SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

# Barber's Point

## Friston, Aldeburgh, Suffolk
## Excavations 2013

### Volume 1: Report

**For:**
Aldeburgh & District Local History Society &
Touching the Tide (Heritage Lottery Fund)

**Date:**
December 2015

FRS 001
Archaeological Excavation Report
SACIC Report No. 2015/019
Author: Jezz Meredith


# Barber's Point, Friston

## Volume 1: Report

Archaeological Excavation Report

SACIC Report No. 2015/019

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Report Date: December 2015

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Plate 1. Richard Newman 1944-2014 © ADLHS

# HER Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report Number:** | **2015/019** |
| **Site Name:** | **Barber's Point, Friston** |
| **Date of Fieldwork:** | **29th August – 24th September 2013** |
| **Grid Reference:** | **TM 4321 5729** |
| **Commissioning by:** | **Aldeburgh and District Local History Society and Touching the Tide (Heritage Lottery Fund)** |
| **Curatorial Officers:** | **Jude Plouviez & Richard Hoggett** |
| **Project Officer:** | **Jezz Meredith** |
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Prepared By: Jezz Meredith
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Position: Manager Director
Date: December 2015
Signed:

Plate 2. David Gillingswater's realisation of the burial rite at grave 6039 (©ADLHS)

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## Summary

The excavations at Barber's Point during September 2013 (Trench 6) formed the fourth and final season of archaeological investigations by the ADLHS (Aldeburgh and District Local History Society) in conjunction with SCCAS (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, now Suffolk Archaeology). This season of excavation was generously funded in part by Touching the Tide (a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme hosted by Suffolk Coasts & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The excavation was run as a three week research dig while training volunteers in excavation techniques and recording. School visits to the site with opportunities for primary age pupils to work on an excavation and a follow-up programme of outreach events were important aspects of this project.

Previous excavations at the site had uncovered artefacts of prehistoric date including pottery, flint tools and heat-altered flint. Before 2013 no features of these earlier periods had been identified but Trench 6 contained a large central pit containing Bronze Age pottery, charred hazelnut fragments and the bones of a red squirrel.

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The site was covered by a thick layer of dark earth containing abundant Roman pottery and salt-working debris (briquetage). This layer was entirely excavated by hand and sieved to reveal huge quantities of artefacts including 8,700 Roman pottery sherds and 2,700 fragments of briquetage. The pottery suggests that during the Roman period the site was occupied mainly during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The ceramics are dominated by slack-shouldered jars in a grey or black-surfaced fabric but large coarse-tempered storage jars, typical of permanent settlement, appear to be absent from the assemblage. It is possible that the Roman occupation was seasonal and linked to salt-processing.

The 2010 excavations (Trench 5) had identified a concentration of Middle Saxon graves which seemed to represent a linear cemetery aligned along the enclosure ditch of the settlement. The Trench 6 excavations of 2013 opened up an area to reveal the rest of the cemetery and a further nine graves were identified. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the recent human skeleton samples suggest a date range from the beginning of the 7th to the 9th centuries AD, indicating that Barber's Point was in use from the Early to the Middle Saxon periods.

The dating evidence suggests that the burial sequence started with a grave of *c.*AD 600 in which a young individual was interred, probably female and of about 16 years of age. At her left ankle was placed a wooden box represented by a scatter of iron fittings preserving traces of maple wood from which the box had been made. Also preserved in the iron corrosion were traces of fine fabric, some of it pleated, suggesting that four different garments or soft furnishings had been placed over the box.

Within the box was a fascinating set of objects. Some of these items probably belonged to a 'chatelaine' group (e.g. an arrangement of keys and other items hung from the waist, worn by an adult woman). These included an iron lift key, hoops of iron wire (some of which were decorated with beads), a spindle whorl and a short iron rod around which thread had been wound. The box also contained other interesting items such as an Iron Age terret ring, fragments of Roman glass, a lump of amber and a pierced fossil. The most intriguing item was a near-complete panther cowrie shell which could have originated from the Red Sea.

During the course of the next century a further ten graves were dug in a linear arrangement, mainly either side of the founding grave. One of these Phase 2 graves was located very closely to the founder. This was the burial of a five year old child who was placed with a pierced Roman coin, probably on a necklace. Phase 3 burials of the 8th century were represented by a burial at the northern end of the line of graves. Of particular note was the young age of the nine individuals revealed in the 2013 excavations. Four were children under ten years of age and five were teenagers or young adults.

Severe tidal surges during December of 2013 resulted in a breach of the river wall protecting Barber's Point, flooding the fields behind the site and transforming Hazlewood Marshes into the submerged mud flats that characterise their present condition. The site stands slightly above the high water mark confirming our earlier reconstructions of the site being an island. The strong scouring effect of the tidal surges has exposed a complex arrangement of preserved timbers out on the foreshore below the site which are believed to be contemporary with the Saxon occupation.

## Chronological framework and terminology

| | |
|---|---|
| **Palaeolithic** | c. 700,000 BC to 10,000 BC |
| **Mesolithic** | c. 10,000 BC to 4000 BC |
| **Neolithic** | c. 4000 BC to 2300 BC |
| **Bronze Age** | c. 2500 BC to 700 BC |
| **Iron Age** | c. 800 BC to AD 43 |
| **Roman** | AD 43 to AD 410 |
| **Saxon** | AD 410 to AD 1066 |
| *Early Anglo-Saxon* | *AD 410 to AD 650* |
| *Middle Saxon* | *AD 650 to AD 850* |
| *Late Saxon* | *AD 850 to AD 1066* |
| **Medieval** | AD 1066 to AD 1500 |
| **Post-medieval** | AD 1500 to AD 1900 |
| **Modern** | AD 1900 + |

Plate 4. Aerial view of Barber's Point looking south-west towards Iken, September 2013 (Commission Air).

# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

Limit of Excavation

Features

Break of Slope

Features - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Cut Number 0008

Archaeological Features

## Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Modern Cut

Cut - Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top of Natural

Top Surface

Break in Section

Cut Number 0008

Deposit Number 0007

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

# 1. Introduction

The 2013 season of excavation at Barber's Point represents the fourth and final part of the archaeological investigations on the River Alde (Figs. 1 & 2). The main objective of this last phase of work was to focus on uncovering the remaining area of the cemetery and the relationship between the burials and the surrounding enclosure ditches.

The Aldeburgh and District Local History Society (hereafter ADLHS) dug test pits adjacent to the site in 2002 and 2003 and embarked on an open area excavation of the main site (Trenches 1 and 2) in 2004. This phase of work and the subsequent excavations in 2006 (Trenches 3 and 4) and 2010 (Trench 5) were supervised by staff from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (hereafter SCCAS). The 2013 excavations (Trench 6) investigated a roughly triangular area of the site located between Trenches 1 and 3 to the south-west and Trenches 4 and 5 to the north (Fig. 3).

As part of a planned programme of events over a three year period, helping the local community to celebrate and conserve the heritage of the Suffolk coast and to increase understanding of coastal change, Touching the Tide (a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme) was a major supporter of the 2013 excavations. As with the previous phases of work, this excavation was run as a training dig with volunteers from ADLHS being supervised and trained by staff of SCCAS. The project ran for three weeks in September, with the middle week dedicated to school visits and the active participation of pupils working on site.

Previous investigations had identified a thick spread containing Roman and residual prehistoric finds, through which had been cut a number of features of Saxon date (mainly 7th and 8th centuries AD). During the Saxon period a large rectilinear enclosure ditch had been dug and this was replaced by another ditch indicating an expansion of the settlement area. Post-hole alignments within the enclosure probably indicated structures, although individual building footprints were difficult to detect. A possible square building which could be interpreted as a possible church or chapel and appeared to be associated with isolated burials, radiocarbon dated to the 9th and 10th centuries. The main group of burials however which were located to the east of these were mainly dated between *c*.AD 600-800 (Meredith 2007, 2012). The 2013 excavations were designed to uncover the rest of this group.

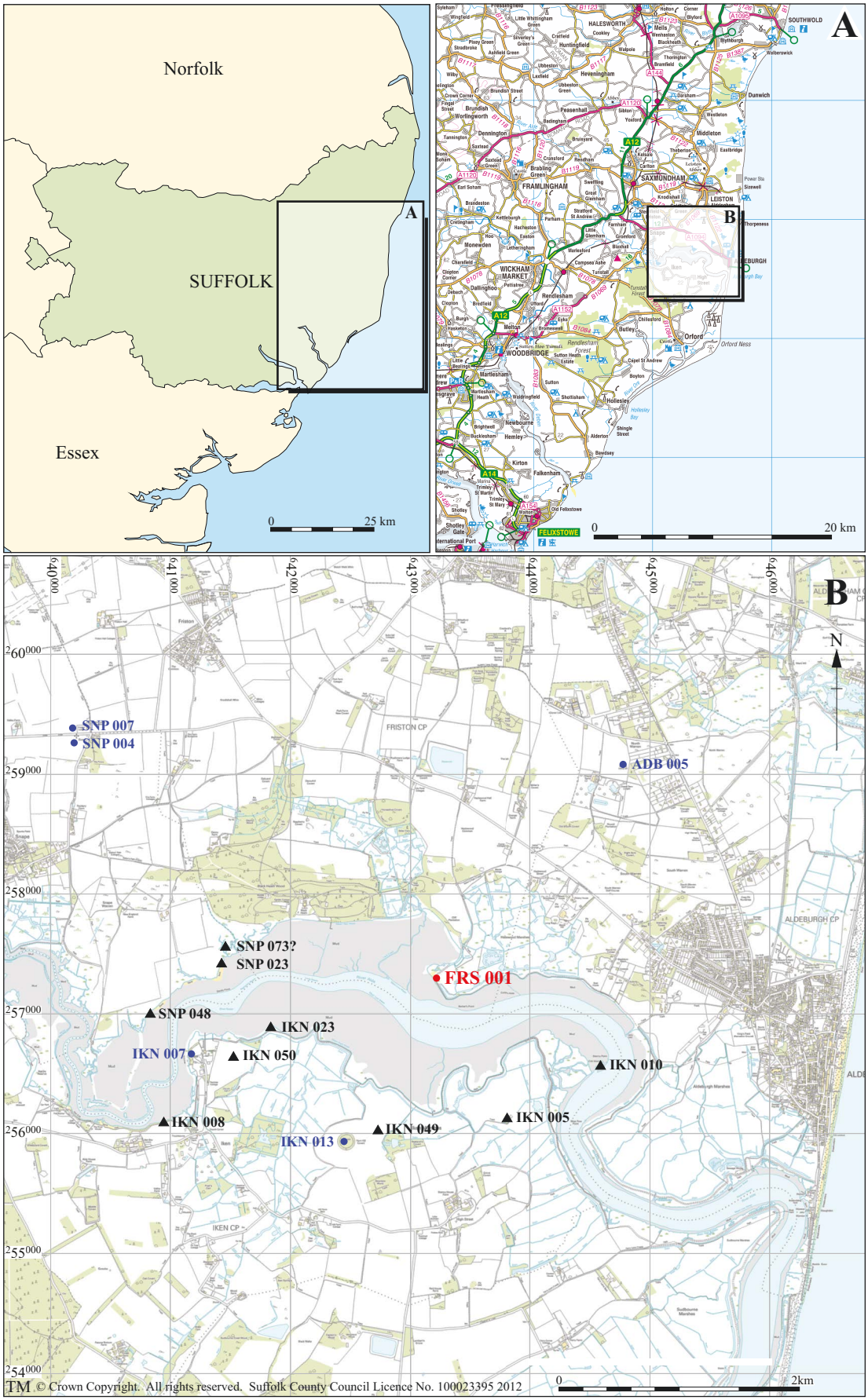


Figure 1. Site location (in red) and selected HER entries (IA/Roman in black, Saxon/medieval in blue)

# 2. Background

The background to the project has been covered in depth in the previous report for the 2010 excavations (Meredith 2012) and the following is a summary of the information presented there. Prior to 2013 Barber's Point was a promontory on the north bank of the River Alde (within the parish of Friston) with the archaeological site of FRS 001 on the north-western tip of this promontory (Fig. 1). During the 2013 excavation Barber's Point was protected by a river wall but the tidal surges of December 2013 led to the river wall being breached and this area is now inundated at high tide, leaving the site as a low island.

The site is adjacent to the River Alde, where the bottom of the valley and the underlying geology is characterised by mixed alluvial deposits of silts, sands, clays and peats (British Geological Survey 1991). Previous archaeological investigations (Meredith 2007, 2012) have indicated that the underlying geological deposits (hereafter referred to as 'the natural') consist of predominantly fine-grained sand and silty sand with bands of coarser sand and gravel and with occasional patches of sandy clay and chalky clay.

The area of the site is on a very slight rise and a previous auger-hole survey indicated that the site was on a low island with a branch of the river separating it from the northern bank in earlier times (Godwin 2007). Land reclamation, possibly within the medieval period, led to the creation of the promontory of Barber's Point. The December 2013 break of the river defences and the subsequent return of much of this area to tidal mud flat confirmed the interpretation of the site as an island before the medieval period. The scouring effect of the tidal surge has also revealed further timbers on the foreshore (Everett 2007, 2014). Site FRS 047, previously dated to the 7th and 8th centuries AD, was shown in greater detail while the undated timber alignment FRS 058 was far longer in extent than previously recorded (Fig. 2).

Barber's Point is close to a number of important archaeological and historical sites, mainly located along the River Alde (Fig. 1). These include late Iron Age to early Roman saltworking sites (SNP 023, 048 & 078; IKN 008, 023, 049 & 050), other Roman sites (IKN 005 & 010), Saxon burial and monastic centres (SNP 004 & 007; IKN 007) and the abandoned medieval church of St Mary's of Hazlewood? (ADB 005).

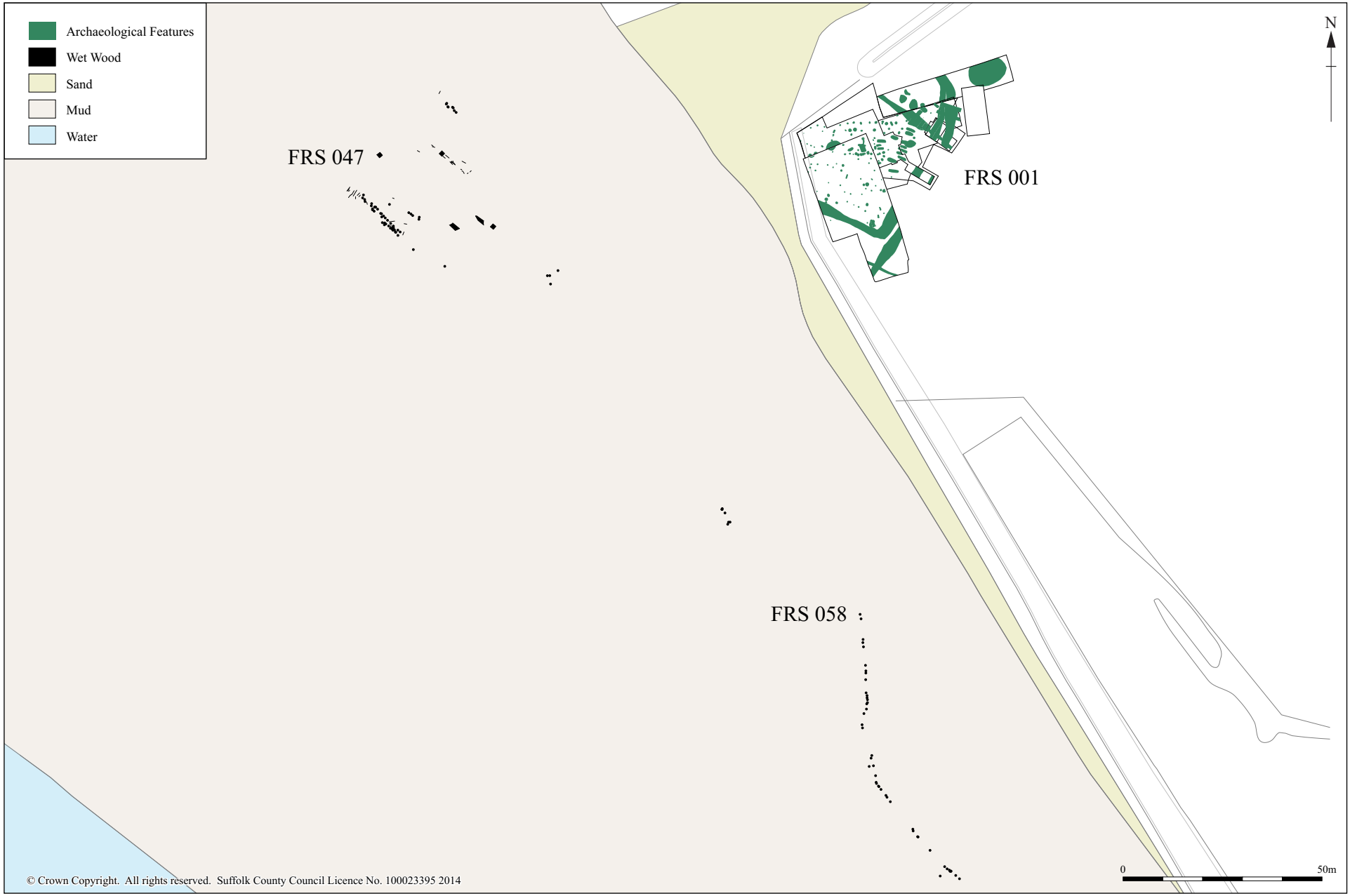


Figure 2. Site with nearby concentrations of preserved waterlogged timbers


Figure 3. Site plan showing position of Trench 6 (outlined in red) in relation to earlier trenches

# 3. Methodology

A mechanical excavator (JCB), equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, removed turf and topsoil to a depth of *c*.0.3m within the area designated as Trench 6, an area of approximately 290m² (Fig. 3). The topsoil layer was given the context number 6002 and the underlying slightly paler layer, which contained archaeological finds, was numbered 6003. A metal detector search was conducted across this surface and metallic artefacts were numbered, lifted and their location recorded.

The machined surface of layer 6003 was divided up into 'squares' of approximately 2.5m by 2.5m although some were of irregular size (Fig. 4). The squares were hand-dug and the excavated soil was sieved through a 10mm mesh for the recovery of finds. The soil from each square was given its own context number within the range 6500 to 6558. All finds were given the specific context number for that square; except for metallic, glass or other small finds which were also given their own unique (Small Finds) number (within the range 1600 to 1858).

Once the overlying deposits had been removed to the depth of natural sand, a block of adjacent squares (ideally an area of 5m by 5m), was cleaned by trowel to examine for underlying archaeological features. Features were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 6004 - 6177. Features such as pits and post-holes were excavated in half-section and were drawn in plan and in section at a scale of 1:20. Individual section numbers were given to section and profile drawings.

Graves were excavated in plan only and were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Separate grave plans were produced to show grave staining, skeletal remains, small finds and other deposits of interest. Levels above sea-level (recorded as metres Above Ordnance Datum) were recorded for feature sections and for grave profiles and, where they survived, for human remains.

Component numbers were given to groups of related features, such as post-holes belonging to a potential structure. Each ditch section/excavated slot was given its own unique cut number but was given a component number that linked all the separate ditch

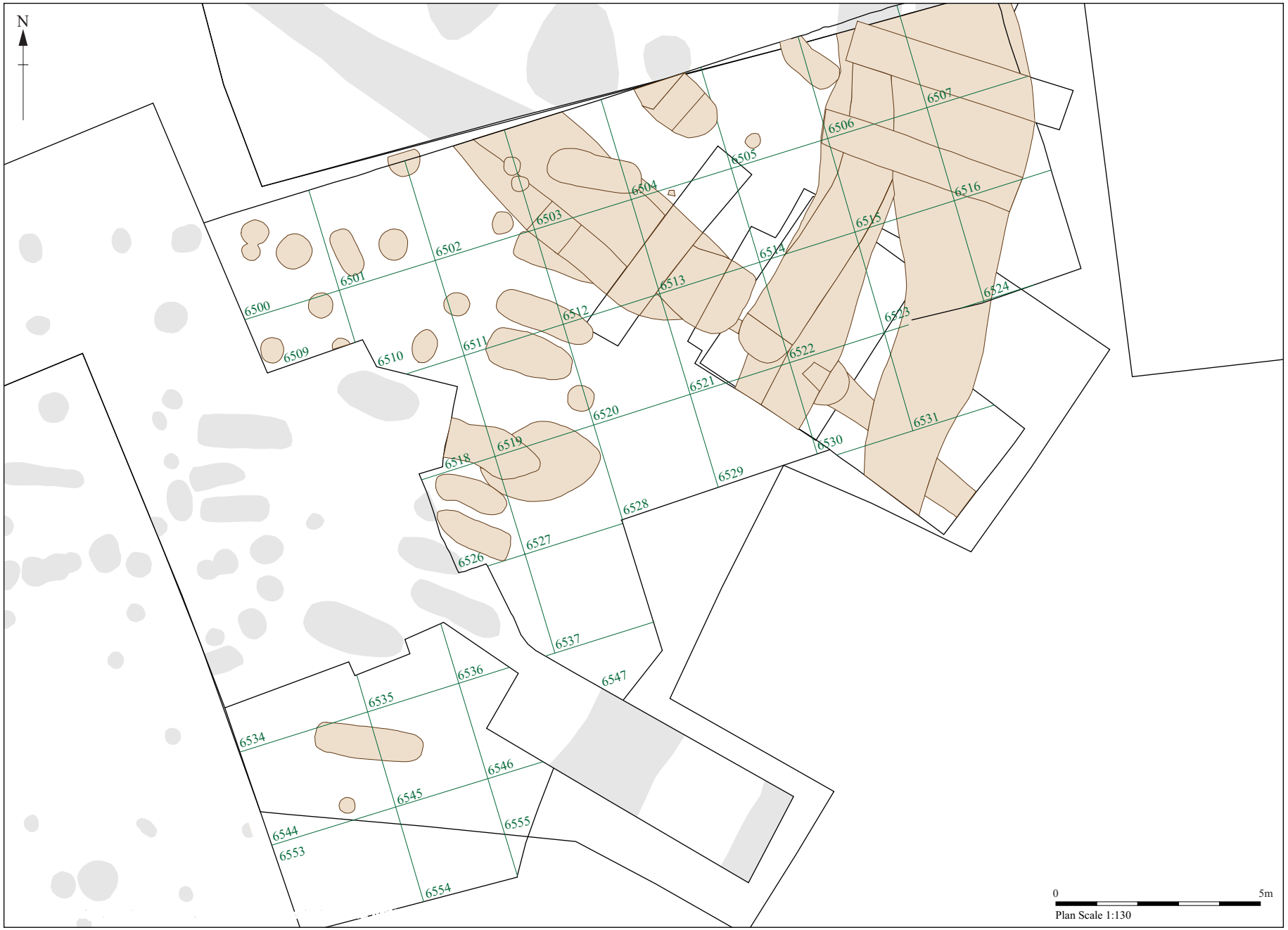


Figure 4. Sieved square locations

segments together, usually the first cut number issued was used as the component number for the ditch. Written records describing the nature of deposits or of feature cuts were made on *pro forma* context recording sheets (a full digital version of the context descriptions is provided in Appendix 1). A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.

Bulk finds were bagged, clearly labelled with their context number, while delicate or significant finds (mainly metallic) were given their own unique Small Finds (SF) number and were bagged or boxed separately. Selected deposits were sampled for environmental analysis.

On-site registers were kept for context numbers, section numbers, sample numbers, Small Finds numbers and the photographs taken were recorded in a camera book.

Preliminary finds processing was conducted on site with some of the bulk finds being washed or dry brushed depending on the resilience of the object. Finds were bagged by context number according to finds type. Further finds washing, marking and initial quantification was undertaken at the SCCAS finds store in Ipswich. Soil samples were also processed at the finds store. Small Finds (metal, glass, worked bone etc) were sent to SCCAS finds staff for processing and/or sending to specialists.

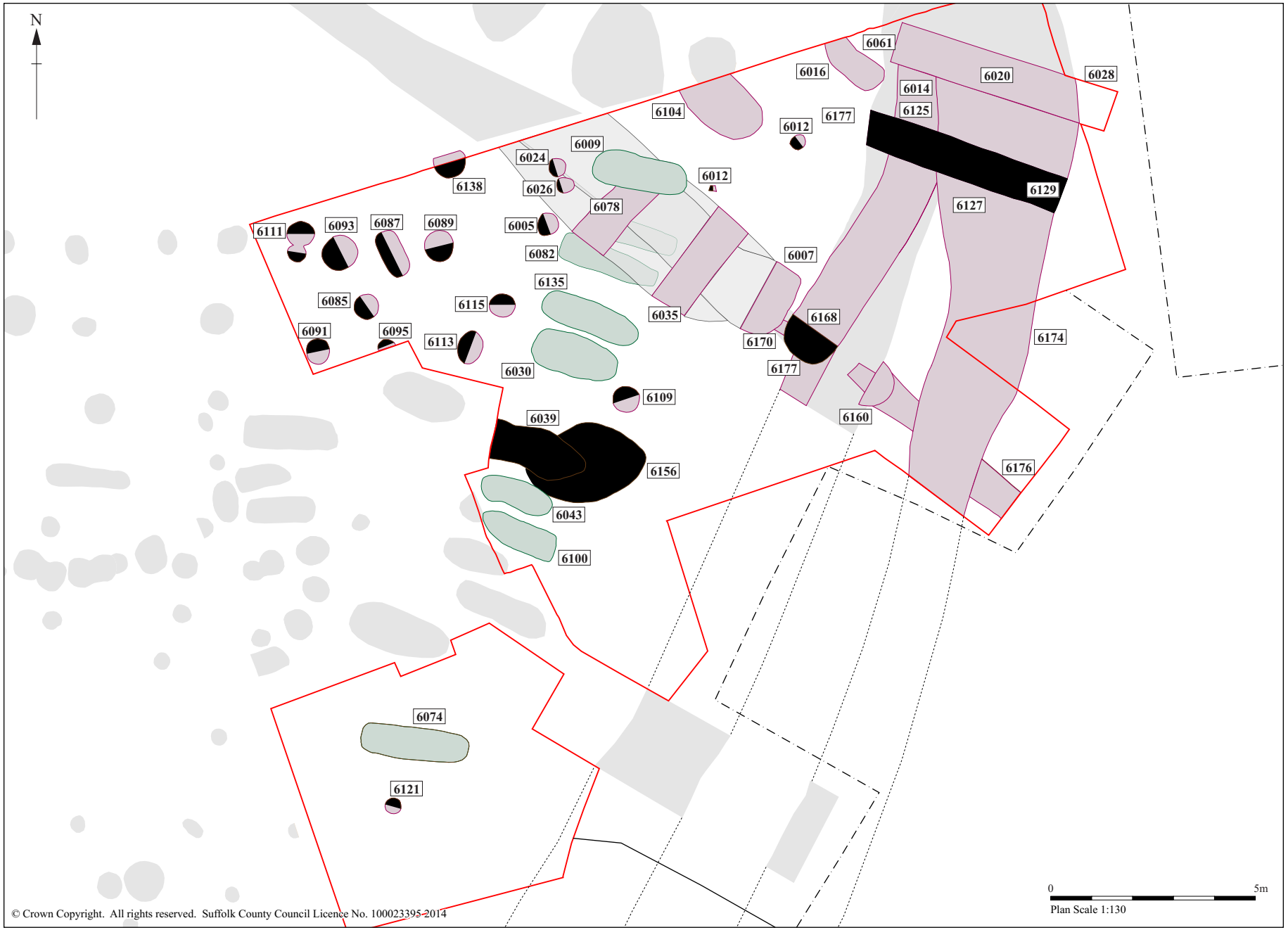


Figure 5. Trench 6, plan of excavated features.

# 4. Results

The excavated features are shown on Figure 5. Archaeological features, deposits and finds from previous excavations were assigned to one of the following four periods, with a fifth designation for undated features and deposits (Periods 1 to 5). In this report I will follow the period categorisation used previously (Meredith 2012):

1. Prehistoric
2. Roman
3. Saxon
4. Post-Saxon

Finds of periods 1 and 2 were well represented (see Chapter 5) but no features or deposits of these periods were found except for two prehistoric pits. The dark earth deposit 6003 found across Trench 6 and excavated in squares (6500 etc.) contained considerable quantities of pottery and other artefacts of Roman date and was probably of Period 2 in origin; it also contained residual prehistoric pottery and flints. This layer also revealed occasional pottery of Saxon and medieval date so it seems likely that Periods 3 and 4 features cut this layer or this deposit was reworked in the later periods.

