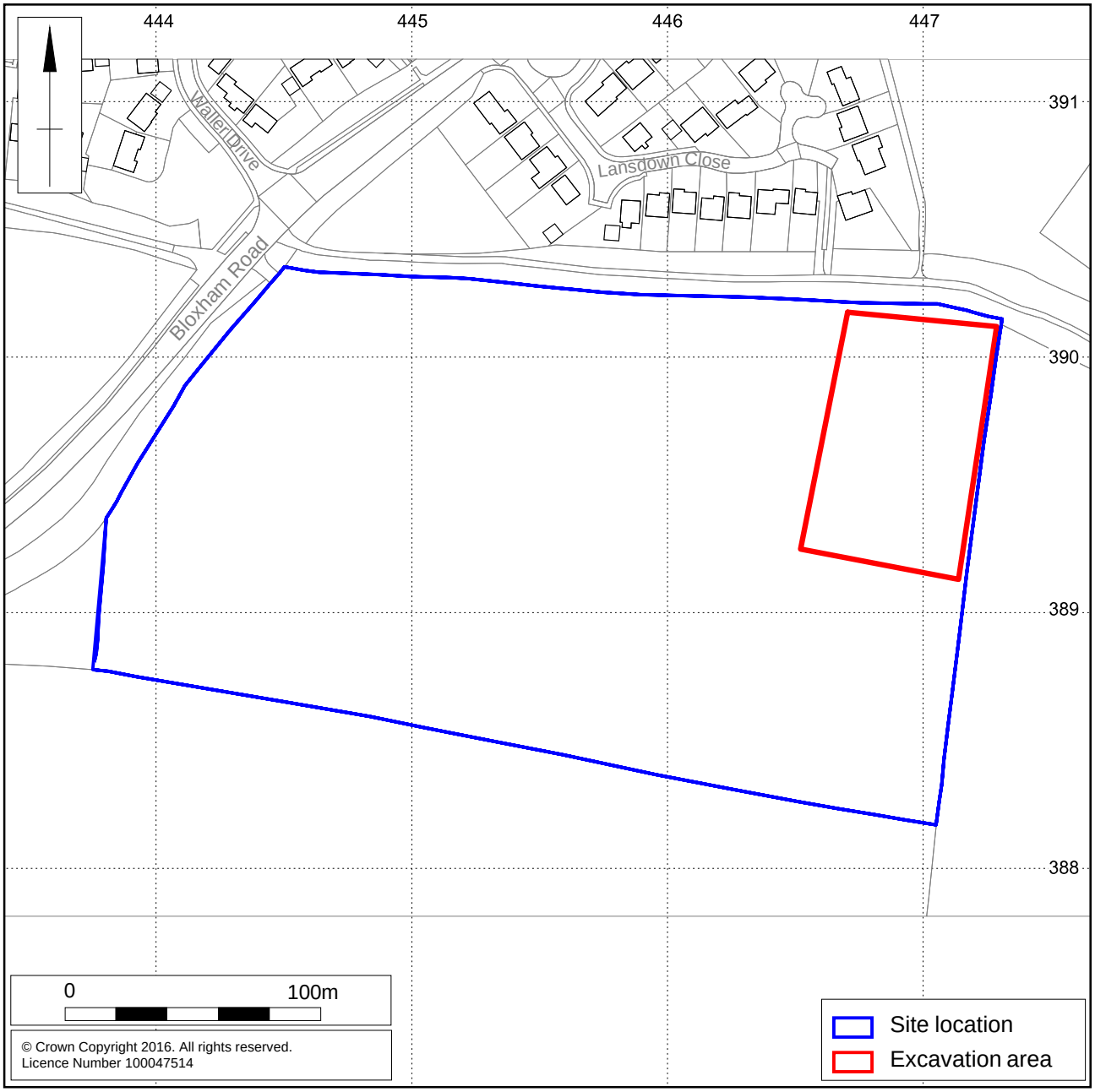
A number of previous archaeological evaluations and investigations have taken place on the site, including the archaeological heritage desk-based assessment mentioned above (Lewis 2012).

A magnetometer survey was undertaken in 2011 (Bartlett 2011). This identified a number of features within the boundaries of the proposed development site, including a linear feature aligned north-north-east by south-south-west, thought to be a trackway, and a sub-rectangular enclosure in the north-east corner of the site. An apparent circular feature was contained inside the enclosure. Other possible enclosures and linear features were also identified.

Following this, the archaeological record was evaluated by trial trenching (Carlyle 2012). The trenching identified that the enclosure and circular roundhouse gully within were of late Iron Age date, possibly with two phases of settlement. A very small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the enclosure ditch, and some slag and hammerscale, suggesting metalworking was carried out nearby. The majority of the other linear features were identified as of late medieval or post-medieval date, and were thought probably to be the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.







Scale 1:2,500

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:500

Features within the excavated area at Banbury Road Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The primary objective of the archaeological works was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site within its cultural and environmental setting.

The objectives of the work as defined by the WSI were as follows:

- to expose and investigate surviving archaeological features in the immediate vicinity of the enclosure ditch and interior roundhouse identified in the trial trenching;
- to determine the date, character, function and significance of any such features;
- to undertake a programme of post-excavation analysis assessing the potential of the remains to contribute to wider research agendas and the scope for dissemination of the project results to a wider audience, and;
- to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Oxfordshire HER.

Research Framework

The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined in the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Hey and Hind 2014). In particular, the current programme of archaeological work has potential to contribute to study of late prehistoric settlement character in the claylands of north-east Oxfordshire. Research aims for the later Bronze Age and Iron Age Period as described by Lambrick (in Hey and Hind 2014) which are addressed by the site include; the use of environmental samples to identify landscape and environmental change, the exploration of enclosed settlements and roundhouse structures, and the examination of sites for metal-working.

3.2 Methodology

The works were carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Flitcroft 2014), as well as with national standards given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (2014a), as well as the Historic England guidance document *MoRPHE* (HE 2015).

Topsoil stripping was undertaken to the relevant archaeological layer over an area approximately 4750 square metres (*c*.0.48ha; Fig 1). This area was centred on the key archaeological target area, namely the rectangular enclosure in the north-east part of the development site.

The excavation area was located using a survey grade GPS (Leica System 1200). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under continuous archaeological supervision with a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to reveal the archaeological remains. All archaeological remains were cleaned by hand, planned to scale, and photographed. The excavation areas were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn site plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of excavation were recorded. Recording methodology followed the standard Northampton MOLA context recording system with context sheets, cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and digital photographs (MOLA 2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. The record was supplemented by direct annotations of the site general plan as required. All levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum with significant structures or areas of complex stratigraphy planned in greater detail. Sections of sampled features were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate.

All discrete features were sampled to no less than 50% of the whole, and were fully excavated where deposits contained artefacts or residues of particular archaeological interest. Artefacts and soil samples were collected by hand. Hand spoil and the surface of archaeological features were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval from secure contexts. Environmental samples were sought in deposits from secure and uncontaminated contexts which had a potential for the recovery of charcoal, carbonised plant remains, industrial waste, and other ecofacts. A minimum of 40 litres was taken for flotation or 100% of the fill where this was less than 40 litres.

3.3 General stratigraphy

The natural deposits were shown to be light to mid-orange-brown sandy silty clays, with occasional ironstone pebbles. Overlying this was a subsoil of mid-brown clayey sandy silt. The topsoil was ploughsoil of mid-grey-brown clayey silt, combining to an average overall depth of between 0.30m to 0.45m.

Scale 1:500

The Iron Age Enclosure Fig 3

4 THE LATE IRON AGE ENCLOSURE

4.1 The early ditch system

Two associated ditches in the north-east of the site formed an early ditch system which predates the main enclosure.

Ditch [170]

This ditch was 18.8m long by 0.80m wide, and was aligned north-south (Fig 6). To the north, the ditch ended in a rounded terminal [22], 0.80m wide by 0.50m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 6, S.3). The fills comprised compact dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional burnt stone, and, in the lower fill, charcoal and animal bone (21, 20). The fills were cut by a modern field drain.

In the middle of the ditch, it had a U-shaped profile with a shallow concave base, with a homogeneous fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay (Fig 6, S.34). Although it did not produce any dating evidence, the ditch was shown to predate the rectangular enclosure [173], which cut across it.

To the south, the ditch terminal [126] was wider and deeper; 1.42m wide and 0.60m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 4, Fig 6, S.27). The terminal fills (122-125) comprised variants of brown silty clay, occasionally containing charcoal (125) or burnt stone (123). It was cut by a land drain [119] and a furrow [121]. The ditch can be reasonably assumed to be contemporary with similar ditch [9] to the east.

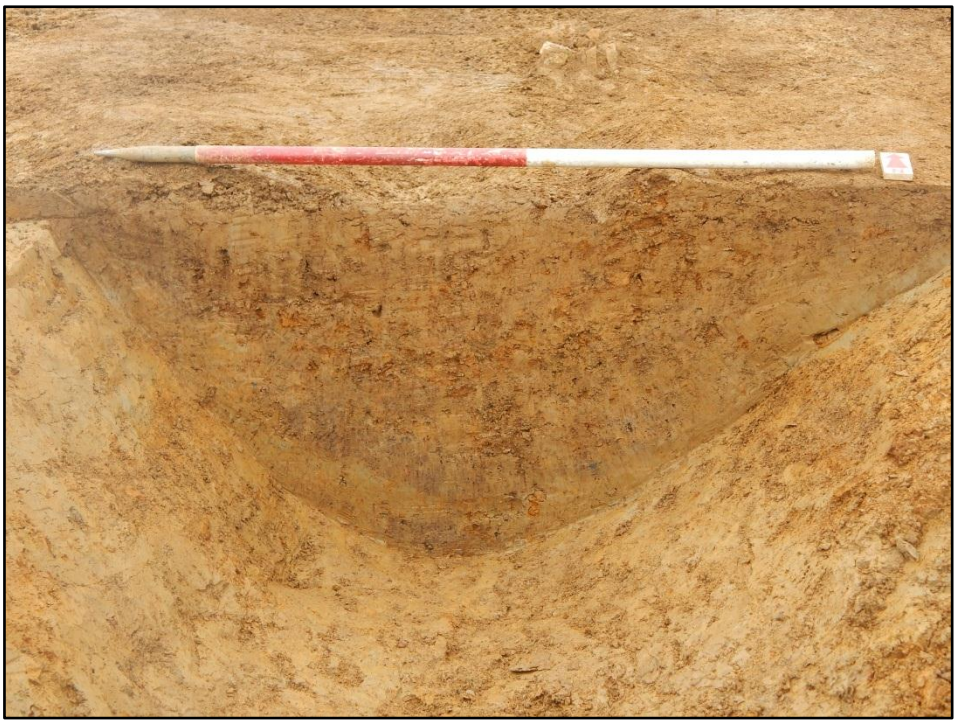
Ditch [9]

A linear ditch [9], aligned east-west, was situated 7.0m south of ditch [170] and to the east of the ring ditch, possibly predating the enclosure ditch.

To the west, the ditch terminated with a broad rounded end [109], the upper fill of which contained some slag and Iron Age pottery, as well as charcoal (106) (Fig 6, S.26). To the east, the ditch was 0.83m wide by 0.54m deep, with a steep-sided U-shaped profile (Fig 6, S.2, Fig 5). The ditch had several fills, comprising variations of compact mid yellow-grey or yellow-brown silty clay, some with frequent charcoal flecks.

