Fairlop Quarry; An Archaeological Investigation.

Rescue Excavation in advance of Gravel Working at Fairlop Quarry, Hainault Road, Fairlop, London Borough of Redbridge.

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A Level III Report. By M. D. Turner

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2. Abstract.

The site is located in a field known as Cell 6, on Fairlop Plain. It is currently under rough grass, but part of the field is already being used for gravel extraction by Redlands Aggregates Ltd. The principal feature of the site that was sampled consisted of a rectangular enclosure with internal divisions, and a "tail" ditch running from the north-east corner of the enclosure east into the field. Other features were apparent from aerial photographs to the north, north-west and north-east of the enclosure.

A resistivity survey of the northern half of the field was undertaken. Machine stripping of the topsoil was carried out over an area so that the western third of the enclosure was uncovered. This revealed evidence for structures and also cremation burials within the enclosure. Considerable amounts of ceramic material were collected, as well as a smaller quantity of metallic objects. Environmental samples were taken, particularly for recovery of information from the lowest fills of the boundary ditch of the enclosure, which were water-logged.

The evidence points to the enclosure being the focus of settlement for a rural community exploiting Fairlop plain (which has a number of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography across it), and dated from ceramic material to between the middle iron age and the first half of the 2nd Century. It appears that a settlement existed from the earlier period and may have declined or have fallen into disuse in the late iron age prior to a renewed occupation from the later iron age and on into the 1st century A.D. and the early Roman period. The burials appear to represent the last phase, after the abandonment of the settlement for the last time.

3. Introduction .

The site on Fairlop Plain was originally identified from aerial photographs taken in 1975 and 1976. This cropmark was included in the Sites and Monuments Record (reference number 060416, Redbridge SMR) and is one of a series of cropmarks visible across the Plain, which seem to indicate the existence of early field systems.

The area of Fairlop Plain is part of the old Hainault Forest which existed from at least the medieval period. The site would have been just inside the southern boundary of the forest as shown on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. The area was finally deforested in 1853 and Forest Road and Hainault Road constructed soon afterwards. The nearby farms of Hainault and Aldborough Hatch were also created at this time. An airfield was built during the Second World War on the plain to the north-west of the site. This land was later acquired by Ilford Borough Council to prevent it being used for the development of another London Airport (Victoria County Hist. Essex vol.V, p.289).

Redlands Aggregates Ltd. were granted permission by Redbridge Borough Council in 1984 (permission no. 793/85) to work part of the Plain for gravel extraction. The site is in a field known as Cell 6 within the extraction area. This was due to be worked from the earlier part of 1994, once the topsoil had dried out to allow stripping prior to gravel extraction.

Planning permission having been granted before the introduction of PPG16 and the CBI Code of Practice, Redlands were under no obligation to pay for any archaeological work and were only required to provide reasonable access to an archaeological team nominated by the local authority. Application was therefore made to English Heritage who agreed to fund an evaluation carried out by Newham Museum Services in 1993 (Pontin, 1993). Given the results from the evaluation, including the survival of ferrous artefacts, considerable quantities of ceramics and potentially waterlogged ditch fills, and the fact that the site was under imminent threat from the gravel working it was decided to make another application to English Heritage to fund a rescue excavation. English Heritage agreed to allocate resources following the submission of a project design by the project manager for Newham Museum Services (Meddens, 1994).

The project design called for a area 50m x 80m located over the enclosure to be stripped by machine and a representative sample of all feature types to be excavated. In addition a resistivity survey was to be carried out in the rest of the field in order to test this method against the cropmarks. Part of the area to be stripped had already been subject to a resistivity survey during the evaluation (Telfer, in Pontin, 1993), allowing comparison between the resistivity plot and the archaeology as revealed by machine and excavation. Further trenching was allowed for in order to test any features that the geophysical prospecting located. It was envisaged that this would require a team of five people in the field for five weeks. Environmental samples would be taken from sections exposed during excavation, once sufficient sections had been cut and after a site visit by the project specialist had identified deposits deemed to have enough potential for survival and recovery of the desired information. A sample of each excavated context was to be dry sieved in order to test rates of finds recovery, and a record of the success of this exercise kept.

Work began on site on 28/3/94. Working methods were adapted to conditions met on site and a formal methodology established (see Appendix III), which was presented to English Heritage after the first monitoring point on 11/4/94.

It soon became apparent that there was a discrepancy between the assumed location of the cropmarks as transposed to plan prior to the Evaluation, and the location of the archaeological features in the field as revealed by the machine removal of ploughsoil. Once a large enough area had been stripped and planned it was possible to work out the margin of error. By over-lying a plan of the cropmarks on the plan of the archaeological proven features, it could be seen that the cropmarks were planned up to 30m to far to the west. This error had occurred during the process of transposing the information from oblique aerial photographs on to plan. The locational problem having been solved, it proved possible to identify some of the features picked up by the resistivity survey with cropmarks. The discrepancy between the survey and the position of features as indicated on the plan of the cropmarks in the northern part of the field was approximately 25m to 30m. As a result of this, it was felt that additional trenching over outlying cropmarks could be located with a high degree of accuracy.

Approximately 25 % of the interior of the enclosure was investigated, producing evidence for occupation going back to the middle iron age. Cremations from the early 2nd century A.D. were also recovered.

Thanks are due to English Heritage for funding this phase of work, and to Redlands Aggregates Ltd. for access to site. The machining was done by Newham Plant Hire. Thanks are also due to the site staff from the Newham Museum Service; M. Bagwell, S. Harding, S. Potter and J. Udall. Thanks to S. Chew, A. Douglas, A. Hodgins and S. Waltho for their assistance on site, and to M. Beasley for the resistivity survey. The illustrations were by G. Reed. The site was negotiated and directed for and on behalf of Newham Museum Service by Dr. F. Meddens. The work was supervised on site by the author.

4. Archaeological Discussion.

The excavation of the enclosure made it possible to identify seven phases, of which six were anthropogenic. Phase 1 relates to the underlying geology and natural processes which had affected it prior to the human activity on the site. Phase 2 represents the earliest human presence and consists of a prehistoric occupation on the site, in the form of pits and structures such as ring ditches, tentatively dated to the middle iron age, although the ceramic material is for the most part poorly preserved and the types represented could be even earlier in date or have a range extending into the later iron age. Phase 3 is another broad phase, during which the enclosure ditch was dug in its present form. The majority of the internal features belong to this period as do the fills of the boundary ditch. This phase is roughly dated to include the later iron age and early Roman period. Phase 4 consists of cremation burials which date to the late 1st or early 2nd century a. d., and certainly post date the main occupation of the site since some of them are cut into the last fill of the enclosure ditch. Phase 5 consists of a subsoil which accumulated due to agricultural processes or to the buildup of organic material on the floor of Hainault Forest from at least the Medieval period. This is followed by a post medieval phase when mole drains and other features were cut through the subsoil. This phase (7) is probably nineteenth century in date, after the clearance of the Forest in 1853. The final phase consists of the development of the topsoil during from the later nineteenth century into the twentieth century.

Phase 1

This phase has been separated into two; the first (a) comprises group 1 and represents the underlying geology. The "natural" varies across the site. It consists of gravel and "brickearth" in varying concentrations. Context 348 has been used to designate the area of a more "brickearth" based natural present to the west of the enclosure; 349 denotes the natural within the enclosure, comprised for the greater part of gravel; 350 constitutes that area of more evenly mixed "brickearth" and gravel to the north of the enclosure.

Phase 1b represents features of natural origin, such as frost-hollows. Group 3 comprises any such features outside of the enclosure, while group 2 includes those within the enclosure. Such features are the product of peri-glacial action or post-glacial erosion or weathering. The circular clay filled features in group 2 seem to have been subsequently used by the inhabitants of the enclosure, but are never the less natural in origin (see below, phase 2, group 5 and also phase 3, groups 42 and 44).

Phase 2

The earliest datable material on the site falls into a broad range that is middle iron age in character. Groups 4-9 are included in this phase. Group 4 comprises a large pit, groups 7 and 8 represent the two large ring ditches. Group 7, the ring ditch in the northern half of the enclosure, is stratified above groups 5 and 6. Group 6 is a shallow

pit or posthole associated with the entrance of the structure represented by group 7. Group 5 is a shallow circular gully around the clay filled feature in group 2 of the preceding phase (contexts 244 and 331). The material from group 6 (context 236) includes fabric types which are at the earlier end of the ranges represented in this phase. Group 9 is a pit in the southern half of the enclosure and within the hut circle (or ring ditch) represented by group 8. The fills of this ditch (contexts 115, 117 and 120 in group 11) also contain material belonging more properly to the succeeding phase, but the original cut appears to belong to this middle iron age phase making it contemporary with the northern circle.

Phase 3

This phase again has a broad range, in this case from the later iron age into the early Roman period. This phase includes groups 10 - 52, 64.

The fills comprising group 11 belong to this phase although context 117 contains material from the middle iron age (see above). Group 64 (contexts 281, 282, 283, 287, 288, and cut no. 286) may represent another section of the circular ditch identified in group 8 but the fills do not contain any of the earlier material.

Group 10 represents the cuts forming the enclosure boundary, groups 13 and 14 the internal division ditches, and group 12 the ditch forming the "tail" from the north-east corner of the enclosure extending out east into the field. The lower fills of the boundary and "tail" ditches (groups 15 and 16) contain a mixture of middle iron age material and material that dates from the later iron age and early Roman periods. The upper fills of all the cuts contain material datable to the later iron age and into the 1st century A D. (groups 17-20). There is a possibility that the earlier material could have been incorporated into these fills if an original middle iron age ditch was recut and started to refill during the later iron age and early Roman periods.

The remainder of the groups in this phase are composed of pits and postholes. It is tempting to see some structural arrangements among the postholes. For example, Group 41 consists of five postholes which may with group 47 form a rectangle. However, many of the configurations were recognized from the 1:100 overall plan and were not tested in the field due time constraints, so that any patterns detectable cannot be proved. A similar problem exists with group 22, an alignment of postholes in the southern half of the enclosure, and with 46, a grouping of postholes and pits within the northern circle. The same situation applies with group 49, a "line" of postholes just south of the northern edge of the enclosure.

Two particularly interesting groups are 42 and 44. These represent features cut into the apparently naturally derived features in group 2, phase 1. In both cases the surface of these clay-filled features had shallow cut features containing material dating to the later half of the 1st century, with minor scatters of similar material across the clay, this may have been derived from the cuts and subsequently spread by later ploughing or during machine stripping.