## 4.1. Period 1: Prehistoric

Small quantities of prehistoric pottery (16 sherds), struck flint (49 flakes) and heat-altered stone (38 pieces) were retrieved which indicate later prehistoric occupation or activity in the vicinity of the site (see Chapter 5 below). These finds were mainly residual in later features and deposits while some might have been placed deliberately in Saxon graves. A thumb-nail scraper made from pinkish red flint of probable Late Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age date found in grave 6030 might have been curated in antiquity and placed as a grave good. An impressive Iron Age terret ring forming part of the contents of the box at the foot of grave 6039 might also be considered as an 'antique' in this Saxon context (see Riddler below).

Only two prehistoric features have been identified, a shallow stone-filled feature 6104 and the large central pit 6156. A plan of all prehistoric features is shown in Figure 23.

*Feature 6104*

This was a large shallow oval pit or hollow orientated north-west to south-east with fairly steep edges and a flat base. The north-western end extended beyond the north edge of the trench and was at least 2m in length, a width of 1.3m and a depth of 0.25m (Fig. 5). The stony fill contained a small assemblage of struck flint flakes of later prehistoric date.

*Pit 6156*

This was a large central pit discovered underlying the founding Saxon grave 6039. Truncated at its western and south-western sides by graves 6039 and 6043, this was a large oval feature, aligned east to west with a length of 3m, width of 2m and a depth of 0.85m (Sect. 85; Fig. 19). It had a series of fills with 6166 at the top, which was dark brown sand containing seven sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery (other small fragments of Roman pot found in this deposit were likely to be intrusive from either of graves 6039 or 6043). Interestingly this fill also revealed the bones of a red squirrel. Under fill 6166 were a number of tip line fills including 6165 (fine pale sand with evidence of *in situ* burning), 6079 (dark grey / black charcoal-rich deposit) and 6164 (similar to 6079). A main fill under the smaller tip lines was 6163 which was very deep pink brown sand, probably associated with *in situ* burning. A thin fill across the base of the pit was 6162 which was orange sand with a pink tinge.

## 4.2. Period 2: Roman

No Roman features were identified but Period 2 is well represented by finds from the dark, humic, silty sand deposit 6003 (ranging in thickness from between *c*.0.2m and 0.4m depth) which was encountered beneath the turf. Previous excavations had identified this layer being of predominantly Roman origin but with Saxon and possibly later intrusions. The grave and other Saxon feature cuts were not visible from the surface of the dark deposit but in some circumstances were identifiable in section (Meredith 2012). The slightly paler layer 6004 which was positioned to the east of 6003 and was located over the Saxon enclosure ditches was probably completely reworked in later periods. Nonetheless this layer contained considerable quantities of Roman material, probably derived from the main Roman deposit 6003.

During the excavation of layers 2004 and 2005 all deposits were hand excavated and sieved resulting in the recovery of huge quantities of Roman material. In total approximately 8,700 Roman pottery sherds (*c*.41.5kg) and about 2,700 pieces of salt-working briquetage (*c*.65kg) were recovered which are discussed in fuller detail in Chapter 5. This compares to only 36 sherds of Saxon pottery recovered and points to the almost industrial levels of ceramic production in the Roman period.

The majority of the Roman pottery dates from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD with 95% belonging to grey and black surfaced coarsewares. Besides these a small assemblage of imported Gaulish Samian, *amphora*, *mortaria* and colour-coated wares, probably from Colchester, were recovered.

In total twelve fragments of Roman glass were identified, with six of these coming from layer 6003, two from later features and four from Saxon grave fills. Two pieces were located within box 6083 at the end of grave 6039.

Two Roman coins were recovered; one of these (SF 1607) which was retrieved from the dark layer is a copper alloy *dupondius* of Domitian (AD 81-96) while the other had been pierced for suspension and probably placed around the neck of the infant in grave 6043. This was a copper alloy radiate of *c*. AD 260-296, possibly of Claudius II.


Figure 6. Dating of all burials (Trenches 3,5 and 6)

## 4.3. Period 3: Saxon

### 4.3.1 Human burials

During the 2013 excavations a total of nine further burials were revealed which brings the total number of graves to nineteen. All graves were orientated between west to east and west-north-west to east-south-east. It appears likely that many of the graves were placed perpendicular to the inner enclosure ditch 6061. These graves were probably the initial burials on site, lined up against the internal upcast bank of the ditch. Graves positioned further to the west (which were excavated during previous seasons) are probably of a later date, although several of them are undated. Four phases of burial have been proposed which include those excavated in previous seasons (Fig. 6).

In eight of the nine graves excavated in 2013 there was sufficient bone surviving to suggest that the burials were supine with the head placed at the western end. Bone preservation was very variable with some individuals surviving almost intact (grave 6100) whilst in others only a small part of the skeleton survived (grave 6078) with merely tooth fragments surviving in one example (grave 6074). Differences in preservation might have been due to a number of factors including variations in the acidity of the natural, the contents of the grave backfill and the size of the skeletons (several of the poorly preserved individuals were infants). Radiocarbon dating of eight of the nine skeletons excavated in 2013 has suggested a closely dated sequence of burial (Appendices 2, 13 and 14).

Professor John Hines from Cardiff University has applied Bayesian modelling to the radiocarbon dates from all the excavated burials at Barber's Point and has suggested a four phase sequence for the cemetery (Fig. 6; Appendix 13; potential maritime influence on the dating is discussed in Appendix 14). An initial founding grave of *c*.AD 600 represents the first phase. The ten graves of Phase 2 were positioned to respect the first grave and were probably placed there during the subsequent hundred years. The Phase 3 graves belong to the 8th century and are on the same alignment as the four undated graves which could be of the same period. A western pair of graves (Phase 4) are poorly dated (due to problems with the calibration curve between AD 770 and 890) but probably belong to the 9th century. During the 2013 excavations graves of Phases 1, 2 and 3 were revealed plus one undated (unphased) grave.

**Catalogue of 2013 graves**

The following consists of a catalogue of the inhumations found in 2013 and includes summaries of surviving human remains analysed by Sue Anderson (Chapter 6.1) and accompanying grave goods investigated by Ian Riddler (Chapters 5.9 and 7). Detailed descriptions of accompanying artefacts, biological remains and individual small finds are included in the Finds Chapters 5, 6 and 7.

**Phase 1: *c*.AD 600**

*Grave 6039* (Fig. 7)

**Grave**: This was a slightly irregular-sided, roughly oval cut, orientated west-north-west to east-south-east. The edges of the eastern half of the grave were difficult to define because it was cut into the fills of pit 6156. The length of the grave was *c*.2.4m although the terminals were uncertain with the eastern end obscured by the fills of pit 6156 and the western end under the backfill of Trench 5. The width was 1.1m at its widest point and it was 0.55m in depth.

**Human remains**: Skeleton 6040, Unsexed, *c*.16 years

This appeared to be a supine burial with the head at the western end. Body 6040 from within this grave was poorly preserved, surviving mainly as teeth, right arm, right leg and foot bones. Judging by the fusing of the bones and eruption of teeth this is likely to be an individual of *c*.16 years of age with the bones looking gracile and thus possibly female although this could be due to age. The associated finds group 6083 is more likely to be those of a female rather than a male.

**Date**: A high resolution radiocarbon date was obtained from a bone sample of skeleton 6040. This gave a date range of AD 550 to 591 at 68.2% probability and 536 to 620 AD at 94.5% probability (Appendix 2). John Hine's Bayesian model of the dates suggests a date of c.AD 590±25 for this grave (Appendix 13). The surprisingly early date has been re-examined by Professor Gordon Cook of the SUERC radiocarbon laboratory. He suggests that there might be a very slight maritime diet influence on this individual and has recalibrated this date to AD 575 to 640 at 68.2% probability or AD 550 to 655 at 95.4% (Appendix 14). A date of *c*.AD 600 is suggested for this burial and is likely to be the founding grave of the cemetery.

**Finds**: A sherd of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill of this grave. Ian Riddler has provided the following catalogue of the finds group 6083 located next to the left ankle of the individual (also see sections 5.9 and 7 below).

*Grave Goods:*

All contained within a wooden box (6083) located at the foot of the grave. Deposition of objects in box shown in Figure 21.

Objects:

1-3 Accreted remains of three interlocking **iron annular rings**, all of rectangular section, one complete, one incomplete, and the third merely a small fragment with further remains accreted to the iron key stem (Sf 1758) found nearby. Sf 1807.

4 Complete **iron wire ring**, fractured into four pieces, mostly found in the same area but with one piece (1754) dispersed to the west. Circular in section with an amber bead and a blue glass bead threaded onto one part. Sfs 1754, 1756, 1757 and 1806.

5 Complete **iron wire ring**, formed of a single strand of wire of circular section, its ends twisted together, forming a ring of oval shape. Sf 1796.

6 Complete **iron wire ring**, fractured into four pieces, one piece (1752) dispersed a short distance to the north. Circular in section with the two ends twisted together. Sfs 1752, 1753.

7 Complete cast copper alloy Iron Age **terret ring** of rectangular section, widening on both sides to lightly raised lateral mouldings, with an indented area between them. Sf 1760.

8 Fragment of a naturally coloured, pale green Roman **glass vessel**, with two lightly raised horizontal mouldings just below the solid, folded rim. Sf 1761.

9 Fragment of the base of a naturally coloured turquoise Roman **glass bottle**. Sf 1861.

10 Complete stone **spindle whorl**, cut from a buff to yellow coloured siltstone, the upper surface lightly curved, the lower part rounded throughout, with a conical central perforation. Sf 1773.

11 **Fossil echinoid**, oval in shape and discoidal in section with rounded edges and a natural, perforated area at the centre. Sf 1803.

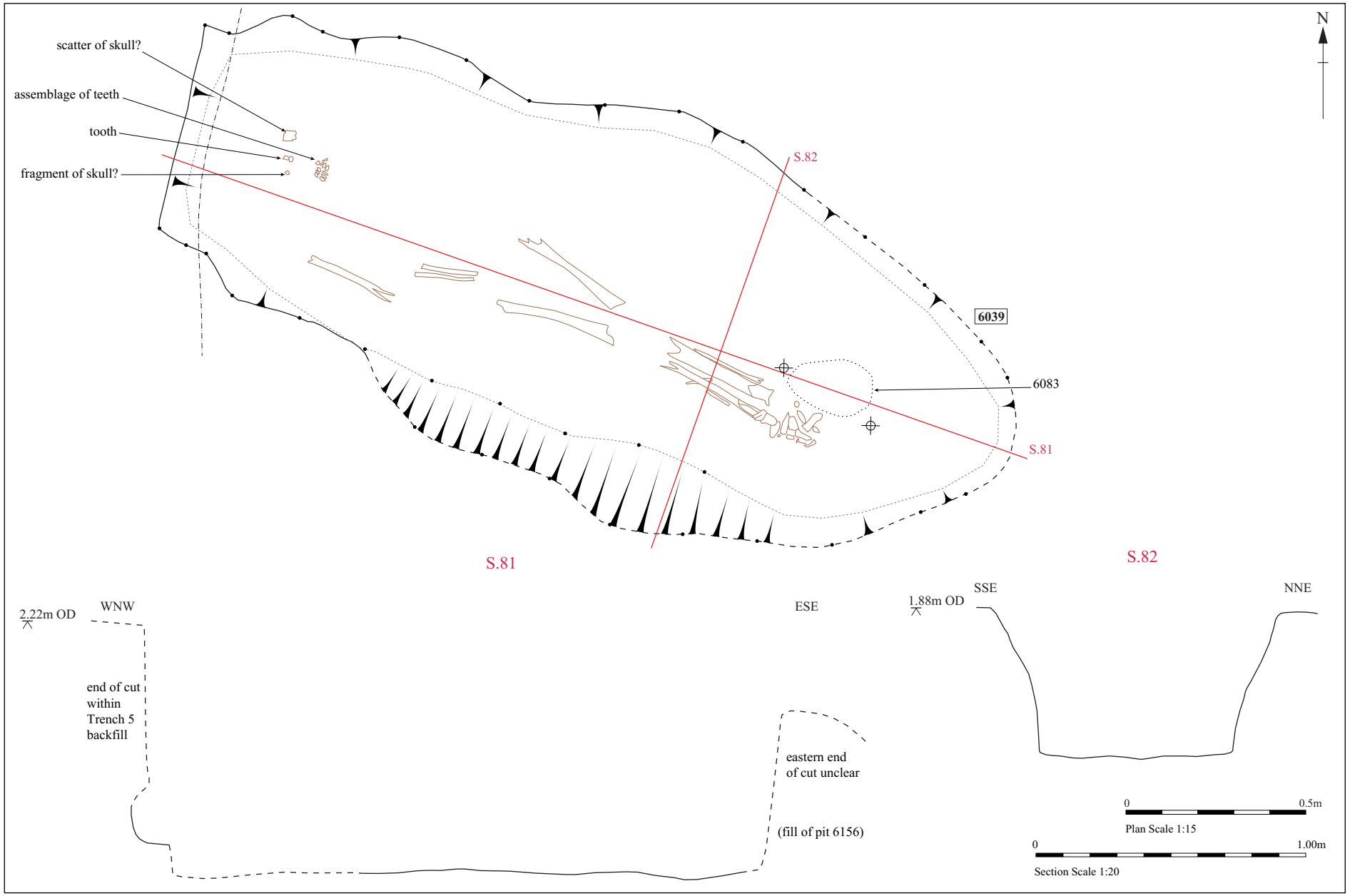


Figure 7. Grave 6039 showing the location of box 6083

12 Near complete **cowrie shell**, damaged across the upper surface, with an oval perforation on the lower surface and iron staining from its proximity to iron wire rings. Sf 1809.

13 Complete **iron key**, the shaft of rectangular section, tapering slightly at one end to form an oval loop, which retains a segment of iron wire of circular section. Two further fragments of iron wire are accreted to the opposite end of the shaft. The T-shaped bit has separated from the key. Sfs 1678 and 1758.

14 Fragment of an **iron key**? consisting of a slightly sinuous shaft of circular section, tapering slightly towards the terminal, where it narrows in section and curves back upon itself. Fractured at the other end. Sf 1671.

15 Irregularly shaped imperforate fragment of **amber**, almost pear drop shaped, with some rounding to one edge, tapering on two sides to a rounded apex. Sf 1808.

16 Length of **iron rod**, covered in yarn, which has been wound around it. Rod has fractured at either end, where there are traces of wood.

17 Iron fittings of the wooden box:

17a Five **rectangular iron strips**, their sides largely parallel and tapering to rounded terminals. Pierced by pairs of iron nails, mostly of circular section. One of the strips (1772) has an amphora-like shape. Sfs 1707, 1743, 1770, 1771, 1772.

17b Ten **iron clamps**, all U-shaped with the flat upper bar usually longer than the tapering arms. Some of them are clearly made from folded strips of iron sheet. Sfs 1749, 1751, 1767, 1798, 1835, 1836 (2), 1863 (3).

17c Eleven **iron nails**, three relatively substantial with discoidal heads and tapering shafts of square section, eight smaller, including four with shafts of circular section. Sfs 1670, 1693, 1694, 1696, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1735, 1744 (2), 1769.

17d Three **iron split loops**, with shafts of circular section, folded to form an oval loop at one end, all three retaining iron rings of circular section within their loops. Sfs 1736, 1744, 1811.

17e Rectangular **iron mount**, widening at one end to a flattened, rounded terminal, pierced by a nail with a straight shaft, extending 18.1mm into wood, with the end bent over. Strip narrows at the opposite end to a thick, oval loop, with an interlocked iron ring. This ring leads to a second strip of iron, which appears to be fragmentary. Possibly a hasp. Sf 1836.

Plate 5. Detail of the finds group 6083 showing the panther cowrie shell, spindle whorl, terret ring, iron key and fragmented wire hoops. Foot bones from individual 6040 can be seen at the back, a fragment of Roman glass is behind the terret ring, the lump of amber is to the right of the spindle whorl.

**Phase 2: 7th Century**

*Grave 6135* (Fig. 8)

**Grave**: This grave was sub-rectangular in shape with rounded ends. It had steep sloping straight sides with a gradual break of slope to slightly curving base. It was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east. This grave was 2.45m long, 0.75m wide and 0.6m deep.

**Human remains:** Skeleton 6136, Unsexed, Young Adult

A supine burial with the head at the western end, the skull turned to the south and arms to the side of the body. Skeleton 6136 was very poorly preserved but survived as a body stain in places. Fragments of skull, teeth and the thicker parts of the long bones were the only parts of the skeleton which survived. This individual could not be sexed but a fused epiphysis and an erupted wisdom tooth suggest that this was a young adult.

**Date**: Radiocarbon dates were retrieved from a bone sample and gave a date range of AD 594 to 646 at 68.2% probability and of AD 555 to 655 at 95.4% probability (Appendix 2). John Hine's Bayesian model suggests a date of *c*.AD 640±25 for this grave (Appendix 13).

**Organic stain**: A dark deposit found at the eastern end of the grave (6155) appeared to represent an organic stain of a possible object placed at the feet of the body. Near the western end of this deposit it appeared as a slightly raised 'square' of 120mm width but elsewhere extended as a random, slightly kidney-shaped spread, *c*.0.8m from west to east and *c*.0.6m from north to south. The surface of this deposit seemed to be undulating, almost folded. It remained unidentified, although its presence did seem to affect bone preservation as no bone survived below the knee level of the skeleton where the stain of the deposit appeared.

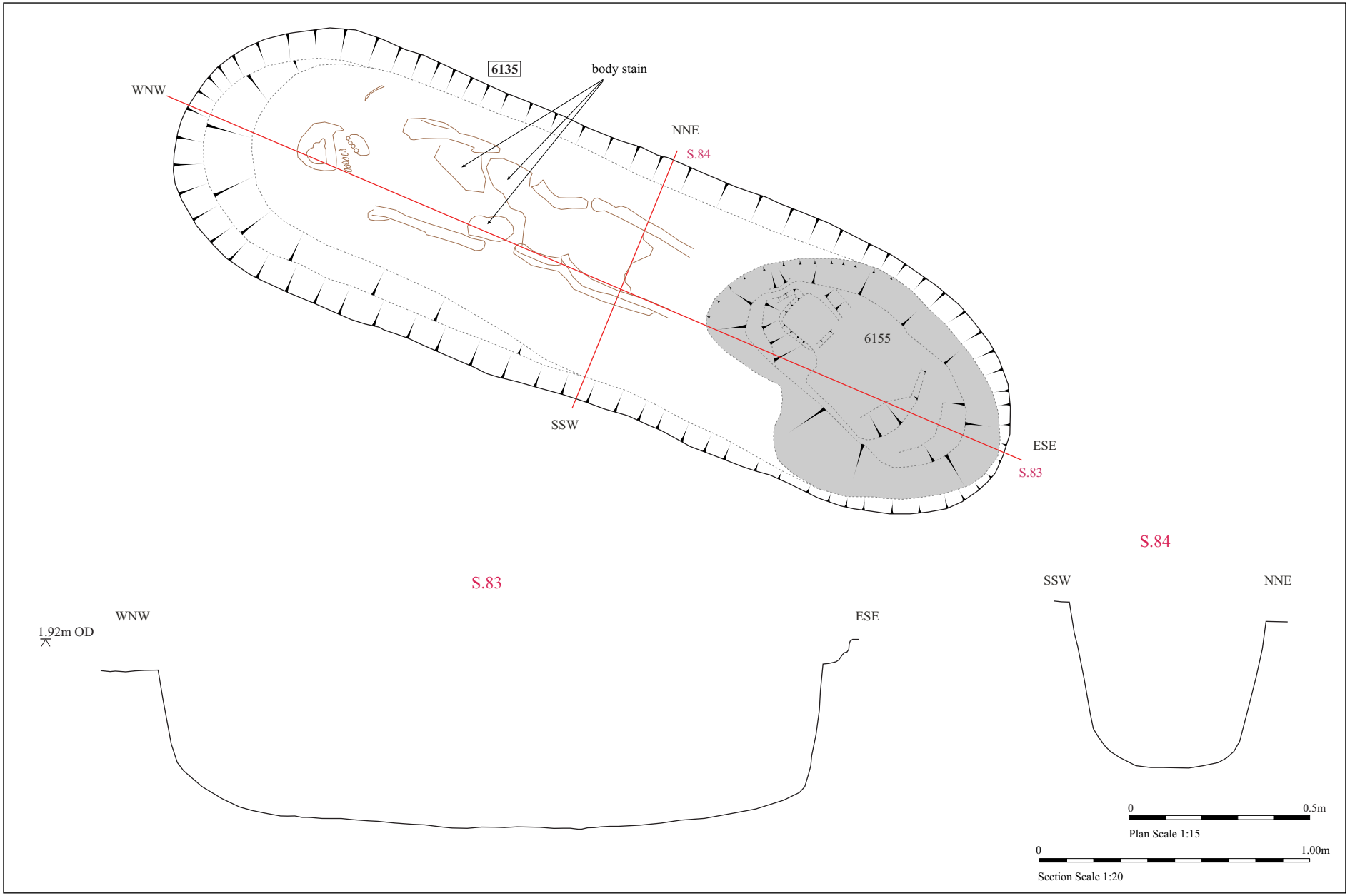


Figure 8. Grave 6135 showing full extent of organic stain 6155

*Grave 6043* (Fig. 9)

**Grave:** This was a small, oval grave, orientated west-north-west by east-south-east. It had fairly gently sloping concave edges with a gradual break of slope to a flat base. Its length was 1.8m, widest width was 0.8m and depth was 0.25m.

**Human remains:** Skeleton 6045, child *c*.5 years

Body 6045 was fairly poorly preserved with much of the skull surviving but with few other bones, mainly only parts of the larger long bones remaining. There was enough surviving bone to indicate this was a supine burial with the head at the western end. This was a very young individual of only about 5 years of age and could not be sexed. The green staining noted on the left clavicle could have been due to its proximity to a Roman coin (SF 1699).

**Date**: Radiocarbon dates suggest a closely dated range of AD 625 to 668 at 68.2% probability and AD 595 to 687 at 95.4% probability (Appendix 2). John Hine's Bayesian model suggests a date of *c.*AD 650±25 for this grave (Appendix 13).

**Finds**: A Roman coin drilled with suspension holes (SF 1699) was found near the chest area of the individual and had probably been placed around the neck of this child on a necklace.

*Grave Goods:*

1 **Copper alloy coin**, Roman, radiate *c.* 260-296. Obverse Radiate? bust right [ ] AVG, Reverse ?sturdy female figure left [ ] AVG. Possibly Claudius II, 260-70. Oval in shape with a small perforation, 0.9mm in diameter.

Three nails (SFs 1691, 1692 and 1795) were recovered from the grave fill, possibly suggesting the presence of a coffin. Possible meat bearing bones of sheep or goat might have been placed in this grave (Curl below).

This grave's close proximity to the founding grave 6039 might suggest some kind of familial association.

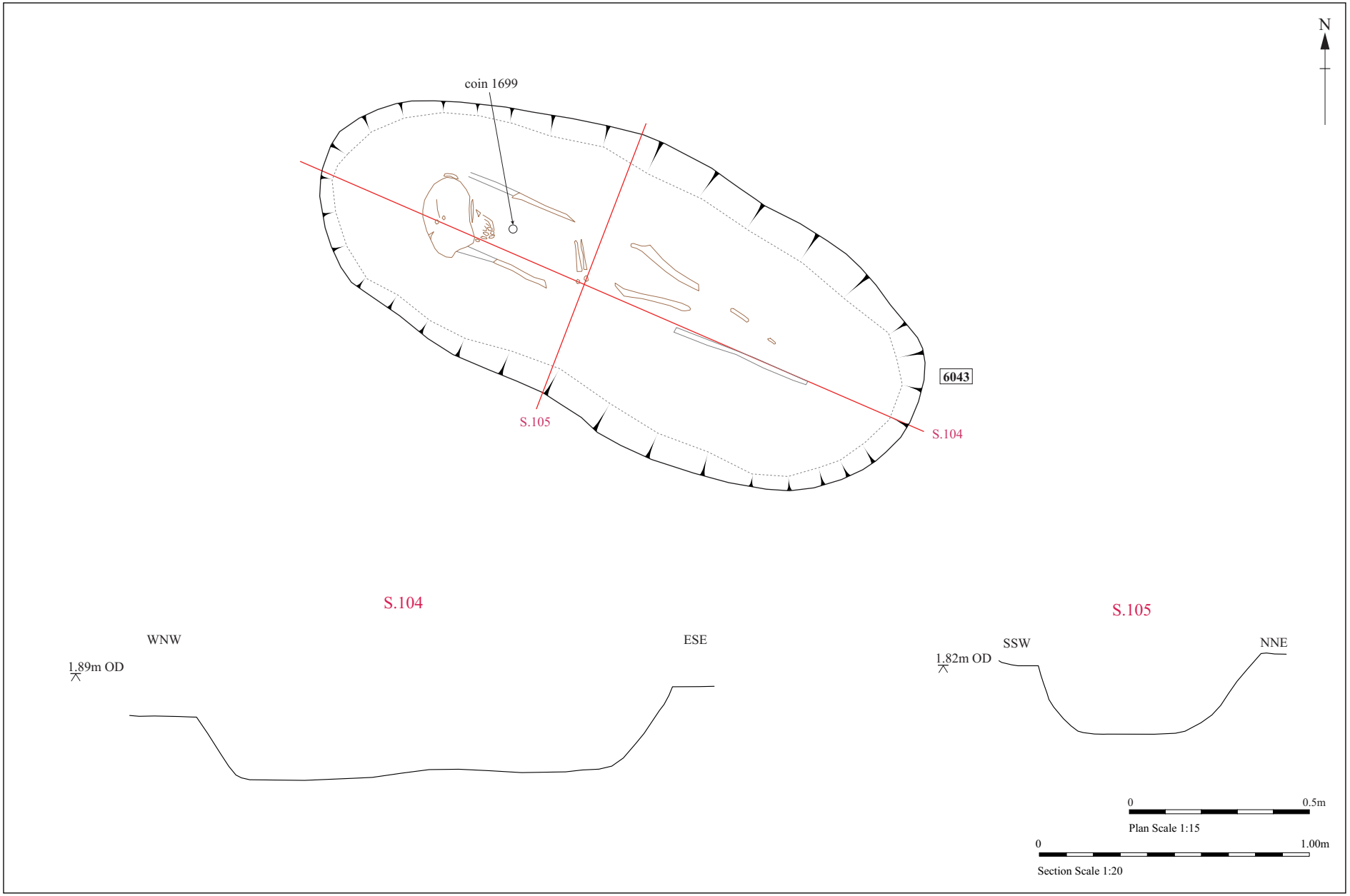


Figure 9. Grave 6043 showing the location of pierced Roman coin 1699

*Grave 6078 (Fig. 10)*

**Grave**: This small grave had been severely truncated by ditch 6035 and was recorded in Section 64 (Fig. 18). It was rectangular in plan with rounded corners and was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. Due to the ditch truncation not much depth of grave survived, particularly at the eastern end. The shallow sides were quite steep and concave with a gradual break of slope to a flat base which gently sloped from west to east. The grave was 1.75m long, 0.58m wide and 0.2m deep in the west becoming just *c*.0.1m in the east.

**Human remains:** Skeleton 6077, child *c*.4 years

The human remains 6077 were poorly represented by only fragments of skull and the left femur, enough to suggest that this was a supine burial with the head at the western end. It is possible that truncation by ditch 6035 might have removed some of the lower part of the body where the grave was particularly shallow. Tooth eruption suggests that this was a child of approximately 4 years of age.

**Date**: The date range for this individual is very dispersed with two major spikes in the radiocarbon spread between *c*.AD 650 and 770 (Appendix 2), with the main group of dates between AD 654 to 693 (54.8% probability) and AD 647 to 725 (74.7% probability). John Hine's Bayesian model suggests a date of *c*.AD 660±25 for this grave (Appendix 13).The stratigraphic evidence of this grave being early is also suggested by it being cut by ditch 6077 (Fig. 18; Sect. 66) which in turn was cut by the Phase 3 grave 6009.