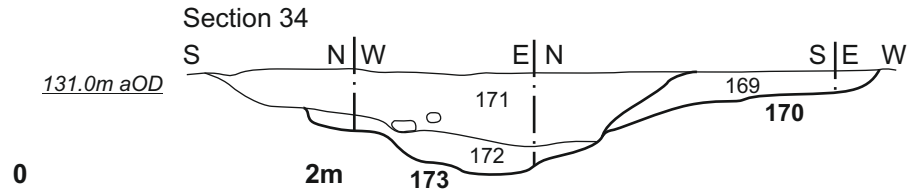
The western terminal [109] was truncated by pit [112], which was 1.12m wide by 0.56m deep, circular, steep sides and a flat base (Fig 6, S.26). The primary fill of hard mid-blue-orange silty clay, probably formed during natural erosion of the sides (111), was overlain by grey-brown silty clay (110).

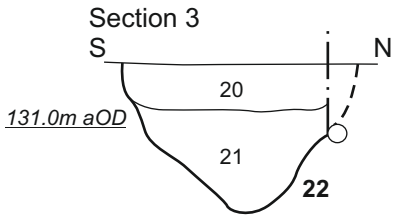
The ditch is considered to be contemporary with ditch [170] with which it bears some similarities. These two ditches seem to form an angled entranceway towards the roundhouse ring ditch, which would suggest the ring ditch may have had its origins in this period.

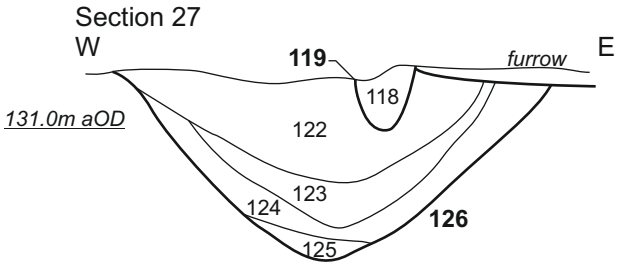


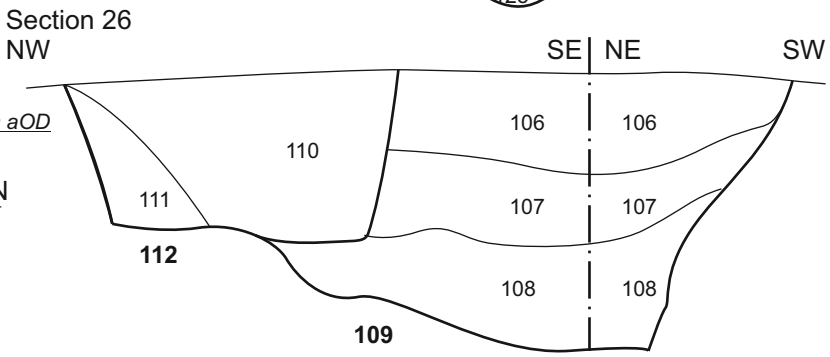
Ditch terminal [126], looking north Fig 4

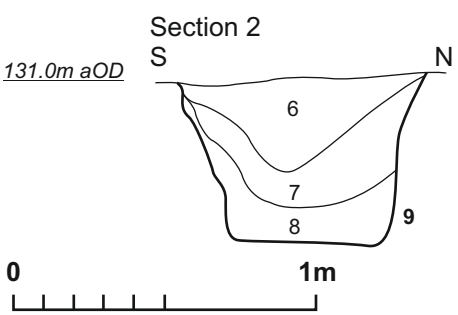
Ditch [9], looking west Fig 5



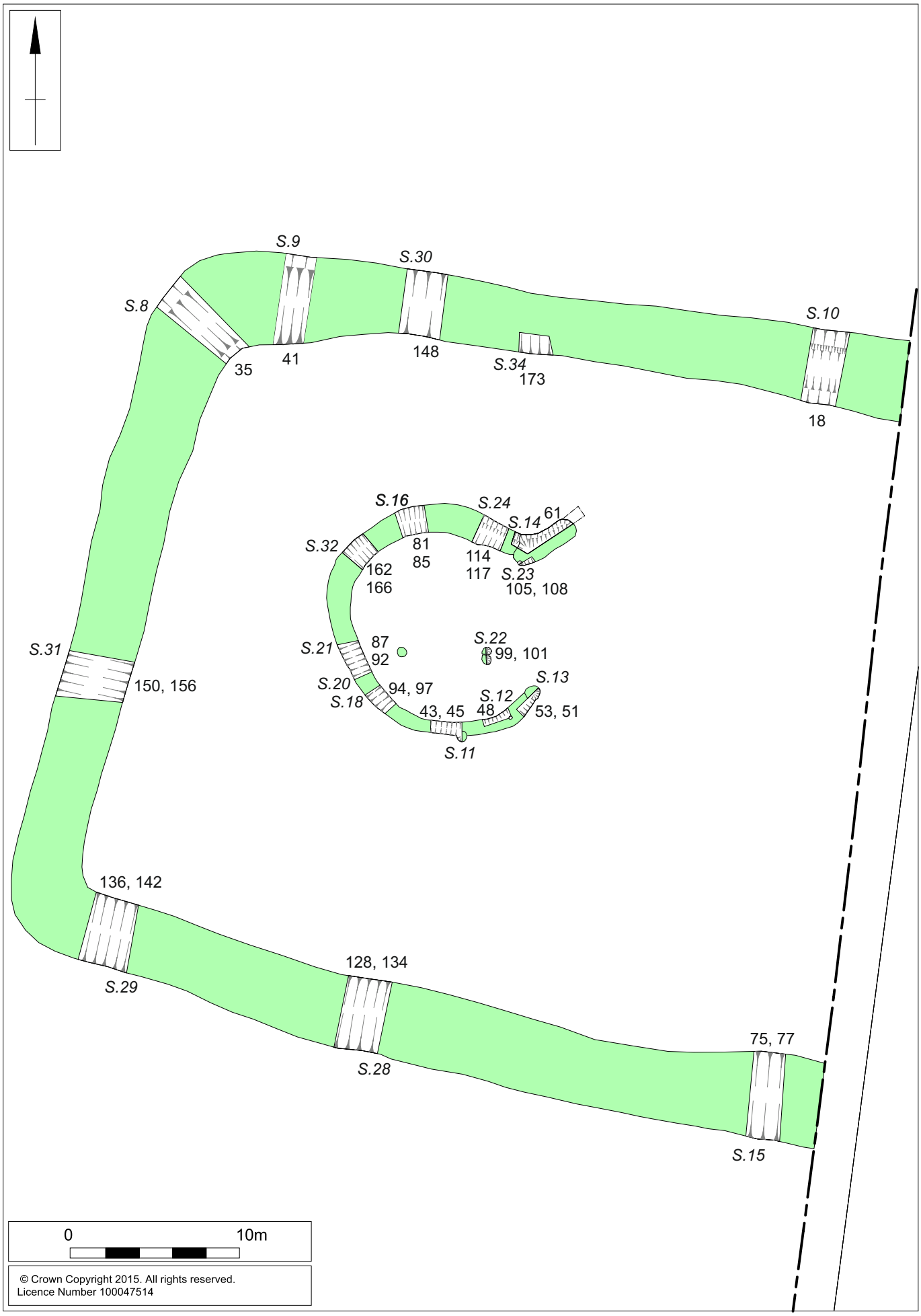








Scale 1:25 and 1:50 Linear ditches [170] and [9], plan and sections Fig 6



Scale 1:300

The enclosure ditch and ring ditch Fig 7

4.2 The enclosure ditch

The rectangular enclosure in the north-east part of the development site was previously identified by the geophysical survey (Bartlett 2011) and the trial trench evaluation (Carlyle 2012). The enclosure was sub-rectangular, 44m wide and in excess of 50m long east-west. The ditches continued beyond the eastern limit of the excavations. There may have been an entranceway to the east, facing the entrance to the roundhouse (Fig 7).

Eight sections of the enclosure ditch were excavated (Fig 7). These demonstrated that the ditch had undergone at least one phase of recutting, particularly to the south and east. Environmental samples from the ditch were all broadly similar in composition, containing cereals and seeds, most likely derived from dispersed hearth/midden detritus.

Enclosure ditch [18]

This section was placed across the eastern end of the enclosure's north arm. The ditch cut was V-shaped, with irregular sides caused by the banding of cornbrash in the natural. The ditch fills seemed to indicate that two phases of infilling occurred. The lower fills comprised dark grey-brown or mid orange-brown clay mixed with ironstone, and containing small quantities of late Iron Age pottery and animal bone (17, 16, 15). After an apparent gap, further infilling was laid down in the form of green-grey clay with orange mottling, and ironstone pieces (14, 13). The upper fill, (13), also contained 13 sherds of Iron Age pottery (Fig 11, S.10; Fig 8).

Enclosure ditch [18], looking north-west Fig 8

Enclosure ditch [148]

The northern arm of the ditch [148] was 3.58m wide by 1.76m deep, and had a V-shaped profile with a narrow concave base (Fig 11, S.30). As with ditch [18] above, the ditch appeared to have been filled in two distinct phases. The lower fills comprised mid orange-brown or blue, clay, with occasional ironstone and charcoal. Overlying this were layers of mid dark grey-brown clay, mixed with ironstone, charcoal and small fragments of animal bone. The environmental samples also contained a quantity of bone fragments, probably domestic in origin.

Enclosure ditch [41] and [35]

In north-west corner of the rectangular enclosure, ditch [41] was 4.12m wide by 1.58m deep, and ditch [35] was 5.00m wide by 1.56m deep (Fig 11, S.8-9). Both sections had V-shaped profiles and flat bases, with fills comprising predominantly firm dark brown-grey clay with rare charcoal and occasional ironstone. No finds were recovered except for some animal bone from fill (40) of cut [41].

Enclosure ditch [156] and [150]

Ditch [156] on the western arm of the enclosure was was similar in profile to other excavated sections, 2.90m wide by 1.78m deep, with a V-shaped profile and narrow concave base (Fig 11, S.31). The primary fill comprised weathered mid blue-brown and orange clays eroded from the ditch edges. Other fills were also firm clays, either mid-blue-brown or mid-dark grey-brown, with occasional ironstone, gravel, or charcoal. No finds were recovered from this section.

The enclosure ditch here had undergone recutting. The recut [150] was 1.74m wide by 0.96m deep, shallow with a wide U-shaped profile. The homogeneous fill was of firm mid-dark grey-brown clay, with frequent small ironstones (149). No finds were recovered. The recut was later truncated by a medieval furrow, and by a field drain.

Enclosure ditch [142] and [135]

The southern arm of the enclosure was sampled in three sections. Ditch [142] was 3.28m wide by 1.70m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 11, S.29). The primary fill comprised eroded mid blue-grey clay, with occasional medium and large ironstones (141). Subsequent fills comprised mid yellow-brown or mid-grey-brown clay, with moderate-sized pieces of stone and ironstone. The upper fill (137) was a 0.25m depth of grey-brown silty clay, which contained pottery and animal bone.

The recut section continued along this arm of the ditch [136], situated to the north. It was 1.80m wide by 0.45m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill comprised hard mid grey-brown clay with occasional stones.

Enclosure ditch [134] and [128]

Ditch [134] on the southern arm was 2.94m wide by 1.76m deep, with a V-shaped profile with irregular sides and a concave base, (Fig 11, S.28). The fills comprised yellow-blue mottled clay or orange-brown clay, occasionally with ironstone fragments or rare burnt stone. The upper fill (129) comprised a 0.60m depth of hard mid grey-brown clay with occasional ironstone, which also produced pottery and animal bone (Fig 9).

The ditch was recut to the north by a U-shaped ditch [128], 1.46m wide by 0.72m deep. The homogeneous fill (127) comprised compact mid-grey-brown silty clay, with occasional stone fragments.