Group 23 is a shallow circular pit just north of the southern limit of excavation, in the southern half of the enclosure. This pit contained the remains of a vessel, possibly a

cooking pot, the base and lower walls of which survived, and which was dated from the mid first to early second century A. D.

The feature to the east, represented by group 32, appears to be a part of a curvilinear gully of a similar period on the basis of ceramic material recovered from the fills. A posthole, group 33, was cut into the upper fill (context 214) and contained material of a similar date. The gully was truncated to its south-east by an area of modern machine disturbance running north/ south across the whole site, and so the complete plan was not recoverable. The fill 214 produced a coin, so corroded that there was no observable detail; it was of a copper alloy (small find no. 32: see appendix VIII), and appears to be Roman in form, size and weight.

The large pit represented by group 4 in phase 2 had two smaller pits cut into its top fill (context 224). These pits (group 38, contexts 198, 199 and 204, 205) contained small amounts of material dating to the1st century A.D..

Groups 48 and 52 represent a pit (context 284, 285) with a posthole (context 351, 352) cut into it. The material within these features has a broad range from the iron age into the first century A. D. Some of the material appears to be early, but until the range can be tightened the feature has been assigned to this broad phase.

Phase 4

This phase comprises groups 53-58, and group 63. Groups 53, 55, 57, and 58 are all cremation burials. Group 54 is a pit cut into the upper ditch fill of the western side of the enclosure, with a small posthole (context 238, 239) cut into the pit. This group produced middle iron age pottery, but is stratigraphically assigned to this phase; the pottery is assumed to have been derived from an earlier feature that was not identified during excavation, alternatively from middle iron age material already incorporated into the boundary ditch fill before becoming incorporated into the pit, or redeposited from another context. Group 56 represents two pits apparently cutting the inside edge of the boundary ditch on the northern side of the enclosure. Neither was archaeologically investigated and are tentatively assigned to this phase based on their stratigraphic position.

Groups 53 and 57 represent two cremation burial cuts. They are somewhat isolated from the two main groups of cremations. Group 53 was a shallow circular cut containing a fragmentary urn with cremation material around it, which was badly disturbed by an animal burrow running north-south through the fill. It was placed in the northern half of the enclosure. The burial represented by group 57 was located in the southern half of the enclosure, and was in a better state of preservation. This burial contained cremated material but was not associated with an urn. The remains may have been interred in an organic container of which no trace could be found. This burial was provided with grave goods consisting of a "knife" blade (small find no. 22) balanced on three cobbles (whetstones?), and also a clay "brick" or loom weight. These two burials appear contemporary with the other cremations on the basis of the material recovered from them, being probably early 2nd century in date.

The larger group (55) comprised of eight cremations, one of which was in a grave cut with associated "grave goods" (context nos. 129, 172, and 130. Small finds 3, 12-14, 16-20, 23-30). These included a flagon and a number of iron nails in alignments suggesting that they had been part of a box. Some organically derived mineralisation may be present in the corrosion products on the nails. This shoul be further investigated. The majority of the cremations were in an extremely poor state of preservation, having been truncated by ploughing and disturbed by moledrains and during the process of machine stripping prior to excavation. All these cremations, including the "grave", were cut into the upper fill of the western boundary ditch of the enclosure. The ceramic material suggests a date into the 2nd century for the deposition of these cremations.

Against the inside edge of the western boundary ditch in the southern half of the enclosure was located the smaller grouping of cremations (group 58). Again they were in a poor state of preservation (see above). This group can be dated to the same period as the others, early into the 2nd century. They are stratigraphically associated with a posthole, group 63, which is situated between the cremations. This may have served as a marker for the burials as it does not appear to have any other structural associations. The posthole produced a sherd of pottery that can be dated to the latter half of the 1st century but is stratigraphically associated with group 58, and therefore included in this phase.

Phase 5

This phase is comprised of one group, number 59, and represents a subsoil. This was derived from agricultural activity after the abandonment of the site as a settlement, and/or from the accumulation of humic material during the centuries this area lay under Hainault Forest. The subsoil was very thin and patchy, and was not present across the whole site.

Phase 6

This phase consists of two groups. Group 60 is composed of six moledrains crossing the site and cut through the subsoil. These are post-medieval in origin and probably date to the middle of the nineteenth century, after the Forest was felled in 1853 and the land turned over to farming. Group 61 consists of two small stakeholes and probably relates to a short-lived fence line from the mid -nineteenth century, although their proximity to the western limit of excavation prevents any definite associations being made.

Phase 7

Comprising of group 62, this phase relates to the modern ploughsoil which has resulted from the last century or more of agricultural activity over the site. The topsoil was uneven in depth, apparently having been compressed in parts by vehicles from the quarry in recent years. The average depth was around 0.3m, and in places the topsoil immediately overlay the natural gravels, etc., and the archaeological features (which had all suffered some degree of truncation due to ploughing.

5. Summary and Conclusions.

The excavation revealed 25-30% of the interior of the enclosure, and, in conjunction with the resistivity survey, enabled the site to be more accurately placed in the landscape than had initially proved possible from the aerial photographs. Although it was not possible to investigate the outer cropmarks by excavation, two were picked up by the resistivity survey. Other cropmarks within the field had either been covered by mounded topsoil by the quarry as a result of their stripping operations, or were in the north-west corner which was already being used for gravel extraction.

The fieldwork allowed the investigation of the western and northern boundaries of the enclosure. The boundary ditch was sectioned on the north-east corner of the enclosure at the junction of the "tail" ditch running east into the field and the main enclosure ditch. The two ditches appeared to have been constructed at the same time, presumably as part of the original lay out of the site. A machine cut section of the northern boundary ditch showed its full depth, some 2.5m or more remaining with a U -shaped profile. The bottom metre or so of the fill was waterlogged and sampled accordingly. The presence of quantities of middle iron age pottery in the lower fills (in addition to ceramic material of later iron age to earlier Roman date) indicates an earlier presence on the site. It is suggested that the enclosure may have been laid out in the form recovered in the earlier period, and subsequently reoccupied in the later period, the ditches being recut and the fills representing slump of the spoil which incorporated the middle iron age material. The latest pottery in the upper ditch fills has a range from the 1st into the early 2nd century A.D..

The middle iron age presence is attested inside the enclosure. The two ring ditches would seem to have been originally dated from this period, although the fills of the gullies had some admixture of later material. Another feature, a large pit, in the northern half of the enclosure also contained middle iron age pottery.

There follows a period of occupation in the late iron age into the early Roman period. Due to the truncation of the site by ploughing, particularly on the western side, it is difficult to characterise the nature of this occupation. Although many potential postholes were recorded cut into the exposed gravel only a few were excavated, making it difficult to determine if there was any pattern. It is tempting to see alignments suggestive of structures, but without the possibility of further fieldwork the existence of 1st century structures is problematic. It is possible that the roundhouses were still being occupied; the pitting around the "entrance" on the north-western side of the circle in the northern half of the enclosure perhaps indicates rebuilding of the doorway during the lifetime of the structure.

The latest period represented on site is an episode of cremation deposition. Some of these were cut into the upper fills of the western side of the boundary ditch. The assumption must be that the settlement is abandoned, and the ditches finally fill up.

The inhabitants of the area then use the old settlement for the disposal of their dead. The cremations appear to date from the early part of the 2nd century A.D.

The site as a whole appears to be a low status settlement of a rural nature. There are no imports and hardly any suggestion of finer wares being present. There may have been better survival of material in the 75% of the site that was not excavated, but the indications are that the site was poor, unless the better quality wares went with the people who abandoned this site in the 2nd century.

The site may have been the focus of settlement and exploitation on Fairlop Plain, but further work is needed to associate it more closely with the other cropmarks visible in the area. This site has proved to be multi-phase and has implications for understanding the nature of the exploitation of the relict landscape present in the Fairlop area.

6. Bibliography.

Chapman & Andre, 1777	"A map of the country 65 miles around London".Plate XVI.
Meddens, 1994	" Fairlop Quarry; Application for a grant for further Evaluation and Rescue Work"
Pontin, 1993	"Archaeological Evaluation of the new extension of gravel extraction at Fairlop Quarry."
Powell, 1966	"Becontree Hundred", in The Victoria History of the County of Essex, Vol. V.
Roque, 1745	" Carte Topographique de Londres".

<u>Appendix I.</u>

<u>Site Matrix.</u>

<u>Appendix II.</u> Level III Index

Context	Plan	Section/ Profile	Group	Phase	Photograph	
101			62	7		
102			59	5		
103	103		57	4	c/s14. 26-29	b/w14. 26-29
104	104		57	4	c/s16. 15-18	b/w16. 15-18
105		101	18	3	c/s11. 1-5	b/w11.1-5
106		101	18	3	c/s11. 1-5	b/w11.1-5
107		101	18	3	c/s11. 1-5	b/w11.1-5
108		101	10	3	c/s11. 1-5	b/w11.1-5
109		103	61	6	c/s11. 28-31	b/w11. 28-31
110	110	103	61	6	c/s11. 28-31	b/w11. 28-31
111		104	61	6	c/s11. 32-35	b/w11. 32-35
112	112	104	61	6	c/s11. 32-35	b/w11. 32-35
113	113	102	3	1b	c/s12. 2-5	b/w12. 1-4
114	114	102	3	1b	c/s12. 2-5	b/w12. 1-4
115	115	106-7	11	3	c/s12. 7-10	b/w12. 6-9
					c/s12. 13-24	b/w12. 13-24
116	116	106-7	8	2	c/s12. 7-10	b/w12. 6-9
					c/s12. 13-24	b/w12. 13-24
117		106-7	11	3	c/s12. 7-10	b/w12. 6-9
					c/s12. 21-24	b/w12. 21-24
118		105	3	1b	c/s	b/w
119	119	105	3	1b	c/s	b/w
120		106-7	11	3	c/s12. 13-20	b/w12. 13-20
121		Abando	oned			
122		Abando	oned			
123	123		55	4	c/s13. 2-5	b/w13. 2-5
124	124		55	4	c/s13. 2-5	b/w13. 2-5
125	123		55	4	c/s13. 6-9	b/w13. 6-9
126	126		55	4	c/s13. 10-13	b/w13. 10-13
127	123		55	4	c/s13. 10-13	b/w13. 10-13
128	128		55	4	c/s13. 10-13	b/w13. 10-13
129	129		55	4	c/s13. 14-17	b/w13. 14-17
					c/s13. 34-37	b/w13. 34-37
130	130		55	4	c/s13. 14-17	b/w13. 14-17
					c/s13. 34-37	b/w13. 34-37
131	123		55	4	c/s13. 18-21	b/w13. 18-21
132	132		55	4	c/s13. 18-21	b/w13. 18-21
133	123		55	4	c/s13. 22-25	b/w13. 22-25
					c/s14. 2-5	b/w14. 2-5
134	123		55	4	c/s13. 22-25	b/w13. 22-25
					c/s14. 2-5	b/w14. 2-5
135	123		55	4	c/s13. 26-29	b/w13. 26-29
136	136		55	4	c/s13. 26-29	b/w13. 26-29