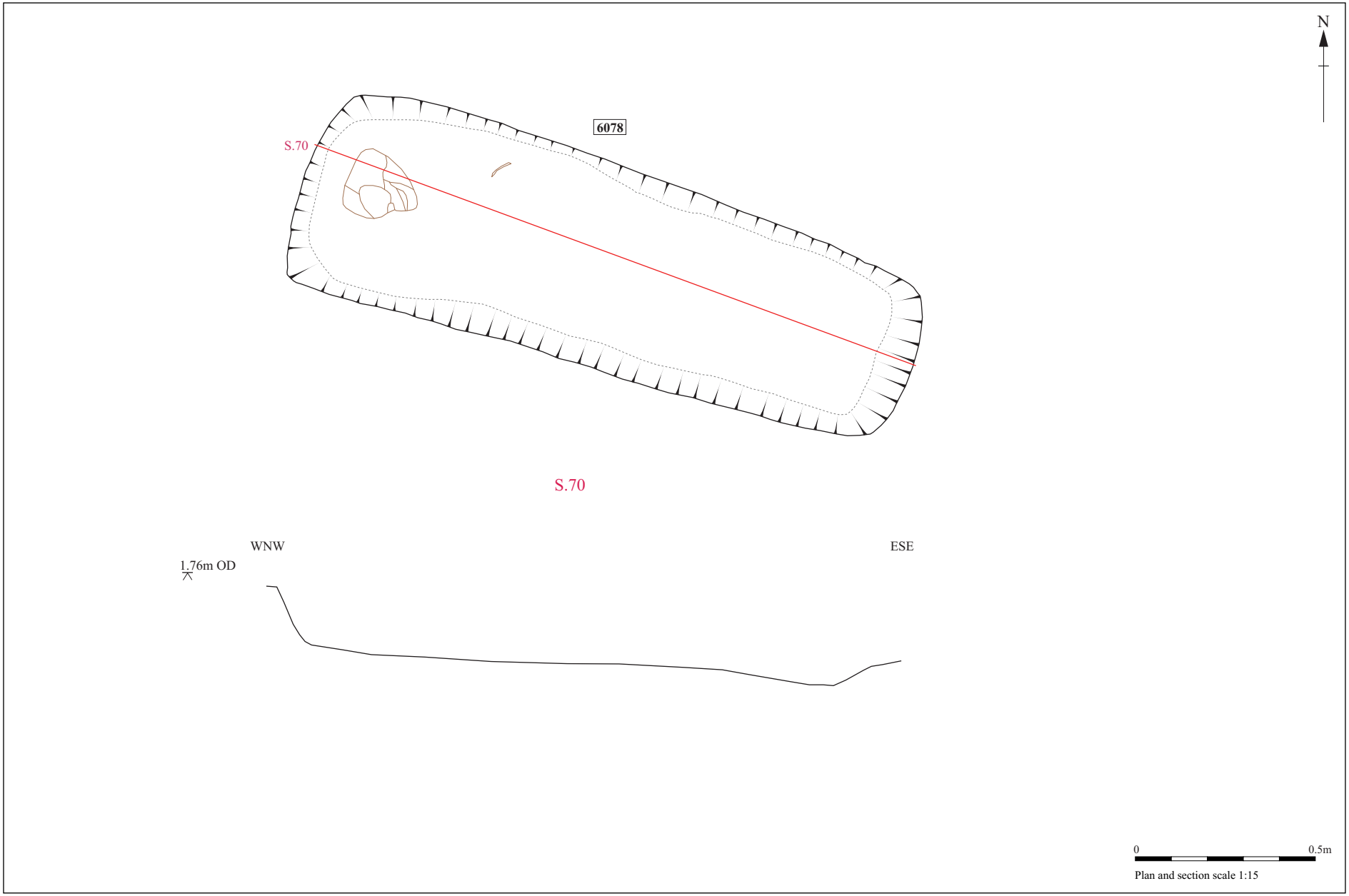


Figure 10. Grave 6078

*Grave 6082* (Fig. 11)

**Grave**: This grave was slightly trapezoid in shape with the western end being wider than at the feet. Like grave 6078, this grave was also truncated by ditch 6035 but not so severely (Sect. 66, Fig. 18). The truncation was mainly across the eastern end of the grave. The grave was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east and was 2.45m long, 0.75m wide (west end) and *c*.0.4m deep

**Human remains**: Skeleton 6081, male *c*.17-18 years

A supine burial with the head at the western end (as suggested by teeth). Variable preservation of bone was witnessed with body 6081 with teeth, some of the long bones, some vertebra, pelvis and foot bones surviving. Body staining indicated the location of the left arm and part of the left leg. This appeared to be a young male with partially fused epiphyses suggesting an age of 17 or 18 years.

**Date**: Radiocarbon dating indicates a wide range of dates from c.AD 620 to 770 but with the main concentration from AD 645 to 687 (68.2% probability) and AD 623 to 717 (85.9% probability; Appendix 2). The Bayesian model suggests a date of *c*.AD 660±25 for this grave (Appendix 13). Stratigraphically this grave, like grave 6078, was cut by ditch 6035 suggesting that this was one of the earlier graves belonging to the cemetery (Fig. 18; Sect. 66).

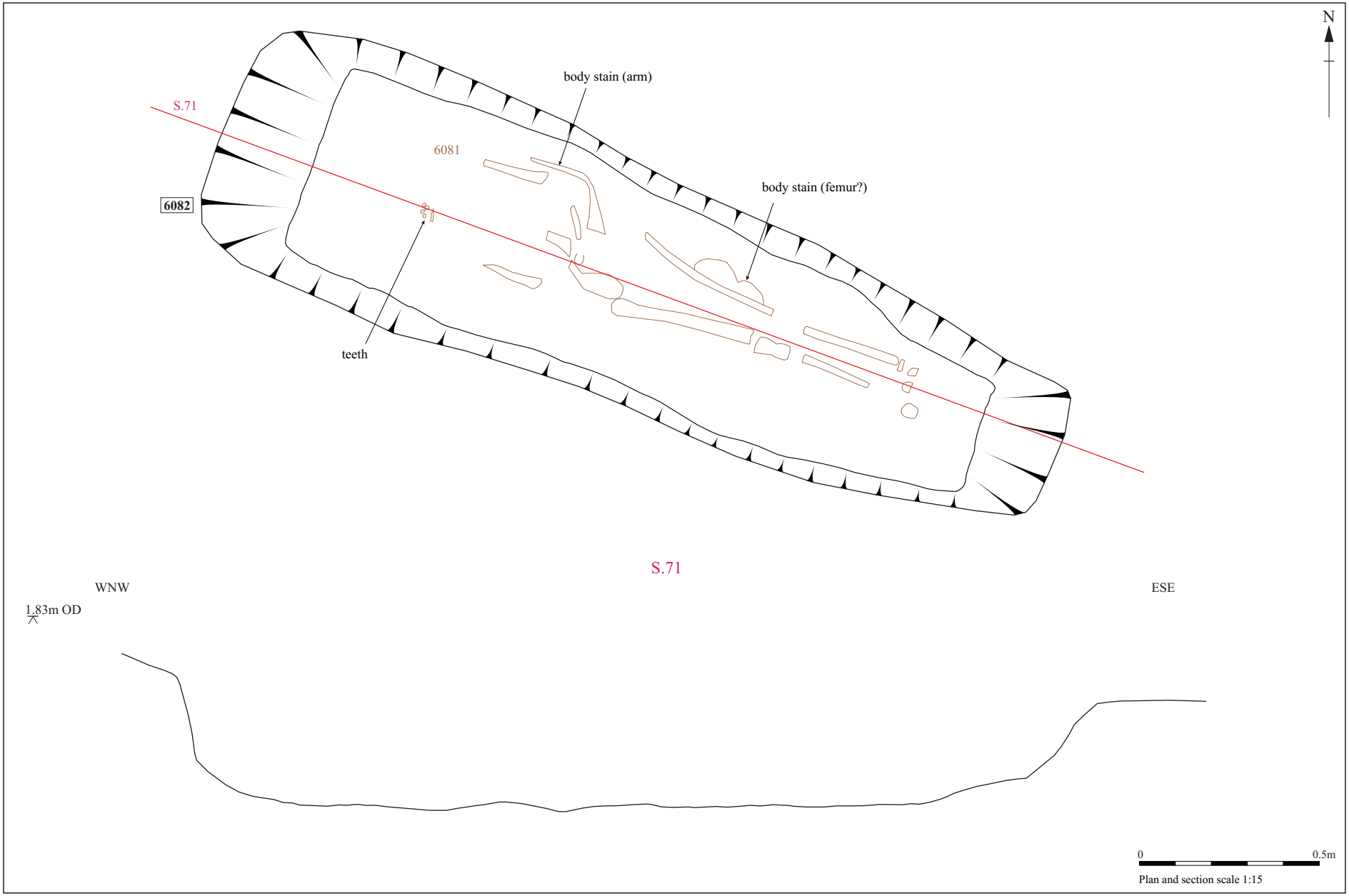


Figure 11. Grave 6082

*Grave 6100* (Fig. 12)

**Grave**: This grave was aligned north-west to south-east and was slightly trapezoid in shape with a rounded north-western end and with a wider square end to the south-east. The edges were steep to vertical with a fairly sharp break of slope to a flat base sloping upwards from the north-west to the south-east. The grave was 2m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.35m deep at the north-west deep end.

**Human remains**: Skeleton 6102, child 8-9 years

This was a supine burial with the head at the north-western end, with very good bone preservation for much of skeleton 6102. The skull appeared to be slightly angled to the north-east, the left arm was placed along the body with the right arm flexed at the elbow and placed across the waist and the knees and ankles were close together, possibly suggesting a shroud burial. The size of the bones, tooth eruption and lack of fused epiphyses suggest that this was a child of 8 to 9 years of age. The sex of this individual could not be determined.

**Date**: Radiocarbon determinations suggest a very wide range of dates with at least three spikes between AD 654 and 770 at 95.4% probability, although an early date of AD 662 to 710 at 50.2% probability is likely (Appendix 2). The Bayesian model suggests a date of *c*.AD 670±25 for this grave (Appendix 13).

**Finds**: An interesting heavy iron bar (SF 1838) was recovered from above the pelvic area of the skeleton and this might be an iron ingot. The presence of corroded iron nails (SFs 1840, 1844, 1847, 1848 and 1849) might indicate that this individual was placed within a coffin.

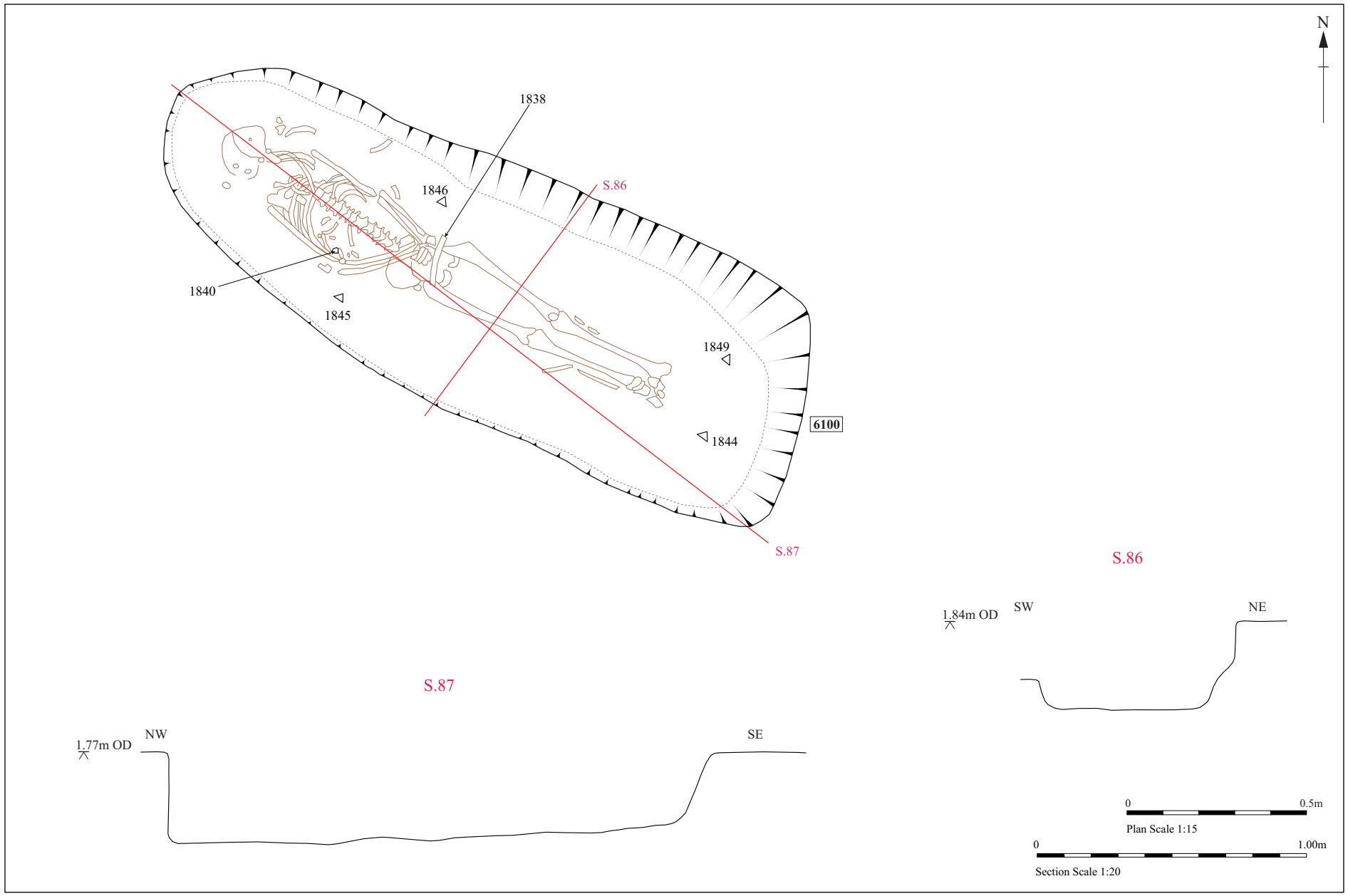


Figure 12. Grave 6100

*Grave 6030 (Fig. 13)*

**Grave**: The grave cut was sub-rectangular in shape with rounded corners to the west and a rounded east end. The sides were steep with a gradual break of slope to an uneven base which sloped down towards the northern side (where the body had been placed or had rolled to). This grave was orientated west-north-west to east-south-east and was 2.15m long, 1m wide and 0.55m deep.

**Human remains**: Skeleton 6031, female 18-19 years
Body 6031 was a well preserved skeleton except for parts of the torso missing and a fragmentary skull. This was a supine burial, with the head at the west end. The skull was facing northwards, the left arm was placed along the body with the right arm folded across at the waist, knees and ankles were close together (possibly indicating a shrouded burial), with both feet angled to the north. The uneven base, sloping to the north, might have accounted for the body rolling slightly towards the northern edge. This individual was *c*.1.6m in height, probably female and, with partial fusing of the epiphyses, of 18 to 19 years of age.

**Date**: Radiocarbon dating showed a very wide range of dates from *c*.AD 660 to 870 but with the greatest likelihood of falling between AD 687 and 769 at 68.2% probability or between AD 665 and 779 at 83.6% probability (Appendix 2). John Hine's Bayesian model suggests a date of *c*.AD 675±25 for this grave (Appendix 13).

**Finds**: A single pinkish red flint scraper of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was an interesting find from the fill of this grave. Residual prehistoric flints were found in small numbers across the site but the attractiveness of this scraper and its presence within a grave might suggest it was a curated object, deliberately placed in the grave (Bates below).

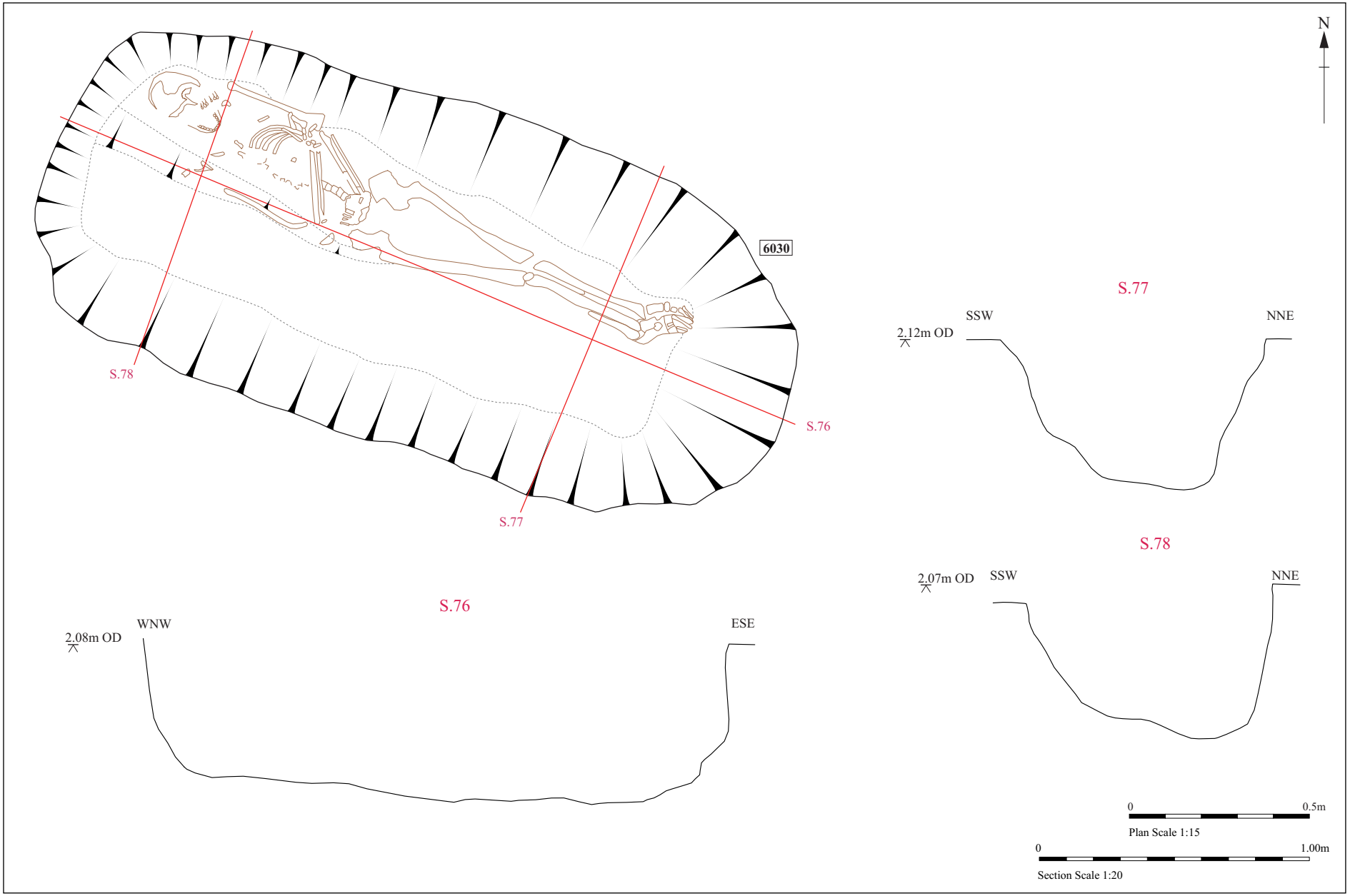


Figure 13. Grave 6030

**Phase 3: 8th Century**

*Grave 6009 [= 5155]* (Fig. 14)
This grave had previously been partly revealed in the 2010 excavations when the grave had been given the cut number 5155. During the 2013 season, when the full extent of the grave was exposed, the new number of 6009 was assigned to this grave. This was the most northerly grave of the cemetery and cut the fills of ditch 6035 suggesting a later date than the Phase 2 graves which were cut by this ditch.

**Grave**: The grave was roughly rectangular with a rounded eastern end and a rather bulbous western end. This unusual shape at the west end might have been due to collapse of the soft ditch fills while digging the grave, although overcutting during excavation could also be a factor. This grave was orientated almost west to east, was 2.8m long (although a length of 2.5m seems more likely discounting collapse or overcut), *c*.0.9m wide and 0.8m deep.

**Human remains**: Skeleton 6011 [= 5157], Male 16-18 years
Body 6011 had previously been given the number 5157 but had not been fully revealed or lifted. This was a supine burial with the head at the west end, skull turned to south, right arm placed along the body while the left arm was folded across. The legs were arranged closely together so this was probably a shroud burial. The lower part of the skeleton was fairly well preserved with the upper body more fragmentary so that parts of the skull and some of the arms survived only. All bones were large and robust suggesting a male with the partial fusing of some of the epiphyses and the wisdom teeth not yet erupted suggesting an age of between 16 and 18 years of age.

**Date**: This individual (as 5157) had previously been sampled for radiocarbon dating (Meredith 2012: Appendix 12). This had yielded a wide date range between 656 and 773 AD at 95.4% probability. With this grave cutting ditch 6035 a later date within this range is more likely. John Hine's Bayesian model confirms a wide date range of between *c*.AD 660 and 760 (Appendix 13).

**Finds**: The fill of this grave contained a sherd of Ipswich Ware. Pottery of this type is unlikely to be found outside of Ipswich until the 8th century, confirming the likely later date of this grave (Blinkhorn 1999).

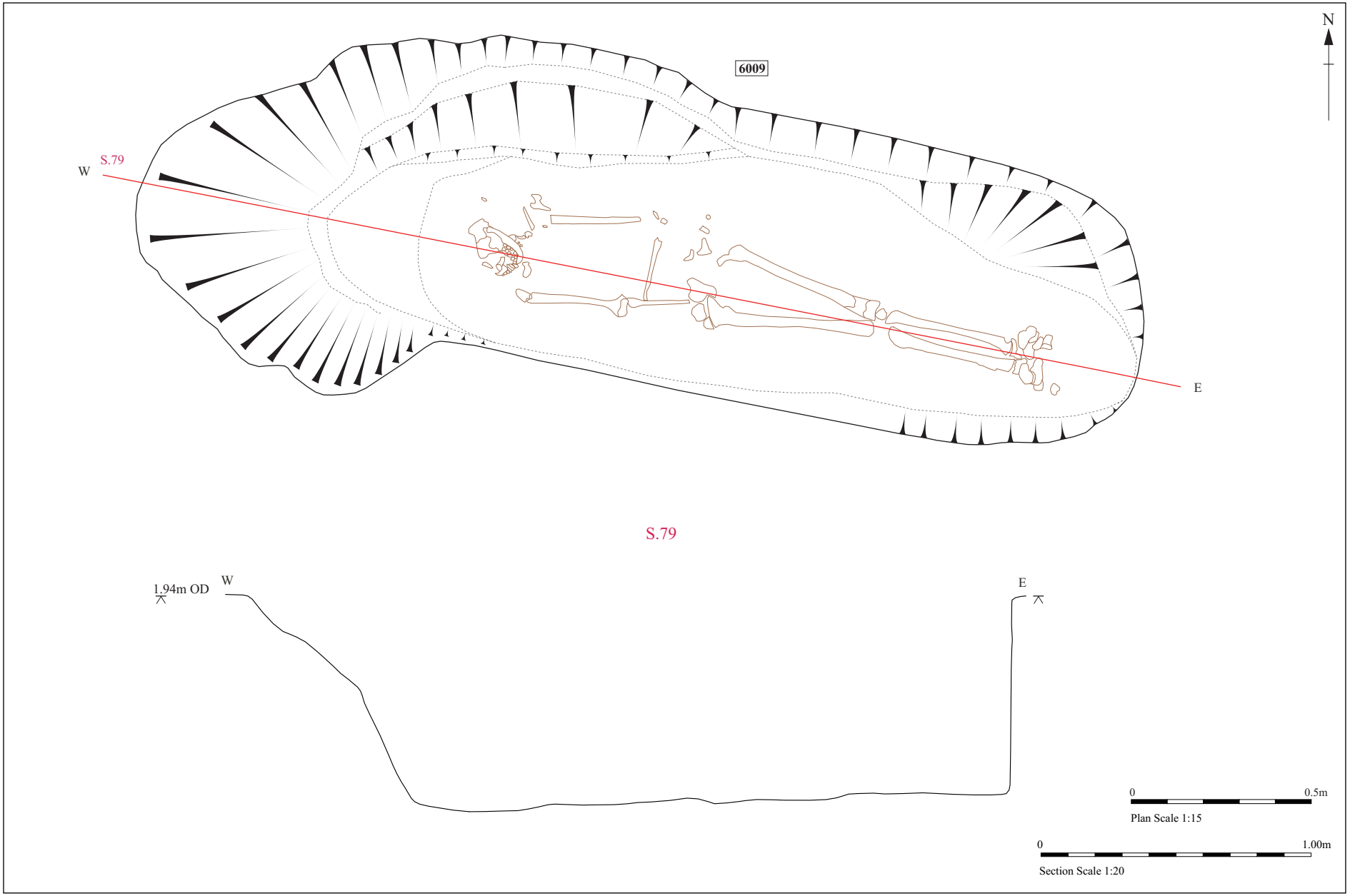


Figure 14. Grave 6009

**Undated**

*Grave 6074* (Fig. 15)

**Grave**: This was a large rectangular grave aligned west to east with steep to vertical edges except at the east end which was more gently sloping and was somewhat stepped down to a slightly curved base. Grave 6074 was 2.6m long, 0.65m wide and 0.5m deep.

**Human remains**: Skeleton 6099, child *c*.5-6

Bone preservation was very poor with this individual represented by teeth and fragments of tooth enamel only. There was no wear on the surviving molars suggesting they were unerupted. For this reason it is likely that this individual was a child of 5 or 6 years old. It seems unusual that such a large grave was used for a small child.

**Date**: The skeletal remains were too meagre for radiocarbon sampling. The west to east alignment does suggest however that this grave belonged to one of the later phases, possibly Phase 3 of the 8th century.

**Finds**: An iron nail (SF 1797) recovered from this grave might indicate a coffin but a residual find from the backfill is more likely.

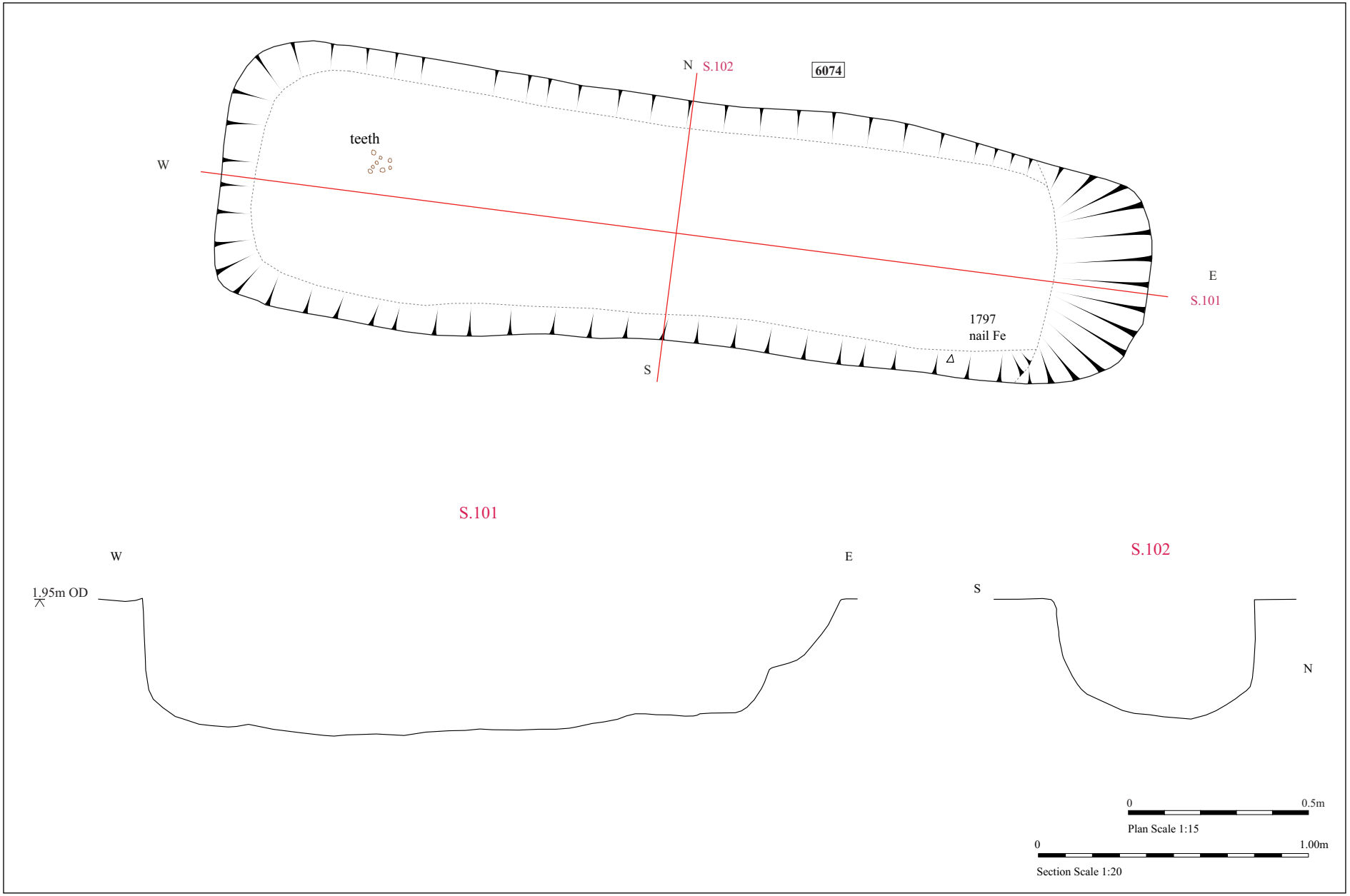


Figure 15. Grave 6074

### 4.3.2 Ditches and associated features

To the north and east of the main cemetery was a complex arrangement of enclosure and internal ditches that probably reflect the expansion and rearrangement of the settlement (Fig. 16). An undated phasing sequence is proposed based on intercutting feature relationships (Phases A to E). In some cases these correspond to more firmly dated graves. In summary Phase A is represented by a single north-west to south-east running ditch 6037; Phase B by pit 6160; Phase C by the enclosure ditch 6061; these are cut by the Phase D ditches 6014 and 6035/6007; finally the large enclosure ditches 6020 and 6028 represent Phase E.