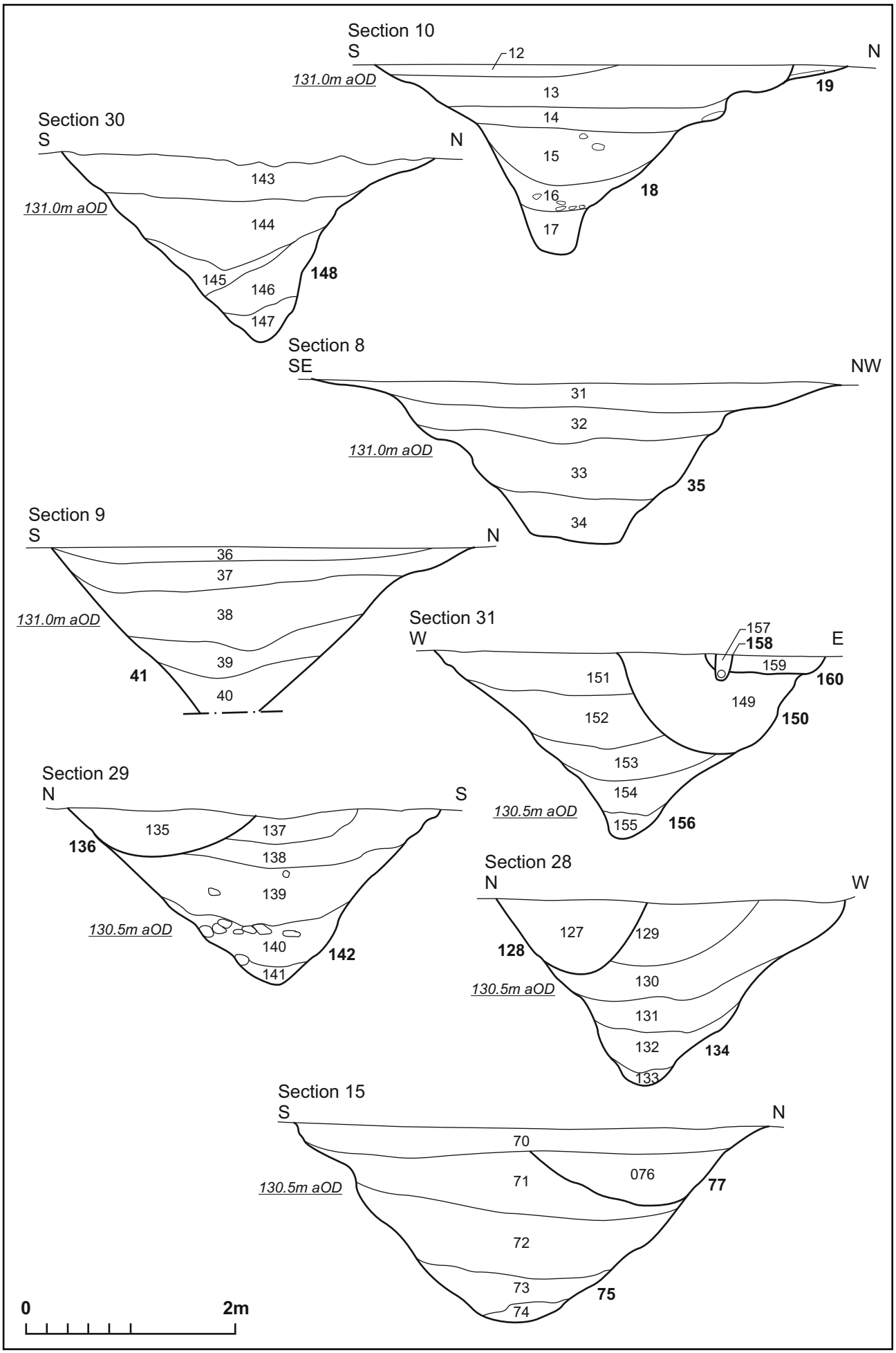
Enclosure ditch [134], looking east Fig 9

Enclosure ditch [75] and [77]

The enclosure ditch at its south-eastern end was 4.60m wide by 1.86m deep. Here it was less steeply cut, with a V-shaped profile and more gradual sloping sides to a concave base (Fig 11, S.15, and Fig 10). The fills of the ditch contained more silt than elsewhere in the enclosure, with the lower fills comprising compact grey-blue silty clay rare stone and very rare charcoal flecks. Fills (72) and (71) comprised compact grey-brown silty clay with orange-blue mottling, and frequent ironstone. These fills also contained twelve late Iron Age pottery sherds.

The re-cutting of the ditch again lay to the north, and was 1.91m wide and 0.50m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base (77). The fill comprised compact orange-brown silty clay with frequent cornbrash, as well as occasional pottery and animal bone.

Enclosure ditch [75], looking west Fig 10



Scale 1:50

Sections of the enclosure ditch Fig 11

4.3 The ring ditch

The large sub-circular ring ditch had a diameter of *c*13m, with a broad opening, 7.2m wide, to the east (Fig 7 and Fig 12). It may have enclosed a roundhouse, although no evidence of the former presence of a building survived. The ring ditch was recut once on the south-west side. The fills within the ditch produced pottery, animal bone and slag. A number of postholes and small pits were excavated around and within the ring ditch. Environmental samples from the ring ditch and postholes were very sparse, possibly suggesting that the area within the ditch was kept relatively clean and clear.

Ring ditch, post-excavation, looking east Fig 12

Ring ditch terminal [61]

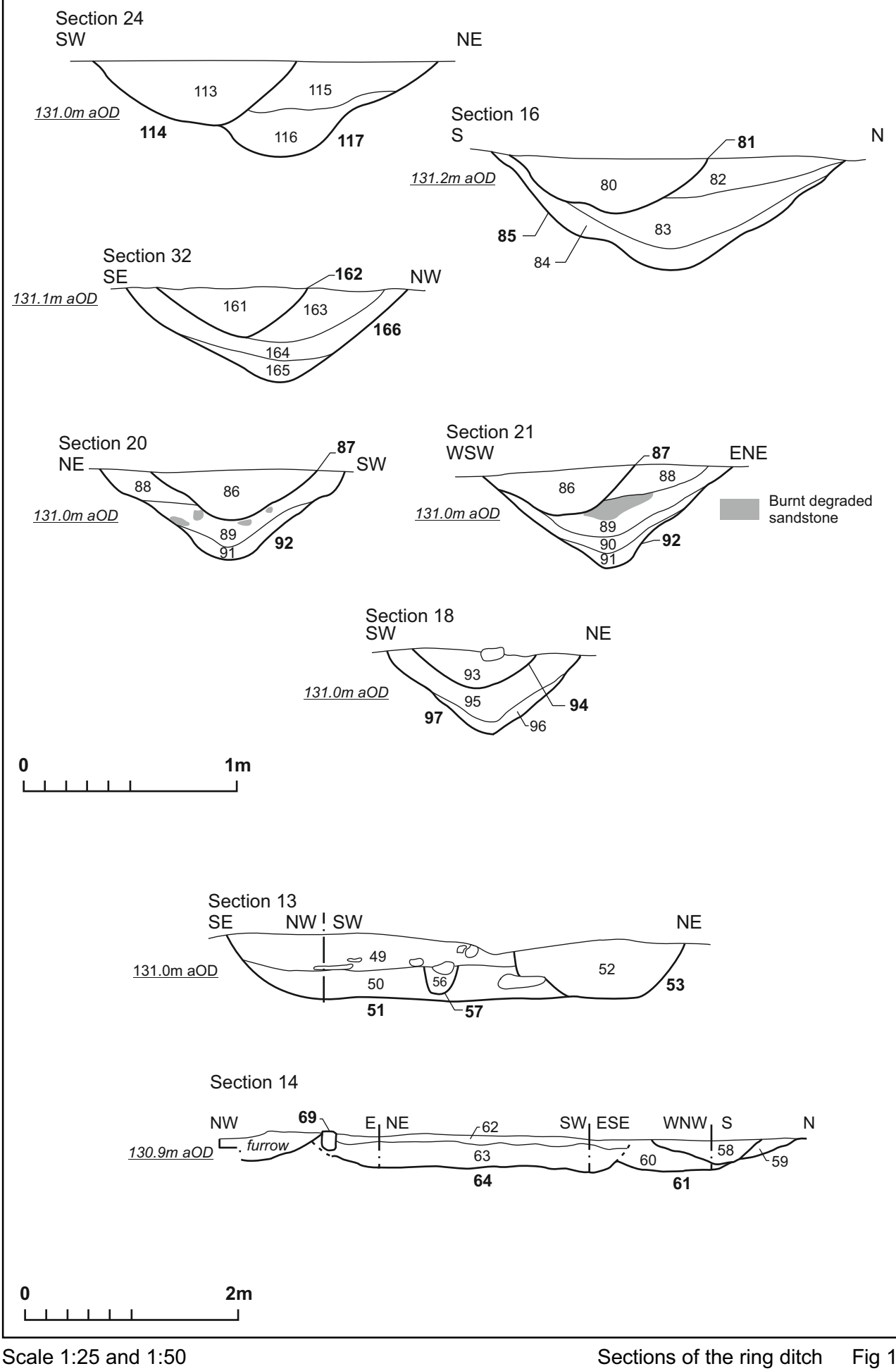
To the north-east, the ring ditch gully had a U-shaped profile with sloping sides at the top of the cut (Fig 14, S.14). The full dimensions could not be established. The ditch was filled with grey-brown silty clay with small stones or chalk flecks. The upper fill comprised dark grey-black silty clay, which contained burnt stone and charcoal, as well as late Iron Age pottery and animal bone (58). This terminal was truncated by pit [64].

Ring ditch [117] and [114]

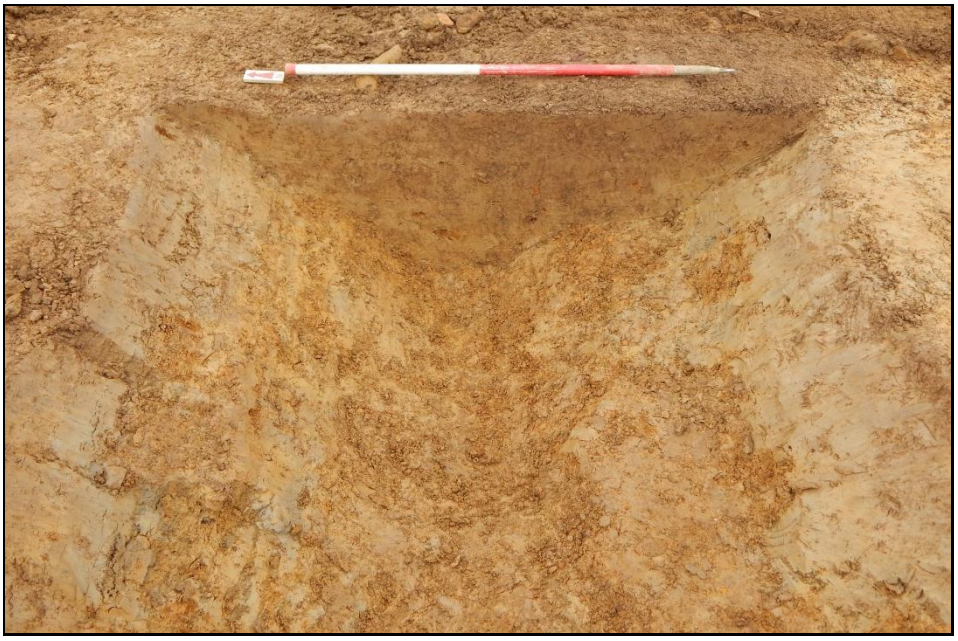
To the north, the ditch [117] was 1.50m wide, 0.40m deep and had an uneven U-shaped profile (Fig 13, S. 24). The fills contained no finds, and comprised firm mid grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling mixed with ironstone. The upper fill (115) was truncated during the recutting of the ring ditch [114]. The recut was 0.80m wide by 0.26m deep and had a U-shaped profile. The fill of the recut (113) was firm dark grey-brown silty clay, containing frequent stones, charcoal and pottery.