Context	Plan	Section	Group	Phase	Photogra	ph
137	123		55	4	c/s13. 30-33	b/w13. 30-33
138	138		55	4	c/s13. 30-33	b/w13. 30-33
139	Over	all	18	3	c/s	b/w
140	Over	all	10	3	c/s	b/w
141	Over	all	20	3	c/s	b/w
142	Over	all	14	3	c/s	b/w
143	Over	all	18	3	c/s	b/w
144	Over	all	10	3	c/s	b/w
145	Over	all	60	6	c/s	b/w
146	Over	all	60	6	c/s	b/w
147	Over	all	19	3	c/s	b/w
148	Over	all	13	3	c/s	b/w
149	Over	all	60	6	c/s	b/w
150	Over	all	60	6	c/s	b/w
151	Over		60	6	c/s	b/w
152	Over		60	6	c/s	b/w
153	153		58	4	c/s14. 6-9	b/w14.6-9
					c/s14. 22-25	b/w14. 22-25
154	154	108	58	4	c/s14. 6-9	b/w14.6-9
					c/s14. 22-25	b/w14. 22-25
155	155		58	4	c/s14. 10-13	b/w14. 10-13
156	156	108	58	4	c/s14. 22-25	b/w14. 22-25
157	157		58	4	c/s14. 14-17	b/w14.14-17
158	158	108	58	4	c/s14. 22-25	b/w14. 22-25
159	159		58	4	c/s14. 18-21	b/w14. 18-21
160	160	108	58	4	c/s14. 22-25	b/w14. 22-25
161		109	63	4	c/s14. 30-33	b/w14. 30-33
162	162	109	63	4	c/s14. 30-35	b/w14. 30-35
163	163	109	27	3	c/s14. 30-33	b/w14. 30-33
164		109	27	3	c/s14. 30-33	b/w14. 30-33
165	165		57	4	c/s14. 26-29	b/w14.26-29
166	166	109	27	3	c/s14. 30-33	b/w14. 30-33
167	167		57	4	c/s15. 24-35	b/w15.24-35
168			18	3	c/s	b/w
169	Over	all	10	3	c/s	b/w
170			18	3	c/s	b/w
171	Over	all	12	3	c/s	b/w
172			55	4	c/s15. 15-23	b/w15.15-23
173	Over	all	60	6	c/s	b/w
174	Over	all	55	6	c/s	b/w
175			18	3	c/s16. 2-3	b/w16. 2-3
176			18	3	c/s16. 2-3	b/w16. 2-3
177			17	3	c/s16. 4-5	b/w16. 4-5
178			16	3	c/s	b/w
179	179		57	4	c/s	b/w
180			41	3	c/s	b/w
Context	Plan	Section	Group	Phase	Photograp	h

181	181		41	3	c/s	b/w
182			41	3	c/s	b/w
183	183		41	3	c/s	b/w
184	105		53	4	c/s16. 12-15	b/w16. 13-16
	105					
185	185		53	4	c/s16. 12-15	b/w16. 13-16
186			25	3	c/s	b/w
187	187		25	3	c/s	b/w
188			25	3	c/s	b/w
189			25	3	c/s	b/w
190			53	4	c/s16. 12-15	b/w16. 13-16
191			53	4	c/s16. 12-15	b/w16. 13-16
192	192		28	3	c/s	b/w
193	193		28	3	c/s16. 30-33	b/w16. 30-33
194	194		30	3	c/s	b/w
195	195		30	3	c/s16. 19-22	b/w16. 21-24
196	194		28	3	c/s	b/w
						b/w17.10-13
197	197		28	3	c/s17. 10-13	
198			38	3	c/s	b/w
199	199		38	3	c/s	b/w
200			33	3	c/s	b/w
201	201		33	3	c/s	b/w
202	202		23	3	c/s16. 26-29	b/w16. 26-29
202	202		25	5	c/s17. 6-9	b/w10.2025 b/w17.6-9
202	202		22	2		
203	203		23	3	c/s17. 14-17	b/w17. 14-17
204			38	3	c/s	b/w
205	205		38	3	c/s	b/w
206	Overa	all112	18	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17. 2-5
207		112	18	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17.2-5
208		112	18	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17.2-5
209		112	16	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17. 2-5
				3		
210		112	16		c/s17. 2-5	b/w17. 2-5
211		112	16	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17. 2-5
212		112	16	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17. 2-5
213	213	112	10	3	c/s17. 2-5	b/w17. 2-5
214	Overa	all	32	3	c/s	b/w
215			32	3	c/s	b/w
216	216		32	3	c/s19. 5-8	b/w19. 5-8
	210					
217	• • •		46	3	c/s17. 25-28	b/w17. 25-28
218	218		46	3	c/s17. 25-28	b/w17. 25-28
219	Overa	all	36	3	c/s	b/w
220			36	3	c/s	b/w
221	Overa	all	36	3	c/s	b/w
222	Overa		37	3	c/s	b/w
223	Overa		37	3	c/s	b/w
223		A11	4	2	c/s	b/w
	225					
225	225	a .	4	2	c/s	b/w
Context	Plan	Section	Group	Phase	Photograph	

226			45	3	c/s	b/w
227	227		45	3	c/s17. 29-32	b/w17.29-32
228			4	2	c/s	b/w
229	230		7	$\frac{2}{2}$	c/s17. 33-36	
						b/w17. 33-36
230	230		7	2	c/s17. 33-36	b/w17. 33-36
					c/s18. 6-9	b/w18. 6-9
					c/s18. 33-36	b/w18.33-36
					c/s19. 27-30	b/w19. 2-18
231			4	2	c/s	b/w
232	222	112				
	232	113	45	3	c/s	b/w
233	233	113	45	3	c/s18. 18-21	b/w18. 18-21
234		113	7	2	c/s	b/w
235	235	113	7	2	c/s18. 10-13	b/w18. 10-13
236		113	6	2	c/s	b/w
237		113	6	2	c/s18. 14-17	b/w18. 14-17
238		115	54	4	c/s	b/w10.1117
	220					
239	239		54	4	c/s	b/w
240			54	4	c/s	b/w
241	241		54	4	c/s	b/w
242	242		5	2	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
243	242		5	2	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
244	244		2	1b	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
245	244	A handanad		10	C/310. 2-5	0/W10.5-5
		Abandoned				
246		Abandoned		_		
247			44	3	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
248	242		44	3	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
249		113	7	2	c/s19. 9-12	b/w18. 19-22
250	250	113	7	2	c/s19. 9-12	b/w18. 19-22
251	_0 0	110	44	3	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
252	242		44	3	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 3-5
	242					
253			16	3	c/s	b/w
254			16	3	c/s	b/w
255			15	3	c/s	b/w
256			15	3	c/s	b/w
257			15	3	c/s	b/w
258			4	2	c/s	b/w
259	Overa	11	4	2	c/s	b/w
260			4	2	c/s	b/w
261			45	3	c/s	b/w
	262		45 45	2	c/s18. 25-28	b/w18.25-28
262	262					
263			43	3	c/s	b/w
264	264		43	3	c/s18. 29-32	b/w18. 29-32
265	266		2	1b	c/s20. 1-4	b/w20. 21-24
266	266		2	1b	c/s20. 1-4	b/w20. 21-24
267			42	3	c/s	b/w
268	268		42	3	c/s	b/w19. 27-30
Context	Plan	Section	Group	Phase	Photograph	
269	1 14411	Section	32	3	c/s	b/w
209			42	3	c/s	b/w
270			42	ر	0/5	U/ W

290 291 202	Overall 163+ 162+	9 26 26	2 3 3	c/s c/s14. 30-33	b/w b/w14. 30-33 b/w14. 20. 22
292 293 294	163+ Overall Overall	26 22 22	3 3 3	c/s14. 30-33 c/s c/s	b/w14. 30-33 b/w b/w
295 296	Overall Overall	22 22	3 3	c/s c/s	b/w b/w
297 298 299	Overall Overall Overall	22 22 20	3 3 3	c/s c/s c/s	b/w b/w b/w
300	Overall	20 20 22	3 3 3	c/s	b/w b/w b/w
301 302 203	Overall Overall	22	3	c/s c/s	b/w
303 304	Overall Overall	21 21	3 3	c/s c/s	b/w b/w
305 306	Overall Overall	24 22	33	c/s c/s	b/w b/w
307 308	Overall Overall	21 21	33	c/s c/s	b/w b/w
309 310	Overall Overall	40 40	3 3	c/s c/s	b/w b/w
311	Overall	40 39 39	3 3	c/s c/s	b/w b/w b/w
312 313	Overall Overall	60	6	c/s	b/w b/w
Context	Plan Section	Group	Phase	Photograph	
314	Overall	60	6	c/s	b/w
315	Overall	60	6	c/s	b/w

316	Overall	60	6	c/s	b/w
317	Overall	50	3	c/s	b/w
318	Overall	50	3	c/s	b/w
319	Overall	31	3	c/s	b/w
320	Overall	31	3	c/s	b/w
321	Overall	34	3	c/s	b/w
322	Overall	34	3	c/s	b/w
323	Overall	41	3	c/s	b/w
324	Overall	41	3	c/s	b/w
325	Overall	41	3	c/s	b/w
326	Overall	41	3	c/s	b/w
327	Overall	41	3	c/s	b/w
328	Overall	41	3	c/s	b/w
329	Overall	44	3	c/s	b/w
330	Overall	44	3	c/s	b/w
331	242+	2	1b	c/s18. 2-5	b/w18. 2-5
332	Overall	46	3	c/s	b/w
333	Overall	46	3	c/s	b/w
334	Overall	46	3	c/s	b/w
335	Overall	46	3	c/s	b/w
336	Overall	35	3	c/s	b/w
337	Overall	35	3	c/s	b/w
338	Overall	49	3	c/s	b/w
339	Overall	49	3	c/s	b/w
340	Overall	49	3	c/s	b/w
341	Overall	49	3	c/s	b/w
342	Overall	56	4	c/s	b/w
343	Overall	56	4	c/s	b/w
344	Overall	49	3	c/s	b/w
345	Overall	49	3	c/s	b/w
346	Overall	56	4	c/s	b/w
347	Overall	56	4	c/s	b/w
348	Overall	1	1a	c/s	b/w
349	Overall	1	1a	c/s	b/w
350	Overall	1	1a	c/s	b/w
351	Overall	52	3	c/s	b/w
352	Overall	52	3	c/s	b/w

<u>Appendix III.</u>

Results by groups.