**Phase A**

This phase is represented by a single north-west to south-east ditch, variously numbered (from north-west) 6037, 6170 and 6176. This ditch alignment is echoed by the later Phase D ditches, but extends further to the south-east than these.

*Ditch 6037 (6170 & 6176)*

This north-west to south-east ditch (6037) was first observed in Section 64 (Fig. 18) where it was seen to be highly truncated by later ditches. Here it survived with a rounded profile with a width of at least 0.75m and a depth of at least 0.25m (but 0.6m below ditches 6007 and 6035, probably representing the real depth of this feature). Fill 6038 was pale yellow friable sand.

To the north-west this ditch could not be recognised in Section 66 (Fig. 18). The continuation of this ditch to the south-east (6170) was also seen in Section 80 (Fig. 18) where it was again seen to be cut by the later ditch 6007.

The later ditches of Phase D terminated in the vicinity of Section 80 but the Phase A ditch continued south-eastwards, where it was recorded in plan as ditch 6176.

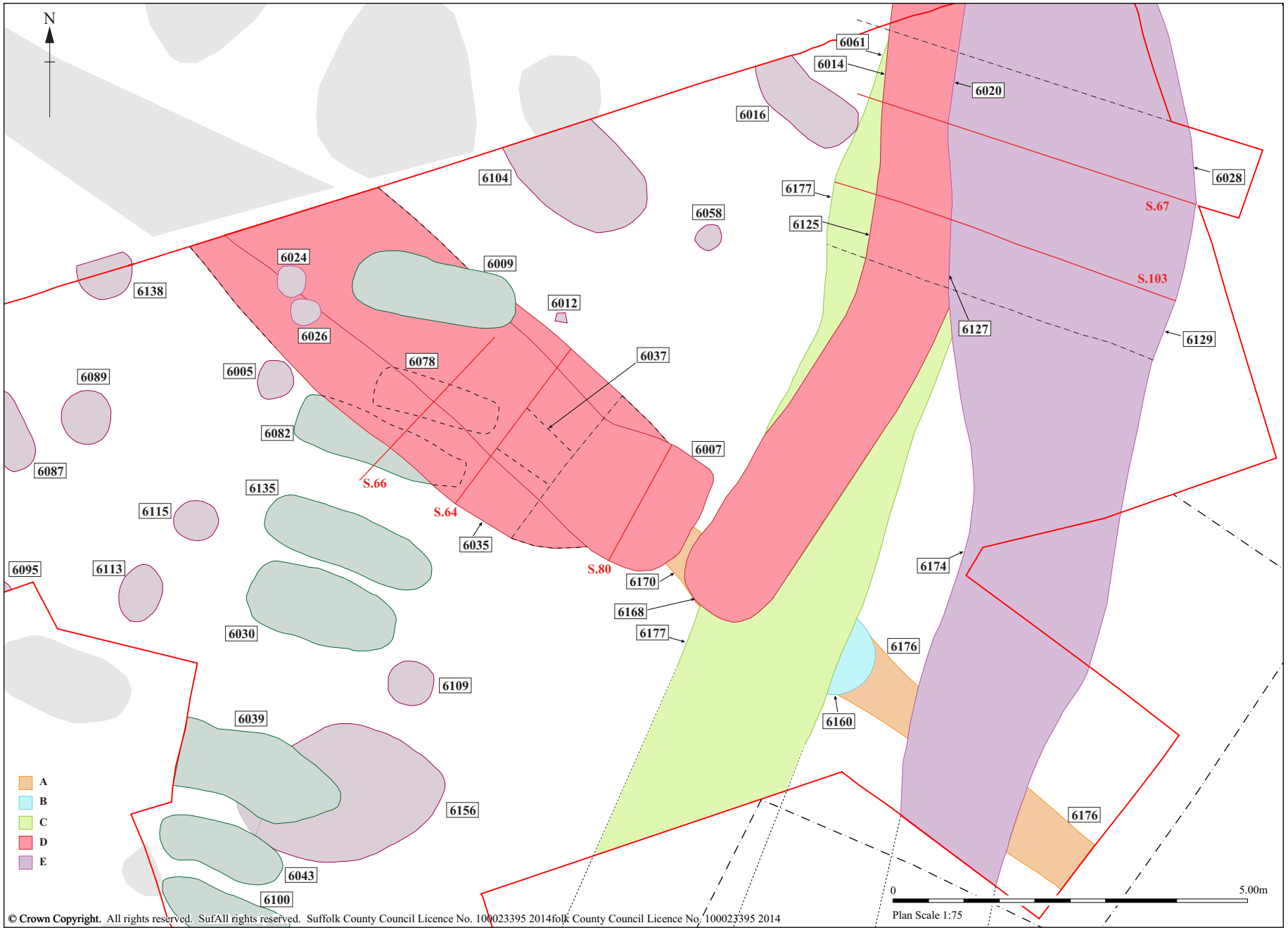


Figure 16. Phased plan of ditches and selected features

**Phase B**

*Pit 6160*

This was highly truncated by the Phase C ditch 6177 and cut the Phase A ditch 6176. What remained of it appeared to be a circular feature of *c.*1m diameter and a depth of *c.*0.5m. Fill 6159 was mid brown silty sand with frequent oyster shell fragments and unabraded sherds of Roman pottery, probably residual but It is possible that this feature is of Period 2 (Roman) date.

**Phase C**

This is represented by the first large north-north-east to south-south-west enclosure ditch 6061. It is likely that the cemetery was originally laid out (grave Phases 1 and 2) respecting this ditch line so an early 7th century date (or even earlier) is possible for Phase C.

*Ditch 6061 (6172 & 6177)*

Ditch 6061 was a large feature, initially north to south running then turning to become north-north-east to south-south-west. This ditch seen in Sections 67 (and as 6177 in Section 103; Fig. 17) appeared to be steep sided with a slightly stepped profile and a narrow flat base (‘ankle-breaker’ type). Although truncated along its eastern edge by the Phase D ditches, its width would have been in excess of 1.8m and of 1.1m depth. The upper fill 6062 was light brown grey silty sand, over fill 6048 which was light yellow brown silty sand. Further to the south-west this ditch was recorded in plan as 6177.

**Phase D**

This phase is represented by two separate ditch alignments, the north-east to south-west running 6014 and the north-west to south-east running 6035 and its re-cut 6007.

*Ditch 6014 (6125 & 6168)*

Terminating to the south-west adjacent to the 6035 terminal, this was a north-east to south-west re-cut of enclosure ditch 6061 (Sect. 67, Fig. 17). Not as deep as the other enclosure ditches in the sequence, this feature had fairly steep, straight sides down to a slightly rounded base. Truncated by 6020 to the east, it was at least 1.7m wide and 0.65m deep. This ditch was also recognised in Section 103 where it was given the number 6125 (Fig. 17). Further to the south-west the terminal for this ditch was recorded as 6168.

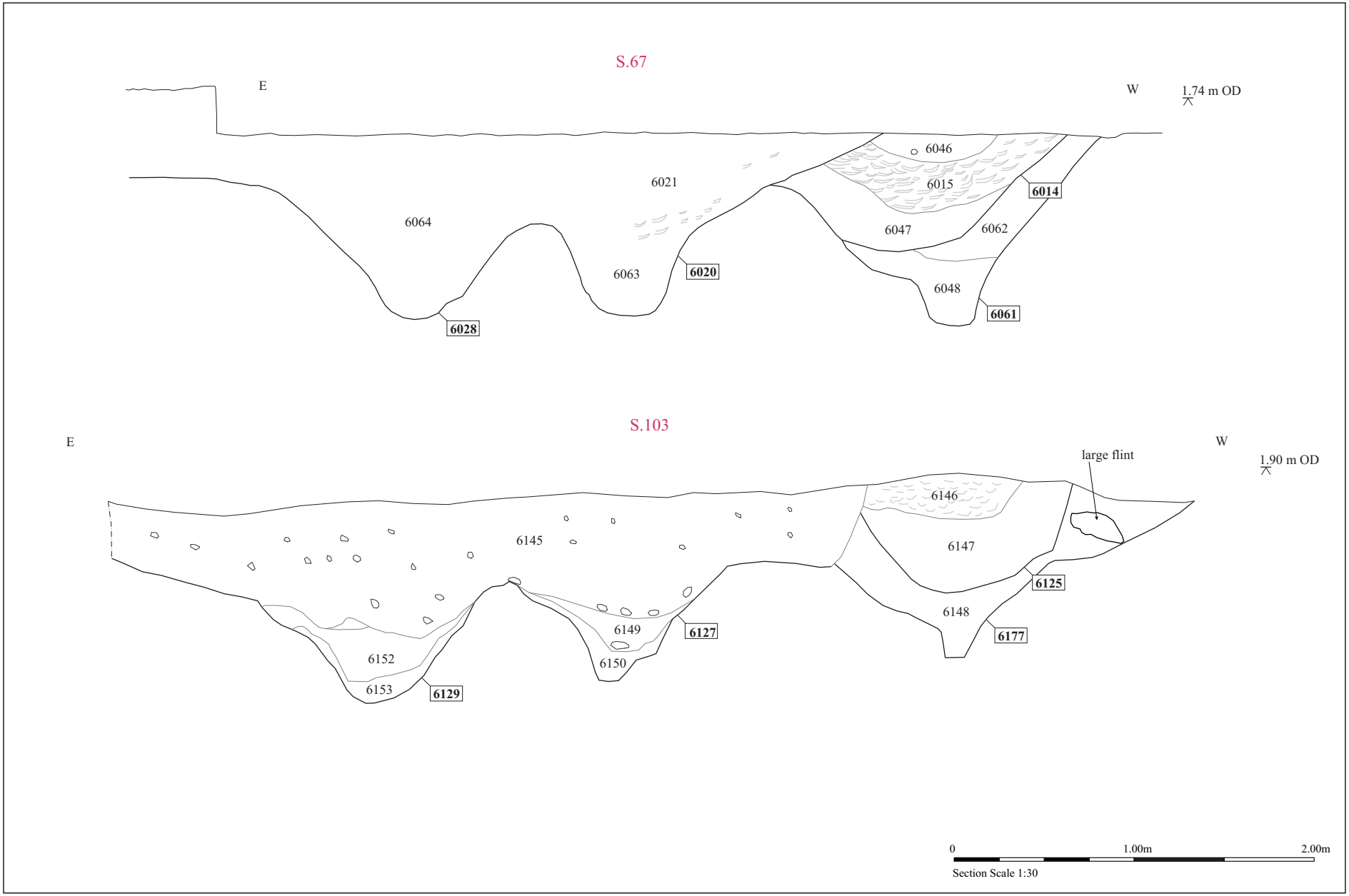


Figure 17. Sections across major enclosure ditches

In section 67 this ditch was seen to have three fills (Fig. 17). The upper 6046 was light brown mottled silty sand, the dark humic middle fill 6015 was filled with abundant oyster shell fragments and the basal fill was 6047 which was mid brown silty sand. In Section 103, ditch 6125 was seen to have the same oyster shell-rich deposit 6146. Finds from 6019 (a general fill number from across ditch 6014 but might have also included the top of fills from ditches 6020 and 6028) included Early Saxon and Ipswich-type ware pottery. Fill 6015 of ditch 6014 contained Ipswich-type ware pottery so an 8th or 9th century date for this ditches seems likely.

*Ditch 6035 (6068)*

This was a wide but not particularly deep north-west to south-east running ditch terminating towards the south-east and before hitting 6061. This ditch was on the same alignment as and cut the Phase A ditch 6037 and was itself re-cut by 6007 (Sect. 64, Fig. 18). This ditch also appeared to cut graves 6078 and 6082 (Sect. 66, Fig. 18). Ditch 6035 had gentle sloping concave sides to a broad slightly rounded broad base and was 2.6m wide and 0.38m deep. Fills 6035 and 6072 were pale to mid grey brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

*Ditch 6007 (6066)*

This was a north-west to south-east re-cut of ditch 6035 and, like this ditch, terminated to the south-east. Ditch 6007 is seen best in Section 64 (Fig. 18) showing a slightly irregular rounded profile with a fairly flat base, a width of 1.35m and a depth of 0.5m. Fill 6008 dark brown grey silty sand with frequent oyster shell fragments and charcoal flecks..

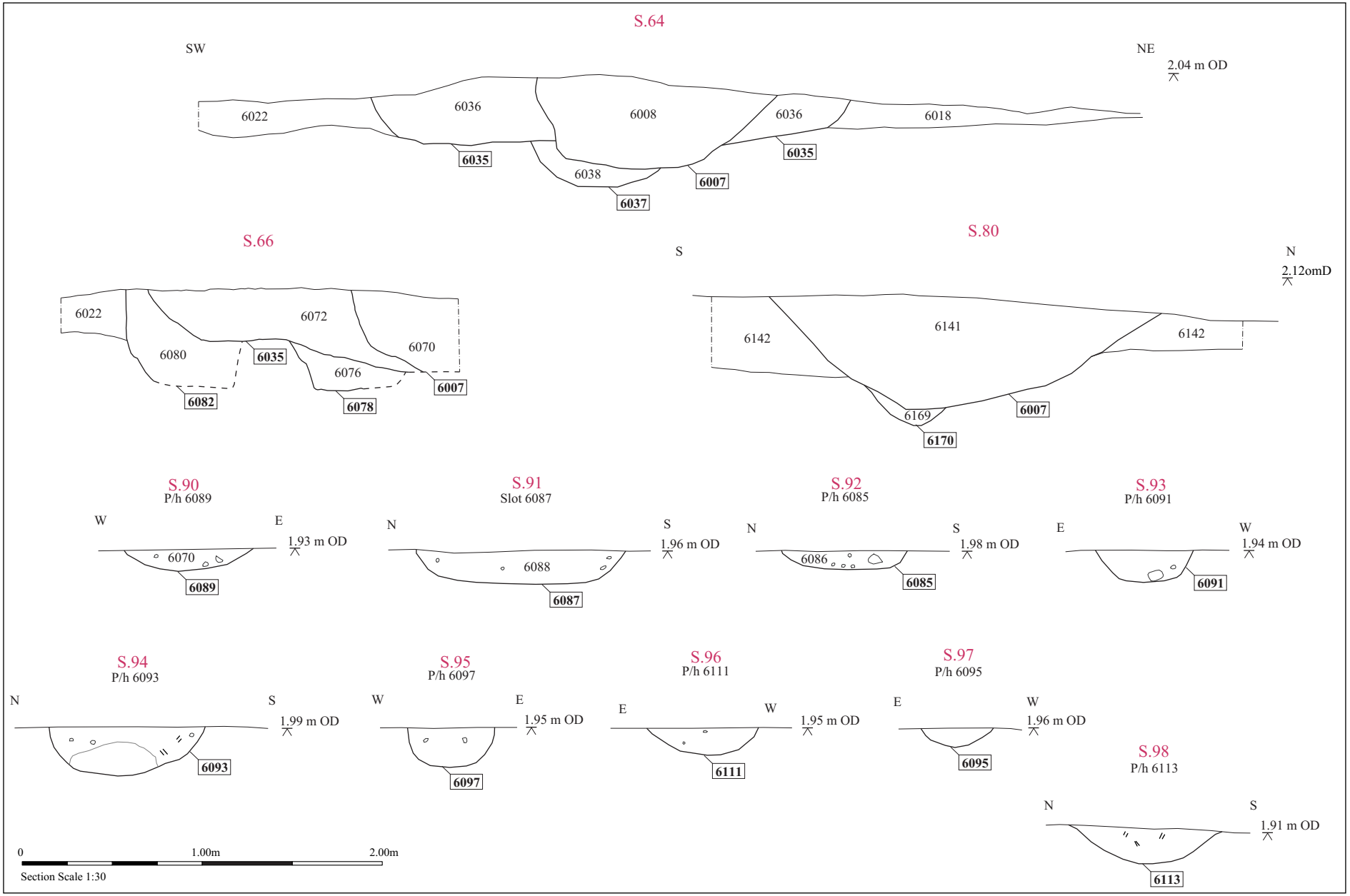


Figure 18. Sections across selected ditches, graves and other featuresn

**Phase E**

This phase is represented by the two largest enclosure ditches 6020 and 6028. These are likely to be stratigraphically separate (one being the re-cut of the other) but no cutting relationship could be observed. This phase sees a slight enlargement of the enclosure area towards the east and might represent an expansion of the cemetery area.

*Ditch 6020*

This was a large north to south running ditch with a gently sloping upper edge becoming very steep towards the base which was fairly narrow and flat (Sect. 67, Fig. 17). The eastern edge could not be seen due to ditch 6028, but the ditch was at least 1.8m wide and 1m deep. A similar profile could be seen in Section 103 (Fig. 17) where this ditch has been numbered 6127.

A general fill across the top of ditch 6020 was 6021 and was mid brown silty sand and indistinguishable from 6064 of ditch 6028 adjacent. The basal fill was 6063 and this was light brown grey silty sand. The pottery from 2019 (mixed Early Saxon and Ipswich-type ware) could well have come from this feature rather than from the earlier ditch 6014.

*Ditch 6028*

Running parallel with 6020 and with indistinguishable fills, this was another large ditch with steep sides and a narrow base (Sect 67, Fig 17). This ditch was at least 1.5m in width and 1.05m deep and is likely to be the recut of 6020 as this is further to the east which appears to be the direction of expansion. Fill 6064 was mid brown silty stony sand.

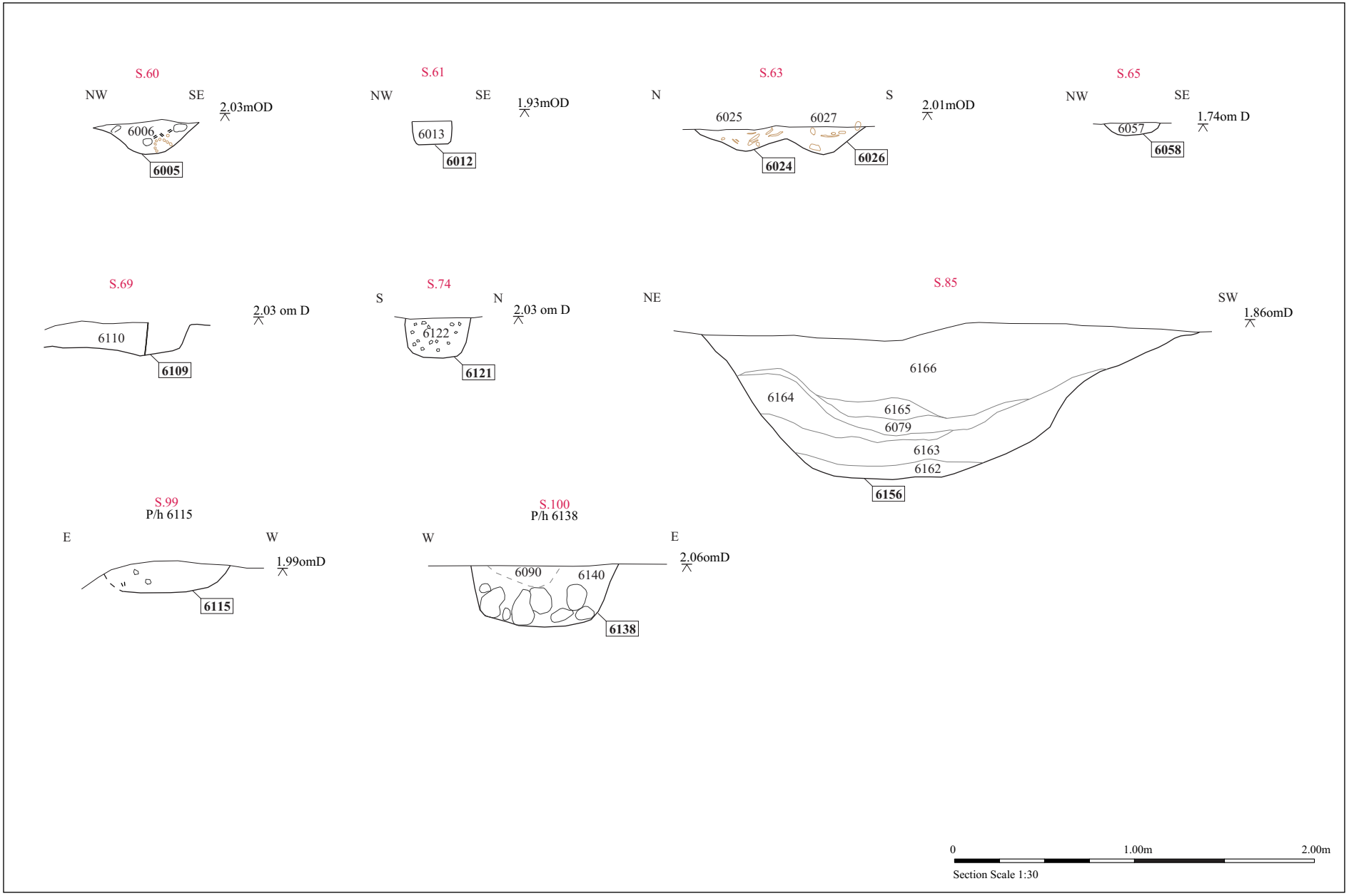


Figure 19. Sections across selected pits and post-holes

### 4.3.3 Post-holes and other features

A number of post-holes and other minor features were recorded (Fig. 20). An east to west line (6089, 6087, 6093 etc) plus other post-holes in the immediate vicinity could belong to a building identified in Trenches 3 and 5 to the west (structure 0575; Fig.23). A possible north-east to south-west alignment is represented by the line between 6024 and 6113. This line possibly runs into Trench 5 and is parallel with the enclosure ditches. Other post-holes and small pits appear not to belong to any grouping.

**Structure 0575 (Figs. 20 & 22)**

*Post-hole 6085*

A small circular post-hole with shallow sloping sides and flat base and with a diameter of 0.7m and a depth of 0.1m (Sect. 92, Fig. 18). Fill 6086 was mid brown silty sand, whilst some larger flints might have been post packers.

*Slot 6087*

An elongated pit or slot, orientated north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides to a fairly shallow flat base (Sect. 91, Fig. 18). This feature was 1.1m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.2m deep. Fill 6088 was mid to dark grey silty sand.

*Post-hole 6089*

A circular cut with shallow sloping concave sides and base with a diameter of 0.7m and a depth of 0.12 (Sect. 90, Fig. 18). Fill 6090 was mid orange brown silty sand.

*Post-hole 6091*

A circular cut with fairly steep straight sides and a gradual break of slope to a flat base, with a diameter of 0.54m and a depth of 0.18m (Sect. 93, Fig. 18). Fill 6092 was dark brown silty sand with occasional large flints.

*Possible post-hole 6093*

A large possible post-hole or pit with fairly steep concave sides and a rounded base and with a diameter of 0.85m and a depth 0.27m (Sect. 94, Fig. 18). Fill 6094 was mid to dark orange brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. A large lump of clay in the base of this feature could have been post-packing or a possible post pad. This feature contained Ipswich-type ware pottery and is thus likely to be of the 8th century.

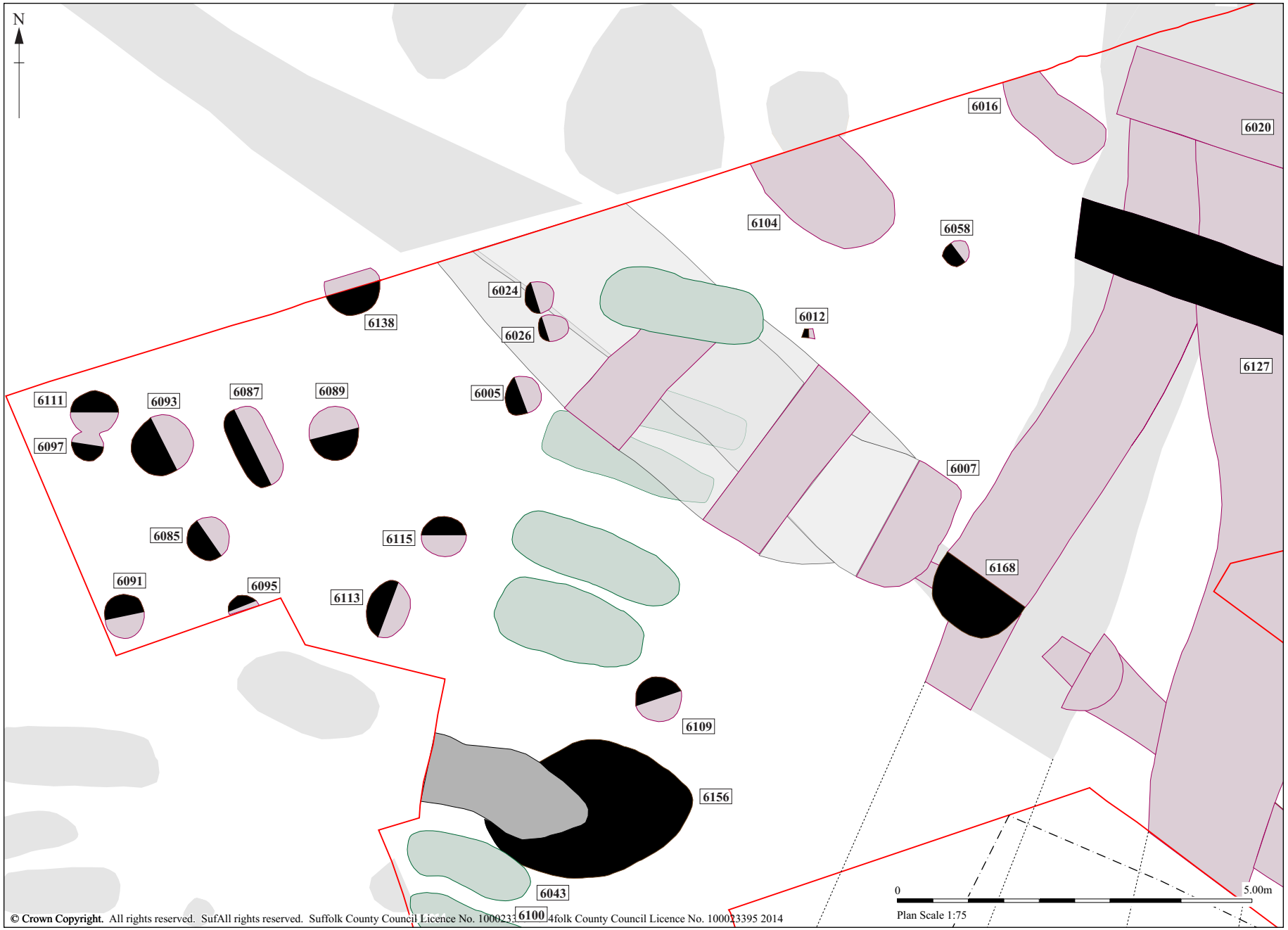


Figure 20. Post-hole plan

*Post-hole 6095*

A small post-hole against the southern edge of the baulk and not fully revealed within the trench area. This was a circular cut with a shallow gently sloping concave sides and base, with a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.1m (Sect. 97, Fig. 18). Fill 6096 was dark brown silty sand.

*Post-hole 6097*

A small but deep post-hole adjacent to 6111. This was a circular cut with steep concave sides and a gradual break of slope to a flat base and with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.2m (Sect. 95, Fig. 18). Fill 6098 was mottled mid and dark grey brown silty sand.

*Post-hole 6111*

In close proximity to post-hole 6097, this was a shallow circular post-hole with gently sloping sides and a rounded base, a diameter of 0.6m and a depth of 016m (Sect. 96, Fig. 18). Fill 6112 was mid orange brown silty sand.

**Post-line 6178 (Fig. 20)**

A possible post-line 6178 has been recognised in the post-excavation analysis of the 2013 excavations and includes post-holes 6005, 6024, 6026, 6113 and 6115. It is possible that this line continued to include some of the Trench 5 post-holes (5062 and 5076). This line ran north-north-east to south-south-west and was parallel to the large inner enclosure ditch 6061 (Phase C) and might have formed a screen or barrier to the west of the initial linear cemetery (Phases 1 and 2).

*Post-hole 6005*

A fairly large but shallow circular cut with gently sloping convex sides and rounded base and with a diameter of 0.6m and a depth of 0.18m (Sect. 60, Fig. 19). Fill 6006 was mid grey brown silty sand with moderate small charcoal flecks.