Ring ditch [85] and [81]

On its northern side, the ring ditch was 1.68m wide 0.52m deep, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base [85] (Fig 13, S.16; Fig 14). The primary fill comprised 0.10mm depth of firm yellow-grey silty clay, with frequent corn-brash and ironstone (84). This was overlain by firm mid grey-brown silty clay, with inclusions of ironstone, flint, and occasional animal bone or charcoal (83, 82). The recut [81] truncated the upper fill to the south, with a U-shaped profile 0.88m wide 0.26m deep. The recut was filled with firm dark grey-brown silty clay with stones and charcoal flecking.



Scale 1:25 and 1:50 Sections of the ring ditch Fig 13



Ring ditch [85], looking east Fig 14

Ring ditch [166] and [162]

On its north-western side, the earliest cut of the ring ditch was 1.33m wide and 0.44m deep with a V-shaped profile [166] (Fig 13, S.32). The fills comprised firm yellow-brown/yellow-grey mottled silty clay. The upper fill comprised red-grey silty clay with frequent burnt ironstone pieces (163). This fill was truncated by the recut, 0.71m wide by 0.23m deep, which lay slightly to the south-east [162]. The fill (161) comprised grey silty clay with orange-red burnt clay, containing one sherd of Dorset black-burnished Romano-British pottery.

Ring ditch [92] and [87]

To the south-west, the ditch cut was 1.19m wide by 0.49m deep, with an uneven V-shaped profile [92] (Fig 13, S.20 and S.21, Fig 15). The primary fill comprised compact light yellow-blue clay, with occasional inclusions of animal bone and slag (91). Overlaying this were several fills of hard mid grey-brown silty clay containing moderate stone/ironstone pieces, and patches of degraded burnt sandstone.

The ditch was truncated by a recut [87], 0.79m wide by 0.23m deep and had a broad V-shaped profile. The fill, mid grey-brown silty clay, contained one sherd of pottery, flint and animal bone (86).

Ring ditch [97] and [94]

Immediately to the south-east of the previous section was ditch [92]. The ditch was 0.92m wide by 0.43m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 13, S.18, Fig 15). The primary fill comprised firm orange-brown silty clay (96). This was overlain by a 0.17m deep fill of grey-brown silty clay, containing frequent burnt stone and some animal bone.

The recut [94] was visible to the north, where it was 0.58m wide and 0.18m deep, filled with light grey silty clay. The recut shallowed out in this section, and was not visible to the south-east and east.

Ring ditch [92] and [97], looking south-east Fig 15

Ring ditch [43] and [48]

To the south and south-east, the ring ditch was shown to be 0.41-0.50m wide by 0.30m deep with a V-shaped profile [43] (Fig 18, S.11). The fills were compact grey-brown silty clay, sometimes with orange mottling and containing four sherds of Iron Age pottery, animal bone and slag (46, 47, 42). No recut was visible.

Ring ditch terminal [51]

To the south, the ring ditch came to a terminal, 1.16m wide and 0.31m deep, cut with steep sides [51] (Fig 13, S.13). The fill at the terminal was grey-brown silty clay, with the upper fill (49) containing a large amount of Iron Age pottery including around one third of a coarseware jar, animal bone, medium to large stones, and charcoal flecks. This terminal was truncated by a later pit [53]. Samples from both the ditch terminal and pit contained cereals and seeds, which may indicate that refuse from the central area was deposited into the terminal. The seeds may be from mixed refuse including cereals, hearth waste and/or burnt flooring/bedding materials.

Pit [64/103] and posthole [105]

This pit was rectangular, aligned north-east by south-west, 0.80m wide by 2.50m long with steep sides and a flat base (Fig 16; Fig 13, S.14). The pit was cut across the northern terminal of the ring ditch, and may have been used for drainage or to support some form of temporary structure. The upper fill of the pit (62/102) comprised firm dark grey-brown silty clay, and contained 30 sherds of late Iron Age pottery, animal bone and charcoal.

Intersections of ring ditch terminal [61] and pit [64] (S.14), looking south-west Fig 16

This pit was cut at the south-western end by a small posthole [105], 0.20m wide by 0.15m deep, which may also have supported a structure in pit [64] (Fig 18, S.23). The posthole was filled with firm grey-brown silty clay which did not contain any artefacts.

Pit [53] and [57]

The southern terminal of the ditch was also cut by a pit [53]. This pit was 0.28m deep, sub-circular, steep-sided with a flat base (Fig 13, S.13). The fill was firm mid grey-brown silty clay, containing six sherds of late Iron Age pottery and animal bone, and some charcoal flecks (52). The fill suggests the pit may have been used as a rubbish pit cut after the ring ditch went out of use. Immediately to the south-west was a small pit or posthole [57], 0.16m wide by 0.13m deep. The fill (56) was firm mid grey brown silty clay, and contained several large pieces of slag.

Pits [45] and [55]

Pit [45] was a small circular pit cut into the south side of the ring ditch. It was 0.52m wide by 0.20m deep, with sloping sides (Fig 18, S.11). The fill comprised compact grey-brown silty clay, containing animal bone (44). A possible circular pit [55] lay to the east of [45] and cut into the ring ditch. It may have been around 0.12m wide by 0.16m deep.

Postholes [99] and [101]

Within the ring ditch, three postholes were identified. One was not excavated. Postholes [99] and [101] were situated adjacent in the south-east of the roundhouse circle (Fig 18, S.22). The northern posthole was circular with a broad flat base, 0.36m wide by 0.13m deep [101]. It contained a fill of firm light grey clay (100). The southern posthole [99] had a similar shape and profile, being 0.43m wide by 0.28m deep. The fill was firm dark grey clay with occasional stone and rare animal bone (98).

4.4 Other features

A number of undated, Iron Age and possibly Romano-British features were also found outside the ring ditch and main rectangular enclosure (Fig 19).

Pit [5]

A circular pit, 0.99m wide by 0.45m deep with steep sides and a flat base, was located in the south of the enclosure (Fig 18, S.1; Fig 17). No dating evidence was found.

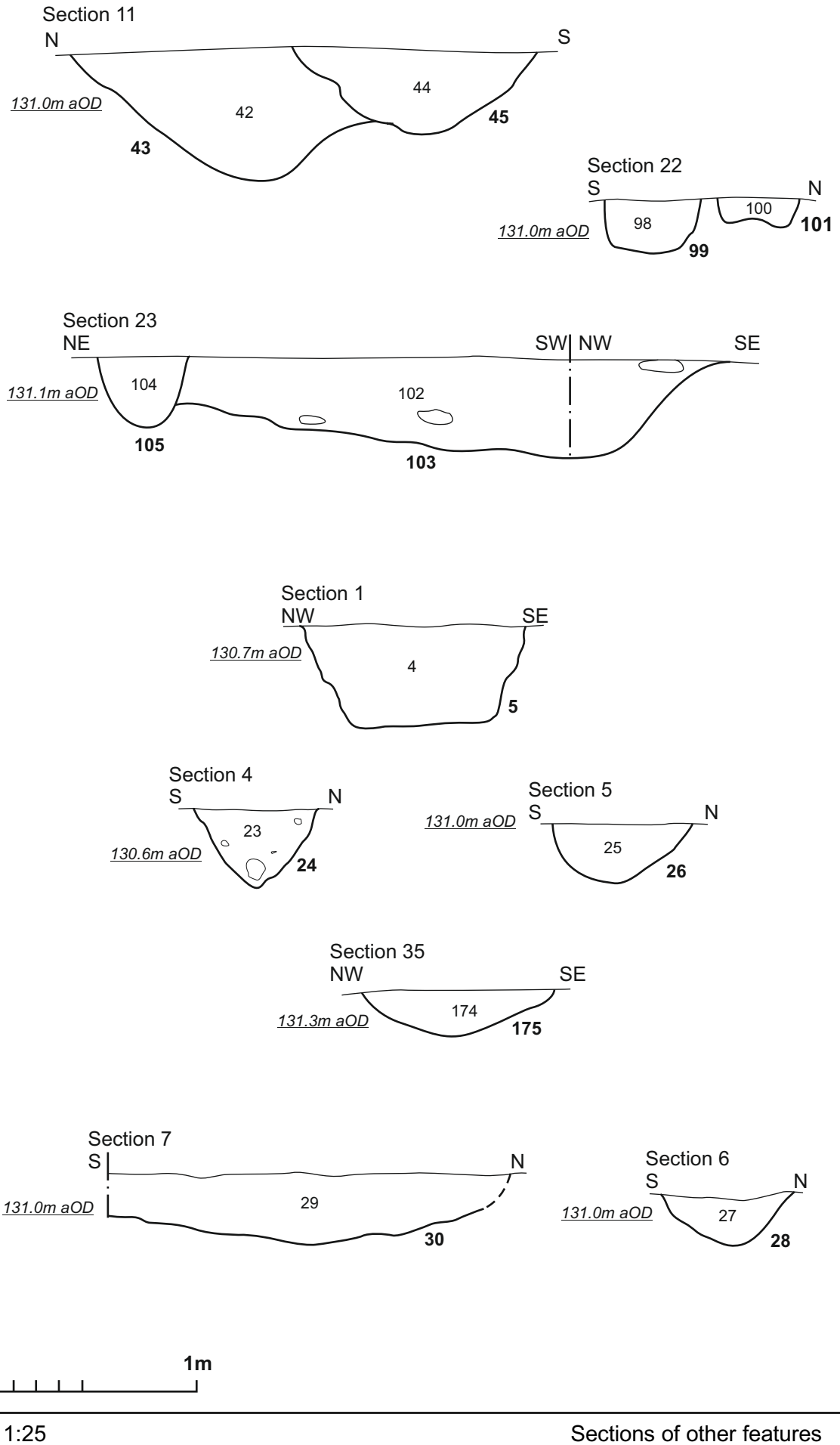
Pit [5], looking west Fig 17

Possible pit [11]

To the east of the enclosure were two shallow sub-rectangular irregular features, filled with compact mid-orange-brown clay. These may be archaeological but are more likely to have been caused by natural root disturbance.

Drainage gully [26]/[24]

This linear gully, aligned north-west by south-east, crossed the full width of the excavation area (Fig 18, S.4 and S.5). It was 0.62m wide by 0.26m deep to the west, and 0.56m wide by 0.34m deep to the east, with a V-shaped profile and a rounded base. The fill comprised compact dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional ironstone, cornbrash, charcoal (23), and contained three sherds of Romano-British Fine Oxfordshire Reduced Ware pottery, suggesting the site continued to be in use into the Roman period.



Scale 1:25

Sections of other features Fig 18

Scale 1:500

Other Iron Age features Fig 19

6 MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES

6.1 Medieval furrows

As shown in Figure 2, the site was crossed by a number of remnant ploughing furrows, aligned north-south. These furrows truncated a number of the Iron Age features. One sample furrow [160] was excavated where it truncated the enclosure ditch (Fig 11, S.31). The furrow was shown to be 1.16m wide by 0.16m deep and had steep sides and a broad flat base. It was filled with firm mid grey-brown silted clay with frequent stone and ironstone. A land drain was also laid along the furrow [158].

6.2 Post-medieval drains

Drainage gully [175]

Gully [175] was situated to the north-west of the rectangular enclosure, aligned north-east by south-west (Fig 20, Fig 18, S.35). It was *c*37m long, 0.85m wide, and 0.20m deep, with a shallow, U-shaped profile. The fill comprised mid yellow-brown clay with occasional charcoal (174). A number of clay tobacco-pipe fragments from the fill suggest the feature may have an 18th-century date.

Drains [69] and [119]

Two post-medieval field drains were recorded cutting through the Iron Age features. Drain [69] was aligned north-south and was 0.12m wide by 0.18m deep, and cut through the pit [64] (Fig 13, S.14). It was filled with compact mottled grey-brown silted clay with frequent stone (68).

Drain [119] cut through ditch terminal [126], and was aligned north-south (Fig 6, S.27). It was 0.20m wide by 0.19m deep, and contained a fill of hard yellow-grey clay with frequent stone inclusions (118).