Introduction.

The results of the excavation are presented here in more detail than was possible in Chapter 4. The groups are presented in numerical order and by phase. For each group a matrix is presented first. The groups is then broken down into its constituent contexts, which are individually described in detail. Minimum and maximum heights above Ordinance Datum are given after descriptions where relevant. Finally the group is summarised with a brief discussion.

Many of the features and groups contained no datable material and have been assigned to their various phases on the basis of their stratigraphical relationships and /or similarities with features containing datable material or having good stratigraphical relationships. Due to lack of resources and time it was not possible to test every feature, so that some grouping and phasing is necessarily arbitrary and open to question.

Phase 1 (a & b).

This phase represents the underlying "naturally" formed deposits into which the archaeological features are all cut. The groups in 1(b) have been placed in this subphase to emphasise the fact that they may be the product of later (or last) glacial and post-glacial processes acting on the deposits represented in sub-phase 1(a), themselves the result of earlier glacial and post-glacial processes.

Group 1.

348 Layer Yellow-brown silty clay with some gravel.

349 Layer Grey to grey-brown silty gravel with some clay.

350 Layer Red-brown to grey-brown mixed silty clay and gravel.

This group, comprised of three contexts, represents the natural deposits underlying the archaeology. The natural is largely gravel and "brickearth" in varying proportions; more "brickearth" to the west of the enclosure (348), more gravel within the enclosure itself (349) and an almost equal mixture of both to the north of the enclosure (350). The reason for this variation is not clear, but probably the result of peri-glacial and post glacial erosion and weathering of deposits laid down previously. The site lies on the Boyn Hill Terrace which is mainly Hoxnian in age (see Canti, in Pontin 1993, Appendix III). This group belongs to phase 1(a).

Group 2.

265	244
266	331

265 Fill Orange to yellow silt clay with moderate sub-angular pebbles, increasing in frequency with depth.

266 Cut Steep-sided, near circular, concave base, 3m + in diameter. 24.71m - 24.25m

244 Fill Orange to yellow silt clay with moderate sub-rounded pebbles and gravel.
331 Cut Near circular, approximately 5m in diameter.

24.70m - unexc.

These two features are considered to be peri-glacial or post-glacial in origin, and are interpreted as frost-hollows or ice-plugs. Both of these clay-filled features seem to have been subsequently used by the inhabitants but are none the less natural in formation. This group belongs to phase 1(b).

Group 3.

113	118
114	119

113	Fill	Mottled orange-grey silty clay with occasional flin	nt pebbles.	
114	Cut	Sub-circular bowl-shaped depression up to 1.9m across and 0.36m		
		deep.	25.03m - 24.67m	
118	Fill	Grey sandy clay-silt.	24.97m - 24.95m	
119	Cut	Irregular linear feature, steep sided to the east,	24.97m - 24.80m	
		more gradual to south.		

These features represent another group of natural derivation. They were located to the east of and outside the enclosure. 113/114 appeared to be a frost-hollow, and 118/119 was interpreted as a frost-crack. Both features in this group were the result of peri-glacial and post-glacial erosion and weathering. This group belongs to phase 1 (b).

Phase 2.

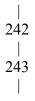
This phase represents the earliest human activity to be identified on the site. On the basis of dating of ceramic material from the groups within this phase it is characterised as being middle Iron Age. Other groups are included here because of their stratigraphical relationships to features producing datable material.

Group 4.

| 224 | 259 | 258 | 228 | 231 | 260 | 225 |

224	Fill	Orange to grey-brown, mixed sandy-silt, occasional charcoal flecks and daub fragments, moderate sub-rounded pebbles.	l 24.90m -
259	Fill	Dark (red) brown to black, sandy silt with frequent pebbles.	24.86m -
258	Fill	Orange to pale yellow, coarse sand with frequent pebbles and gravel.	24.86m -
228	Fill	Light grey silty sand, with frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.	24.39m - 24.39m
231	Fill	Grey silty-clay, with moderate sub-rounded and sub-rounded pebbles.	24.39m -
260	Fill	Light grey to brown silt, with no inclusions.	24.83m -
225	Cut	Circular, 2.6m diameter, 0.8m depth, steep-sided sides becoming less steep to form a bowl at the base	24.90m - 24.06m e.

This group constitutes a large pit and its fills. Contexts 224 and 228 produced ceramic material dated to the middle Iron Age. The original purpose of the pit cannot be determined, although it may have served as a rubbish pit. The northern edge of the pit had been subject to some bioturbation, and the upper fill and cut were truncated by group 38 so that the exact relationship of 260 was unclear. It is possible that context 260 was deliberately placed to line the sides of cut 225 (the gravely natural substrate being inherently unstable). The pit was placed in phase 2. <u>Group 5.</u>



- 242 Fill Grey to grey-brown mixed silty-clay and gravel. 24.70m -
- 243 Cut Curvi-linear forming a near circular gully 0.3m wide24.70m 24.55m and 0.15m deep, forming a ring 5m in diameter.

This group represents a penannular gully which "encloses" the clay-filled feature represented by group 2, contexts 244/331 from the preceding "natural" phase (1b). This group is placed in phase 2 because it is stratified below cut 230 in group 7, which contains fills which produced pottery of middle Iron Age date. Furthermore it stratified in the same horizon as group 6 which also produced ceramic material from this period.

Group 6.

236 237

236	Fill	Light brown sandy silt, with occasional small	24.85m -
		angular flints.	
237	Cut	Circular with a diameter of 1.2m, depth of 0.14m,	24.82m - 24.66

Cut Circular with a diameter of 1.2m, depth of 0.14m, 24.82m - 24.66m forming a shallow flat-bottomed bowl.

This group represents a shallow pit, the purpose of which is uncertain. The fill, 236, contained some fragmentary pottery dated to the middle Iron Age. This group is stratified below group 7.

Group 7.

229	234	249
230	235	250

229	Fill	Light grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.	24.77m - 24.60m
230	Cut	Curvi-linear steep-sided flat-bottomed gully, forming a near circle 9.5m in diameter. Gully is 0.42m wide and has an average depth of 0.18m.	24.79m - 24.50m
234	Fill	Light grey-brown sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flints.	24.75m -
235	Cut	Linear cut with "U"-shaped profile, 1.9m x 0.58m x 0.23m.	24.77m - 24.54m

249	Fill	Mid-brown to yellow sandy silt, small amounts of 24.74m -
		charcoal flecks and angular flints.
250	Cut	Linear cut with "U"-shaped profile, 1.27m x 0.74m 24.74m -24.51m
		x 0.23m.

This group is composed of three features making up an interrupted curvi-linear gully some 9.5m in diameter. This gully may be circular, but only the western semi-circle was recovered (the rest being beyond the eastern limit of excavation). 229/230 constitutes the majority of the gully's length, 234/235 is a shorter length in the northern section of the "circle", and 249/250 is another shorter section disappearing into the eastern limit of excavation. It is possible that this gully pertains to a hut circle or associated drip-gully. Pottery from 229 and 234 has been dated to the middle Iron Age and therefore this whole group is assigned to phase 2.

Group 8.

116

116CutSemi-circular gully 0.82m wide x 0.30m deep,
steep-sided with a rough "V"-shaped profile.24.86m - 24.38m

This group consists of a single context (116) and represents a ring-ditch or penannular gully in the southern part of the enclosure. Just over half of a circle could be traced, the eastern section having been damaged and truncated by modern disturbance caused by quarry operations in the recent past. Although the fills of this cut (group 11) contained a little early material most was later Iron Age or Roman in origin. However, it is clear that the cut represents an earlier phase of occupation on the site. This group may represent a hut circle or associated drip-gully; the lower fills of this gully may have originally been derived from rubbish or domestic waste deposited in the gully during the period of the structure's occupation or resulting from its destruction. Because it encloses a similar area to the ring-ditch in the northern part of the enclosure (being approximately 10m in diameter), and is associated with early material (from its fills and from a feature within the circle), it has been assigned to phase 2. The depth is an average figure; the cut is deeper to the south and east (the ground also slopes down in that direction).

Group 9.

289 290

289 Fill Mid yellow-brown clay-silt with gravel, some 24.81m - unexc. charcoal flecks.

290 Cut Sub-circular, unexc.

This group represents a pit within the area delimited by cut 116 in group 8 (and therefore within whatever structure that group represented). Pottery recovered from this feature during cleaning was dated to the middle Iron Age. It is possible that this feature represents a pit inside the structure or is otherwise associated with it during the period of the latter's occupation. However the purpose of the pit is unknown.

Phase 3.

The majority of groups fall into this phase, which has a broad range from the later Iron Age to the early Roman period. It appears that the enclosure took its form during this period, although some of the lowest ditch fills have middle Iron Age material mixed in with the later wares: this suggests that a ditched enclosure may have existed in the earlier period but any trace of which was lost during subsequent cleaning out of the ditches. So little of the main boundary ditches was sampled that interpretation of their development and function must remain tentative. Similarly, it is tempting to see alignments of postholes inside of the main enclosure, but again this must remain speculation. This phase also includes the filling of the ditches, presumably as the site fell into disuse.

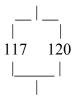
Group 10.

	 144 	 108 	 169 	 213 	 140 	
144	Cut	Linear, unexc.	, width approxir	nately 2.5m+.	25.00 - unex	KC.
108	Cut	,	wide x 0.75m d , steeper slope o	1 /	^c U"- 24.99m -24.	19m
169	Cut	Curvi-linear, 2 "U"-shaped pr	.0m wide x 1.47 ofile.	/m deep, gentl	le 24.33m -22.	86m
213	Cut	,	wide x 1.86m d ees, "U"-shaped	1 / 1	be at 24.75m -22.	89 m
140	Cut	Linear, unexc.	, width approxir	nately 3.0m	24.95m -une	exc.