*Post-hole 6024*

A fairly small circular post-hole in close proximity to 6026 but with no obvious cutting relationship. This had gently sloping sides and a narrow conical base, a diameter of *c*.0.5m and a depth of 0.1m (Sect. 63, Fig. 19). Fill 6025 was dark grey brown silty sand

and contained oyster shells, small pieces of fired clay and a sherd of Ipswich-type ware pottery. This feature cut the fills of ditch 6035/6066 and, like grave 6009, is likely to be of a Phase 4 or later.

*Post-hole 6026*

With no obvious cutting relationship with 6024 adjacent, this was a circular cut with concave sides and a slightly pointed base, a diameter of *c*.0.4m and a depth of 0.16m (Sect. 63, Fig. 19). Fill 6027 was similar to 6025 and contained five small Roman pot sherds, likely to be residual.

*Post-hole 6113*

This was an oval cut, aligned north-east to south-west, with concave sides and rounded base, a length of 0.8m, width of *c*.0.6m and a depth of 0.22m (Sect. 98, Fig. 18). Fill 6114 was mottled mid to dark brown and brown grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

*Post-hole 6115*

This was a circular cut with concave sides and a fairly flat base, a diameter of 0.7m and a depth of 0.18m (Sect. 99, Fig. 19). Fill 6116 was mid brown silty sand.

**Miscellaneous features**

These features are either undated or contain small quantities of Roman pottery which might be residual. Rather than adding these to an undated section it is presumed that these discrete features are likely to belong to Period 3.

*Post-hole 6012*

This was a small, sub-square feature with steep sides and a flat base, a diameter of 0.22m and a depth of 0.12m (Sect. 61, Fig. 19). Fill 6013 was pale brown sandy clay

*Pit 601*6

A shallow elongated pit, orientated north-west to south-east, with a length of 1.54m, 0.66m and depth of 0.17m. Fill 0017 was light brown grey friable sand.

*Post-hole 6058*

This was a shallow, small circular post-hole with a diameter of 0.3m and a depth of 0.07m (Sect. 65, Fig. 19). Fill 6057 was mid grey brown soft sandy silt.

*Post-hole 6109*

Feature 6109 was a circular pit or post-hole to the south-east of grave 6030 with a diameter of 0.7m and a depth of 0.19m (Sect. 69, Fig. 19). Fill 6110 was mottled yellow and grey sand with charcoal flecks. Five small sherds of Roman pottery (of only 18 grams) were collected from this fill but could have been residual due to their small size.

*Post-hole 6121*

A possible chalky clay-filled post-hole with steep sides and flat base and with a diameter of 0.36m and a depth of 0.24m (Sect. 69, Fig. 19). Other potential clay-filled features in the vicinity were discounted as being natural clay pockets within the underlying alluvial deposits. It is likely that this feature was also of natural origin.

*Pit 6138*

This was a larger, possibly circular, post-hole, partly revealed against the north-west edge of the site. It had steep sides and a rounded base of 0.8m diameter and a depth of 0.34m (Sect. 100, Fig. 19). It contained two fills, the upper 6139 was mid to dark brown silty sand with the lower 6140 containing frequent large rounded cobbles. It is possible that this feature was an outlier of the group of post-holes associated with building 0575 to the south, although the cobble packing is also reminiscent of the prehistoric (Period 1) flint-filled pit 6104.

## 4.4. Period 4: Medieval and later

This period is poorly represented by only five sherds of medieval pottery (Anderson below). This compares to 19 sherds found in the 2004 and 2006 excavations and 33 sherds found in 2010 (Anderson 2007 & 2011). Previous excavations had also recovered small elements of post-medieval date, the most significant of which was a lead token probably dating to the 16th century (Tester 2007).

A close parallel has not been found for a small but remarkable copper alloy model of a cetacean (opinions are divided as to it being either a dolphin or a whale). If a whale, it might be of 19th century date as this was the major period of whaling.

Plate 6. Visualisation by David Gillingwater of the box from grave 6039 and showing a selection of objects from inside the box

# 5. The finds evidence

Richenda Goffin

## 5.1 Introduction and general methodology

Artefacts, human skeletal remains, animal bone and shell were recovered through hand-retrieval from fully stratified features, and also from the sieved squares. A breakdown by main type is shown in Table 1 below (also see Appendix 3). Plant macrofossils and other remains were also present in the samples that were submitted for environmental evidence.

| Finds Type | Hand retrieved + samples | | Sieved squares | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No of frags | Weight (g) | No of frags | Weight (g) | Total frags | Total weight (g) |
| **Pottery** | 1044 | 7143 | 6667 | 27966 | 7711 | 35109 |
| **CBM** | 1 | 158 | 106 | 1776 | 107 | 1934 |
| **Briquetage** | 482 | 16862 | 2236 | 48025 | 2718 | 64887 |
| **Fired clay** | 138 | 417 | 205 | 912 | 343 | 1329 |
| **Lava quern** | 31 | 176 | 68 | 595 | 99 | 771 |
| **Slag** | 3 | 988 | 28 | 2268 | 31 | 3256 |
| **Worked flint** | 29 | 150 | 34 | 176 | 63 | 326 |
| **Burnt flint** | 38 | 531 | 83 | 1052 | 121 | 1583 |
| **Animal bone** | 84 | 524 | 163 | 1876 | 247 | 2400 |
| **Shell** | 1350 | 39173 | 8535 | 10981 | 9885 | 50154 |

Table 1. Bulk finds quantities

## 5.2 Pottery

### 5.2.1 Prehistoric pottery

Stephen Benfield and Cathy Tester

A small quantity of handmade pottery (16 sherds) was extracted from the main site assemblage. The sherds, which were examined by Cathy Tester and Sue Anderson, were assigned a broad prehistoric date. They include grog-tempered, sand-tempered and shell-tempered sherds. For a number of these sherds close dating is difficult. There are few diagnostic pieces and the main dating evidence is the pottery fabrics. Most of the fabrics can occur throughout the prehistoric period, or are current in different areas over long periods.

An abraded group of seven sherds (29g) from one context (fill 6166 of pit 6156) all contain coarse grog-temper. The appearance of the fabric suggests a possible Bronze

Age or an Iron Age date - as opposed to the Late Iron Age (LIA) period when the use of grog is common. One small rim sherd among the group, which appears to be from a rounded, closed-mouth bowl with a simple rounded rim, is also stylistically probably more likely to date to the Bronze Age rather than the Iron Age. One quite abraded sherd appears to be from the edge of a base and another has what is probably a false rim from a coil or slab join in the body. That these grog-tempered sherds were located together as a group might also suggest a separation from the other prehistoric pottery which can be dated to the Iron Age or probable Iron Age.

There is also a decorated sherd which has coarse grog-temper (from fill 6021 of ditch 6020). This is a well-formed sherd which is oxidised orange red in colour. There is a row of small, neat, circular indentations on what appears to be the shoulder, with a slight neck off-set above. Similar decorated pots are known to date to the Iron Age and an Iron Age date appears likely. In East Anglia the dimple-like decoration can be paralleled on pots dated to the earlier Iron Age from Barham (Suffolk) (Martin 1993 fig. 22 no. 58) and more closely on an Iron Age pot from Witton (Norfolk) (Lawson 1983, fig. 38 no. 1).

These sherds suggest a possible Bronze Age and/or Iron Age phase of activity on the area.

The remainder of the hand-made pottery is, or is probably of Middle Iron Age (MIA) and Late Iron Age-early Roman date.

A small, abraded group of four sherds (56g) in moderately thick, sand-tempered fabric (sieved material from 6520) appear typical of pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age (*c.* 350-50/25 BC) and probably current into the later Iron Age period. These include a rim from a typical S profile bowl/jar which is burnished externally and another sherd which has a row of small, neat stab indentations around the shoulder. An abraded, sand-tempered sherd from another context (fill 6052 of grave 6043) also appears to be Middle Iron Age in date, unless it belongs to the Anglo-Saxon period.

An abraded sherd from (fill 6010 of grave 6009) is grog-tempered but has a later feel to it than the possible Bronze Age sherds (above) and may be Late Iron Age, although an earlier date may be possible. From the same context is a surface flake from a sand-

tempered sherd, which feels prehistoric rather than Roman and is likely to date to the Late Iron Age period.

A sherd from fill 6175 of ditch 6176 is almost certainly a leached, shell-tempered ware dating to the Late Iron Age - early Roman period of the 1st century AD. Another small sherd from fill 6008 of ditch 6007 is in a relatively thin sand-tempered fabric and could well be of Roman date rather than earlier.

### 5.2.2 Roman Pottery

Stephen Benfield and Cathy Tester

**Introduction**

A large quantity of Roman pottery was recovered during the excavation. In total this amounted to approximately 8,700 sherds together weighing just under 41.5 kg (a very few sherds identified as prehistoric were not separated in the quantification). The majority of the pottery (approximately 90% by count & 85% by weight) was recovered from an extensive soil deposit which was excavated in gridded squares. The remainder (approximately 10% by count & 15% by weight) was recovered as residual material in the fill of later dated features. All of the pottery was rapidly scanned and the contexts spotdated by Cathy Tester.

In respect of the archaeological significance of the assemblage in interpreting the site and the level to which the pottery from the two sets of contexts (gridded squares & feature fills) has been quantified, a similar amount of Roman pottery was recovered during an earlier excavation carried out in 2010 (Benfield 2012). This was also made up of a large quantity of pottery recovered from the soil deposit and a smaller amount from feature fills. All of the pottery from the earlier excavation was fully quantified. As the present assemblage could be seen to be closely comparable to the earlier one, in terms of broad date range and the proportions and types of pottery present, only the pottery recovered from the feature fills has been fully quantified; the larger part remaining at the level of spot dating with brief notes concerning fabric and vessel forms.

The degree of similarity in terms of percentages by count and weight of the fabrics recorded for the quantified pottery from the earlier (2010) excavation and the present excavation (2013) is set out in Table 2.

| Fabrics | 2010 Gridded squares | | 2010 Features | | 2013 Features | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Imported wares** | **% No** | **% Wt** | **% No** | **% Wt** | **% No** | **% Wt** |
| Samian (Central & East Gaul) | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Amphora | 0.3 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 2.7 |
| **Regionally important fine wares** | | | | | | |
| Colchester & Unspecified colour-coated wares | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.1 | <0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Grey fine wares | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Mortaria** | | | | | | |
| Colchester, Buff & greyware mortaria | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Verulamium region white ware mortaria | <0.1 | <0.1 | | | | |
| **Local and regionally traded coarsewares** | | | | | | |
| Grog-tempered wares | <0.1 | <0.1 | | | | |
| Early shell-tempered wares | 0.1 | <0.1 | | | | |
| Romanising coarsewares | | | 0.3 | 0.5 | | |
| Black-burnished wares, category 1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | | | | |
| Black-burnished wares, category 2 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Verulamium region white ware | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | <0.1 | | |
| West Stow fine reduced ware | <0.1 | <0.1 | | | | |
| Micaceous wares (GMB, GMG) | | | 0.1 | 0.1 | 13.1 | 19.5 |
| Black-surface wares | 6.2 | 6.3 | 20.3 | 12.3 | 11.8 | 13.6 |
| Miscellaneous sandy grey wares | 90.3 | 88.0 | 72.3 | 81.1 | 71.9 | 61.3 |
| Miscellaneous buff wares | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Miscellaneous red coarse wares | | | 2.5 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Storage jar fabrics (STOR) | <0.1 | <0.1 | | | | |
| *Total* | 97.1 | 97.1 | 98.6 | 95.3 | 98.5 | 96.0 |

Table 2. Proportions of quantified Roman pottery fabrics and fabric groups for the 2010 and 2013 excavations

## Roman pottery from features

### *Introduction*

In total there are 915 sherds with a combined weight of 6,280g and EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) of 7.44. The pottery was recorded following the Suffolk (Pakenham) Roman pottery fabric and form series (unpublished). For ease of reference Cam (*Camulodunum*) form numbers (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hull 1958) have been used in the text with the Suffolk number given in brackets following. Samian vessel form numbers refer to Webster (1996). The fabrics recorded and the quantity of each fabric type are listed in Table 3. The pottery is listed and described in Appendix 4.

| Fabric name | Fabric | No. | % No. | Wt/g | % Wt | EVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Imported fine wares* | | | | | | |
| Central Gaulish samian (Les Matres) | SAMV | 1 | *0.1* | 1 | *<0.1* | |
| Central Gaulish samian (Lezoux) | SACG | 3 | *0.3* | 14 | *0.2* | 0.10 |
| East Gaulish samian | SAEG | 3 | *0.3* | 28 | *0.4* | 0.13 |
| *Sub total* | | *7* | *0.7* | *43* | *0.7* | *0.23* |
| *Imported coarse wares* | | | | | | |
| Amphora | AA | 3 | *0.3* | 169 | *2.7* | |
| *Regionally important fine wares* | | | | | | |
| Colchester colour-coated wares | COLC | 1 | *0.1* | 2 | *<0.1* | |
| Unspecified colour-coated wares | UCC | 1 | *0.1* | 2 | *<0.1* | |
| Grey fine wares | GRF | 1 | *0.1* | 8 | *0.1* | |
| *Sub total* | | *3* | *0.3* | *4* | *0.1* | |
| *Local and regionally traded coarsewares* | | | | | | |
| Black-burnished wares, category 2 | BB2 | 3 | *0.3* | 22 | *0.3* | 0.16 |
| Black-surface wares | BSW | 108 | *11.8* | 859 | *13.6* | 1.04 |
| Miscellaneous buff wares | BUF | 9 | *1.0* | 55 | *0.8* | 0.06 |
| Grey micaceous wares (black surfaced) | GMB | 41 | *4.5* | 198 | *3.1* | 0.05 |
| Grey micaceous wares (grey surfaced) | GMG | 79 | *8.6* | 1035 | *16.4* | 1.97 |
| Miscellaneous sandy grey wares | GX | 658 | *71.9* | 3851 | *61.3* | 3.87 |
| Miscellaneous grey mortaria | GXM | 2 | *0.2* | 29 | *0.4* | 0.06 |
| Miscellaneous red coarse wares | RX | 2 | *0.2* | 7 | *0.1* | |
| *Sub total* | | *903* | *98.5* | *6064* | *96.0* | *7.21* |
| *Total* | | *915* | *99.8* | *6280* | *99.6* | *7.44* |

Table 3. Roman pottery from features by fabric

### *Discussion*

The pottery dates primarily to the 2nd-3rd century and is dominated by grey and black surfaced coarsewares. There is an absence of forms and fabrics typical of the late 3rd-4th century.

Local and regionally traded coarsewares make up over 95% of the assemblage. Finewares consist of a few sherds of Central & East Gaulish plain samian and regional colour-coated wares from Colchester and possibly another source. There are also a few sherds of imported Spanish oil *amphora* (Dressel 20). Among the coarsewares the micaceous fabrics (GMB & GMG) are typical of some East Anglian products, primarily associated with the Wattisfield (Waveney Valley) kilns. The proportion of these two fabrics among the assemblage is difficult to quantify exactly as many of the coarsewares contain some mica (reflecting the difference in recorded incidence of this fabric in Table 3), but they appear probably to form a modest but significant part of the assemblage. A few sherds of sandy Black-burnished ware (BB2) appear to be

Colchester products and a few sherds in buff fabric (BUF) might also be Colchester products. However, the majority of the coarsewares, including the two largest fabric groups (BSW & GX) are not sourced, but most are likely to be of regional and relatively local origin.

The more closely datable of the fabric types are of 2nd-3rd century date. These are the samian (SAMV, SACG, SAEG), Colchester colour-coated (roughcast) ware (CZ) and Black-burnished ware (BB2); while two others, coarse Spanish amphora fabric (AA) and the buff wares (BUF) are of mid 1st-2nd/early 3rd century date or predominantly so.

A small quantity of pottery could date to the early Roman period as some of the vessel forms appear to belong to types dating to the mid-late 1st- early 2nd century. These are jars of form Cam 218 (5.1) and Cam 266 (4.1), together with one probable example of a flat-rimmed bowl Cam 243-244/246 (6.3). A single greyware dish, approximating to form Cam 27 (6.21), probably dates to the latter part of the same period. There are also a few body sherds from one or more beakers following in the Butt Beaker tradition, probably akin to form Cam 119 (3.13). These could also date to the early Roman period, but this form type persists into the late 3rd or early 4th century. There is also a rim sherd which is probably from a bowl similar to Cam 320 (6.10) and which is possibly of late 1st-early 2nd century date.

The great majority of the vessel forms date to after the early 2nd century and the more closely datable are of 2nd-3rd century date. Among the finewares the few identified samian vessels, which include Curl 23 & Dr 18/31 or 31, add nothing to the broad date range provided by the samian fabrics. The largest number of dated forms are probably slack-shouldered jars (4.6), although among the assemblage rims are frequently broken away from the shoulders of vessels so that the form type is difficult to identify closely. These jars broadly approximate to form Cam 268, but with no exact Cam equivalent. Prominent among the more closely dated forms are bead rim bowls of form Cam 37 (6.18). Most of these are in greyware or in micaceous greyware; some with a noticeably short, triangular lip rather than a well formed triangular or rounded bead. There are also sherds from bowls with a girth groove of form Cam 299 (5.4) of mid 2nd-3rd century date and from Black-burnished ware lattice decorated jars of form Cam 279 (3.10), one of which has an upright rim and can be dated to the early-mid 2nd century.

As residual pieces, much of the pottery is quite broken-up, although this is variable as there are a few larger pieces and groups of joining sherds; notably sherd groups from bowls of form Cam 299 (5.4) in 6041 & 6175, the lower part of a BB2 jar in 6159 and a profile of a Cam 37 bowl (6.18) in 6141. These suggests probably large parts of pots disturbed and broken-up when digging/filling the later features. It is also noted that abrasion is variable, with some sherds showing abrasion to edges & surfaces, others with little or no significant abrasion.

In many respects the assemblage appears consistent with many rural sites in the mid Roman period, with the majority of the vessels consisting of utilitarian jars or jars/bowls, primarily from local or regional sources together with a few fineware vessels (samian and colour-coats) representing table wares. The quantity of pottery would suggest significant settlement here. However, the very low incidence of large, coarse-tempered storage pots (STOR), which are hardly presented at all among the quantified pottery from the excavations (Table 3), is unusual. Speculatively, it might be possible that this absence reflects the relative immobility of these pots, which are often heavy and bulky and best utilised at sites of permanent settlement. The large quantity of salt working (briquetage) debris (see below), most likely representing a seasonal extraction industry, might indicate a seasonal occupation which might be reflected in the absence of these large pots.

**Roman pottery from the gridded squares**

The great majority of the Roman pottery was recovered from a blanket soil deposit excavated in gridded squares (contexts beginning 65). In total there are over 7,000 sherds together weighing in excess of 30 kg. The pottery was rapidly assessed and spot dated. The assemblage is closely comparable to the large Roman quantity of pottery recovered from the same context (soil deposit) during an earlier excavation in 2010 (Benfield 2012). The pottery predominantly dates to the 2nd-3rd century and this is the spot date assigned to all of the pottery context groups representing the gridded squares which produced any significant quantity of pottery. The assemblage is dominated by local and regional coarsewares, with few finewares (samian & colour-coated wares) and the occasional/rare *mortarium* and *amphora* sherd (the *amphora* being predominantly form Dressel 20). No fabric or form types were recorded which need date to the late Roman period of the late 3rd or 4th century.

## 5.2.3 Post-Roman pottery

Sue Anderson

### Introduction

Thirty-six sherds of pottery weighing 758g were collected from nineteen contexts. Table 4 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 5.

| Description | Fabric | Code | No | Wt/g | MNV | eve |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Early Saxon coarse quartz | ESCQ | 2.03 | 1 | 6 | 1 | |
| Early Saxon fine sand | ESFS | 2.04 | 6 | 96 | 5 | 0.05 |
| Early Saxon medium sandy | ESMS | 2.22 | 1 | 10 | 1 | |
| Gritty Ipswich Ware | GIPS | 2.31 | 2 | 41 | 2 | |
| Sandy Ipswich Ware | SIPS | 2.32 | 21 | 508 | 20 | 0.24 |
| Medieval coarseware | MCW | 3.20 | 5 | 97 | 2 | 0.25 |
| **Total** | | | **36** | **758** | **31** | **31** |

Table 4. Post-Roman pottery quantification by fabric.

### Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

### Pottery by period

#### *Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon*

Eight sherds from seven Early Anglo-Saxon handmade vessels were recovered. One sherd in ESFS fabric from 6500 was an upright plain fragment from a bowl measuring c.200mm in diameter. All other sherds were fragments of body or base, and the forms were not identifiable. Body sherds were sometimes smoothed or burnished, and one piece in ESMS had an incised horizontal line and incised curving line (or possibly the edge of a stamp). The fabrics are all sandy types with few other inclusions, and no shelly wares which were present in previous assemblages were certainly present, but some possible handmade shelly wares were recovered and felt more likely to be of Roman date. The group is too small to be more closely dated within the period.

Twenty-three sherds of Ipswich-type ware were recovered, the majority of them in the finer ‘sandy’ fabric. The latter also predominated in the previous excavation assemblages. In all these groups, some of the sherds were softer than normal and appeared underfired, and some had oxidised surfaces. Three rims were present and the types were recorded following West’s typology (West 1963). One rim was classified as type A and two as possibly type I. Rim sizes varied between 130–170mm.

### *Medieval*

Five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the sieved squares. Of these, four were from a single bowl with an everted beaded rim 300mm in diameter, recovered from two squares (6544 and 6554). One sherd was a triangular beaded ?jug rim and was also from 6544.

## Pottery by context

### *Stratified contexts*

A summary of the twelve sherds of pottery collected from features is provided in Table 5.

| Feature | Context | Identifier | Fabric | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6007 | 6070 | ditch | ESFS, ESCQ | |
| 6009 | 6010 | grave | SIPS | |
| 6014 | 6015 | ditch | SIPS | two jar rims, type I |
| 6014 | 6019 | ditch | ESFS, ESMS | |
| 6024 | 6025 | post-hole | SIPS | |
| 6039 | 6041 | grave | ESFS | |
| 6093 | 6094 | pit | GIPS | |

Table 5. Post-Roman pottery types present by feature.

All of the stratified pottery was of Saxon date, although much of it was abraded and probably residual. Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon sherds from the enclosure ditch 6014 may be cotemporary with its use.

***Sieved squares***

The pottery from the sieved squares is shown in Table 6.

| Context | ESax | MSax | Med |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6500 | 1 | 1 | |
| 6502 | | 1 | |
| 6506 | | 1 | |
| 6507 | | 2 | |
| 6515 | | 1 | |
| 6516 | | 2 | |
| 6526 | | 1 | |
| 6534 | | 1 | |
| 6544 | | 3 | 2 |
| 6553 | | 1 | |
| 6554 | | 2 | 3 |

Table 6. Distribution of post-Roman pottery by period and square (sherd count).

Of the 58 squares excavated, eleven produced material of Middle Saxon date, one contained a single Early Anglo-Saxon sherd and two contained medieval wares. The numbers are too small to suggest any particular concentrations across the site.

**Summary**

This is a relatively small assemblage but it has provided additional information which can be combined with earlier findings when further analysis is carried out. There is further evidence for handmade pottery of Early Anglo-Saxon date, and the previous Middle Saxon component has been increased, again with the finer sandy wares dominating. No Late Saxon wares were present in this assemblage and medieval coarsewares were relatively poorly represented, suggesting that this part of the site may have been abandoned after the Middle Saxon phase.

## 5.3 Briquetage

Stephen Benfield

### Introduction

In total 2,718 pieces of briquetage (fired clay associated with salterns) were recorded with a combined weight of 64,887g. The material is typical of Roman salt production debris and can be taken to be contemporary with the Roman occupation represented by the significant pottery assemblage dating to the 2nd-3rd century. During a previous excavation in 2010 significant quantities of Roman briquetage (2,383 pieces weighing 62,672g), representing one of the largest collections of this material from Suffolk, was recovered from the site and reported in detail (Tester 2012).

The briquetage comes primarily from a soil deposit excavated as gridded squares and given the detailed reporting of the assemblage from the previous excavation only two of the larger groups from the gridded squares (6545, 6554) were examined in detail to gage the similarity of the material to that recovered earlier.

The fabric of the briquetage is consistent with that of the previous assemblage described by Tester (2012):

The fabric is red-orange and hard-fired, sandy, with occasional natural flint. The majority of the fragments fall within the Munsell colour ranges Red 2.5 YR5/6-5/8 or Red 10 YR 5/6-5/8. Many of the fragments exhibit the typical white external surfaces associated with salt processing debris. The whiteness is not a salt deposit, but rather, the loss of colour due to leaching of iron caused by prolonged proximity to very high temperatures (Barford 1995, 174).

Most of the earlier reported assemblage consisted of pieces from vessels, with a very small number from fire bars and pinch props. There were also two pieces with squared corners from slabs (Tester 2012).

## The briquetage assemblage

The briquetage is quite broken-up; the average weight of pieces being 23.9g. This compares closely with the earlier excavation where the average weight was 26.2g (Tester 2012). It was noted that the average size of the pieces from one of the larger of the briquetage groups stratified in a later dated context (6158) appear larger. These were found to have an average weight of 66.8g suggesting that overall briquetage from the soil layer is probably more broken.

The great majority of pieces are flat (a small number are slightly curving), commonly with a white (cream) surface on one side but otherwise plain. On one piece (6545) the white surface has a shiny, almost vitrified appearance These pieces are consistent with fragments from vessels/troughs and have a similar thickness to pieces from the earlier excavation which were recorded at between 21-36 mm (Tester 2012). More closely identifiable piece come from the rounded base corner of vessels, with flat and rounded pieces from vessel rims (6545). None of the rim pieces are decorated as is sometimes the case with briquetage vessels. Three small, flat pieces were noted which exhibit a

smooth, concave edge (6554) which most probably represent the join between slab pieces or coils used to build the wall of the vessel. No other briquetage types were able to be positively identified among the sample of material examined indicating that, as with the previous assemblage (Tester 2012) the material consists almost entirely, or entirely of vessel pieces.

### Discussion

The briquetage from Barber's Point is among the larger assemblages recovered from sites in Suffolk. The quantity of material clearly represents salt extraction close to the excavated areas, although no extraction sites have been located. That the vessels have been used is the extraction process indicated by the white surfaces of many pieces. As the briquetage consists almost entirely of vessel pieces, with only a very low incidence of other briquetage types, this appears to represent a separation of the vessels from other production debris, presumably transported a short distance from the extraction site(s). The implications of this are not understood, although it can be noted salt extraction was probably seasonal and that other activities requiring quantities of salt could have been carried out close to and alongside the salt production. At the salt extraction site at Stanford Wharf, on the Thames estuary, there is some evidence for commercial fish processing and possibly the curing of animal hides also taking place (Biddulph *et al* 2012, 169-172).

## 5.4 Ceramic building material and fired clay

Only two fragments of ceramic building material were collected from the excavation, weighing 634g.

Both fragments are Roman. A single fragment of brick or tile made in a medium sandy fabric (depth 24mm) with no evidence of mortar was found in one of the fills 6015 of the North/south enclosure ditch 6014 with fragments of Roman pottery. A second larger brick fragment (depth 34mm) which is also unmortared, is made in a medium sandy fabric with grog inclusions was recovered as from the gridded square 6554.

343 fragments of fired clay were recovered from the recent excavation, weighing 1329g. The assemblage is similar in nature to the material excavated from the previous phases, and has not been analysed in detail.

## 5.5 Lavastone

Ninety-nine fragments of vesicular grey lavastone weighing 771g were recovered from the recent excavations. Just under a third of these (31 fragments weighing 176g) were collected by hand from excavated features, with the remainder coming from sieved squares. The overall condition of the stone is poor, with much wear and fragmentation. The stone is likely to be Mayen lavastone which was imported from the Rhineland during the Roman period and from the Middle Saxon period onwards for the manufacture of domestic querns and millstones.

The fragments recovered from features are summarised in the table below:

| Context | Lavastone | | Feature type |
|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | Wt/g | |
| 6010 | 1 | 8 | Fill of grave 6009 |
| 6041 | 18 | 49 | Fill of grave 6039 |
| 6101 | 11 | 53 | Fill of grave 6100 |
| 6141 | 1 | 66 | Fill of ditch 6007 |
| **Total** | **31** | **176** | |

Table 7. Lavastone by feature

The quern fragments are consistently small and none display any diagnostic features such as tooling. The largest fragment was found in the fill 6141 of ditch 6007. The fragments in the grave fills are all small and represent evidence of the cycle of redeposition which could include material which was originally Roman.

The remainder of the lavastone was recovered from ten contexts assigned to the sieved squares. No diagnostic features were observed on this part of the assemblage as the fragments are all very small and featureless.

## 5.6 Slag

Thirty-one fragments of slag weighing 3.256kg were collected from this phase of the excavation. The majority was recovered from the gridded squares through sieving and so is not closely stratified (28 fragments weighing 2.268kg).