6.3 Modern features

A number of modern features were observed in the excavation area. A modern ceramic land drain, 0.14m wide by 0.25m deep, was found to have been laid along a furrow [160] (Fig 11, S.31), aligned north-south [158].

Three modern cultivation gullies, aligned parallel south-east by north-west, were observed at the north-east end of the excavation area. An excavated section [28] of one gully was 0.60m wide by 0.22m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 18, S.6). It was filled with firm grey-brown silted clay with orange-blue mottling and contained 18th-century pottery.

Cutting these cultivation gullies was an irregularly-shaped area of modern disturbance [30], with an alignment which went from east-west to north-south, 1.80m wide by 0.30m deep (Fig 18, S.7). The cut was filled with firm mixed re-deposited silted clays, grey-brown, blue-grey and orange-brown, mixed with frequent stone (29). While not fully excavated, the fill was shown to contain a density of post-medieval pottery, glass, clay tobacco-pipe, and plastic.

Scale 1:500

Medieval and post-medieval features Fig 20

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The worked flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total 21 pieces of worked flint were collected as unstratified surface finds from around the enclosure and Iron Age features. The flint comprised 16 flakes, three blades, one end scraper, and one leaf-shaped arrowhead.

The condition of the assemblage is moderate to good. The surface finds display more post-depositional edge damage in the form of frequent nicks and occasional crushing of the edges. The flint from the features displays the occasional nicks to the edges.

Patination was present on three pieces, which ranged from a grey-blue discolouration to a fully patinated grey surface. The fully patinated piece was burnt, probably unintentionally.

The raw material is a vitreous and more granular flint, light to dark coloured greys and browns. Cortex present on the dorsal surface of the pieces ranges from a light to dark brown in colour and generally had a smooth, rolled and weathered surface. One mid-grey vitreous flint had a dark green-grey cortex with an orange strip underneath. The remainder of raw material was likely to have originated from local gravel deposits.

The majority of flints recovered consist of waste flakes and blades. This comprised 16 flakes, of which ten where broken, and three blades, of which one was broken.

Two retouched tool forms were recovered. The end scraper had been manufactured on a flake with abrupt retouch on its distal end. The leaf-shaped arrowhead was found in the fill of the ring ditch. It measured 29mm long and 15mm wide. The flake was semi-abruptly retouched along the edges to form the shape.

Technological characteristics of the waste flakes and blades are not directly dateable. The leaf shaped arrowhead is typical of the early Neolithic; the end scraper is broadly Neolithic. The flake with the orange strip underneath the cortex may be bullhead flint, which has outcrops in the Reading beds further south or to the east of the site.

6.2 The Iron Age pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 143 sherds, weighing 1.087kg, of hand-built Iron Age pottery was recovered from the roundhouse ring ditch, the enclosure ditch and other ditches. The average sherd weight of 7.6g is typical for an assemblage containing a high proportion of shelly fabrics, with many sherds showing leaching of the shell inclusions. The frequent presence of thin-walled vessels, with uniformly grey fabrics and smoothed to burnished surfaces, including globular bowl forms, a bead rim and one highly decorated vessel, indicates that the assemblage spans a narrow date range in the late Iron Age, the 1st century BC.

Fabrics

Shelly fabrics: containing quantities of crushed shell, ranging from dense large shell inclusions to sparse finely crushed shell in the thin-walled, grey vessels with smoothed/burnished surfaces. Given the small size of the assemblage, these variations have not been separately quantified. 119 sherds, 83.2%.

Shell/granitic: In enclosure ditch [18] there were sherds from a single vessel containing dense large shell and also some small rounded light grey mineral inclusions, probably granite. Such fabrics have been found in Leicestershire including the Welland valley on the Leicestershire/Northamptonshire borders, with many examples from the extensive settlement sites around DIRFT, near Crick and Kilsby, Northamptonshire (Masefield *et*

al 2015). It is likely that it comes on the occasional pot imported from Leicestershire, probably holding traded goods. 12 sherds, 8.4%.

Sandy fabrics: containing small rounded quartz grains giving a harsh surface texture, present in small quantities. 12 sherds, 8.4%.

The assemblage

The majority of the total assemblage, 111 sherds (78%) weighing 947g (87%), comes from the roundhouse ring ditch (Table 1). Features at the northern terminal [61, 64 and 103] produced 200g of pottery while the southern terminal [53] and posthole [57] produced 730g, largely from part of a single vessel, with 14g to the south [43 and 48] and 3g to the west [87]. This pattern, with pottery deposition concentrated at the terminals, often including substantial parts of single vessels has been widely observed in the ring ditches surrounding domestic roundhouses (e.g. Masefield *et al* 2015).

Table 1: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

Fill/ Cut / Type	All Fabrics		Shelly Sherds	Sandy Sherds	Shell/ granite sherds
	Sherds	Weight (g)			
42/ 43/ RD, South	1	10.0	1	0	0
46/ 48/ RD, South	3	4.0	3	0	0
49/ 51/ RD, S Terminal	64	720.0	64	0	0
52/ 53/ RD, pit, S Terminal	6	10.0	3	3	0
58/ 61/ RD, N Terminal	6	100.0	5	1	0
62/ 64/ RD, pit, N Terminal	25	55.0	25	0	0
86/ 87/ RD, West	1	3.0	1	0	0
102/ 103/ RD, North	5	45.0	5	0	0
13/ 18/ Enclosure Ditch	13	65.0	0	1	12
15/ 18/ Enclosure Ditch	5	15.0	0	5	0
71/ 75/ Enclosure Ditch	12	50.0	12	0	0
106/ 109/ Terminal Ditch 9	2	10.0	0	2	0
Totals: All Features	**143**	**1087.0**	**119**	**12**	**12**
-	**-**	**-**	**83.2%**	**8.4%**	**8.4%**
Ring Ditch (RD)	**111**	**947.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**

The largest single group comprises 64 sherds and crumbs, weighing 720g, from the fill (49) of ditch segment [51] at the southern terminal of the roundhouse ring ditch. The majority comes from a single coarseware jar, with both rim and base present, suggesting that about a third of the vessel had been deposited. It is in a shelly fabric, with the body sherds 9mm thick and the base with some of the shell lost to leaching. It has a grey core and mottled surfaces ranging from brown to dark grey. The base is flat, 90mm diameter, and the rim, *c.*150mm diameter, is flat-topped above a short and slightly concave neck (Fig 21). It was probably quite a small vessel, standing no more than *c.*160mm high. This group also includes two sherds from a thin-walled vessel, in a uniform grey fabric, with an everted rim, characteristic of late Iron Age assemblages (1st century BC). There is also a single body sherd from a small globular vessel with two lines of curvilinear decoration (Fig 22).

Other contexts associated with the same roundhouse ring ditch also produced a mixture of coarser vessels and vessels in uniform grey fabrics with smoothed or burnished surfaces. From the fill (52) of pit [53], also at the southern terminal there is fragment of a bead rim, from a thin-walled bowl. From a small group, weighing 100g, from the fill (58) of ditch [61] at the northern terminal there are a number of small sherds from thin-walled vessels in a grey fabric with smoothed to burnished surfaces, and the group from the fill (62) of pit [64] at the northern terminal contained a fragmented concave neck with a burnished surface.

From the fill (15) of enclosure ditch segment [18], the small group included a body sherd from a globular bowl in a grey-black fabric with a burnished surface, highly decorated with horizontal zones bordered with horizontal lines and filled with diagonal incised lines forming running triangles (Fig 23).

Rim of coarse shelly jar from the southern terminal [51] of the roundhouse ring ditch (Scale 10mm) Fig 21

Body sherd with curvilinear decoration from the southern terminal [51] of the roundhouse ring ditch (Scale 20mm) Fig 22

Globular bowl from enclosure ditch [18], decorated with horizontal bands of running triangles (Scale 10mm) Fig 23

From the fill (71) of enclosure ditch segment [75] there are rim sherds from a small jar in a uniform dark grey fabric with a burnished surface and a tapered rounded rim, and a single body sherd is decorated with two impressed dimples.

6.3 Slags by Andy Chapman

A total of 1.93kg of fuel ash slag was recovered from nine features, many which also produced late Iron Age pottery. Most of the groups comprised multiple small pieces, 20-60mm long, but the fill (91) of ditch [92] contained a lump 100mm long and the fill (56) of pit [57] contained a block 170mm long by 120mm wide and 60mm thick.

The material is of the same form; irregular, light and vesicular with a dark grey crust, with sparse small inclusions of orange fired clay. There are no impressions of charcoal fuel, as is typical of furnace slags, and it all appears to be fuel ash slag resulting from high temperature burning, but most probably not related to ironworking in any form.

Table 2: Quantification of slags

Fill/ cut / type	Weight (g)	Description
42/ 43/ RD, South	460	Multiple small lumps of slag
46/ 48/ RD, South	240	Multiple small lumps of slag
49/ 51/ RD, S terminal	10	Two small lumps of fuel ash slag
52/ 53/ RD, pit, S terminal	10	Two small lumps of fuel ash slag
56/ 57/ Pit	850	Large block of fuel ash slag, 170x120x60mm
86/ 87/ RD, West	15	Four small lumps of fuel ash slag
91/ 92/ ditch	195	One large and one small lump
98/ 99/ posthole	20	One small piece of slag
106/ 109/ Ditch terminal	125	Three medium sized pieces of slag
Total	**1925**	

6.4 Fired clay and stone by Pat Chapman

Fired clay

Six fragments, weighing 55g, come from three contexts. A small orange sherd, 8mm thick, from fill (44) of pit [45], four irregularly-shaped black fragments from fills (58) of curvilinear ditch terminal [61] and (72) of enclosure ditch [75] and one orange and grey piece from fill (58) are all made with fine silty sandy clay. These are sparse scattered remnants of human activity.

Stone

Three lumps of burnt ironstone from fill (52) of pit [53], and three ironstone fragments from fill (129) of enclosure ditch [134], are presumably derived from the natural. One small broken fragment of limestone, an intrusive element comes from fill (46) of curvilinear ditch [48].

A small piece of white granular quartzite stone came from the top of the roundhouse gully. The piece takes the shape of a small wedge with a slight indentation down one side. It could conceivably be worked.

6.5 Other finds by Tora Hylton

With the exception of two small fragments of unstratified lead waste weighing 39g, the only other item is an undiagnostic fragment of copper alloy sheet measuring 10 x 7mm which was recovered from fill (78) of a furrow [79]. Neither item is of intrinsic interest.

6.6 Roman pottery by Tora Hylton

Four sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 26g were recovered from linear ditch [23] and ring ditch [161]. The assemblage comprises undiagnostic bodysherds in grog-tempered and greyware fabrics. The sherd from ring ditch [161], weighing 3g, was grog-tempered ware displaying signs of excessive abrasion and wear, perhaps suggesting it had been exposed for some time prior to deposition. The three sherds, weighing 23g,

from ditch [23] were greyware. Since the sherds are devoid of diagnostic features, the fabric type has been used as an indicator of date, and a late 1st- to 2nd-century date is suggested.