This group represents the cut for the boundary ditch of the enclosure. Separate numbers were given for different sectors to avoid confusion in the field. 144 is that length of the ditch on the western side of the enclosure and south of the central internal division. It was not excavated, except for a slot where the cut was numbered 108. 140 is the section on the western side and north of the central internal division. It was not excavated, except for a slot where the cut was numbered 108. 140 is the section on the western side and north of the central internal division. It was not excavated. 213 refers to the section of the boundary ditch forming the northern side of the enclosure. A machine-dug slot was made to recover the profile of the ditch on this northern side. 169 was given to the cut on the north-eastern corner of the ditch. This section was hand-dug to recover samples and finds, and also to establish the relationship of the main enclosure to the "tail" ditch (group 12, cut 171) extending from this point out into the field to the east (it appears as if the "tail" was contemporary with the cutting of the boundary ditch).

It is apparent that the enclosure ditch was deeper on its eastern side. This may be the result of more truncation over the western half of the site; it may reflect a real arrangement allowing drainage of the enclosure to feed out east (and down slope). This group has been placed in phase 3. It should be noted that some of the lower fills (see group 16) contained pottery from the middle Iron Age as well as later Iron Age and early Roman material. It is possible that a ditch existed from the earlier period but was recut and/or cleaned out so that no trace of the original cut could be found.

<u>Group 11.</u>



115	Fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt, with occasional	24.86m -24.65m
		charcoal, moderate sub-angular pebbles.	
117	Fill	Dark grey sandy silt, frequent charcoal fragments,	24.65m -24.58m
		moderate sub-rounded pebbles.	
120	Fill	Light grey sandy silt, moderate sub-angular and	24.66m -24.38m
		sub-rounded pebbles.	

This group represents the fills of the penannular gully in the southern half of the enclosure. The fills have pottery fragments mainly dated to the 1st century AD, but also have a smaller quantity of material dated to the middle Iron Age. The presence of this earlier material may indicate the period when the structure associated with the gully was first constructed, or may indicate the length of the site's lifespan. The ceramic material may also have been incorporated into these deposits if the gully had been cleaned out or recut, or during a rebuild of the associated structure.

The lower fills, particularly 117, appear to have been derived from the deposition and decay of presumably domestic refuse during the occupation of the site. They are irregular in nature, and appear to have a relatively high organic content. 117 has a particularly high charcoal content. The upper fill, 115, represents the final silting up of the gully after the site was abandoned. 117 and 120 were found at the bottom of two slots made to investigate the fills in cut 116; the slot containing 115 and 117 was on the west of the circle, the slot containing 115 and 120 was made on the south of the circle.

Group 12.

171

171 Cut Linear, 1.5m wide x 1.02m deep, shallow "U"- 24.33m -23.31m shaped profile.

This group contains one context, 171, a cut for a ditch running from the north-eastern corner of the enclosure boundary ditch east into the surrounding field for at least 50m (from the aerial photographs), of which a 5m length was excavated by hand. It appears that this "tail" ditch was contemporary with the main enclosure ditch. The fills did not have the mixture of earlier and later material seen in the fills of the main

boundary ditch, so the "tail" ditch may not have an earlier history (as was suggested for the boundary ditch - see group 10 discussion).

Group 13.

148

148 Cut Linear, 1.25m wide, unexc.

This group represents the cut for a ditch or gully within the southern part of the enclosure. It would appear to be the internal division in the southern half of the enclosure visible as a cropmark on the aerial photographs. Only some 8m were stripped out of the near 40m length plotted from the aerial photographs, and the feature was not excavated, but is assumed to be broadly contemporary with the rest of the enclosure.

Group 14.

142 Cut Linear, 2.5m wide, unexc.

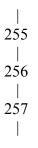
24.95m -unexc.

24.97m -unexc.

This group represents the cut for a ditch or gully forming the central internal division of the main enclosure. The length of this feature, as plotted from the aerial photographs, was approximately 35 - 40m, of which some 20m was uncovered. The feature was not excavated, but is assumed to be broadly contemporary with the rest of the enclosure.

142

<u>Group 15.</u>



255	Fill	Red to yellow, with grey mottles, clayey sand,	23.90m -
		with moderate sub-angular flints.	
256	Fill	Mid to light grey, sandy clay, moderate gravel and	23.66m -
		sub-angular flints.	
257	Fill	Mid to dark grey clayey sand, frequent sub-angular	23.46m -

flints and gravel, some charcoal flecks.

This group represents the three lowest fill of the "tail" ditch (see group 12). These fills are very similar to those of the main boundary ditch in the north-east corner of the enclosure (see group 16), although there was no presence of ceramic material from the earlier periods. The lower fills, 256 and 257, were very wet being at or below the current water table (around 23.60m OD).

<u>Group 16.</u>

209
210
211
212
280

178	Fill	Mid red-orange with grey mottles, clayey sand,	23.76m -
		moderate sub-angular flints and gravel.	
253	Fill	Grey sandy clay, with moderate sub-rounded grave	el 23.46m -
		1 11 01 1	

and small flints.
Fill Mid to dark grey clayey sand, some charcoal flecks, 23.26m - frequent sub-angular flints and gravel.

This part of the group represents the three lowest fills of the enclosure boundary ditch in cut 169. They are similar in character to the lower fills in cut 213 (northern part of the boundary ditch - see second part of this group) and the lowest fills in the "tail" ditch, cut 171. The fills from 253 down were extremely wet, being at or below the current water table (around 23.50m OD).

209	Fill	Dark orange clayey sandy silt, no inclusions.	23.90m -
210	Fill	Grey clayey silt, with moderate amounts of sub-	23.60m -
		angular flints.	
211	Fill	Mid orange sandy silt with gravel.	23.25m -
212	Fill	Grey sandy silt with gravel.	23.20m -
280	Fill	Dark grey coarse sand with gravel, frequent sub-	22.92m -
		rounded small pebbles.	

This part of the group represents the lower fills of the northern section of the boundary ditch, recorded from a machine cut section. There are some similarities to the fills in the cut on the north-east corner of the enclosure (cut 169). There is more evidence of sandy slumping from the sides of the cut (the natural beneath the surface has a higher sand content in this area). 280 was a thin layer of a dark organically

derived material that appeared to be archaeologically sealed by later fills. Roots were apparent in this material; however it is possible that this was the result of modern root intrusion along and down the sides of the cut. The fills from 210 down were waterlogged and beneath the current water table (from approximately 23.60m OD).

The ceramic material recovered from these deposits for the main part formed an assemblage of later Iron Age and early Roman date. However, a small amount of material dated to the middle Iron Age was also recovered, possibly incorporated into these fills from recutting of an earlier ditch (see discussion for group 10).

<u>Group 17.</u>

| 177 |

177 Fill Red-brown sandy silt with flints, and frequent 24.32m - small angular flint pebbles.

This group contains one context and represents a slump of a mixed and redeposited natural. The slump has occurred between the junction of cut 171 (group 12) and cut 169 (group 10), presumably where spoil from the cutting of the ditches (or from a cleaning or recutting) may have been thrown up. This context is stratigraphically above 255 and 178, and below 176 and 168.

Group 18.

	 143	 105	 170	 168	 206	 139
		 106	 176	 175	 207	
		 107 			 208 	
143	Fill	Orange to grey pebbles and occ (South-western	casional charco	al flecks.	round 25.00m -	
105	Fill	Mid red-brown frequent sub-ro charcoal flecks	und pebbles an		, 24.99m -	

106	Fill	Mid orangey-grey with darker iron-panning deposit clay silt, moderate sub-round pebbles and occasion charcoal flecks.	
107	Fill	Grey sandy silt, with moderate sub-round and sub- angular pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks. (South-western sector, slot in main enclosure ditch)	
170	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay, with moderate sub- angular flint pebbles.	24.33m -24.31m
176	Fill	Dark orange clayey sandy silt, with moderate angular flints, occasional charcoal flecks. ("Tail" ditch)	24.06m -23.97m
168	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay, with moderate small angular flints.	24.35m -24.34m
175	Fill	Dark orange clayey sandy silt, with moderate angular flints and occasional charcoal flecks. (North-east corner, hand dug section, enclosure bou	24.03m -23.94m andary ditch)
206	Fill	Grey-brown sandy clayey silt, occasional small angular and sub-angular flints.	24.41m -
207	Fill	Dark orange silty sand with moderate angular and sub- angular flints and gravel.	24.21m -
208	Fill	Orange-grey silty sand with frequent small to medium angular flints.	24.51m -
		(Machine dug section, northern side of main enclos	ure)
139	Fill	Grey to orange clay silt with moderate sub-round and round pebbles (small and medium), and moderate charcoal flecks. (North-western sector, main enclosure ditch)	24.95m -

(North-western sector, main enclosure ditch)

This large group is comprised of all the upper fills of the enclosure boundary ditch and the "tail" ditch. All of these deposits have a degree of discolouration due to varying amounts of iron-panning. All upper fills contained pottery dated to the 1st century AD and some with ranges extending into the 2nd century AD. Considerable quantities were recovered from hand -excavated slots (contexts 105 - 107, 168 and 175 in the boundary ditch and contexts 170 and 176 in the "tail" ditch), whilst a number of sherds were recovered from the upper fills of the ditches after stripping and during cleaning.

These fills were the product of a rapid silting of the main ditches, presumably after the abandonment of the settlement, although the process may have begun immediately prior to the abandonment. Sherds recovered from the slot 105 - 107 in cut 108 were deposited as broken fragments of large size seemingly thrown against the side (the "outside" edge) of the enclosure boundary ditch whilst it was still open.

Group 19.

147 Fill Orange to yellow-grey clay silt, with moderate 24.97m -unexc. sub-angular small stones and occasional charcoal.

147

This group represents the (upper) fill of the gully (see discussion, group 13) forming the internal division within the southern half of the main enclosure. No finds were recovered, and the feature was not archaeologically investigated.

<u>Group 20.</u>

141

141 Fill Orangey grey clay silt with darker iron panning, 24.95m -unexc. moderate sub-angular to rounded stones, and occasional charcoal flecks.

The single context in this group represents the (upper?) fill of the ditch forming the central internal division in the main enclosure (see discussion, group 14). Lack of time and resources meant that this feature was not archaeologically investigated.

Group 21.

307	303
308	304

303	Fill	Yellow-grey clay silt, unexc.	24.90m -unexc.
304	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.45m x 0.35m, unexc.	24.90m -unexc.
307	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, unexc.	24.85m -unexc.
308	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.6m x 0.5m, unexc.	24.85m -unexc.