The remains of a large fragment of smithing hearth bottom weighing 962g was found in the buried soil deposit 6158, together with fragments of Roman pottery, briquetage and fired clay. Two other pieces were found in sieved square 6544. A number of similar fragments of hearth bottoms relating to iron smithing had been identified in the previous stage of work (Paynter 2012). Much of this type of slag had been found in adjoining grid squares in the north-west corner of Area A in Trench 5. The remainder of the slag from the 2013 excavations is made up of smaller fragments of smithing slag and fuel ash slag through localised burning.

## 5.7 Struck flint

Sarah Bates

### Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context in an ACCESS database table. The material was classified by *category* and *type* (see archive) with numbers of pieces and numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge fractured pieces being recorded and the type and condition of the flint being commented on. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary. Non-struck flint was included in a separate column (*Non struck*) in the database but has been discarded. The flint and archive are curated by SCCAS.

## Introduction

A total of forty-nine struck, or probably struck, flints were recovered during the recent work at Barbers Point (Appendix 6). The flint ranges from light grey to black in colour. Cortex, where present, is orangey cream coloured and mostly quite thin although a few pieces have slightly thicker cortex. Several flints have areas of patinated white original surfaces – either broken flint surfaces or areas of cortex. The nature of the cortical and patinated surfaces show that surface collected gravel fragments, often weathered, were utilised by the flint knappers. Almost all of the flints are quite small or very small in size.

| Type | Number |
|---|---|
| flaked piece | 1 |
| struck fragment | 1 |
| flake | 30 |
| blade-like flake | 1 |
| spall | 9 |
| end scraper | 1 |
| piercer | 1 |
| retouched flake | 3 |
| utilised flake | 1 |
| utilised blade | 1 |
| **Total** | **49** |

Table 8. Summary of flint by type

## The flint

An irregular cortical fragment has had a few flakes struck from one edge (6503). That edge, or 'platform' is facetted showing that the piece itself was previously struck. The fragment may have been used as an irregular core but it is possible that the facetted edge might have been the retouched edge of a scraper-like tool. Possibly, the secondary flaking could represent deliberate or accidental (use-related) modification of the edge.

A small irregular fragment appears to be from a struck flint but its original nature is unclear (6523).

A small slightly irregular blade-like flake is present (6105); it has an irregular platform and was probably hard hammer struck.

Thirty unmodified flakes were found; almost all of them are small and most are irregular pieces. Seventy percent of the flakes have at least some cortex. Two flakes have cortex on their platforms and five have been struck from patinated surfaces; many of the flakes

appear to have been struck in a fairly *ad hoc* fashion. None of the flakes have evidence of deliberate platform preparation but there are a small number of neater pieces, probably struck from regular cores. Nine spalls are also present.

A broad ovate/sub rectangular flake has been used as a scraper (6032). It is battered or worn around its proximal end and has pebble type cortex around the distal edge which has been utilised as a scraper. The piece is abraded and is a patchy pinkish red-stained and grey in colour. It is unlike the rest of the flint, both in cortex type, colour and size (although not large, it is the biggest piece in the assemblage).

A broken blade-like piece has some very steep irregular retouch of one side near the distal end with (probably) subsequent slight retouch of other sides at that end which may have been used as a stubby point (6506).

Three irregular retouched flakes are present (6001, 6158, 6512); one has a hinged termination and another is broad and thick. All have only slight retouch of part of an edge. A quite long triangular flake with wide proximal end has very slight utilisation of one side (6511) and its distal point and a small neat blade, which has possible platform edge abrasion, is slightly utilised (6505). This latter piece has a very slight glossy patina which is slightly different from the rest of the flint.

## Flint by context

A total of ten small pieces of flint (flakes, a small irregular blade-like flake and a spall) were found in pit (6104). There are various flint and cortex types present; only two very small flakes may be of the same raw material. The flint is undiagnostic but, if of the same period, its nature suggests a later prehistoric date is more likely.

Single flakes were found in each of three ditches. Those from 6007 and 6172 are small and thick with the former having a wide cortical platform and the latter possibly being struck from the edge of a core platform. A small thin squat flake was found in ditch 6028.

A scraper, stained pinkish red and with pebble type cortex, was found in Saxon grave 6030 and a single spall came from grave 6039.

Twenty-nine flints were recovered during the sieving of soil from 2.5m squares. These flints mostly comprised small flakes and spalls. A possible piercer type tool was found 6506 as well as a retouched flake 6512, an utilised blade 6505 and an utilised flake 6511 (see above for details).

## Discussion

The flints collected at Barbers Point during the latest phase of work add to the material already reported on (Pendleton 2007, Bates 2011). Previously two hand-axes of Middle-Lower Palaeolithic date represented the earliest activity with other flints being of probable Neolithic and Bronze Age dates.

From the present assemblage a small slightly patinated and minimally utilised blade with traces of abrasion on its platform edge seems likely to be of earlier Neolithic date. It is noted that slightly patinated flints from both the earlier phases of work at the site were of earlier Neolithic types.

The scraper, which has a neat appearance and of a type which may be Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age in date is slightly irregular in that it is minimally retouched and the scraping edge is largely of cortex. This piece is also notable as the only piece in the current assemblage to be made on pebble type flint (Previously, several pieces were made on such flint and considering the location of the site it would not be unexpected to find this in use). The stained and abraded nature of the scraper may be due to its residual context in a Saxon grave but it is of quite pleasing appearance and might possibly have been collected in antiquity as a curiosity in the same way as suggested by Pendleton for the hand-axes.

The rest of the flint cannot be closely dated but its unpatinated and mainly irregular nature suggests that it probably dates to the later prehistoric period.

## 5.8 The burnt flint and heat-altered stone

A total of 121 fragments of burnt flint and heat-altered stone weighing 1583g were recovered. Thirty-eight pieces (531g) were collected from features, with the remainder present amongst the finds recovered from the sieved squares.

| Context | Burnt flint and stone | | Feature type |
|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | Wt/g | |
| 6010 | 1 | 184 | Fill of grave 6009 |
| 6032 | 3 | 18 | Fill of grave 6030 |
| 6137 | 1 | 40 | Fill of grave 6135 |
| 6163 | 7 | 83 | Fill of pit 6156 |
| 6166 | 26 | 206 | Fill of pit 6156 |
| **Total** | **38** | **531** | |

Table 9. Burnt flint and stone by feature

The assemblage consists of angular and sub-rounded flint fragments which are heat – affected and reddish brown or white in colour. The largest quantities were found in two of the fills of the oval-shaped pit 6156, which contained evidence of *in-situ* burning. Pottery of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon was present in the fills. The remainder of the burnt flint is likely to represent evidence of background activity dating to the later prehistoric period, which is also supported by the struck flint evidence.

## 5.9 The small finds

Ian Riddler

### 5.9.1 Introduction and method

A total of 261 small finds was recovered from the latest phase of work. The artefacts were initially recorded by small find number and context; the updated catalogue of these artefacts is presented in Appendix 7.

One hundred and four small find numbers were assigned to objects found in stratified deposits, whilst a further 157 artefacts were collected from the sieved squares. A further eight numbers were cancelled or not assigned.

The majority of the identifiable small finds are associated with the burial 6037, but additional artefacts were also recovered from other features such as the graves 6043

and 6100, fill 6070 of ditch 6007 and subsoil deposit 6003. Two finds were found in posthole fill 6027. All these small finds are described in the catalogue (Appendix 7).

The small finds are summarised below by major period. Roman finds recovered from the Saxon graves are described intrinsically under the Roman heading in the first instance, but they are discussed much more fully in the context of the Anglo-Saxon burials.

The small finds have been catalogued and discussed by Ian Riddler.

### 5.9.2 Iron Age and Roman

A single Iron Age terret ring was identified together with the finds recovered from the Saxon grave associated with the wooden box in Grave 6039.

SF1760 Complete cast copper alloy Iron Age terret ring of rectangular section, widening on both sides to lightly raised lateral mouldings, with an indented area between them. Found in grave 6039 with the wooden box.

Two Roman coins were identified, one of which was found in an Early Anglo-Saxon context.

SF 1699 Copper alloy coin, radiate *c.*260-296. Obverse Radiate? bust right [ ] AVG, Reverse ?sturdy female figure left [ ] AVG. Possibly Claudius II, 260-70. Oval in shape with a small perforation, 0.9mm in diameter.

The Roman radiate coin was found with the child in grave 6043. The occurrence of Roman coins in early Anglo-Saxon graves has been discussed by White and Geake (White 1988, 62-101; Geake 1997, 32) and has been placed in a broader context by Eckhardt and Williams (2003, 149). Roman coins occur in graves across the early Anglo-Saxon period, although there are more examples from 5th- and 6th-century graves and fewer from 7th-century contexts (Geake 1997, 32; Walton Rogers 2012, 44). The majority have been found in the graves of females, mostly adults, and few Roman coins have been found in the graves of children, as is the case here (White 1988, 99).

Perforated coins are generally found around the upper body of the deceased and some were strung on necklaces, alongside beads. Where the coins include a single perforation, they may have been suspended, whilst those with two perforations could have been sewn on to clothing (Moorhead 2006, 100), although it is equally possible that thread was passed through the two perforations to ensure that one particular side of the coin was visible on the body in the grave. In other graves, Roman coins form the only grave good, but this is a comparatively rare occurrence, seen within inhumation graves from cemeteries at Beakesbourne, Dunstable, Mitcham and Soham (White 1988, 65, 73, 86, 94). Thus, the placing of a single pierced Roman coin as the only grave good in the burial of a child at Friston is an unusual circumstance. Meaney and White have emphasised the amuletic value of these coins, which are often pierced in no relation to the position of the head on the coin when suspended, and may include worn or illegible examples, indicating that the imagery on the coin itself was not necessarily of any importance (Meaney 1981, 220; White 1988, 109). Eckhardt and Williams (2003) have argued that their contexts are significant in a broader view of the Roman past, whilst Moorhead (2006, 101) has wondered if 'the presence of writing on coins had some special or even magical significance in a society which was largely illiterate'.

A second Roman coin dating to the 1st century was also identified from layer 6004, which lay beyond ditch 6061 to the east of 6003, the dark layer under the topsoil.

SF 1607 Copper alloy coin, dupondius of Domitian AD 81-96. Layer 6004.

The majority of the identifiable Roman objects consist of fragments of vessel glass. About half of the fragments were recovered from the sieved squares over the archaeology, but four were found in the fills of graves. Full descriptions of the glass are present in the catalogue (Appendix *).

| Small Find No | Context | Context details | Period | Material | Type | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1608 | 6527 | From sieved square | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1613 | 6512 | From sieved square | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1614 | 6519 | From sieved square | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1615 | 6503 | From sieved square | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1641 | 6010 | Gravefill 6009 | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1709 | 6501 | From sieved square | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1710 | 6529 | From sieved square | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1761 | 6041 | Grave 6083 | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1812 | 6070 | Ditch 6007 | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1833 | 6832 | Grave 6100 | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1861 | 6083 | Grave 6039, within box | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |
| 1866 | 6027 | Fill of posthole 6026 | Roman | Glass | Vessel | 1 |

Table 10. Roman glass recovered during 2013 excavations

Two fragments of Roman glass were found inside the wooden box accompanying the inhumation 6083. These are described as follows:

SF 1761 Fragment of a naturally coloured, pale green Roman glass vessel, with two lightly raised horizontal mouldings just below the solid, folded rim.

SF 1861 Fragment of the base of a naturally coloured turquoise Roman glass bottle.

Further glass fragments were identified from two other graves:

SF 1641 Small fragment from a vessel, lightly curved, from grave 6009.

SF 1833 Small fragment, naturally coloured vessel glass from grave 6100.

A considerable number of iron objects or the fragmentary remains of iron objects were collected from the site overall, in particular from the material recovered through sieving. Many of these are likely to be nails or fragments of nails; they have not been examined in any detail.

### 5.9.3 Anglo-Saxon

A remarkable group of artefacts was found grouped towards the lower part of the inhumation 6040 (Grave 6039). Objects of wood, ceramic, stone, glass, shell and metal were present which were carefully recorded *in-situ* before lifting to facilitate further study during post-excavation work. Each separate artefact was examined by a conservator and assessed for condition and surviving evidence. The artefacts were examined microscopically for the presence of surviving minerally preserved organics, and where appropriate the objects were x-rayed. Individual reports were written on the textile (Sue Harrington, Appendix 8) and the wooden remains (Esther Cameron, Appendix 9). The grave assemblage can be separated into two different groups; the wooden box and its fittings and the contents of the wooden box.

**The wooden box**

Five samples of mineralised wood remains from the box fittings were selected for analysis by scanning electron microscope. All five samples were found to be the same species, *Acer campestre* (field maple). A report on this analysis with accompanying images was submitted by Esther Cameron, together with a report considering the evidence provided by the wooden remains (Appendix 9).

The wooden box was identified at the foot of Grave 6040 from the presence of a number of iron fittings, including several rectangular strips with nails passing through them, as well as clamps, split loops and small iron nails. A total of thirty iron fittings can be identified. Some of these are located on the plan of the box (Figure 21) whilst others were retrieved from sieving and their precise location is not known. Detailed descriptions below are provided by Ian Riddler.

***Boxes and caskets***

The terms ‘box’ and ‘casket’ have both been used to define wooden boxes with metal fittings. A box is defined here as a wooden container, which may or may not be secured with the aid of metal fittings. A casket, in contrast, can be made of wood but is additionally adorned with decorated strips or panels of antler, bone or whale bone. Under this definition, most of the early Anglo-Saxon containers are wooden boxes, although caskets are also found in graves of this period (Riddler 2006, 21-2; Riddler and Trzaska-Nartowski 2011, 140-1; Riddler and Bullock 2012).

### *Reconstructing the box*

The wooden box can be reconstructed on the basis of the location of its iron fittings in the grave, alongside a consideration of the purpose and possible location of each object. Wooden boxes from early Anglo-Saxon and Continental graves provide useful comparative material. Wooden boxes are found in graves across the early Anglo-Saxon period, with 6th-century examples known from Fonaby and Sewerby, amongst other sites (Cook 1981, 64; Hirst 1985, 94; Williams 2006, 99), whilst boxes with metal fittings, of copper alloy or iron, occur from the later 6th century onwards. A similar situation occurs on the Continent, with the proviso that the early series of boxes there is dominated by those with substantial copper alloy decorative sheets applied to the front faces, extending in date across most of the 6th century (Koch 1982, 395; 2001, 241-4; Päffgren 1992, 476; Pöppelmann 2010, 169; Beilharz 2011, 187). They form a distinctive type of box that does not occur in Anglo-Saxon England. Continental wooden boxes with fittings closer in design to the Anglo-Saxon series are comparatively rare and have been found from the middle and second half of the 6th century onwards in a variety of formats, equipped with a range of fittings, mostly of iron. Where they have been described, it is often in relation to Anglo-Saxon finds (Koch 2001, 203). One of the most significant of the Merovingian finds, in this respect, is a wooden box from Grave III, 73 at St Severin in Cologne (Päffgren 1992, 476-7). This box includes a number of rectangular iron strips with rounded terminals, similar to those from Friston. Pairs of these strips form hinges and they have also been used on the side of the casket to hold two sections of wood together. Rectangular iron strips also form a notable characteristic of the wooden box from grave 1 at Westfield Farm, Ely, where at least seven were present, occurring in three different sizes (Lucy *et al* 2009, fig 3). In this case, as with Friston, they appear to have secured sections of wood together, and were not used as hinges.

If the rectangular strips from Friston were used to hold sections of wood together, then the hinges for the box were probably provided by the split loops. Three of these survive, two of which have fragmentary iron rings within their loops. Splits loops were commonly used to secure a handle to a wooden box, but they could also be adapted to form hinges. The use of paired iron split loops in this way can be seen on a box from Nordeifel, where one of the split loops is bent over to form a hinge with a second loop that is straight (Janssen 1981, abb 21). A similar arrangement occurred with the box within Saltwood Grave W1634 (Riddler 2006, 19). The box from grave 18 at Harford

Farm, Norfolk and those from Saltwood graves C6421 and C6653 include split loops paired with iron rings to form hinges (Penn 2000, fig 86; Riddler 2006, 19-20). The presence of fragmentary iron rings at Friston suggests that the hinges were also arranged in this manner.

The arrangement of the iron fittings suggests that the iron clamps were located towards the ends of the box, with one example (Sf 1835) seemingly displaced some distance from the remainder. The small iron nails were mostly found at a high level, arranged in no obvious pattern, but conceivably passing through the lid of the box. With this information in mind, several possible reconstructions can be provided for the wooden box and its fittings. In one potential reconstruction pairs of rectangular strips have been used to hold strips of wood together along the sides of the box and split loops form the hinges. Clamps are set close to the edges, conforming with their position in the grave, and nails have been hammered into the lid.

The position of the mount (Sf 1836), to the west of the main group of objects, suggests that it was set on one of the narrow sides of the box. This might appear to be an impractical arrangement, but it is paralleled on a number of contemporary caskets, which have metal fittings along their narrow sides. A casket from Vercelli, for example, has a loop set into each of its narrow sides, attached to a ring. A band of textile passes between the two rings (Quast 2012, tafn 2-3). This arrangement is repeated on caskets from St Bonnet-d'Avalouze, Paris and Sion (*ibid*, tafn 5, 8 and 9). A casket from Chur indicates that the primary purpose of these rings is to secure a leather or textile band, allowing the caskets to become portable, and to be transported like satchels (*ibid*, taf 16b). The Friston box has a mount at just one end and it is more likely to have served as a hasp or a strap tag (as defined by Ryan 1998, 146-7). In this respect, it can be compared with the Insular group of caskets (Blindheim 1984; Youngs 1989, 134-40; Ryan 1998; Quast 2012, 60-3). With caskets of this group, there is usually a hinged strap tag on one of the narrow sides, leading upwards towards the apex of the object, where it can be secured (Ryan 1998, 146-7; Quast 2012, tafn 24-9). The Friston box may have utilised a simple type of hasp on its narrow side, broadly reflecting Insular casket design. At the same time, the Insular caskets were locked on the front broad faces, and not at the narrow sides, where the strap tags formed part of a satchel arrangement. Hasps can be seen along the narrow sides of the wooden box in Dover Buckland grave 143 (Evison 1987, fig 18b) and this forms a closer parallel.

## The box fittings

### *Rectangular strips*

1707, 1743, 1770, 1771 and 1772

The five iron rectangular strips are distinctive in shape, with parallel sides and rounded corners at either end, and each of them retained several iron nails, originally set into the wooden frame of the box. The purpose of the strips was to hold sections of the wood of the box together. They are relatively insubstantial fittings, extending up to 63mm in length, 15-20mm in width and 1-2mm in thickness. One of them (Sf 1772) has an amphora-like shape. One of the nails from the rectangular strips (Sf 1770) extends for a depth of 10mm before being bent over, and provides an indication of the thickness of the wood of the box. It is larger than the remaining nails and square in section, rather than circular, and could be a later addition to the box. The remaining nails associated with the rectangular strips are circular in section and 3-4mm in diameter, and they project up to 10mm into the wood of the box. Wood remains are visible on the lower surfaces of all five rectangular strips.

### *Clamps*

1749, 1751, 1767, 1798, 1835, 1836 (2), 1863 (3)

Clamps and nails form the most numerous iron fittings associated with the box. The ten iron clamps are U-shaped in form with flat middle bars of rectangular section and tapering arms. They have been cut from sections of iron strip, folded at either end to provide the arms. The tapering arms extend up to 10mm into the wood of the box. Some of the clamps are neatly produced with parallel sides and tapering arms, whilst others are more rudimentary and have been cut from irregularly-shaped pieces of iron sheet.

### *Nails*

1670, 1693, 1694, 1696, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1735, 1744 (2), 1769

Eleven iron nails were found in the area of the wooden box, but not all of them are necessarily associated with the box itself. Seven of them conform with the most common type of early Anglo-Saxon nail, which has a discoidal head and a tapering shaft of square section. Complete shafts from three nails have lengths of 29mm, 40mm

and 56mm, dimensions well in excess of the thickness of the wood for the box. One of these nails (Sf 1693) was found at a high level in the grave, within the area enclosed by the box; the positions of the other nails are not known. It is possible that these nails were associated with a wooden structure enclosing the body, rather than the box. The remaining eight nails are much smaller. Three of them (Sfs 1744 and 1769) have shaft lengths of 11-13mm, whilst two fragmentary nails (Sfs 1705 and 1706) have thin shafts of 29-31mm in length. One of these nails (Sf 1769) has a circular shaft, as have most of the nails associated with the rectangular strips.

### *Split loops*

1736, 1744 and 1811

Three iron split loops could be identified. All three consist of iron shafts of circular section, folded to form an oval loop at one end. The shafts are covered in transverse wood grain, and one of the split loops (Sf 1736) has mineralised textile across the top of the loop. Two of the split loops (Sfs 1744 and 1811) retain fragments of iron rings in their loops.

### *Mount*

1836

An enigmatic iron mount consists of a strip, rectangular in section, widening to a rounded terminal at one end and secured by a single iron nail, with a thick loop of oval form at the opposite end. An iron ring passes through this loop, with a circular frame below. The mount lay to the west of the main group of objects within the box (Figure 00). It may have acted as a form of hasp.

## **The contents of the wooden box**.

Ian Riddler

### *Iron wire rings*

1752-4, 1756-7, 1796, 1806 and 1807

One of the more unusual elements of the assemblage of objects within the wooden box is the presence of six rings of several different sizes, all made from strands of iron wire. Three small rings (Sf 1807) are conjoined and lay at the base of the assemblage of objects contained within the wooden box. Two of the rings are complete and a small

fragment survives of the third. Further parts of this ring are accreted to the stem of the key found nearby. Above these rings and a little to one side lay a curved segment of iron wire (Sf 1806) forming part of a fourth ring, which appears to have fractured into four pieces. The ring was originally complete and encompasses several fragments lying nearby (Sfs 1756, 1757 and 1806), one of which has two beads, of glass and amber, threaded onto it, with a fourth piece (Sf 1754) located a small distance away. A fifth complete ring (Sf 1796), oval in shape with its ends twisted together, lay on top of this fractured ring. A small distance away, overlying the cowrie shell, lay a sixth ring (Sfs 1752 and 1753), originally complete but now in four pieces. It was either oval or circular in form, with its ends once again twisted together.

The six iron rings are all made from strands of wire of circular section, 3-4mm in diameter, twisted over at their ends. Their sizes vary. The three lower rings have external diameters of 17-20mm, the complete oval-shaped ring (Sf 1796) is 39 x 30mm, the ring that passes under it and through it (Sfs 1754, 1756, 1757 and 1806) is 40mm in external diameter and the remaining ring (Sfs 1752 and 1753) is 34mm in diameter.

Within the early Anglo-Saxon period iron wire rings, with or without threaded beads, could either be worn at several different positions on the body or placed in wooden boxes, and the main distinction between them lies in their diameters, which range from 30mm to 100mm. Iron neck ornaments consisting of single strands of iron wire bent to form oval rings, with comparatively large diameters of 95mm and 100mm, were found in two graves at Lechlade. In both cases they came from the neck area of infant burials (Boyle *et al* 1998, figs 5.55 and 5.56; 2011, 52). Two iron rings with similar diameters came from Grave 15 at Carlton Colville (Scull 2009, 405-6) and were probably enclosed within a wooden box. In several of the graves at Harford Farm, Norfolk, smaller iron rings, closer in size to the Friston rings, enclosed single glass beads (Penn 2000, figs 87 and 93) and were associated with chatelaine arrangements. A similar arrangement of small iron rings, of *c* 30mm diameter, forming part of a chatelaine, can be seen with Carlton Colville grave 12 (Scull 2009, 393-4). A grave from the Melbourn cemetery includes a long chatelaine suspended from a ring made of coiled iron wire. Further parts of the chatelaine also have coiled iron wire along them (Duncan *et al* 2003, fig 16). Meaney (1981, 176-8) has noted the presence of small copper alloy and iron rings within Merovingian graves, some interlinked and used as chatelaines. It is notable that at Friston the presence of several iron wire rings of 30-40mm in diameter, together with

a key, provide some of the ingredients of a chatelaine, although wire loops and chain are absent from the assemblage.

### *Terret ring*

1760

A complete cast copper alloy terret ring (Sf 1760) lay above the largest of the iron wire rings (Sf 1798) and the iron key (Sf 1758/1678), and was adjacent to a sherd of Roman glass (Sf 1761). It is rectangular in section and belongs to MacGregor's simple type, and is close in form to an example from Dunure in Ayrshire (MacGregor 1976, no. 51). Iron Age terret rings from early Anglo-Saxon graves have been listed and briefly discussed by White (1988, 144-5, 151 and figs 87-8). He recorded a dozen examples, including terrets from Cambridge St John's and Linton Heath in East Anglia. A recent discovery from *Lundenwic* can be added to that list (Cowie and Blackmore 2012, 199). These grave assemblages provide a wide range of terret forms and no two examples are precisely the same. The Friston terret represents a more elaborate version of a terret from Brighthampton Grave 22. The terret from that grave formed part of a bag collection, contemporary with the Friston burial (White 1988, 144; Meaney 1981, fig VI.dd).

### *Roman glass*

1761 and 1861

Two fragments of Roman vessel glass were contained within the wooden box. A fragment of the naturally-coloured rim of a vessel (SF 1761) lay underneath the terret (SF 1760) and adjacent to an iron wire ring (SF 1759). A second fragment of glass (Sf 1861), was found underneath the cowrie shell and is a fragment of the base of a Roman square bottle. Sherds of Roman glass occur within graves spanning the entire early Anglo-Saxon period but within Kent they are concentrated in graves of 6th-century date (Parfitt and Riddler 2012, 175). A similar situation may prevail in East Anglia where, however, they are a much less common occurrence, being largely confined to two graves at Bergh Apton and single graves at Burwell and Mucking (Green and Rogerson 1978, 27 and 33; Lethbridge 1931, 53; Hirst and Clark 2009, 554). It is comparatively unusual to find fragments of Roman glass within an inhumation grave in East Anglia, where they occur in graves of both 6th- and 7th-century date.

Meaney noted that ‘broken pieces of Roman glass, often fairly thick ones, are also found as a regular feature in the ‘amulet bags’ of Anglo-Saxon women’ (Meaney 1981, 227). Fragments of Roman glass form one of the grave goods assigned to women with special powers, or ‘cunning women’, although this term usually refers to collections of items gathered in a bag, pouch or purse, rather than a box or casket (Meaney 1981, 249-62; Evison 1987, 98-9; Dickinson 1993; Hirst and Clark 2009, 540; Walton Rogers 2012, 167-70).

***Cowrie shell (Pl. 6, No.1)***

1809

A near-complete cowrie shell (SF 1809) lay beside a spindle whorl (SF 1773) and a fragment of amber (Sf 180X) within the central group of objects. It can be identified as a panther cowrie (*Cypraea pantherina*), the most common type of cowrie shell to be recovered from early Anglo-Saxon graves. Large cowries of this type have been recovered from around thirty graves. In addition, two stray finds of cowrie shells from *Lundenwic* may also have come from graves (Blackmore 2003, 332-3; Cowie and Blackmore 2012, 188 and 199), although a few cowries have been recovered from contemporary settlement contexts. A small cowrie (*Cypraea europa*) came from a pit at West Stow, whilst a larger example (*Cypraea pantherina*) was recovered from the fill of a sunken-featured building at Puddlehill, Bedfordshire (Matthews and Hawkes 1985, fig 23).

The majority of cowrie shells have come from early Anglo-Saxon graves, rather than settlements. Where the sex and/or gender of the deceased has been determined, it is nearly always a female. The exceptions are Ellesborough in Buckinghamshire, which has indeterminate gender from the grave goods, and Leatherhead Grave S4 in Surrey, where the individual was sexed as a male and the grave goods were restricted to the cowrie and a double-sided composite comb (Poulter 1989, 91 and fig 23). Meaney (1981, 124) suggested that they were generally buried with adult women but the range of ages of the deceased has been extended with recent discoveries. Aside from Friston itself, grave 14 at Lechlade included a female aged 14 to 16, whilst a child around 5 years in age was buried with a cowrie in Eriswell grave 277 (Boyle *et al* 2011, 88).


SF 1809 Cowrie shell from grave 6039


SF 1773 Spindle whorl from grave 6039


SF 1803 Fossil from grave 6039

Plate 7. Showing 1) cowrie shell (SF 1809), 2) spindle whorl (SF 1773), and 3) fossil (SF 1803)

Meaney (1981, 123) noted that cowrie shells are more commonly found in graves in France and Germany than in England and within the *Chronologie Normalisée* sequence they occur across phases PM to MA3, *c* 440-610, with a few examples from 7th-century contexts (Legoux *et al* 2009, 21 n° 342). This category includes all forms of cowrie, however. Within Continental graves they are firmly associated with women and a centre of their distribution during the 6th- to 7th-century lies in the Alamannic/Bavarian part of southern Germany (Nawroth 2001, 166). Eleven examples of cowrie shells were included in the *Chronological Framework* project for early Anglo-Saxon England, occurring in phases D–E, placing them firmly within the 7th century (Hines and Bayliss 2013, 215, 364 and 386).