6.7 Post-medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 40 sherds with a total weight of 626g. It was mostly of post-medieval and modern date, and recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994). The following fabric types were noted:

R11: Fine Oxfordshire Reduced Ware. 3 sherds, 22g
OXBEW: Staffordshire Manganese Glazed ware, 18th century. 8 sherds, 145g
OXBEWSL: Staffordshire Slip-trailed Earthenware, 1650 – 1750. 1 sherd, 6g
OXBX: Late Brill/Boarstall Ware, 15th – early 17th centuries. 1 sherd, 8g
OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 6 sherds, 164g
OXEST: London Stoneware, 1680 +. 2 sherds, 27g
OXFM: Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware, 1720–1800. 3 sherds, 62g
OXRESWL: Polychrome Slipware, 17th century. 1 sherd, 7g
OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480 – 1700. 2 sherds, 21g
WHEW: Mass-produced White Earthenwares, 19th-20th centuries. 12 sherds, 159g

Table 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context

			Fill/cut			
Fabric		**U/S**	**23/24**	**27/28**	**29/30**	**Total**
Fine Oxfordshire Reduced	No	-	3	-	-	**3**
	Wt (g)	-	22	-	-	**22**
Late Brill/Boarstall Ware	No	1	-	-	-	**1**
	Wt (g)	8	-	-	-	**8**
Rhenish Stoneware	No	2	-	-	-	**2**
	Wt (g)	21	-	-	-	**21**
Red Earthenwares	No	5	-	-	1	**6**
	Wt (g)	135	-	-	29	**164**
Polychrome Slipware	No	1	-	-	-	**1**
	Wt (g)	7	-	-	-	**7**
Staffordshire Slip-trailed Earthenware	No	-	-	-	1	**1**
	Wt (g)	-	-	-	6	**6**
Staffordshire Manganese Glazed	No	-	-	1	7	**8**
	Wt (g)	-	-	19	126	**145**
London Stoneware	No	2	-	-	-	**2**
	Wt (g)	27	-	-	-	**27**
Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware	No	1	-	-	2	**3**
	Wt (g)	45	-	-	17	**62**
Mass-produced White Earthenwares	No	11	-	-	1	**12**
	Wt (g)	149	-	-	10	**159**
Date		**U/S**	**RB**	**L17thC**	**18th/mod**	**-**

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The post-medieval and modern pottery consists of a range of fine tablewares and utilitarian earthenwares and appears to be of an entirely domestic nature.

6.8 Post-medieval tile and stone by Pat Chapman

Ceramic tile and brick

There are four ceramic roof tile sherds, weighing 240g. One sherd comes from a medieval green-glazed ridge tile, 12mm thick, recovered from a furrow. Three flat tile sherds from fill (29) of modern feature [30] are so abraded the surfaces have been lost. Two sherds are at least 12mm thick, one made with dark pink-brown sandy clay, the other made with coarse dark red sandy clay. The other sherd, made with pale sandy orange, at least 20mm thick is probably a tile. These are medieval to post-medieval date.

A sherd of a black modern machine-made floor tile, with broad keying grooves, is 11mm thick, weighs 80g, and comes from a furrow.

A small piece of brick, weighing 75g, of hard pink silty clay with a pale grey core, also comes from modern feature [30].

Stone

A small sherd of Welsh slate and two small lumps of coal, fugitives from the Victorian Welsh hills, were found in a furrow.

6.9 Clay tobacco-pipes by Tora Hylton

A total of 33 clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered. The assemblage comprises two pipe-bowls and 31 stem fragments. Five fragments were recovered from features [28, 30, 175] while the remainder were retrieved from unstratified topsoil. The pipe-bowls have been classified according to Oswald's Simplified General Typology (1975, 37ff) and they represent Oswald Type G5, which dates to *c.*1640-60. One of the bowls is furnished with a narrow band of rouletting just below the lip of the bowl, a motif in use until *c.*1710.

Table 4: Quantification of clay tobacco pipes

Fill/ cut/ type	Stems	Bowls	Comments
27 / 28 / Gully	1	-	Crudely executed circumferential groove on stem fragment
29 / 30 / Modern Disturbance	2	-	-
174 / 175 / Gully	2	-	2 stem/spur fragments one with initials (TA) on either side of spur.
Unstratified	26	2	Oswald Type 5 – *c.*1640-60
Total:	**31**	**2**	-

The stem fragments measure up to 69mm in length and most display signs of moderate abrasion. Changes in manufacturing technique and the use of finer wire to make the bore ensured that there was a regular reduction in hole diameter between *c.*1620 and 1800. The size of the bores are measured by 64's of an inch and the measurements suggest that the majority of stems date to the *c.*18th century (7/64's -2 examples, 6/64's –12 examples, 5/64's – 10 examples). The remaining seven stems measure 4/64's

suggesting a later date for the fragments. One stem fragment retains the vestige of the bowl (decorated) and the spur, the latter preserves the initials of the maker, the letters 'T A' positioned either side of the spur. These initials suggest that this bowl may have been manufactured by Thomas Abbott who is known to have worked in Banbury in the early to mid-19th century (Oswald 1975, 189).

7 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 The animal bone by Rebecca Gordon

The bones were recovered from an Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, and mostly derived from ditches and a few pits and postholes. A small amount of animal bone came from modern features but these were not included in the results.

Methodology

The hand-collected animal bone were recorded using an 'all fragments' method. However, due to time constrains only the identifiable remains from the bulk samples were recorded. Bones that could not be identified to species were recorded as unidentifiable large and medium mammal. Due to the morphological similarity of sheep and goat, the definition 'sheep/goat' was employed, unless it was possible to distinguish between the two species following Boessneck (1969) and Payne (1985). All identifiable bones were sided as left or right where possible. Faunal remains were identified using the author's comparative reference collection. The primary quantitative method was NISP "the number of identified specimens per taxon" and fragments that could be re-fitted together were counted as one.

Epiphyseal fusion data was recorded as well as the subsequent wear of mandibular teeth. Fusion data was recorded following Reitz and Wing (2008). Mandibular wear stages were recorded using Grant (1982) for cattle, Payne (1973) for sheep/goat and Hambleton (1999) for pig. The tooth wear data was converted into age categories using Hambleton (1999). Gnawing and butchery was recorded on all identifiable bones and bone preservation was recorded using Harland *et al* (2003). Butchery was recorded as either 'cut', 'chop' or 'saw' and its location was recorded using the codes devised by Lauwerier (1988). Sex was recorded for pig canines based on the morphology of the tooth and the alveolus (Hillson 2005; 128). Measurements were taken following von den Driesch (1976).

The Assemblage

The faunal remains were in 'good' condition. There were few incidences of gnawing and burning in the assemblage. Three specimens had carnivore gnawing, which suggest that some of the bones were not rapidly disposed of following deposition. Bone fragmentation was high, over 80% of the hand-collected remains were unidentifiable. From the hand-collected material, one unidentifiable fragment was calcined.

The size of the assemblage was small with less than 100 identifiable fragments, which is below the minimum threshold for basic zooarchaeological analysis (Davis 1987). Seventy-one fragments could be identified to species, which included cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse (Table 5 and 6). The small rodents most likely represent incidental intrusions from the surrounding environment. The paucity of remains precludes any detailed analysis of the body part, fusion and tooth wear data. Fusion data that was available for the domesticated species showed that the majority were skeletally mature. One cattle tooth was aged between 1-8 months old. Two sheep/goat teeth were 2-6 months old, six were between 1-3 years old and one was 3-4 years old. There were few examples of butchery marks on the bones; a cattle humerus,

metatarsal and astragalus had cut marks as well as a sheep/goat tibia. One pig canine could be identified as female.

Summary

The assemblage is in good condition and displays few incidences of butchery, burning and gnawing. There were too few identifiable species to allow for meaningful interpretation of the remains. The assemblage is largely represented by the three major domesticates, which could be suggestive of domestic refuse.

Table 5: Animal bone, number of hand-collected specimens present

Taxa	**NISP**
Cattle (*Bos taurus*)	21
Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra)*	19
Sheep (*Ovis aries*)	4
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	13
Equid* (*Equus* sp.)	1
Unidentifiable large mammal	228
Unidentifiable medium mammal	44
Total	**330**

Table 6: Animal bone, number of sieved specimens present

Taxa	**NISP**
Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra)*	2
Sheep (*Ovis aries*)	1
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	6
Equid (*Equus* sp.)	1
Mouse (Apodemus sp.)	1
Vole (Arvicolinae sp.)	1
Small rodent	1
Total	**13**

7.2 Plant macrofossils by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, with a total of eighteen being submitted for assessment. The samples were bulk floated by MOLA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded. The assemblage from sample 6 (ditch [114]) is almost entirely composed of fossilised mollusc shell fragments, all of which are probably derived from the local limestone bedrock.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds are present at a low density within all but five of the assemblages studied. Preservation is moderately good, although many specimens are abraded and fragmented.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, although rarely as more than one specimen per assemblage. Occasional cereals, which are too poorly preserved for close identification, are also noted. Wheat occurs most frequently, with all of the identifiable specimens being of an elongated 'drop' form typical of either emmer (*T. dicoccum*) or spelt (*T. spelta*). Emmer and spelt glume bases are also recorded within seven assemblages.

Weed seeds are generally scarce. Of the few specimens which are recorded, segetal weeds and grassland herbs occur most frequently, with taxa noted including brome (*Bromus* sp.), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), grasses (Poaceae), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), sheep's sorrel (*R. acetosella*) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*). Highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce, but occasional fragments of rhizome/stem are noted along with a single thorn of sloe (*Prunus* sp.) type.

Small fragments of black porous and tarry material are present at a low to moderate density within most assemblages. Although some may be derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains), most are hard and brittle and are, perhaps, most likely to be bi-products of the burning of coal. Minute pieces of coal (coal 'dust') are also present within most assemblages, and it is thought most likely that both these and the black residues are relatively modern in origin, being introduced via the post-depositional bioturbation of the deposits. Such materials are commonly seen where night soil was spread during the later medieval/post-medieval periods or where steam implements were used on the land during the early modern era. Other remains occur infrequently, but do include small pieces of bone (most notably within sample 16 from the enclosure ditch), pellets of burnt or fired clay and large globules of vitreous material (sample 7, from post hole [099] within the ring ditch).

Discussion

For the purposes of this discussion, the samples have been divided into those from the ring ditch and its associated features, those from the enclosure ditch, and those from other features.

Ring ditch and associated features

Five samples (1, 2, 3, 6 and 9) are from sections of the ring ditch (with sample 6 coming from the recut), samples 4 and 10 respectively are from pits at the northern

and southern termini of the ditch and samples 7 and 8 are from postholes at the centre of the ditched area. Most assemblages are very sparse, possibly suggesting that the area within the ditch was kept relatively clean and clear. However, the two assemblages from the southern terminus (samples 9 and 10) both contain cereals and seeds, which may indicate that refuse from the central area was either swept into the ditch or accumulated there in the form of wind-blown detritus. The exact nature of the material is difficult to ascertain, but it is tentatively suggested that it is derived from mixed refuse including cereals (which were possibly accidentally charred during culinary preparation), hearth waste and/or burnt flooring/bedding materials.

Enclosure ditch

The five assemblages from the enclosure ditch are broadly similar in composition to those from the southern ring ditch terminus (see above), and it would appear most likely that all are derived from a similar source i.e. dispersed hearth/midden detritus. The abundance of bone fragments within the assemblage from sample 16 is, as yet, unexplained, but it would appear most likely that the material is domestic rather than 'ritual' in origin.