This group represents two circular features within the area delimited by the southern ring ditch (see groups 8 and 11). The features were not excavated but were interpreted as postholes. Their relationship to the ring ditch and its associated structure is unclear; they may be part of the internal or structural arrangements of the building associated with the ring ditch, but it is also possible that they relate to other postholes outside the

hut-circle, forming a structure post-dating that represented by the ring ditch. This group has been separated because of the features location within the circle, since no other clear patterns of association can be determined. This group has been assigned to this phase (3) on the basis of similarities of the fills (as visible) to those of similar features containing material of this phase.

Group 22.

		 301 302 	 297 298 	 295 296 	 293 294 	
293 294	Fill Cut		v-brown clay silt rcular, 0.7m x 0.	·		29.90m-
295 296	Fill Cut		v-brown clay silt rcular, 0.5m x 0.			29.90m-
297 298	Fill Cut		v-brown silty cla rcular, 0.4m x 0.			29.90m-
301 302	Fill Cut		v-brown silty cla rcular, 0.25m x (29.90m-

This group represents the cuts and fills of four presumed postholes in the southern half of the enclosure, immediately to the west of the roundhouse gully. They have been grouped together since they appeared to have a rough east-west linear alignment, although they all have different dimensions.

Group 23.



202	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt clay with orange mottles,	24.71m -
		occasional sub-round to sub-angular pebbles, and	
		occasional charcoal flecks.	
203	Cut	Circular, 0.46m x 0.51m x 0.24m deep, near vertical 24	.70m -24.26m
		sides becoming less so to create a gentle bowl at the	
		base.	

This group represents a small pit in the southern half of the enclosure, south of the ring ditch up against the southern limit of excavation. The fill contained a considerable quantity of pottery in large pieces; some of this material was seen to almost line the northern side of the cut, with a large sherd from the base and part of the wall of a vessel lying at an angle in the middle of the fill. Most of the pottery appeared to have come from a single vessel, some sort of cooking or storage pot, dated to between the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD. The presence of daub and /or burnt clay may give a clue as to the pit's function - perhaps a storage pit, or cooking/fire pit, although it could have served merely as a rubbish pit.

Group 24.

305 306

305	Fill	Yellow-brown silty clay, unexc.	24.90m -
306	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.45m x 0.4m, unexc.	

This group represents a single feature interpreted as a posthole. It was situated in the southern half of the enclosure, just to the north-east of the ring ditch. It was not archaeologically investigated, so it's purpose is unknown.

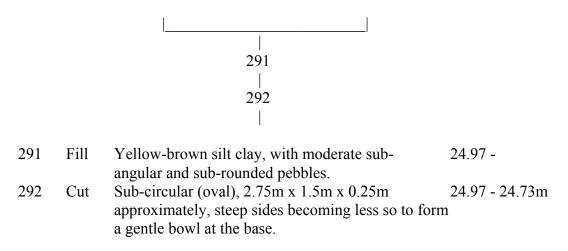
Group 25.

 186
 188
 189
 187

186	Fill	Mid to dark brown silt, no inclusions.	24.89m -
188	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt with light grey mottles,	24.75m -
		occasional rounded and sub-rounded pebbles.	
189	Fill	Dark brown fine silt.	24.64m -
187	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.34m x 0.23m x 0.44m deep, near	24.89m -24.45m
		vertical sides, base irregular.	

This group represents a posthole in the southern half of the enclosure just inside the western edge and approximately 5m south of the junction between the central division ditch and the western boundary ditch. The lower fills and base of the cut were disturbed by an animal burrow.

Group 26.



This group represents a large oval pit just inside the south-western part of the enclosure boundary ditch. It was truncated by a smaller pit (see group 27), but appears to belong to the same broad phase.

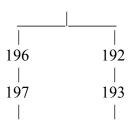
Group 27.

163
164
166

163	Fill	8	24.99m -
164	Fill	of charcoal, occasional small angular flints. Dark brown silty sandy clay, with dark orange iron	24.89m -
166	Cut	panning stains. Sub-circular, 2.1m x 1.4m x 0.24m deep, gradual	24 97m - 24 73m
100	0.00	sides, slopes becoming less steep to form a bowl at the base.	, ,

This group constitutes a sub-circular pit, the function of which is unknown.

<u>Group 28.</u>



192	Fill	Yellow-grey clay-silt with orange mottles, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles.	24.83m -24.78m
193	Cut	Sub-rectangular, 1.7m x 0.8m x 0.24m deep, rounded corners, gently sloping sides into an irregular but flatish base.	24.86m -24.58m
196 197	Fill Cut	Yellow-grey clay-silt, occasional gravel. Sub-circular (irregular), 1.3m x 1.1m x 0.24m deep, sides gently sloping into bowl-like base.	24.84m -24.79m 24.87m -24.63m

This group consists of two features identified as pits, the function of which is unknown. Both showed signs of bioturbation, and it may be possible that the features were in fact tree-bowls. They were truncated above by group 30.

<u>Group 29.</u>

| 299 | 300 |

299	Fill	Yellow-brown silty-clay, unexc.	24.86m -
300	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.25m x 0.2m, unexc.	24.86m -

This group represents a small feature identified as a posthole. It was located in the southern half of the enclosure, immediately to the west of the ring ditch. The feature was not excavated.

<u>Group 30.</u>

194	Fill	Yellow-grey clay-silt, moderate charcoal flecks,	24.86m -
		occasional small sub-rounded pebbles.	
195	Cut	(Sub-) Circular, 0.7m x 0.6m x 0.11m, 45 degree	24.86m -24.75m
		slope into bowl-like base, except for steeper north	

This group represents a feature identified as a shallow pit, or posthole. It truncates group 28.

side running down to step down to base.

Group 31.

319 320

- 319 Fill Yellow-brown clay silt, with moderate to frequent charcoal flecks.
- 320 Cut Curvi-linear, 6.5m x 2.0m, unexc.

This group represents a curving feature beyond the western side of the enclosure. It was not excavated and its purpose is unknown. It had a noticeably high proportion of charcoal in the fill.

Group 32.

| 214 | 215 | 269 | 216 |

- 214 Fill Light yellow-brown clay silt, with occasional flecks 24.57m and occasional small sub-rounded pebbles.
- 215 Fill Mid grey-brown clay silt, with moderate sub- round and sub-angular small stones, and occasional gravel and charcoal.
- 269 Fill Mid grey-brown silty sand with orange mottled iron 24.45m -24.42m

		panning, frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, moderate charcoal flecks.	
216	Cut	Linear, 4.2m x 0.8m x 0.27m, steep sided, "U"-shaped profile.	24.58m -24.31m

This group represents a slightly curved gully in the southern half of the enclosure, to the south and east of the ring ditch. It is badly truncated to the east of the feature by a zone of modern machine disturbance so that only half of it could be excavated. The feature was aligned east-west, curving slightly to the south and east. It was cut by a presumed posthole (group 33), and a copper alloy coin was recovered from the upper fill. The lowest fill contained a loom weight and some fragments of pottery. The feature was therefore dated to between the mid-1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Group 33.

200 201

200	Fill	Grey-brown clay silt, with moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular small pebbles, occasional flecks of charcoal.	24.58m -24.56m
201	Cut	Sub-circular, 1.05m x 0.92m x 0.30m deep, steep sided on south-east and more gradual to north-west, base flatish, with distinct deeper small bowl in it to south-east.	

This group is comprised of a cut and fill constituting a posthole cutting the fills of the gully 216 (see group 32).

Group 34.

- 321 Fill Yellow-brown clay silt, unexc.
- 322 Cut Linear, 5.0m x 1.0m, unexc.

This group represents a linear slot or gully located in the southern half of the enclosure, east of the ring ditch and just south of the central division. The feature was not investigated, and its function remains unknown. Its relationship to the other

features in this half of the enclosure is unclear, since it lay east of the zone of modern machine disturbance, the rest of the features being west of that zone.

<u>Group 35.</u>

336	Fill	Yellow-brown (clay) silt, unexc.	24.80m -
337	Cut	Sub-circular, 3.0m x 1.0m, unexc.	24.80m -

This group represents a feature lying outside and to the west of the enclosure, and half under the northern limit of excavation. Only a rough semi-circle was revealed and this was not archaeologically investigated. It may have been a pit, but its function is unknown.

Group 36.

219	Fill	Grey clay silt with orange and brown mottles, and	24.81m -24.74m
		very occasional charcoal flecks.	
220	Fill	Orangey grey-brown sandy silt, with frequent sub-	24.73m -
		angular pebbles, moderate iron-panned gravel.	
221	Cut	Sub-circular (oval), 0.94m x 0.55m x 0.2m, with	24.79m -24.53m
		gentle sloping sides coming down to form a bowl	
		at the base.	

This group consists of three contexts forming a pit the purpose of which is uncertain. This group has been truncated by group 37. It showed some evidence of bioturbation and was only half-sectioned. It was located in the southern half of the enclosure, just north of the southern limit of excavation and immediately west of group 23.

<u>Group 37.</u>

 222
223
223

222	Fill	Mottled yellow-grey clay silt, very occasional	24.70m -
		small sub-round pebbles and charcoal flecks.	
223	Cut	Circular, 0.45m x 0.45m x 0.26m deep, 45 degree	24.70m -24.44m
		sides sloping down to a bowl-like base.	

This group is interpreted as forming a posthole cutting fill 219 of group 36. The posthole was not seen until group 36 was half-sectioned.

<u>Group 38.</u>

| 198 | 199 | 204 | 205 |

Fill	Orange brown silty sand, occasional charcoal	24.82m -
	flecks, moderate small sub-round pebbles.	
Cut	Sub-circular (oval), 0.98m x 0.8m x 0.23m deep	24.82m -24.59m
	steep sided, rounded base.	
Fill	Mid brown sandy silt, frequent rounded and sub-	24.80m -
	angular pebbles.	
Cut	Sub-circular (oval), 0.48m x 0.44m x 0.25m deep	24.79m -24.55m
	steep sided, concave base.	
	Cut Fill	 flecks, moderate small sub-round pebbles. Cut Sub-circular (oval), 0.98m x 0.8m x 0.23m deep steep sided, rounded base. Fill Mid brown sandy silt, frequent rounded and sub-angular pebbles. Cut Sub-circular (oval), 0.48m x 0.44m x 0.25m deep

This group consists of two intercutting postholes. 198/199 cuts 204/205. The fill of the latter contained pottery from the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD. The lower (earlier) cut, 205, cut the pit described as group 4. These groups were both located in the

northern half of the enclosure to the west of the area of modern machine disturbance, but east of the western boundary ditch.