***Spindle whorl (Pl. 6, No.2)***

1773

A complete stone spindle whorl (SF 1773), cut from a buff to yellow-coloured siltstone, has a plano-convex section, allowing it to be assigned to Walton Rogers type A1 (Walton Rogers 2007, fig 2.18). Spindle whorls were mentioned but not included in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronology* programme and they are not regarded as a leading (*ie* chronologically sensitive) artefact type of the period (Hines and Bayliss 2013, 229). They occur in just one of the chronology volumes produced in recent years (Legoux *et al* 2009, n°s 346-7). Nonetheless, the specific shape of a spindle whorl does form an important typological characteristic during the early Anglo-Saxon period, with type B whorls belonging to the early part of that period and type A whorls coming into use during the latter part of the 6th century and becoming the dominant form of the 7th century (Walton Rogers 2007, 24-5). They are reasonably common finds from graves of 7th-century date and this contrasts with their complete absence, irrespective of type, from some East Anglian inhumation cemeteries largely of late 5th- to 6th-century date, including Bergh Apton, Holywell Row, Swaffham, Tittleshall and Westgarth Gardens at Bury St Edmunds. A single example of a lead spindle whorl of type B1 came from the Flixton cemetery, but it was thought to be of Romano-British date (Boulter and Walton Rogers 2012, 129 and 167). A re-used Roman sherd whorl came from Boss Hall grave 32, a type B ceramic spindle whorl came from Spong Hill grave 22 and type A1 ceramic whorls were found in Morning Thorpe graves 293 and 369 (Hills et al 1984, fig 78; Green *et al* 1987, fig 427q; Scull 2009b, 107). This provides a total of just four spindle whorls from Migration-period cemeteries within East Anglia.

In contrast, spindle whorls of the late 6th- to 7th century occur in the region within numerous cemeteries, including Burwell, Edix Hill, Eriswell, Harford Farm, Melbourn, Shudy Camps and Snape, as well as Friston (Lethbridge 1931, figs 27.4 and 37A; 1936, fig 9.8 and 11.6-7; Malim and Hines 1998, fig 3.64.109B.8; Riddler forthcoming Eriswell; Penn 2000, fig 94.4-5; Duncan *et a*l 2003, fig 7.11; Filmer-Sankey and Pestell 2001, 107 and fig 108m). Single examples of spindle whorls occur in some graves, whilst groups of two or three have been found at Burwell, Harford Farm and Shudy Camps (Penn 2000, 62). This may reflect the ownership of a variety of spindle whorls of different weights but could also reflect the use of more than one whorl on a spindle, as demonstrated for Pfakofen grave 74, where the weaving equipment within the grave included two whorls, a spindle and a ceramic vessel designed to accommodate the woven thread (Bartel and Codreanu-Windover 1995).

Spindle whorls have been found in early Anglo-Saxon graves either close to the head, at the waist (where they may have been suspended from a belt) or within a wooden box, as is the case here. The latter include spindle whorls from Burwell grave 121, Edix Hill grave 18B, Melbourn grave 19 and Shudy Camps grave 48 within East Anglia. They are firmly but not invariably associated with women, by sex and gender, with few exceptions. Several have been found in the graves of juveniles, but the majority occur with young adults or adults.

***Fossil (Pl.6, No. 3)***

1803

An echinoid fossil (SF 1803) is oval in shape and discoidal with rounded edges and a perforated area at the centre. It lay to one side of the other items within the wooden box, close to a pot sherd and one of the iron fittings of the box. Echinoids form one of the more common fossils encountered in early Anglo-Saxon graves and this example is similar to an example found in a grave at Fairford, Gloucestershire (Meaney 1981, fig IV.h). A fossil with a perforated centre was also found in grave 39 at Holywell Row, Suffolk (*ibid*, fig IV.l).

### *Key*

1671, 1678 and 1758

The main part of an iron T-shaped lift key (Sf 1758) lay beside one of the iron wire rings (Sf 1796) and passed through the copper alloy terret (Sf 1760). A second part of the key (Sf 1678), the lower section with a T-shaped terminal, had fractured from the stem. A rod of square section (Sf 1671) tapers to a terminal that curves back on itself, and is closely paralleled by a rod of square section from the Fonaby cemetery, identified as part of a girdle hanger or key (Cook 1981, 62 and fig 27.45). It was fund close to a rectangular strip (Sf 1771) and an iron clamp (Sf 1798). The three pieces form part of a single iron key. The key is T-shaped and resembles a complete example from the Flixton cemetery (Boulter and Walton Rogers 2012, fig 15.41.51.4). T-shaped slide keys were included in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronology* volume, two examples coming from graves with radiocarbon dates centred on the early 7th century (Hines and Bayliss 2013, 228, 370 and fig 7.29). They were placed in Phases D-E, of 7th-century date (*ibid*, 571). The date range for iron T-shaped slide keys is a little wider, however, than that volume might suggest. They occur in a number of East Anglian cemeteries, including Boss Hall, Burwell, Carlton Colville, Edix Hill, Great Chesterford, Harford Farm, Morning Thorpe, Melbourn, Mucking and Shudy Camps and there is a suspicion that, with this larger sample, their dating within inhumation graves may extend back into the 6th century and continue into the first half of the 7th century (Scull 2009, fig 2.35.106; Lethbridge 1931, figs 22.10, 27.8 and 32.3; 1936, fig 2.A3; Scull 2009, figs 7.12 and 7.17; Malim and Hines 1998, fig 3.63.153; Evison 1994, fig 39.87.1; Penn 2000, figs 85.8, 92.22.2 and 95.1c; Green *et al* 1987, figs 334X, 377M, 428Ai and 435G; Duncan *et al* 2003, figs 9.3 and 16.9; Hirst and Clark 2009, fig 52.621.4). Four graves with iron T-shaped slide keys from the Morning Thorpe cemetery were assigned to phase FA2 or FA2/B (*c* 480-625/650), with one exception (grave 370) placed into phase FA1 (Penn and Brugmann 2007, table 51). The latter seems to be in an unusually early phase for the object type, and an overall assignment of phase FA2/FB for the majority of East Anglian examples is more plausible, following Walton Rogers (2012, 122), who has noted that most of them come from contexts later than *c* 560/580.

Iron T-shaped slide keys were probably used with chests, rather than house doors, and the majority have been found in the graves of females, either young adults or adults,

with the exception of Great Chesterford grave 87, where the occupant was a new-born child and the key was the only grave good (Hirst and Clark 2009, 545-6; Evison 1994, 104).

### *Piece of amber*

1808

A piece of amber (Sf 1808) of an irregular, pear drop shape, rounded at the base and tapering on two sides towards the apex, lay underneath the cowrie shell (Sf 1809) and adjacent to the spindle whorl (Sf 1773). It has not been perforated and does not represent a bead, which is an unusual situation for this period. Almost all of the amber known from early Anglo-Saxon England occurs in the form of beads. However, Meaney noted that Bateman found an amber 'playing piece' within a grave at Steep Lowe, and unworked fragments of amber have been recovered from graves at Fairford and Farthingdown (Meaney 1981, 68). A Merovingian grave from a cemetery at Rödingen, Kr. Düren, also contained a piece of amber (Herget 2006, 91). Geake has noted that amber occurs within Conversion Period graves as amulets, and no longer as beads (Geake 1997, 99).

### Iron rod

1804

A fragmentary iron rod (Sf 1804) of circular section has fractured at either end and a length of twisted yarn has been wrapped around it. It was found some 80mm to the east of the main concentration of objects within the grave. Whatever the original purpose of the rod, it had been adapted as a reel for thread, an unusual find for the period. An iron rod 'with remains of threads' was found within a wooden box in Edix Hill grave 18b and thread had also been wrapped around a firesteel awl within a grave at Harford Farm (Malim and Hines 1998, 52; Penn 2000, 18). A clew of gold thread found in a pit at *Hamwic* had also been wrapped around a rod, in this case of organic material (Walton Rogers 2005).

**Ceramic vessel**

1805

Two fragments of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery were found in the grave fill 6041. They consist of body sherds (6g, 10g) of Early Saxon fine sandy ware, one of which may be burnt.

### 5.9.4 Medieval and post-medieval

No identifiable finds of a medieval date were recorded from this phase of the excavation. A copper alloy marine creature (SF1600), provisionally identified as a dolphin was metal detected from 6003, the layer under the topsoil. Originally it was considered likely that it was a Roman object, but further consideration indicates that it may be later in date. The following discussion is provided by Ian Riddler:

The Friston marine mammal is a docile creature with closed jaws and a circular indentation for an eye (Pl. 8). There are small fins (or gills?) behind the eyes but no other fins are shown. The tail is massive in comparison with the rest of the animal. These are not the characteristics of Roman depictions of dolphins. They tend to be shown with elaborate fins extending over their back and sides, and with their jaws open. They are not usually shown as docile creatures.

Many Roman dolphins are shown with extensive fins, particularly over the back, generally open jaws and relatively small tails. They are quite long creatures, as well. These are the attributes of bottlenose dolphins, the most common species, which was common to the Mediterranean in the Roman period, but which is rarely seen there now.

Bearing the above in mind, it seems unlikely that the Friston figurine was actually intended to be a dolphin. The shape of it, and particularly the size of the tail, may indicate that it is actually a depiction of a whale instead. That would certainly explain the size of the tail, the lack of any fins along the back and the docile nature of its expression. Not all whales are docile, but they can be portrayed in that way. If it is a whale, which seems more likely, then it is definitely not Roman in date. It is much more likely to belong to the nineteenth century, when whaling was at its peak in England.


Plate 8. Four views of the copper alloy model of a cetacean (SF 1600)

# 6. The environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

## 6.1 Human bone

Sue Anderson

### Introduction

Nine graves were identified during the 2013 excavation, all containing remains of skeletal material ranging in preservation from a few pieces of tooth enamel to near-complete skeletons in poor to fair condition (Appendix 10). The bones are dated to the Middle Saxon period by association with previously excavated skeletons found during the 2006 and 2010 excavations (Anderson 2007 and 2011), which were submitted for radiocarbon analysis. A sub-adult partial skeleton from 2010 (5157) comprised fragments of the forearms only, and the rest of this skeleton has now been excavated as 6011.

### Method

Measurements were taken using the methods described by Brothwell (1981), together with a few from Bass (1971) and Krogman (1978). Sexing and ageing techniques follow Brothwell (1981) and the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA 1980), with the exception of adult tooth wear scoring which follows Bouts and Pot (1989). Stature was estimated according to the regression formulae of Trotter and Gleser (Trotter 1970). All systematically scored non-metric traits are listed in Brothwell (1981), and grades of cribra orbitalia and osteoarthritis can also be found there. Pathological conditions were identified with the aid of Ortner and Putschar (1981) and Cotta (1978).

### Number of individuals

The nine burials represented nine individuals. With the exception of a fragment of adult or older sub-adult skull included with one of the juveniles, no disarticulated remains or extra bones were present in any of the contexts.

## Condition

The bones ranged from very poor to fair condition. All nine skeletons had been affected to some degree by erosion, and bone surfaces and joints were generally eroded or lost. As a result, few measurements could be taken and the assessment of pathological conditions and genetic traits was limited.

## Demographic analysis

The suggested ages and sexes of the nine articulated skeletons are listed in Table 11.

| Burial | Skeleton | Sex | Age |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6009 | 6011=5157 | Male | 16–18 |
| 6030 | 6031 | Female | 18–19 |
| 6039 | 6040 | Unsexed | c.16 |
| 6043 | 6045 | Unsexed | c.5 |
| 6078 | 6077 | Unsexed | c.4 |
| 6082 | 6081 | Male | 17–18 |
| 6074 | 6099 | Unsexed | c.5–6? |
| 6100 | 6102 | Unsexed | 8–9 |
| 6135 | 6136 | Unsexed | Young adult |

Table 11. Age and sex.

The present group is unusual in containing a high proportion of juveniles and sub-adults. The eight previously excavated skeletons comprised three adult females (young, middle-aged/old and old), two adult males (young), an unsexed adult or sub-adult, and two sub-adults (c.11 and c.15–19 years). Overall, therefore, the burials appear to represent a normal population, with a broad age range and both sexes present.

## Metrical and morphological analysis

Tables of measurements and non-metric traits for the articulated skeletons are provided in the Appendix. Very few long bones were intact and most were heavily eroded. All skulls had suffered from post-mortem erosion and compression and none could be measured.

It was possible to calculate height for only one skeleton, the sub-adult female (6031). This individual had an estimated living stature of 1.594m (5’ 3”), which is about average for a female of the period.

The skeletons were scored for non-metric traits, small genetically-determined anomalies in the skeleton, wherever possible. None had any particularly unusual features, and they shared no traits in common, but most were assessable for only a few traits. Sk. 6011 had septal aperture of the humerus on the right, but the trait was not present in 6081 (nor in 5153 from the 2010 excavation) and no other skeletons were assessable for it. Sk. 6077, the four-year-old, had retained the metopic suture, but this trait (metopism) was not present in three other skulls which were assessable (nor was it found in three skulls from 2010). The upper right first deciduous molar of 6045, the five-year-old, had an additional cusp (parastyle) on the mesio-buccal surface of the crown, but again this was not noted in any of the other skeletons.

## Pathology

### Dental analysis

All nine individuals had complete or partial dentitions surviving, but no dental disease was observed in any of the 131 erupted teeth present. No calculus had survived on the teeth and there was no evidence of enamel hypoplasia. Tooth wear was generally minimal, except on the surviving deciduous teeth, which were well-worn. Chips on two of the molars of 6011 may be indicative of a coarse diet.

Based on the total number of erupted teeth from all excavated skeletons (N=206), the caries prevalence for the whole group was 2.4%. This can be compared with rates in other, larger, Middle Saxon groups of 1.0% (Brandon, Anderson 1990, 11) to 1.9% (Burgh Castle, Anderson and Birkett 1993).

### Congenital anomalies

Spina bifida occulta (an open neural arch of the sacrum) affected two individuals. In the 8–9 year-old child 6102, the entire sacrum had an open neural canal, whilst in female 6031, only the S1 was assessable and the condition was present. In the latter, the fifth lumbar vertebra was sacralised and partially fused to the S1, but the arch was not split.

### Metabolic and nutritional disorders

Only Sk. 6031 could be assessed for the presence of cribra orbitalia, a condition linked with iron deficiency anaemia. There was slight porosity on the left side (the right orbit was not present).

### Summary and discussion

The nine skeletons comprised a young adult, four sub-adults and four children. The eight previously excavated skeletons included a higher proportion of adults. As with the previous groups, most of these bodies were incomplete, generally having lost the less robust areas of the skeleton through post-mortem decay. Only a few measurements could be recorded. The single skeleton for whom stature could be estimated was approximately average for a female of the Middle Saxon period. Non-metric traits could not be recorded in full due to the poor preservation of most of the group, and it was not possible to suggest any genetic relationships from the results.
Overall, the dental health of this group was good with no evidence of tooth decay. In contrast, the proportion of carious lesions in the previously excavated group was quite high and probably related to the greater average age of the group.

There was little evidence of physical stress amongst the group. Enamel hypoplasia was not observed and only one possible case of cribra orbitalia was recorded. Only minor congenital anomalies, none of which would have been noticeable in life, were noted in this group.

Overall the group appears to represent a normal population with no particularly unusual traits or pathological conditions.

## 6.2 Faunal remains

Julie Curl

### Methodology

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were taken where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976 for estimation of breed and stature. Tooth wear was recorded, where possible, using Hillson, 1996. Counts and weights were taken for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, ‘large mammal’,

'bird' or 'small mammal'. During the excavations, the finds had been assigned small find (SF) numbers, as well as context numbers, with many SF numbers to each context in some cases; for this report the finds were recorded as whole contexts only. The results were input into an Excel database for quantification and analysis. A summary catalogue and a table of measurements is included with this report and a full catalogue (with additional counts) of the faunal remains is available in the digital archive.

## The bone assemblage

### Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 1128g of faunal remains, consisting of 152 pieces was recovered from excavations at this site (Appendix 11). Faunal remains were found in thirty-five contexts. Eighteen of the contexts were from grid squares, nine were from grave fills or skeletons, four contexts were from ditches and single contexts were a layer, unstratified finds, a cancelled number and a pit fill. Many of the finds are likely to be residual, with some residual finds of a Roman date. Quantification of the assemblage by feature type, weight and count of pieces can be seen in Table 12.

| Feature Type | Total Weight (g) | Total No. of frags |
|---|---|---|
| Cancelled number | 3 | 3 |
| Ditch | 346 | 38 |
| Finds | 33 | 3 |
| Grave Fill | 61 | 14 |
| Layer | 1 | 2 |
| Pit | 1 | 2 |
| Skeleton | 76 | 5 |
| Skeleton 6045 | 34 | 4 |
| Squares | 572 | 78 |
| U/S Finds | 1 | 3 |
| Totals | 1128 | 152 |

Table 12. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature type, weight (g) and count of pieces.

The bone in this assemblage is generally in a good, sound condition, although it is highly fragmented from butchering and wear. Fragmentation was so high that there were no sufficiently complete pieces remaining that would allow measurements for estimation of stature and breed to be taken.

Burnt remains were seen in the square fills 6537 and 6844, in the ditch fill 6070 and from the unstratified finds. These burnt remains varied in condition, from slightly charred to fully oxidised white bone; all are likely to be from fire debris, possibly from domestic and cooking fires.

**Species range and modifications and other observations**

Four species were identifiable in this assemblage, with identifiable remains accounting for just 20% of the assemblage, 80% of the faunal remains from this site were only identifiable as 'mammal' due to the heavy fragmentation and wear. Quantification of the species by feature type can be seen in Table 13.

| Feature Type | Species and NISP | | | | | Feature Type Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | cattle | mammal | sheep/goat | cat | squirrel | |
| Cancelled number | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Ditch | 3 | 32 | 3 | | | 38 |
| Finds | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Grave Fill | 3 | 10 | 1 | | | 14 |
| Layer | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Pit | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Skeleton | 1 | 4 | | | | 5 |
| Skeleton 6045 | | 1 | 3 | | | 4 |
| Squares | 9 | 63 | 5 | 1 | | 78 |
| U/S Finds | | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Species Total | 16 | 122 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 152 |

Table 13. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature type, species and NISP

Cattle and sheep/goat were seen in similar numbers, with cattle in nine fills and sheep/goat in eight. Most remains of these domestic food mammals were from adults, with the cattle including some juvenile elements.

Cattle elements seen were a mixture of meat bearing bones and primary butchering waste and teeth, with more meat waste in ditch and grid squares deposits. The sheep/goat produced a majority of primary waste and more fills with just teeth, a few main meat-bearing bones were also see, particularly in the fill with SK6045. Butchering of the main domestic food mammals was seen, including dismemberment evidence, but it is possible some finer cutting evidence has been lost. A single sheep horncore from the ditch 6014, fill 6015 had been chopped at the base of the core, suggesting a possible interest in hornworking; the skull with this horncore base had been chopped on

the saggital plane, which may have been from the division of the carcass and an interest in the brain for meat.

Single bones of small mammals were seen in two contexts. An adult cat pelvis was found in the grid square context 6004, fill 6523. A squirrel tibia/fibula was discovered in the pit 6156, fill 6166, the size of the bone suggests the smaller Red Squirrel.

### Discussion and comparisons with other sites

Much of the assemblage from this site is from primary and secondary butchering waste. The cat and squirrel in the assemblage may have been natural residents around the site and the cat may have had a role as pest controller. It is possible that the squirrel had been used for fur and even meat, but there is no butchering evidence to support this, the possibility the squirrel was a captive animal or pet cannot be ruled out.

Full interpretation is difficult as there is little dating for the bone and a good deal of remains are likely to be residual. The assemblage is broadly similar to other small assemblages where domestic food animals dominate the remains and there may be resident and wild mammal inclusions.

## 6.3 Shell

Large quantities of shell, mainly in the form of oyster shell were collected from fifty-three contexts from both stratified deposits and the sieved squares. Quantification details are recorded on the bulk finds database (Appendix 3).

| Finds Type | Hand retrieved + samples | | Sieved squares | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No of frags | Weight (g) | No of frags | Weight (g) | Total frags | Total weight (g) |
| **Shell** | 1251 | 36685 | 2352 | 20762 | 3603 | 57447 |

Table 14 Breakdown of shell

The largest quantities of shell were collected from ditches 6014, 6020 and 6007 (from sample), apart from the shell recovered from the sieved squares. The large quantities of oyster shell indicate that this food resource was in plentiful supply during the Roman period and later. This assemblage, together with the previous groups of shell may be worthy of further study in the future.

## 6.4 Plant macrofossils

Anna West

### Introduction and methods

A total of twenty-three bulk samples were taken from archaeological features during the 2013 excavation. Features sampled included a number of postholes and a ditch dating from the Anglo-Saxon period and a single prehistoric pit. Twelve samples were taken from the fills of nine Anglo-Saxon graves.

The flots were obtained by the manual flotation of bulk samples carried out by volunteers from Aldeburgh and District Local History Society under the supervision of the SCCAS field team and collected in a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted in Appendix 12. Identification of plant remains is with reference to *New Flora of the British Isles* (Stace 1997).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total. The residues were also scanned with a magnet to retrieve hammerscale or ferrous spheroids.

### Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded quantitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

x = rare, xx = moderate, xxx = abundant

### Results

Preservation is through charring and is generally poor. Wood charcoal fragments are

present in all of the samples but are highly comminuted and of little value for species identification or radiocarbon dating. All the samples contained modern rootlet fragments, which make up the majority of the flot volume; these are modern contaminants and are considered intrusive within the archaeological deposits.

Sample 103, fill 6079 from prehistoric pit 6156, contained approximately fifty-six Hazel (*Corylus* sp.) nutshell fragments within its wood charcoal. These varied in size from 2mm to 10mm and could be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Mineralised wood fragments were present in Sample 104, fill 6084 from around the casket group 6083 within grave 6039. This material most likely represents small fragments of the casket that remained within the soil around the finds forming comp 6083. The wood adhered to the metal remains of the casket have been identified as field maple (*Acer campestre*; Cameron Appendix 9) and it is assumed this material is the same species.

## Discussion

In general, other than Sample 103, from prehistoric pit 6156, the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. Charred cereal grains were present in single or low numbers within five of the samples and a possible charred legume was present in one. All of these specimens were fragmented and abraded making a definite species identification difficult to impossible. Three of these specimens were from grave fills and are most likely intrusive, becoming incorporated as the grave was backfilled.

On the whole the sparse nature of the charred macrofossil remains and the small size of the oyster shell fragments, fired clay fragments, non-ferrous vitrified material and animal bone fragments all suggest general domestic and occupation debris, which has most likely moved around the occupation surface of the site, either being wind-blown or trampled. Much of the material can be considered intrusive within the archaeological features, either being deposited during back filling or through the action of bioturbation.

## Conclusions and recommendations for further work

It is not recommended that any further work should be carried out on these samples, except possible Sample 103, if a radiocarbon date is required, as they have little information of value to add to the results of the archaeological investigation.

# 7. Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

## Prehistoric

As with the previous phases of the excavation, there is some evidence of prehistoric activity reflected in the artefactual assemblage. In this phase of work, small numbers of artefacts were recovered from two prehistoric features, pits 6104 and 6156. Pottery recovered from fill 6166 of the oval-shaped pit 6156 includes sherds of probable Bronze Age date. In addition burnt flint and heat-affected stone were identified in two of the fills of pit 6156 and there was evidence of *in-situ* burning. Fragments of struck flint from pit 6104 consist mainly of flakes which are likely to date to the later prehistoric period.

Other sherds of hand-made pottery of likely prehistoric date were found with fragments of later ceramics, and are therefore likely to reflect background activity in the vicinity of the site, rather than dating any of the features themselves.

There is also some evidence dating to the Iron Age, such as a single decorated grog-tempered sherd from fill 6021 of ditch 6020 (which also contained Roman pottery) , and sand-tempered wares which were identified amongst the sieved material recovered from 6520 which are likely to date to the Middle Iron Age.

## Roman

Considerable quantities of Roman pottery and briquetage were collected from the 1m squares, with additional material recovered also from Anglo-Saxon features. The range of forms and fabrics present in the Roman pottery assemblage is similar to the corpus of material that was recorded from the previous phases of the excavations. The majority of the Roman pottery belongs to the second and third centuries, although some first century wares were identified. Some Roman small finds were recorded, the most notable being found in the graves of some of the Anglo-Saxon burials.

## Anglo-Saxon

Further evidence dating to the Anglo-Saxon period was identified in the form of a small quantity of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (eight sherds), and a further twenty-three

fragments of Ipswich-type ware. These were found in fully stratified deposits, but were also present amongst the finds from the gridded squares.

The excavation revealed further burials dating to the Anglo-Saxon period, extending the layout of the cemetery. The survival of the human bone was extremely poor, like the previous excavations, with the exception of grave 6100 where the skeletal remains were much better, perhaps due to localised conditions. Even so, the bone survival was sufficient to be able to suggest broad age ranges for the inhumations, indicating that most of the burials were juveniles or young adults. In most cases, radiocarbon dating of the bone from the inhumations was successful.

The most significant element of this phase of work on the Anglo-Saxon burials is the discovery of the important assemblage of grave goods found towards the lower part of the inhumation in Grave 6039. The wooden box and its contents have been described in detail above, but a discussion of this major find in a broader context also written by Ian Riddler is included below:

## The deposition of boxes in early Anglo-Saxon graves

Ian Riddler

Wooden caskets with metal fittings, usually of iron but occasionally of copper alloy, occur in early Anglo-Saxon graves of late 6th- to 7th-century date (Geake 1997, 81-2; Lucy *et al* 2009, 122-3). They are largely - but not entirely - associated with the graves of females. Young male adults were buried in Finglesham graves 6, 62A and 95 with wooden boxes, one of the boxes from the Polhill cemetery were associated with an individual sexed as a male, and at least four boxes were deposited with the smith from Tattershall Thorpe, who was presumably a male (Hawkes and Grainger 2006, 34, 64 and 78; Hawkes 1973, 199; Hinton 2000, 111-2). The majority of wooden boxes with metal fittings come from graves assessed as female, either by sex or gender. Where age determinations are available, they show that most of the wooden boxes with metal fittings were buried with adults, although a small number accompanied children or juveniles (*cf* Stoodley 2000, table 5). They were buried with children in graves at Dover Buckland, Finglesham and Kingston, whilst the ‘princess’ from Westfield Road at Ely died aged *c* 10-12 (Lucy *et al* 2009, 88 and 135). Juvenile women (aged 12-16/18) were buried with boxes in Castledyke grave 77, Dover Buckland grave 35 and Lechlade

grave 14, as well as at Friston. It is noticeable that the wooden boxes in the graves of children generally contain very few objects, whilst those in graves where the deceased is aged 10 or more can include a suite of equipment. This accords well with the suggestion of Stoodley (2000, 463) that 'although feminine articles were interred frequently from the age of 10-12 years, a full complement of types was closely related to the late teen years'. Few mature adults, aged 45 or over, were buried with wooden boxes, and they seldom contain any objects at all.

## The location of boxes in the grave

Wooden boxes with metal fittings could be placed in four main positions within a grave. The most common location is at the foot of the grave, set either to the left or the right, seen with around 60% of a sample of graves for which the position of the box has been recorded. In a few cases the box was placed at a slightly higher position, over the lower legs or, in the case of Edix Hill grave 18, over the upper left leg. In several graves the box lay at the left hip, in a similar position to a pouch. The fourth common position for a wooden box with metal fittings, accounting for 23% of the sample, was close to the skull, usually above it or occasionally to one side, down towards the shoulder level. The box in Kingston grave 169 was found behind the skull.

## Forms of deposition

Discoveries of iron and copper alloy fittings from early Anglo-Saxon graves allow the location of boxes in graves to be established, as well as indicating their contents. Not all box fittings were accurately located in graves, however. Some of those from the Castledyke South cemetery, for example, were found in the fills of graves, whilst one of the Finglesham boxes had been disturbed by grave robbers (Drinkall and Foreman 1998, 76; Hawkes and Grainger 2006, 38). Not all metal fittings have been identified. Within Polhill grave 75, for example, lay a 'group of corroded iron objects…perhaps fittings from a wooden box' (Hawkes 1973, 181). There is considerable variation in the relationship between a wooden box, its metal fittings, its contents and the layout of the deceased in the grave.