Other features

Samples 11 and 18 are from pit fills and samples 5 and 12 are from ditch/gully fills. The pit assemblages both contain materials similar to those from the ring ditch and enclosure ditches, and it is again suggested that the remains are derived from a very low density of scattered midden waste. The ditch/gully assemblages are both extremely sparse, although sample 12 does contain a moderate amount of comminuted charcoal fragments.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages from Banbury are largely typical of material from such ditched enclosures of later Iron Age date, where detritus from the main focus of habitation/site use (in this instance, the ring ditch) has either been deliberately swept into specific areas or has accidentally accumulated in the form of wind-blown detritus. In the current instance, the poor state of the material would appear to indicate that it was exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to incorporation within the feature fills. Specific environmental indicators are scarce, but it is suggested that many of the cereals present within the assemblages were probably grown on the free-draining soils which occur to east and west of Banbury.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Table 7: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

	Features associated with ring ditch									Enclosure ditch					Other features			
Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**9**	**6**	**4**	**10**	**7**	**8**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**11**	**18**	**5**	**12**
Context No.	**46**	**47**	**58**	**49**	**113**	**62**	**52**	**98**	**100**	**172**	**127**	**132**	**145**	**152**	**110**	**004**	**122**	**106**
Feature No.	**48**	**48**	**61**	**51**	**114**	**64**	**53**	**99**	**101**	**173**	**173**	**134**	**148**	**156**	**112**	**005**	**126**	**109**
Feature type	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**ph**	**ph**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**
Cereals																		
Avena sp. (grains)	-	-	-	xcffg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hordeum sp. (grains)	-	-	-	-	-	-	xcf	-	-	-	xcf	-	-	-	xcf	-	-	xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)	-	-	x	x	-	xcffg	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(glume bases)	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	x	X	-	-	-	-
(spikelet bases)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(rachis internode)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-
T. dicoccum Schubl. (glume bases)	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	X	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Cereal indet. (grains)	-	-	x	x	-	-	x	-	-	xfg	x	-	-	x	x	-	-	x
Herbs																		
Atriplex sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bromus sp.	-	-	-	x	-	-	xcffg	-	-	-	xcf	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Caryophyllaceae indet.	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chenopodiaceae indet.	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fabaceae indet.	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Galium sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
G. aparine L.	x	-	x	-	-	xfg	x	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Poaceae indet.	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Large Poaceae indet.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Polygonum aviculare L.	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polygonaceae indet.	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rumex sp.	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-

	Features associated with ring ditch									Enclosure ditch					Other features			
Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**9**	**6**	**4**	**10**	**7**	**8**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**11**	**18**	**5**	**12**
Context No.	**46**	**47**	**58**	**49**	**113**	**62**	**52**	**98**	**100**	**172**	**127**	**132**	**145**	**152**	**110**	**004**	**122**	**106**
R. acetosella L.	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Stellaria media (L.)Vill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.)Schultz-Bip	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other plant macrofossils																		
Charcoal <2mm	Xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xxxx	xxx	x	xxxx	xxx	x	xx	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	X	-	x	x	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	X	-	x	x	xxxx	x	xx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	X	-
Charcoal >10mm	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charred root/stem	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indet. seeds	-	-	-	x	-	X	x	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Indet. thorn (*Prunus* type)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Other remains																		
Black porous and tarry material	X	xx	x	x	x	x	x	xx	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	x
Bone	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	xxb	-	x	-	-	xxxx	-	-	x	-	-
Burnt/fired clay	X	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small coal frags.	X	xx	xx	x	x	x		x	-	X	X	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	X	-	-	x	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Vitreous material	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sample volume (litres)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**

Key to Table
x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt RD = ring ditch ph = posthole

8 DISCUSSION

The excavation, which targeted features revealed during geophysical survey and trial trenching, revealed a ditched enclosure, a roundhouse gully, and a number of pits, postholes and drainage ditches.

At least one linear ditch predated the enclosure ditch. The function of this ditch [170] could not be determined, but in plan it is possible to suggest a relationship between this ditch [170] and ditch [9] to the east. The two ditches are a similar size and shape, and both are angled towards the ring ditch entrance. Unfortunately the pottery does not allow for a more detailed phasing between the ditches, roundhouse and enclosure.

The ditch of the sub-rectangular enclosure was substantial, measuring between 2.90m and 5.00m wide, and between 1.56m and 1.86m deep. Pottery recovered from the ditch was dated to the Iron Age. The ditch had been recut once on the south and west sides, but not to the north. The recut, positioned on the inner edge of the enclosure ditch, was noticeably shallower and narrower than the original ditch, measuring between 1.46m-1.91m wide, and 0.45m to 0.96m deep. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from the recut.

Inside the enclosure at its western end was a single ring gully from a roundhouse. It was open to the eastern side, with an entranceway delineated to the north by a long oval ditch. The ring gully was also recut once, and one sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the recut fill. However, it seems likely that this small sherd is intrusive, as the only other pottery from this date came from a gully to the south of the ring ditch, and no other evidence to suggest settlement continuity into the Romano-British period is known. Both terminals of the ring gully contained quantities of Iron Age pottery, particularly to the south where 64 sherds, mostly from the same coarseware jar, were recovered. The deposition of pottery, including substantial parts of single vessels, in the terminals of Iron Age roundhouse ring ditches is a well-recognised occurrence. The terminals at both ends of the ditch were cut by pits, which contained pottery and charcoal, and two further pits lay to the east of the roundhouse gully. A number of small postholes were observed inside or cutting the ring gully. These probably supported structural elements of the roundhouse.

Remnant medieval furrows from ploughing were observed across the site, aligned north-south. Post-medieval activity on the site seems mainly to have been concerned with water management; comprising two stone drains which cut through the Iron Age site, and a drainage gully to the north and south. Modern features included field drains, cultivation gullies, and an irregularly-shaped area of modern disturbance containing post-medieval pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipe, and modern waste.