Group 39.

311FillYellow-brown clay silt, unexc.24.70m approx.312CutLinear, 0.75m x 0.35m, unexc.24.70m approx.

This group represents a small section of a possible gully, aligned north-west to southeast. It was truncated to the west by the zone of modern machine disturbance, and to the east by the feature described in group 40. The gully was not excavated.

<u>Group 40.</u>

309 310

309	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, unexc.	24.70m approx.
310	Cut	Linear, 7.0m x 1.9m, unexc.	

This group comprised a linear gully, running east-west, and cutting the gully (312) in group 39. This longer feature was truncated by the zone of modern machine disturbance to the west and faded away into the limit of excavation to the east. The gully was not archaeologically investigated. Both this and the preceding group were located in the northern half of the enclosure, just north of the ditch forming the central internal division.

<u>Group 41.</u>

180	182	323	325	327
181	183	324	326	328

180	Fill	Dark red silty sand with gr pebbles (small).	avel, moderate	rounded	24.69 -
181	Cut	Circular, 0.2m diameter x sides, concave (rounded) b	1 '	ertical	24.69m -24.43m
182	Fill	Light grey-brown silt with degraded daub or baked cl		s of a	24.65m -
183	Cut	Circular, 0.31m diameter x gently into a rounded base	- ·	les slope	24.65m -24.52m
323	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, ur	exc.		24.65m -
324	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.4m x 0.3m			24.65m -
325	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, ur	exc.		24.64m -
326	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.5m x 0.4m	unexc.		24.64m -
327	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, un	exc.		24.59m -
328	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.7m x 0.5m	unexc.		24.59m -

This group is comprised of cuts and fills for five features interpreted as postholes. Only two of these were excavated. The discrepancy in the size of the features as apparent on the surface is due to the recording of unexcavated features after only cursory cleaning soon after machine stripping. It is tempting to see this group as forming part of a rectangular structure, possibly including contexts 276/277, measuring some 8m by 5m and aligned north-east/ south-west. Without further evidence this interpretation cannot be supported. The group was located in the northern half of the enclosure but south of the ring ditch.

Group 42.

267	270	274
268	271	275

267	Fill	Yellow-grey sandy silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and frequent small sub-angular pebbles.	24.69m -
268	Cut	Sub-circular, $0.26m \ge 0.22 \ge 0.19m$ deep, sides slope near vertically into base which slopes down east to west.	24.69m -24.53m
270	Fill	Yellow-grey sandy-clay silt with occasional small sub-round pebbles and charcoal flecks.	24.69m -
271	Cut	Circular, 0.15m diameter x 0.09m depth, sides	24.69m -24.60m

274	Fill	Mid orange-grey clay silt, with moderate small to	24.75m -
		medium sub- angular and sub-round pebbles.	
275	Cut	Sub-circular (oval), 0.75m x 0.55m x 0.07m deep,	24.75m -24.68m
		sides gently slope into a concave base.	

This group represents a group of features identified as postholes and/or small pits. They were located in the northern half of the enclosure and just south of the main ring ditch. This group may have a relationship to the preceding group, in that it may be part of the same or a similar structure, or represent activity associated with such a structure. It is stratified above group 2, cutting context 265/266 (a naturally derived clay filled pit) and possible deliberately located above this feature.

<u>Group 43.</u>

263	Fill	Mid-brown sandy silt, with moderate gravel.	24.66m -
264	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.3m x 0.24m x 0.12m deep,	24.66m -24.54m
		near vertical sides, flat bottom.	

This group is comprised of a single feature identified as a posthole. It was located in the northern half of the enclosure, just south of the ring ditch. It may also have a relationship with the preceding group.

<u>Group 44.</u>

329	247	251
330	248	252

247	Fill	Grey-brown clay silt, occasional gravel.	24.65m -
248	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.28m x 0.25m x 0.1m deep, forming a shallow bowl.	24.65m -24.55m
251	Fill	Grey-brown silt clay, with occasional gravel and small sub-round pebbles.	24.73m -
252	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.26m x 0.24m x 0.07m deep, forming a shallow bowl.	g 24.73m -24.66m

329	Fill	Yellow-grey clay silt, unexc.	24.69m -
330	Cut	Circular, 0.25m diameter, unexc.	24.69m -

This group contains three features identified as postholes. They were located in the northern half of the enclosure, within the ring ditch, cutting the clay of context 244 (part of group 2, feature 244/331, a naturally derived clay filled pit). This group may have been part of a structure associated with or otherwise utilising the clay. The group may in fact have an association with the structure represented by group 5, a gully ringing the clay patch. However, group 5 was dated to the middle Iron Age, whereas material associated with this group (and finds on the clay "surface") suggest a date in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Group 45.

226	261	232
227	262	233

226	Fill	Brown-grey clayey sandy silt with gravel.	24.83m -
227	Cut	Sub-rectangular, with rounded corners, 1.24m x	24.83m -24.59m
		1.10m x 0.24m deep, sides slope at 45 degrees to an uneven but mainly flat base.	l
261	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravel.	24.64m -
262	Cut	Sub-rectangular, rounded corners, 0.82m x 0.49m	24.64m -24.58m
		x 0.06m deep, gently sloping sides gradually comin down to a flat base.	g
232	Fill	Light yellow-brown sandy silt, occasional medium angular flints.	24.75m -
233	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.67m x 0.6m x 0.15m deep, steep	24.75m -24.60m
		sides becoming gradually less so to form flat base.	

This group contains three features which cut the ring ditch in the northern half of the enclosure (see group 7). The first is on the west side of the ring ditch, the second cuts the southern part of the ring, and the near circular posthole cuts the northern section

and may be associated with an entrance to the structure represented by the ring ditch. The function of the other features was not determined.

<u>Group 46.</u>

		 217 218	 278 279 	 332 333	 334 335 	
217	Fill	Mid brown sand medium stones	•	derate small to)	24.79m -
218	Cut	Circular, 0.2m c and flat-bottome	liameter x 0.1n	n depth, steep	sided 24.79r	n -24.69m
278	Fill	Mid to light bro flecks and small			arcoal 24.74r	n -
279	Cut	Circular, 0.71m (except on west slightly concave	diameter x 0.2) becoming mo	6m depth, ste	-	n -24.48m
332 333	Fill Cut	Yellow-brown c Circular, 0.2m c			24.77r 24.77r	
334 335	Fill Cut	Yellow-brown c Circular, 0.25m			24.77r 24.77r	

This group represents a set of four features interpreted as postholes. All were located within the north-western part of the area delimited by the ring ditch in the northern half of the enclosure.

<u>Group 47.</u>

276 277

276	Fill	Orange with light grey mottles, sandy clay, with	24.71m -
		moderate gravel, occasional mortar flecks.	
277	Cut	Sub-rectangular, 3.58m x 1.48 x 0.18m deep,	24.71m -24.49m
		sides gently sloping into a slightly concave base.	

This group contains the fill and cut of a single feature. This feature was interpreted as a pit, the function of which is unknown. It was located to the south of the ring ditch in the northern half of the enclosure.

<u>Group 48.</u>

284	Fill	Light grey sandy silt with iron panning, moderate	24.69m -
		gravel, occasional charcoal flecks.	
285	Cut	Irregular, curving north to east, 1.3m x 0.7m x	24.69m -24.36m
		0.33m deep. Steep sides, flat base.	

This is a single feature, the eastern part of which lay beyond the eastern limit of excavation, within the ring ditch in the northern half of the enclosure. It had no immediately apparent function, but may be related to a possible entrance (break in the ring ditch). It was truncated above by group 52, a posthole.

<u>Group 49.</u>

338	340	344
339	341	345

338	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, unexc.	24.71m -
339	Cut	Sub-circular (oval), 1.3m x 0.8m, unexc.	24.71m -
340	Fill	Brown-grey clay silt, unexc.	24.57m -
341	Cut	Circular, 0.7m diameter, unexc.	24.57m -
344	Fill	Brown clay silt, unexc.	24.57m -
345	Cut	Circular, 0.4m diameter, unexc.	24.57m -

The group contains three features interpreted as postholes (or small pits). They were located in the northern half of the enclosure, just south of the northern boundary ditch. None were excavated.

Group 50.

		317	
		318	
317	Fill	Yellow-brown clay silt, unexc.	24.60m -
318	Cut	Sub-circular (oval), 0.95m x 0.45m, unexc.	24.60m -

This group contains a single feature, type and function unknown. It was located in the northern half of the enclosure, south of the northern boundary ditch. The southern part of the feature was beyond the limit of excavation. Cut by the moledrain 314/315 in group 60.

Group 51.

| 272 | 273 |

272	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt, occasional flecks of	24.71m -
		charcoal, moderate small angular flints.	
273	Cut	Sub-circular, 2.25m x 1.85m x 0.22m deep,	24.71m -24.49m
		sides sloped gently to form a flat based bowl.	

This group was comprised of the cut and fill of a single feature interpreted as a pit, the function of which was not determined. It was located in the northern half of the enclosure, inside the north-west corner. It was cut by a land-drain, 314/315, in group 60.

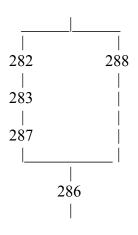
Group 52.

| 351 | 352 |

351	Fill	Grey to orange-brown sandy silt.	24.48m -
352	Cut	Circular, 0.5m diameter x 0.26m deep, steep sides	24.48m -24.22m
		coming down to a flat base.	

This group represents a posthole cut into the fill of the feature represented by group 48.

Group 64.



282	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt, frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks	
283	Fill	Mid grey clay silt, moderate charcoal flecks, sub- rounded small pebbles and gravel (occasional).	
287	Fill	Mid grey-brown silt sand, moderate gravel and sub- rounded pebbles.	
288	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt, frequent sub-rounded fine to medium gravel, and pebbles.	24.71m -
286	Cut	Curvi-linear, 0.44m deep x 0.60m wide.	24.71m -24.27m

This group represents a slightly curving gully, felt to be part of the ring ditch in the southern half of the enclosure. The line faded towards the east as it neared an area of modern machine disturbance. Context 281 is therefore the same as context 115 (in group 11); contexts 282 and 288 occupy a similar position to fills 117 and 120; context 287 has no parallel, but context 286 may be the same as cut 116 (group 8), being either contemporary with it or a later re-cutting of the gully. A mixture of middle Iron Age material and ceramics dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD were found in the fills (the earlier material coming from context 286).