Geake (1997, 81) has previously argued that around 75% of wooden boxes with metal fittings were empty. With the benefit of additional data, it can be argued that there are several different forms of deposition, one of which is confined to Kent. Six principal types of deposition can be identified and are defined here as types A to F (Table 15). In

the first type the deceased was dressed with grave goods and a wooden box was placed in the grave, and contained no trace of any objects. The box may not have been completely empty, but no contents survived to be excavated. A variation on this practice, forming the second type, occurs where the deceased does not wear any dress accessories or other items, but objects have been placed on the body, some possibly within organic containers. These items include knives and shears, and may include dress accessories. The wooden boxes in these graves are apparently empty. With the third form of deposition, grave goods have been placed on the deceased, who has been dressed with them, and objects are also present in the wooden box. In the fourth form of deposition, the deceased was not dressed with grave goods but there are objects in the wooden box, some of which could have been worn on the body. With the fifth form of deposition the deceased has no grave goods and nothing appears to have been placed in the box. A sixth form of deposition, where multiple wooden boxes are present in the grave, can be added to the list. This form is confined to a single grave at Tattershall Thorpe (Hinton 2000).

| **Type** | **Treatment of Deceased** | **Wooden Box** |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| A | Dressed with Grave Goods | Empty |
| B | Grave Goods placed on Body | Empty |
| C | Dressed with Grave Goods | Objects in the Box |
| D | No Grave Goods | Objects in the Box |
| E | No Grave Goods | Empty |
| F | No Grave Goods | Several Boxes, with Objects |

Table 15. Types of burials accompanied with wooden boxes

Graves of type A are largely found in Kent, occurring within the cemeteries of Dover Buckland, Finglesham and Saltwood, and it can be defined as a Kentish depositional practice. Type B is harder to distinguish within a grave assemblage and occurs with Edix Hill grave 109B and Finglesham graves 62A and B. Type C occurs at Dover Buckland and Finglesham but is widely distributed elsewhere and includes graves at Boss Hall, Burwell, Ely and Harford Farm in East Anglia. Type D is exemplified by the Friston grave and occurs elsewhere in the region at Burwell, Carlton Colville, Harford Farm and Shudy Camps. If an amber bead within Castledyke South grave 35 lay within a wooden box, then it would also form a part of this group, alongside Finglesham grave 202 and Saltwood grave E1634, as well as Lechlade grave 107. Type E encompasses single graves from Dover Buckland and Saltwood and two graves from Finglesham, but

extends also to cemeteries at Burghfield and *Hamwic*. Thus type A occurs mainly in Kent and types C and D are common in East Anglia, but also occur elsewhere. Apparently empty wooden boxes with metal fittings are still more common than those enclosing objects, but the ratio is now around 3:2 in their favour, rather than 3:1.

Plate 9. Aerial photograph by David and Aline Black showing the present flooding of Barber's Point and Hazlewood Marshes after the tidal surges of December 2013. The site is visible to the left of the frame (partly obscured by part of the plane) and can now only be reached by an uninterrupted section of the riverwall that runs from a slight promontory fringed by pine trees, known locally as 'Little Japan'.

# 8. Conclusions

Barber's Point was an island for most of its history, cut off from the northern bank of the river but well positioned near the main channel of the River Alde. Auger surveys undertaken by Mike Godwin and the ADLHS team in 2004 showed that a subsidiary tidal channel and extensive areas of saltmarsh and mud flats were located to the north and east of Barber's Point (Godwin 2007). Indeed it is possible that Ham Creek which currently discharges into the Alde to the west of the site might have originally flowed behind and to the north of the island of Barber's Point. Seeing the aerial view of the site (Plate 3) it is easy to imagine a subsidiary channel cutting through to the left of the site.

If Barber's Point was an island in the past then we should not be too surprised to find that it has had multiple-occupancies and had been used as a base since prehistoric times (Fig. 21); although sequences of sea level changes probably resulted in occasional periods of inundation (Godwin 2007). As in previous excavations at Barber's Point, signature prehistoric finds such as struck flint, heat-altered stone and occasional fragments of fragile handmade pottery all point to a pre-Roman use of the site, albeit that most of these finds were recovered in later deposits and features. Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowheads had been found previously (Pendleton 2007) and precision made blades were also probably of Early Neolithic date (Bates above). Sarah Bates has also recognised a small element in the 2013 assemblage of Early Neolithic flint work which tends to exhibit a slightly patinated surface. Most of the flint assemblage is however unpatinated and cruder in execution pointing to a later date of manufacture, possibly during the Bronze Age or later.

Evidence for prehistoric occupation or site use has been very ephemeral in previous years but the 2013 excavations were rewarded with two significant features belonging to the later prehistoric period with both likely to be of Bronze Age date. The first of these was a shallow but extensive flint-packed feature (pit 6104) which contained ten pieces of struck flint. This feature ran for at least 2m before disappearing beneath the northern baulk of the site. It is likely that pit 0432 encountered in Trench 4 in 2006 was the northern end of this feature. The packing of this feature with flint pebbles and occasional larger nodules might represent the gathering and storage of raw materials for future knapping.

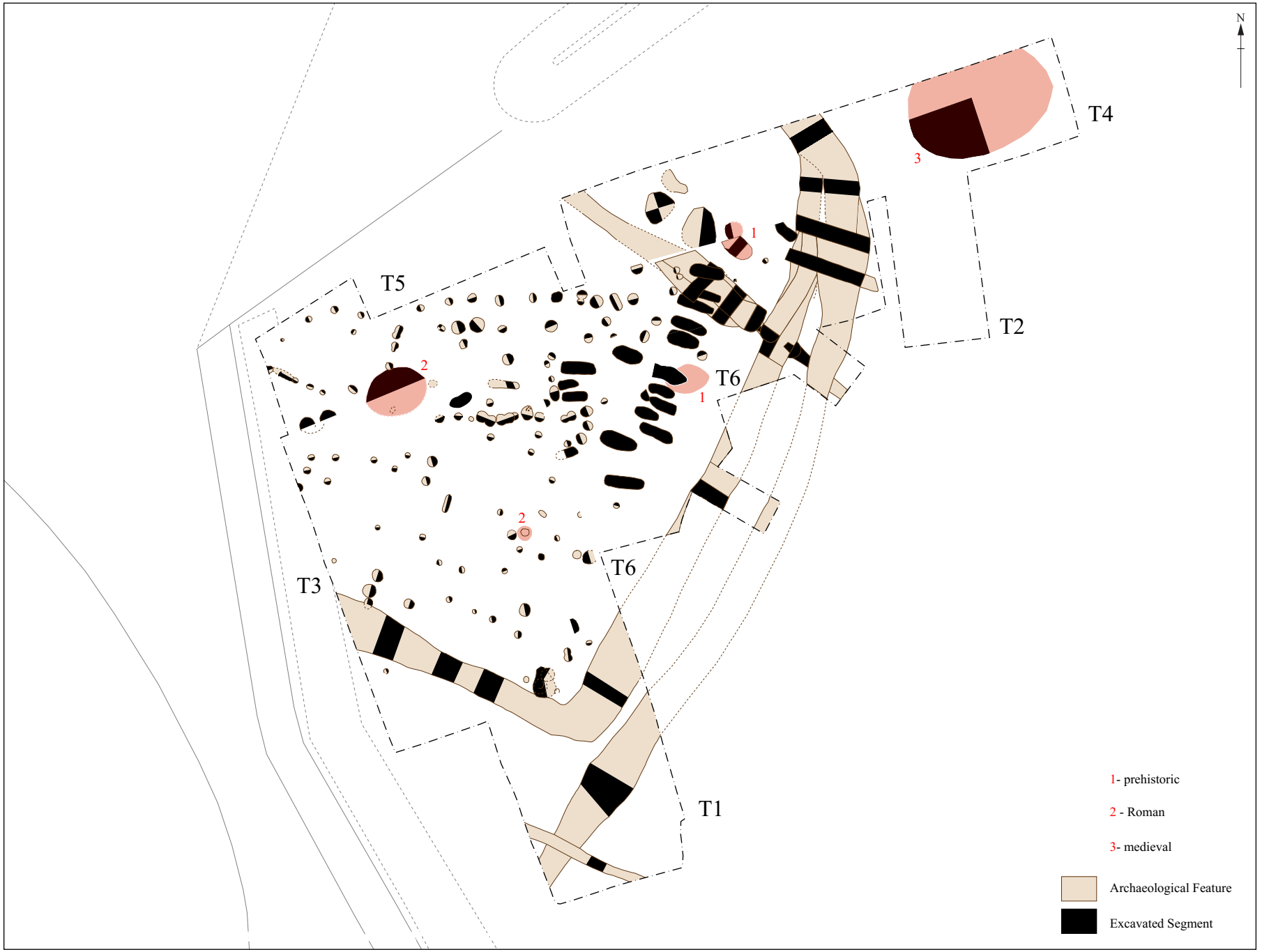


Figure 21. Non-Saxon features

As has often been the case before at Barber's Point, it is normally on the last day that the site throws up one of its surprises. In September 2013 the revelation was the discovery of the large Bronze Age feature (pit 6156) beneath the Saxon graves 6039 and 6043; it was encountering these pit fills in the sides and base of the graves which had made it so difficult for the excavators to find the true dimensions of the graves. This large feature contained seven sherds of Bronze Age pottery (several small abraded fragments of Roman pot are likely to be intrusive from the grave fills). The complex arrangement of fills showed evidence for *in-situ* burning and associated charcoal deposits. Careful sieving of the fills identified that red squirrel might have been on the menu plus a large number of charred hazelnut fragments. If a large oval pit of this period was discovered under a round-barrow then it might be interpreted as a grave, possibly with offerings or cremations inserted later. No evidence for human bone cremated or otherwise has been observed but it does seem a coincidence that the founding grave of the Saxon cemetery (grave 6039) was located over this feature. If this spot appeared to be the brow of the low mound that formed the island it might possibly have been a target for symbolic offerings and significant burials.

The huge impact that was made on the site in the Roman period is still in many ways as poorly understood now as during previous excavations (Meredith 2007, 2012). The finds assemblage for this period is similar to our earlier excavations (Tester 2007, Beveridge 2012). A huge amount of Roman pottery (*c*.8,700 sherds; 41.5kg) and salt-working briquetage debris (*c*.2,700 pieces; 65kg) indicate a major occupation nearby to the site during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. This material was mainly recovered from a thick spread of dark humic earth across the top of the site of *c*.0.3m thickness. The pottery which was 95% utilitarian in nature, consisted mainly of grey and black surfaced coarsewares.

Stephen Benfield in his analysis of the pottery and briquetage makes a number of interesting observations. The pottery assemblage is dominated by slack-shouldered jars but there is a marked absence of large coarse-tempered storage jars, normally associated with permanent settlement. Benfield makes the further observation that salt-working was likely to be a seasonal occupation, possibly associated with fishing and animal hide processing, so that the mountain of accumulated debris could have been the result of itinerant seasonal occupation rather than permanent settlement.

The briquetage assemblage almost exclusively consists of the large evaporation trays that held the salt rather than the smaller pieces of pinch-pieces, firebar and hearth furniture fragments which tend to be found predominantly only at the actual processing sites, although a small number of these pieces have been found previously (Tester 2007, 2012). It appears that the evaporation trays were carried from the processing site, presumably near the low water line, up to the safety of the higher area of the site where they were emptied of salt and possibly broken up. Maybe the salt was packed into the dominant form of slack-shouldered jars before being transported by river?

It is likely that much of the Roman area of the site (and of other periods too) has been lost to river erosion and that we have uncovered the landward, tail-end of the Roman site where refuse might have been discarded but little other activity took place. No evidence of the salt-working site survives and this is likely to have been on the riverward side of the island, where the best flow of salt water would have been accessible (Godwin 2007). Remarkably no evidence for the 1907 excavations have been found within our recent trenches either. These early investigations encountered thick deposits of Roman material too (Ganz 1907) and it is sickening to think that so much of the site could have been lost in a little over a hundred years (although some might still survive under the current riverwall that borders the western edge of the site). It has been noticed that a curving textured spread protrudes westward from the riverwall towards the river muds (Linzi Everett pers. comm.; Plates 3 & 4). Could this ephemeral trace of gravels amongst the river silts mark the original extent westwards of the island of Barber's Point? The very straight section of the river wall (made of granite blocks) that defines the south-west edge of the promontory is obviously artificial and represents the 19th and 20th century line of defence.

Despite a small and persistent element of the pottery assemblage being Early Saxon (Anderson 2007, 2011), previously it had been suspected that this was the vestiges of the local handmade tradition which was not replaced by Ipswich-type ware until the 8th century (Meredith 2012). The 2013 excavations have radically changed this perspective with at least one burial dated to *c.*AD 600 and a further ten graves dug over the next hundred years. The founding grave is likely to belong to the Early Anglo-Saxon period and is likely to be pre-Christian and reflect 'pagan' burial practices, whereas the later burials could straddle the transition into Christian burial rites.

The single most significant event of the 2013 excavations was the discovery of the founding grave 6039 which contained a young individual of about 16 years who was probably female. It was not so much her remains which were intriguing but the amazing finds group 6083 found by her left ankle. This finds scatter consisted of the remains of a wooden box (as revealed by iron fastenings) which had contained a diverse suite of objects. The iron box fittings and their associated traces of wood and textile have been studied in detail by Esther Cameron and Sue Harrington and have been discussed by Ian Riddler in Chapters 5 and 7. Wooden boxes tend to be a feature of 7th century burials, although earlier examples are found in Frankish graves abroad (Geake 1997). Despite the early radiocarbon dates for this burial (AD 575 - 640), Riddler believes that an early 7th century date is acceptable given continental parallels. Also the very simple arrangement of split-ring hinges suggests an early solution to fastening, with later examples having far greater elaborations of hinges, clasps and locks.

Esther Cameron has suggested that the box was made of field maple boards of between 11 and 15mm thick, with the backboard slightly thicker of *c.*18-19mm to accommodate the hinge fittings (Appendix 9). This wood species has been identified for a number of boxes found in England and it has been suggested that maple boxes might be associated with higher status burials (Geake 1997). Traces of fabric within the corrosion of the box fittings have been examined by Sue Harrington (Appendix 8). Her analysis has shown that four separate textiles were in contact with the box, all fine plain weaves with some evidence of small folds or pleats. Harrington's belief is that these represent spare clothing or soft furnishing placed over the box (rather than around the box or from the clothing of the deceased). The placing of such valuable items within the grave would have been a powerful message (of grief, of symbolic destruction or of transformation) within the burial tableau.

When considering the objects within the box, Riddler has identified a number of key elements. Part of the group includes objects that the young individual might have worn from her belt, forming part of a chatelaine. Such groups could have included the bead decorated wire rings and the large T-shaped iron slide key. The spindle whorl might also have been worn from a belt. The Iron Age terret ring could also have been worn at the waist, although its antique nature, already over 500 years old at the time of its inclusion in the grave, suggests it might have had extra significance. Another intriguing item (SF

1804) initially identified by Riddler and then analysed by Harrington, appears to represent fine thread wound around an iron rod and might form part of a sewing kit.

It might seem strange that these objects (such as the chatelaine and key) have been placed in the box rather than worn by the individual (presumed to be female because of the feminine aspect of the finds group). It is unusual that such a young person would be associated with a key; which would usually be associated with the mistress of a household and a symbol of authority and maturity. But a young girl of 16 could be seen to be at the absolute prime of her life, full of potential of motherhood and status within her community (Joanna Caruth pers. comm.). Possibly it is because she is full of promise and potential that the items such as the key and the chatelaine are placed in the box and not on her person; she would have been eligible to wear these items if she had not died so young. They might even have represented her inheritance or dowry.

Other than the chatelaine and other objects which the individual might have worn from her belt, there is an unusual array of items that might have had particular significance and symbolic resonances. The terret ring, the Roman glass, the perforated fossil, the unmodified lump of amber and, of course, the large panther cowrie shell, could all be seen as special and unusual objects. Such items could be viewed as amulets, talismans or healing stones according to Meaney (1981) and could include a wide array of unusual natural objects and antiques of Roman and earlier date, more often associated with bags or purses rather than boxes.

The panther cowrie shell is an exceptional find and we can only marvel at how it got here, the Red Sea being the closest area where it is found occurring naturally. Such large cowries are almost exclusively found in the graves of either woman of child-bearing age or of children and tend to be restricted to the 7th century (Geake 1997). If the presence of the cowrie shell tells us anything it is that networks of communication and possibly of trade had opened up to the south, perhaps to the Mediterranean or beyond, re-openning routes that had lain dormant since the Roman era.

As archaeologists we are often criticised for jumping to conclusions about making direct correlations between the objects found in a grave and the status, occupation or role of the person placed with them. Normally it is presumed that the mourners and the attendants of the burial rite make the decisions as to what should be placed in the

grave. Some of the items within the box do suggest that they are symbols of the teenager's role in society, possibly as the mistress of a household; or perhaps she had not gained this status yet but had the potential to. But what do we make of the other objects, these possible amulets or talismans? Could these special objects relate to this female having special powers, being a 'cunning woman' or having cult status in her community?

Alternatively these items might have been placed in her grave because she was the first and the founding burial. Crawford (2004) reminds us that cult deposits and structures are rarely identified in the Early Anglo-Saxon period whereas these are well represented in both the proceeding and following periods. Without specific cult centres, Crawford goes on to explain, the burial rite became the main focus of religious observance and might include the placement of votive offerings. The placing of unusual and distinctive objects in the ground might have had resonance and potency for those attending the grave side and viewing the burial tableau (Plate 2) and might have reinforced the specialness of this place for future burials.

Over the course of the century after the founding burial was placed, ten further graves were gradually added to form a linear arrangement with the graves placed side by side. Grave 5131 was aligned to the founder to the west and, with grave 5094 possibly represents a second row of graves. All these early graves were parallel with and on the same alignment as the initial grave 6039 and all were at right-angles to the enclosure ditches. It is likely that the first graves were lined up against the edge of the upcast bank from the initial enclosure ditch 6061, thus forming the unusual linear arrangement of the early cemetery. I am grateful to Ian Riddler for drawing my attention to other linear cemeteries such as at Saltwood and Springhead in Kent (Gibson et al forthcoming). It is Riddler's belief that such linear arrangements could be Frankish in influence whereas the usual East Anglian arrangement is within an oval of graves, such as at Carlton Colville (Lucy et al 2009).

The span of the Phase 1 and 2 graves from the early 7th to the 8th centuries raises the possibility that the cemetery might straddles the 'pagan' and Christian eras. The nearby (and pagan) cemetery at Snape was active until the early 7th century whereas the establishment of St Botolph's minster at Iken in AD 654 (West and Scarfe 1984) appears to suggest that this area had converted to Christianity soon after this date.

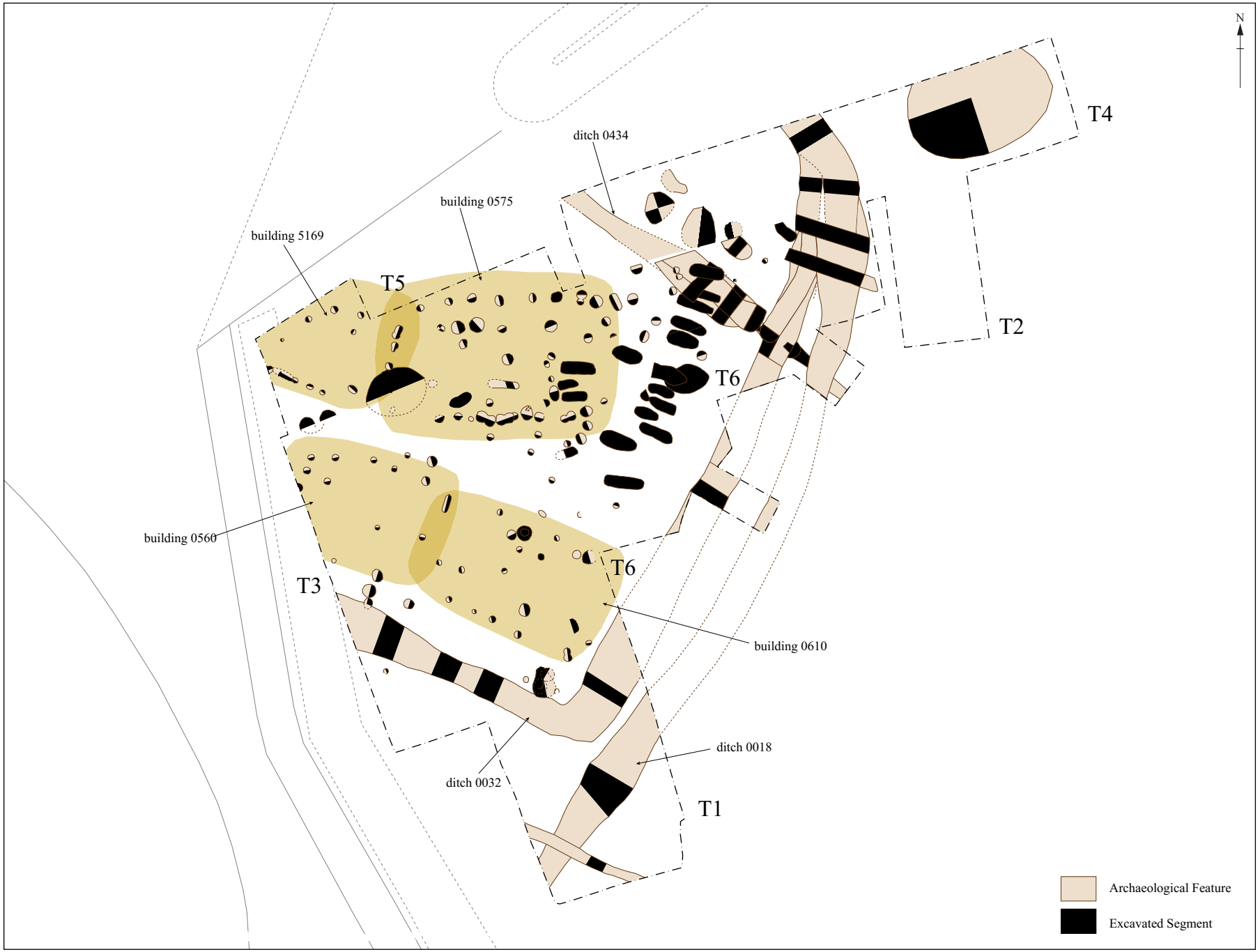


Figure 22. Principal Saxon features

It would be very unusual to have a cemetery started in the pre-Christian era and surviving through to the 8th and 9th centuries but this is indeed what seems to have happened at Barber's Point. Further research needs to be conducted to investigate other possible overlapping cemeteries in the region and beyond.

A number of structural and boundary arrangements change as a response to the cemetery. There is the establishment of a possible fence line 6178 that might help define or screen the western edge of the graves. The internal boundary ditch 6035 might have been placed there to limit the northern extent of the cemetery and in this process cut and truncated two of the earlier graves (Fig. 16). This did not impede the expansion of the cemetery however as this ditch was backfilled and the most northerly grave 6009 was cut into this backfill (Fig. 16). At some point the next large enclosure ditch 6020 was dug, representing an expansion of the settlement area. It is interesting to note that this ditch performs a pronounced twist when it draws level with the cemetery (Fig. 16) and it is tempting to see that the realignment of the ditch to the east was to give more room to the cemetery; perhaps the upcast bank from the earlier enclosure ditch was encroaching on the graves and so had to be moved eastwards.

The more westerly graves have been discussed in detail elsewhere (Anderson 2007, 2011; Meredith 2007, 2012) but will be summarised briefly here. At some point, probably in the 8th century, the linear cemetery arrangement ceased and graves crept westwards and took on a stricter west to east alignment (as opposed to the earlier graves which are angled to be square to the ditch). Three graves appear to butt up against a line of post-holes belonging to building 0575 and it is tempting to consider that this west to east aligned building is a chapel or church (as opposed to the other structures which are orientated on the enclosure ditches; Fig. 22). Other burials further to the west were likely to be later, possibly dating to the 9th Century, and could also be within the possible chapel building.

This sequence appears to be consistent with Richard Hoggett's fascinating study of the East Anglian conversion period (2010) which recognises that graveyards were established inside settlements early within the Christian era and that any accompanying religious house or church was probably built at a later date; thus 'churchyard-type' cemeteries did not necessarily need a church. It is also worth remembering that Hoggett has stressed the association of the early church with defined and well-delineated

spaces (such as islands like Barber's Point) and with places associated with earlier Roman occupation.

Of the nine individuals excavated during 2013 it is intriguing to note how many children and young adults were buried here. Sue Anderson who undertook this study has recognised three infants under 6 years of age, one slightly older child and five teenagers or young adults. Although older individuals have been recognised during previous excavations, it is remarkable to see that the founding burial and nearly all of those buried along the original linear arrangement were so young. For a graveyard that persists for perhaps 200 years or more it is obvious that this cannot represent a complete community and that mature adults were perhaps being buried elsewhere. It is interesting to note that the final burial of the 9th century was also a young adult female (Anderson 2007).

Plate 10. View of the cemetery under excavation in 2013.

At some point after the abandonment of the site towards the end of the Anglo-Saxon period (possibly associated with Viking incursions; Meredith 2007) the site ceased to be an island and was joined to the northern bank of the river by an ambitious plan of land reclamation, probably started in the medieval period and continuing into the post-medieval era. It must have been a huge undertaking to reclaim all the land from the original bank of the river between 500m to the north to over 1000m to the north-east, particularly if this entailed realigning and filling a tidal channel (Godwin 2007). It is possible that the pressure of creating new agricultural land, particular summer pasturage when most of the surrounding farmland is so well-drained and liable to parching, led farmers to take on this grand project.

This hard-won but fragile, humanly-modified landscape has probably always been threatened by river erosion and strong tides and it was the severe tidal surges of December 2013 which led to a breach in the river wall and the flooding of most of Barber's Point itself and Hazlewood Marshes behind (Plate 9). Unfortunately the site is probably now too inaccessible to be reached by an excavation team but at least one good outcome of the flooding has been has been to vindicate our initial reconstruction of Barber's Point being an island. The site area now stands up just above the level of the inundated mudflats around. It must also be noted that the scouring effects of the tidal surge also revealed new timber alignments out on the foreshore and this might be the focus of further research in the future.

This report is a preliminary summary and a further article on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and settlement will be forthcoming to bring this fascinating site to an academic audience. The Anglo-Saxon discoveries at Barber's Point since 2004 have shown a complex arrangement of enclosures, structures and burials spanning the 7th to the 9th centuries; a period which saw the transition from paganism to the establishment of Christianity, the rise of the East Anglian kingdom and of Viking incursions. The importance of the River Alde in the early medieval period is attested to by the significant sites along its route such as the Snape cemetery and Iken minster. Barber's Point, placed on an island off the north bank of the river, must have witnessed and be affected by the profound changes made during this period.

# 9. Acknowledgements

This season of work was generously funded by Touching the Tide and from the ADHLS's own funds. I would particularly like to thank Bill Jenman of Touching the Tide for his support and encouragement. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust kindly gave us permission to excavate on their land.

I would like to thank all members of the ADHLS who were involved in the project for their commitment in all weathers, their hard work, industry and enthusiasm when faced by extremes of weather and by hordes of school children. Tony Bone and his team deserve special mention for the smooth running and flawless organisation of the project. Colin Fletcher planned the visits of over 140 primary school children to the site and with Duncan Allan organised a series of outreach activities with the participating schools.

Plate 11. The ADLHS and SCCAS teams with Richard Newman (7th from left at back)

Richard Newman initiated the Barber's Point project and his enthusiasm over the last ten years has seen this project transformed from a volunteer training dig to a research excavation of regional if not national significance (Plate 1). It is with great sadness that we heard of his death after the completion of the fieldwork and it is one of my major regrets that he was unable to see the completion of this report. It was his eagerness to return to grave 6009 ('George') which resulted in his commitment to our final season.

Members of the SCCAS Field Team who worked on site during 2013 included Preston Boyles, Phil Camps, Kelly Davies, Steve Manthorpe and Anna West. I would like to thank all the finds specialists who contributed to this report. It was Richenda Goffin's epic task to make sense of this huge amount of information and I would like to thank her for organising and to contributing to large parts of chapters 5, 6 and 7. Illustrations were prepared expertly by Beata Wieczorek-Olesky, who deserves particular thanks for making sense of our very scruffy field drawings, producing beautiful plans despite my repeated changes and annoying modifications! David Gillingwater produced the stunning visualisations of the burial scene and the box.

Ian Riddler and Dr Rik Hoggett have been constant sources of guidance and inspiration. Prof John Hines has provided invaluable advice on radiocarbon dating and Baysian modelling. Richenda Goffin, Bill Jenman and Tony Bone kindly commented on earlier drafts of this report.

# 10. Archive deposition

The archive is lodged with Suffolk Archaeology at its Needham Market office under the HER reference FRS 001. Digital photographs have been given the reference code HVY and HVZ. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolka1-212467.

Digital archive, Suffolk Archaeology CIC: R:\Archive\Friston\ FRS 001 Barbers Point 2013

Finds archive: Suffolk Archaeology CIC

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