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MOLA Northampton

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
1	Topsoil	Firm grey-brown, silty loam with frequent small to medium sub-angular stone and ironstone	0.29m deep	-
2	Subsoil	Firm grey-brown silty clay with frequent ironstone and chalk	-	-
3	Natural	Mixed ironstone/corn-brash and sandy silt with chalky clay	-	-
4	Fill of 5	Friable/Loose, mid brown silty sand with rare small sub-angular stone inclusions. Clear boundaries.	0.99m wide 0.45m deep	-
5	Pit	Circular steep sides with and flat base.	0.99m wide 0.45m deep	-
6	Fill of 9	Compact mid yellow-grey-brown silty clay occasional charcoal flecks	0.80m wide 0.31m deep	-
7	Fill of 9	Compact mid yellow-grey silty clay frequent charcoal flecks	0.50m wide 0.12m deep	-
8	Fill of 9	Compact mid yellow grey silty clay	0.55m wide 0.12m deep	-
9	Ditch	Linear in plan, aligned E-W steep sides flat base	0.83m wide 0.54m deep	-
10	Fill of 11	Compact mid orange-brown clay frequent ironstone	0.30m wide 0.12m deep	-
11	spread	Oblong, aligned N-S very shallow irregular sides and base	0.30m wide 0.12m deep	-
12	Fill of 18	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay	2.00m wide 0.10m deep	-
13	Fill of 18	Firm mid greenish grey clay occasional stone and ironstone	3.90m wide 0.42m deep	Pottery and bone
14	Fill of 18	Firm greenish-grey clay with orange mottling,	2.76m wide 0.22m deep	-
15	Fill of 18	Firm mid grey-brown clay occasional stone and ironstone	2.00m wide 0.62m deep	Pottery and bone
16	Fill of 18	Firm mid orange-brown clay moderate stone and ironstone	1.62m wide 0.24m deep	-
17	Fill of 18	Firm dark grey-brown clay occasional ironstone	0.62m wide 0.44m deep	-
18	Ditch	Enclosure ditch, aligned E-W, V-shape profile	4.60m wide 1.80m deep	-
19	Fill of 18	Friable dark grey-brown silty clay occasional small pebbles	0.52m wide 0.14m deep	-
20	Fill of 22	Compact dark grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling occasional burnt stone	0.80m wide 0.15m deep	-
21	Fill of 22	Compact dark grey-brown silty clay moderate stone, ironstone, bone and rare charcoal flecks	0.54m wide 0.35m deep	Animal bone
22	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S, V-shape profile	0.80m wide 0.50m deep	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
23	Fill of 24	Compact dark brown-grey silty clay occasional ironstone corn-brash and pottery	0.56m wide 0.34m deep	Pottery
24	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE V-shape profile	0.56m wide 0.34m deep	-
25	Fill of 26	Firm dark grey silty clay with orange mottling occasional ironstone	0.62m wide 0.26m deep	-
26	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W gradual sloping side concave base	0.62m wide 0.26m deep	-
27	Fill of 28	Firm grey-brown silty clay with orange-blue mottling	0.60m wide 0.22m deep	Post-med pottery, glass and clay pipe stem
28	Gully	Linear in plan aligned E-W U-shape	0.60m wide 0.22m deep	-
29	Fill of 30	Firm mixed re-deposited silty clays grey-brown, blue-grey and orange-brown frequent stone	Not fully excavated 1.80m wide 0.30m deep	Post-med pottery, glass, clay pipe and plastic
30	Spread	Irregular rectangular spread aligned E-W irregular base	Not fully excavated 1.80m wide 0.30m deep	-
31	Fill of 35	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional ironstone	5.00m wide 0.30m deep	-
32	Fill of 35	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional stone and ironstone	3.16m wide 0.32m deep	-
33	Fill of 35	Firm mid grey brown clay rare charcoal flecks	2.82m wide 0.68m deep	-
34	Fill of 35	Firm dark brown-grey clay rare charcoal fleck	1.52m wide 0.42m deep	-
35	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned NE-SW, V-shaped profile	5.00m wide 1.56m deep	-
36	Fill of 41	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional ironstone	3.72m wide 0.16m deep	-
37	Fill of 41	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional stone and ironstone	4.12m wide 0.28m deep	-
38	Fill of 41	Firm mid grey brown clay rare ironstone and charcoal flecks	3.10m wide 0.60m deep	-
39	Fill of 41	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay occasional stone and ironstone	2.24m wide 0.30m deep	-
40	Fill of 41	Firm dark brown-grey clay rare charcoal fleck	1.56m wide 0.40m deep	Bone
41	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned NE-SW, V-shaped profile	4.12m wide 1.58m deep	-
42	Fill of 43	Compact grey-brown silty clay frequent pottery, bone and slag	0.50m wide 0.30m deep	Pottery, bone, slag
43	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch U-shape profile aligned E-W	0.50m wide 0.30m deep	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
44	Fill of 45	Compact grey-brown silty clay occasional pottery and bone	0.52m wide 0.20m deep	Pottery and bone
45	Pit	Circular pit U-shape in profile	0.52m wide 0.20m deep	-
46	Fill of 48	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional pottery, bone and slag	0.41m wide 0.14m deep	Pottery, bone and slag
47	Fill of 48	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.18m wide 0.14m deep	-
48	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch U-shape in profile aligned ENE-WSW	0.41m wide 0.30m deep (half profile)	-
49	Fill of 51	Firm mid grey–brown silty clay frequent pottery and bone	0.47m wide 0.18m deep	Pottery and bone
50	Fill of 51	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.38m wide 0.16m deep	-
51	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch U-shape in profile aligned NE-SW	0.47m wide 0.31m deep	-
52	Fill of 53	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional pottery and bone, rare charcoal flecks	0.28m deep (half profile)	Pottery and bone
53	Pit	Sub-circular pit U-shape in profile	0.28m deep (half profile)	-
54	Fill of 55	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay	0.12m wide 0.16m deep	-
55	Pit	Sub-circular pit U-shape in profile	0.12m wide 0.16m deep	-
56	Fill of 57	Firm mid grey brown silty clay frequent slag	0.16m wide 0.13m deep	Slag
57	Pit	Pit, U-shaped profile	0.16m wide 0.13m deep	-
58	Fill of 61	Firm dark grey-black silty clay occasional pottery and bone frequent charcoal and burnt stone	0.43m wide 0.21m deep (half profile)	Pottery and bone
59	Fill of 61	Firm grey-brown silty clay frequent chalk flecks and small sub-rounded stone	0.35m wide 0.15m deep (half profile)	-
60	Fill of 61	Firm grey-brown silty clay occasional small stone and ironstone	0.30m deep (half profile)	-
61	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch at terminus aligned E-W gradual sloping sides changing to a U-shape	(half profile)	-
62	Fill of 64	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay frequent pottery, bone and charcoal	0.80m wide 2.50m long (half profile)	Pottery, bone, charcoal
63	Fill of 64	Firm mottled grey-brown silty clay rare charcoal	0.80m wide 2.50m long (half profile)	-
64	Pit	Rectangular pit, U-shaped profile aligned NE-SW	0.80m wide 2.50m long	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
			(half profile)	
65	Fill of 67	Firm mottled grey-brown silty clay	Not fully excavated	-
66	Fill of 67	Firm grey-brown silty clay	Not fully excavated	-
67	Furrow	furrow	Not fully excavated	-
68	Fill of 69	Compact mottled grey-brown silty clay frequent stone	0.12m wide 0.18m deep	-
69	Drain	stone drain aligned N-S	0.12m wide 0.18m deep	-
70	Fill of 75	Firm dark brown silty clay occasional stone	4.59m wide 0.24m deep	-
71	Fill of 75	Compact brown-grey silty clay with orange mottling frequent ironstone occasional pottery	4.10m wide (approx) 0.60m deep	Pottery
72	Fill of 75	Compact grey-brown silty clay with orange-blue mottling frequent ironstone and occasional pottery	3.00m wide 0.60m deep	Pottery
73	Fill of 75	Compact grey-blue silty clay rare stone	1.90m wide 0.20-0.40m deep	-
74	Fill of 75	Compact grey-blue silty clay rare stone and very rare charcoal fleck	0.80m wide 0.20m deep	-
75	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned E-W gradual sloping sides concave base	4.60m wide 1.86m deep	-
76	Fill of 77	Compact orange- brown silty clay with frequent corn-brash occasional pottery and bone	1.90m wide 0.50m deep	Pottery and bone
77	Re-cut of ditch	Re-cut in the enclosure ditch aligned E-W gradual sloping side and concave base	1.91m wide 0.50m deep	-
78	Fill of 79	Compact brown-grey silty clay	Not fully excavated	-
79	Furrow	furrow	Not fully excavated	-
80	Fill of 81	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay occasional stone, ironstone and rare charcoal fleck	0.88m wide 0.26m deep	-
81	Re-cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch re-cut aligned NW-SE U-shape in profile	0.88m wide 0.26m deep	-
82	Fill of 85	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay frequent ironstone fragments rare charcoal	0.56m wide 0.20m deep	-
83	Fill of 85	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay frequent ironstone and occasional bone	0.90m wide 0.26m deep	Bone & flint
84	Fill of 85	Firm yellow-grey silty clay frequent corn-brash and ironstone	0.10 deep	-
85	Ditch	Curvilinear dich aligned NE-SW gently sloping sides concave base	1.68m wide 0.52m deep	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
86	Fill of 87	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional pottery and bone	0.79m wide 0.23m deep	Pottery, bone, flint
87	Re-cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned NW-SE	0.79m wide 0.23m deep	-
88	Fill of 92	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay occasional stone	0.50m wide 0.15m deep	-
89	Fill of 92	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay moderate ironstone and stone	0.92m wide 0.17m deep	-
90	Fill of 92	Hard grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.68m wide 0.08m deep	-
91	Fill of 92	Compact light yellow-blue clay occasional bone and slag	1.11m wide 0.07m deep	Bone and slag
92	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned SE-NW U-shaped	1.19m wide 0.49m deep	-
93	Fill of 94	Firm light grey silty clay occasional stone	0.58m wide 0.18m deep	-
94	Re-cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned NNW-SSE U-shaped profile	0.58m wide 0.18m deep	-
95	Fill of 97	Firm grey-brown silty clay, frequent burnt stone occasional bone	0.86m wide 0.17m deep	Bone
96	Fill of 97	Firm orange-brown silty clay	0.92m wide 0.06m deep	-
97	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned NNW-SSE U-shape profile	0.92m wide 0.43m deep	-
98	Fill of 99	Firm dark grey clay occasional stone and rare bone	0.43m wide 0.28m deep	-
99	Posthole	Circular posthole U-Shaped profile with a broad flat base	0.43m wide 0.28m deep	-
100	Fill of 101	Firm light grey clay rare ironstone	0.36m wide 0.13m deep	-
101	Posthole	Circular posthole U-Shaped profile with a broad flat base	0.36m wide 0.13m deep	-
102	Fill of 103	Firm dark brown-grey silty clay occasional stone ironstone and pottery	0.23m deep (half profile)	-
103	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NE-SW part of 064	0.23m deep (half profile)	-
104	Fill of 105	Firm grey-brown silty clay occasional small stone	0.20m wide 0.15m deep	-
105	Posthole	Circular posthole U-shaped profile	0.20m wide 0.15m deep	-
106	Fill of 109	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional slag pottery and rare charcoal fleck	0.68 wide 0.32m deep (half profile)	Pottery and slag
107	Fill of 109	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay occasional charcoal fleck	0.63m wide 0.27m deep (half profile)	-
108	Fill of 109	Hard mid blue-orange clay occasional small-medium stone and ironstone	0.43m wide 0.43m deep (half profile)	-
109	Ditch	Terminus of linear ditch aligned NW-SE steep sided flat base	0.68m wide 0.92m deep (half profile)	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
110	Fill of 112	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay	1.12m wide 0.56m deep	-
111	Fill of 112	Hard mid blue-orange silty clay	0.32m wide 0.48m deep	-
112	Pit	Circular pit U-shaped	1.12m wide 0.56m deep	-
113	Fill of114	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay frequent stone, charcoal and pottery	0.80m wide 0.26m deep	Pottery
114	Re-cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned E-W U-shaped profile	0.80m wide 0.26m deep	-
115	Fill of 117	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay frequent ironstone	0.66m wide 0.20m deep	-
116	Fill of 117	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling frequent ironstone	0.72m wide 0.19m deep	-
117	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned E-W U-shaped profile	1.50m wide 0.40m deep	-
118	Fill of 119	Hard yellow-grey clay frequent stone	0.20m wide 0.19m deep	-
119	Drain	Linear stone drain	0.20m wide 0.19m deep	-
120	Fill of 121	Firm grey-brown clay	0.07m deep not fully excavated	-
121	Furrow	linear furrow	0.07m deep not fully excavated	-
122	Fill of 126	Firm grey-brown clay moderate stone	1.12mwide 0.36m deep	?Flint
123	Fill of 126	Hard grey-brown silty clay occasional burnt stone	0.53m wide 0.15m deep	-
124	Fill of 126	Firm yellow-brown silty clay	0.34m wide 0.19m deep	-
125	Fill of 126	Firm dark brown silty clay rare charcoal fleck	0.28m deep 0.08m wide	-
126	Ditch	Terminus of ditch U-shape with a broad base	1.42m wide 0.60m deep	-
127	Fill of 128	Compact mid grey-brown silty clay occasional stone and ironstone	1.46m wide 0.72m deep	-
128	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned E-W U-shaped profile	1.46m wide 0.72m deep	-
129	Fill of 134	Hard mid grey-brown clay occasional stone and ironstone	1.40m wide 0.60m deep	Pottery and bone
130	Fill of 134	Hard mid grey- brown clay occasional stone and ironstone	2.94m wide 0.60m deep	-
131	Fill of 134	Hard mid orange-brown clay occasional stone, ironstone and burnt stone	1.98m wide 0.34m deep	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
132	Fill of 134	Hard mid orange-brown clay occasional stone, ironstone	1.36m wide 0.40m deep	-
133	Fill of 134	Hard yellow-blue clay with orange mottling	0.58m wide 0.11m deep	-
134	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned E-W irregular upper slope U-shaped base	2.94m wide 1.76m deep	-
135	Fill of 136	Hard mid grey-brown clay occasional stone	1.80m wide 0.45m deep	-
136	Re-cut of ditch	Re-cut of enclosure ditch U-shaped profile	1.80m wide 0.45m deep	-
137	Fill of 142	Hard grey-brown silty clay occasional stone and ironstone	1.28m wide 0.25m deep	Pottery and bone
138	Fill of 142	Hard mid grey-brown clay occasional stone and ironstone	2.50m wide 0.47m deep	-
139	Fill of 142	Hard mid grey-brown clay occasional stone and ironstone	2.94m wide 0.56m deep	-
140	Fill of 142	Hard mid yellow-brown clay occasional stone and ironstone	1.80m wide 038m deep	-
141	Fill of 142	Hard mid blue-grey clay occasional medium and large ironstone and stone	0.62m wide 0.16m deep	-
142	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned E-W V-shaped profile concave base	3.28m wide 1.70m deep	-
143	Fill of 148	Hard mid brown-grey silty clay occasional ironstone	3.58m wide 0.44m wide	-
144	Fill of 148	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay occasional ironstone rare charcoal fleck	2.48m wide 0.65m deep	-
145	Fill of 148	Hard mid-dark grey-brown clay occasional ironstone and gravels	1.40m wide 0.32m deep	-
146	Fill of 148	Hard mid orange-brown clay occasional gravel and ironstone rare charcoal fleck	0.90m wide 0.56m deep	-
147	Fill of 148	Firm mid blue-brown clay with orange mottling occasional small stone	0.60m wide 0.32m deep	-
148	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned E-W V-shaped profile concave base	3.58m wide 1.76m deep	-
149	Fill of 150	Hard mid-dark grey-brown clay frequent small stone and ironstone	1.74m wide 0.96m deep	-
150	Re-cut of ditch	Re-cut of enclosure ditch U-shaped profile	1.74m wide 0.96m deep	-
151	Fill of 156	Hard mid brown-grey silty clay occasional ironstone	1.78m wide 0.40 m deep	-
152	Fill of 156	Hard mid grey-brown silty clay with orange mottling occasional ironstone rare charcoal fleck	1.90m wide 0.50m deep	-
153	Fill of 156	Hard mid-dark grey-brown clay occasional ironstone and gravels	1.79m wide 0.30m deep	-
154	Fill of 156	Firm mid blue-brown clay	1.68m wide	-

Context	*Context type*	*Description*	*Dimensions*	*Artefacts/ Samples*
		occasional small stone	0.36m deep	
155	Fill of 156	Firm mid blue-brown clay with orange mottling occasional small stones	0.58m wide 0.25m deep	-
156	Ditch	Enclosure ditch aligned N-S V-shaped profile concave base	2.90m wide 1.78m deep	-
157	Fill of 158	Compact mid grey-brown clay ceramic land drain	0.14m wide 0.25m deep	-
158	Drainage	Linear cut of land-drain aligned N-S	0.14m wide 0.25m deep	-
159	Fill of 160	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay frequent stone and ironstone	1.16m wide 0.16m deep	-
160	Furrow	Linear cut of medieval furrow aligned N-S	1.16m wide 0.16m deep	-
161	Fill of 162	Firm grey silty clay with orange and red burnt clay	0.71m wide 0.23m deep	Pottery
162	Re-cut of ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned NE-SW U-shape profile	0.71m wide 0.23m deep	-
163	Fill of 166	Firm red-grey silty clay frequent burnt ironstone	0.37m wide 0.33m deep	-
164	Fill of 166	Firm yellow-grey silty clay with occasional burnt stone	0.64m wide 0.15m deep	-
165	Fill of 166	Firm yellow-brown silty clay with blue mottled	0.36m wide 0.10m deep	-
166	Ditch	Curvilinear ditch aligned NE-SW U-shaped profile	1.33m wide 0.44m deep	-
167	Not used	-	-	-
168	Not used	-	-	-
169	Fill of 170	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay	0.30m+ deep Half profile	-
170	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S U-shape profile	0.30m+ deep Half profile	-
171	Fill of 173	Hard mid grey sandy clay mottled with red sand frequent ironstone	0.48m deep Part profile	-
172	Fill of 173	Firm mid grey clay	0.24m deep Part profile	-
173	Ditch	Linear ditch V-shape in profile	Not fully excavated	-
174	Fill of 175	Hard mid yellow-brown clay rare charcoal fleck	0.85m wide 0.20m deep	Clay pipe
175	Gully	linear gully aligned NE-SW shallow edges concave base	0.85m wide 0.20m deep	-

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