Phase 4.

This phase represents the period after the ditches had filled and the site had been abandoned, at least as a settlement site. There is now a period when cremation burials were deposited, some of which cut into the latest ditch fills. A number of other features were found, including two tentatively interpreted as grave cuts. A group of features was recorded after stripping, but not excavated. Most of the datable material suggested a date into the 2nd century AD.

Group 53.

184
190
191
 185

184	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and small sub-round pebbles.	24.88m -
190	Fill	(Light) grey silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and burnt flint.	s24.58m -
191	Fill	Mid grey sandy gravel.	24.58m -
185	Cut	Sub-rectangular, 0.7m x 0.65m x 0.4m, steep sides	24.88m -24.48m
		and an uneven base.	

This group represents a feature interpreted as a cremation burial. It was located in the northern half of the enclosure and south of the ring ditch. The burial itself was badly

disturbed by an animal burrow running north /south through the feature. The fill 190 represents the cremation, its colour and high charcoal content and the presence of fragments of burnt bone pointing to its origin. This fill was found as a lens within fill 184.

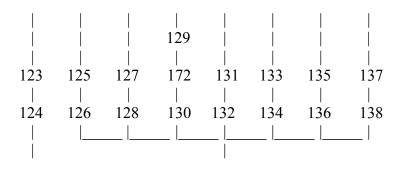
Group 54.

| 238 | 239 | 240 | 241 |

238	Fill	Grey brown clay silt, moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal and daub flecks.	24.84m -24.83m
239	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.45m x 0.33m x 0.19m, steep sides gradually coming down to a concave base.	24.84m -24.65m
240	Fill	Mid yellow-brown clay silt, moderate sub-round and sub-angular pebbles, occasional charcoal and daub flecks and fragments.	24.84m -24.83m
241	Cut	Sub-rectangular, 1.25m x 1.11m x 0.28m, steep sides gradually coming down to a rounded and concave base.	24.88m -24.60m

This group represents a posthole (238/239) cutting a pit (240/241) the purpose of which is unknown. Both features were cut by a mole drain (151/152 group 60), and cut into the last boundary ditch fill (139 group 18). The features were located on the north- western side of the enclosure.

Group 55.



123 Fill Black, charcoal and bone fragments (small find 24.93m - no. 11).

124	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.37m x 0.29m x 0.07m, forming a shallow bowl.	24.93m -24.86m
125	Fill	Black silty clay with burnt matter and bone fragments.	24.92m -
126	Cut	Irregular, 0.73m x 0.3m x 0.12m, two shallow depressions to either end.	24.82m -24.80m
127	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt, moderate sub-rounded small pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks; near complete cremation vessel in situ (small find 2).	24.98m -
128	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.73m x 0.65m x 0.16m, 45 degree sloping sides coming down to a rounded base.	24.91m -24.77m
129	Fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt, occasional charcoal and daub flacks, occasional gravel; vessel in situ in north-west corner of the cut (small find 3). Nails found in fill (small finds 12-14)	24.86m -24.85m
172	Fill	Orange-brown clay silt, moderate rounded and sub-angular small stones, occasional charcoal flecks and daub fragments; near complete flagon and a number of nails (small finds 16-20, 23-25, 28-30).	24.67m -24.65m
130	Cut	Sub-rectangular, 1.09m x 1.24m x 0.47m, near vertical sides, flat base.	24.86m -24.39m
131	Fill	Mid red-brown silty clay, moderate gravel and sub- angular to rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal and daub fragments; base of cremation vessel and contents (small find 5).	24.87m -
132	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.52m x 0.4m x 0.09m, sides gently sloped to form a shallow bowl.	24.87m -24.78m
133	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small pebbles sub-rounded; extremely truncated vessel.	24.87m -
134	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.4m x 0.3m x 0.05m, forming a shallow bowl.	24.87m -24.82m
135	Fill	Light orange silty clay with occasional bone fragments and incomplete vessel (small find 10)	24.85m -
136	Cut	Sub-circular, $0.33 \text{ m x} \ 0.28 \text{ m x} \ 0.11 \text{ m}$, steep sided becoming gentler to form concave base.	24.88m -24.77m
137	Fill	Grey brown silty sand, occasional bone and gravel; badly damaged pottery fragments.	24.82m -
138	Cut	Sub-circular, $0.4m \ge 0.35m \ge 0.16m$, sides gently sloped to form concave base.	24.82m -24.66m

This group represents a series of eight features interpreted as cremation burials, located on the north-west side of the enclosure and some of which are cut into the last fill of the boundary ditch. All were truncated above by ploughing, some to the extent that the features were barely recognisable. 133/134 was also truncated by a moledrain.

<u>Group 56.</u>

		 346 347 	 342 343 	
342	Fill	Mid brown clay silt, unexc.		24.57m -
343	Cut	Sub-circular, 1.1m x 0.9m, unexc.		24.57m -
346	Fill	Mid to dark brown clay silt, unexc		24.56m -
347	Cut	Sub-circular (oval?), 2m x 1.2m, u		24.56m -

This group represents two features of unknown function, cutting the latest fills of the enclosure boundary ditch on its northern section. they were not excavated.

<u>Group 57.</u>

103
165
 167
 179
 104

103	Fill	Mid grey-brown clay silt, occasional small sub-round to round pebbles, frequent charcoal	24.91m -24.87m
		fragments.	
165	Fill	Mid to dark grey clay silt, occasional small	24.80m -
		sub-round pebbles, frequent large fragments of	
		charcoal.	
167	Fill	Mid grey with yellow-brown mottles, silty clay,	24.70m -
		occasional sub-angular small pebbles, moderate	
		charcoal flecks; metal "knife" and other finds	
		(small find numbers 22, 26-27).	
179	Fill	Mid orange-brown sand and gravel with grey	24.50m -24.42m

		patches of a silty sand, moderate to frequent sub-round and sub-angular small pebbles.	
104	Fill	Sub-circular, 1.1m x 0.9m x 0.51m, near vertical sides, flat base sloping slightly to south-west.	24.91m -24.40m

This group represents a single feature interpreted as a "grave" cut. It was located in the southern half of the enclosure, east of the ring ditch and west of the southern group of cremations (see group 58).Fill 167 had a very high concentration of dark, organically derived silt mixed with a great deal of charcoal towards the base. The central part of the this fill had a concentration of mixed ash and bone which was interpreted as the remains of a cremation deposited in a pouch or other organic container; this concentration was located immediately above the metal blade, which itself lay on three large cobbles. It was felt that this assemblage was the result of deliberate deposition, rather than randomly accumulated refuse.

<u>Group 58.</u>

		 153 155 157 159	
		154 156 158 160 	
153	Fill	Mid grey sandy silt, moderate to occasional angular small stones; fragmentary remains of a vessel (small find 6).	24.99m -
154	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.37m x 0.33m x 0.1m, sides sloped gently into a shallow bowl.	24.99m -24.89m
155	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt, moderate small sub- rounded pebbles; several pieces of daub.	25.01m -
156	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.24m x 0.18m x 0.08m, steep sides coming down to point.	25.01m -24.93m
157	Fill	Dark grey-brown sandy silt, occasional fragments of burnt bone and charcoal, and sub-round small pebbles; fragments of cremation vessel (small find no. 8).	25.00m -
158	Cut	Circular, 0.4m diameter x 0.15m deep, sides gently slope down to rounded base.	25.00m -24.85m
159	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with orange-brown mottles, occasional charcoal flecks and sub-round pebbles; remains of whole pot and contents (small find no. 9).	24.98m -
160	Cut	Circular, 0.3m diameter x 0.12m deep, 45 degree sloping sides coming down to gentle bowl at base.	24.96m -24.84m

This group contains four features originally interpreted as cremation burials. All except 159/160 were cut into a pit (see group 27). They were located just inside the western boundary of the southern half of the enclosure. All had suffered from plough damage to the extent that 155/156 was left as a shallow impression in the ground containing only a few fragments of daub (its initial interpretation as a cremation cut is open to question). Smears of ashy material, including material tentatively identified as bone, were observed around all the features and were assumed to have been the result of the smearing of the already truncated remains during machine stripping. This group was clustered around a feature identified as a posthole (see group 63) cut into the pit described in group 27. There may have been a deliberate relationship between group 63 and that under discussion.

Group 63.

161 162

161	Fill	Mid yellow-grey clay silt with occasional mottles of orange-brown, moderate sub-rounded pebbles,	25.02m -
162	Cut	occasional charcoal flecks and frequent gravel. Sub-circular (oval), 0.55m x 0.4m x 0.46m deep, sides vertical at top then curve in towards base to give a "U"-shaped profile.	25.02m -24.56m

This group contains a single feature, located amongst the cremations (see preceding group) in the southern half of the enclosure, just inside the western boundary. This feature was interpreted as a posthole. Due to its position, physically and stratigraphically, it was felt that the post may have been placed deliberately in order to mark the position of the cremations which appear to cluster around it.

Phase 5.

This phase consists of only one group, itself consisting of only one context. The phase cannot be dated securely and is only stratigraphically placed .

Group 59.

102

102 Layer Yellow-brown clay silt, occasional charcoal flecks, 25.10m -24.70m occasional small and medium sub-angular to sub-rounded stones.

This group consists of a single context and represents a subsoil. This subsoil overlay the whole site but was patchy and its depth varied considerably. It was recorded only in section. The soil derived from agricultural activity in the post-Roman period, or from the accumulation of organic material in the form of leaf-mould during the long period that the site was covered by Hainault Forest.

Phase 6.

This phase consists of two groups and represents a period of post-medieval agricultural activity, dating to the second half of the 19th century following the felling of Hainault Forest and the turning over of the ground covering the site to farming.

Group 60.

	 145	149	151	 173	313	315
	 146 	 150 	152 	 174 	314 	316
145	Fill	Dark brown san to round mediu charcoal flecks	m and small st			1 -
146	Cut	Linear, 0.2m w west to east for southern ring d	ide x 0.2m dee c. 24m, stoppi			a -24.90.
149	Fill	Mid to dark bro angular to roun		frequent grave	l and 25.10m	1 -
150	Cut	Linear, 03m wi -east across not	ide x 0.3m deep		ng west 25.10m	a -24.80m
151	Fill	Dark brown san medium stones		nt gravel and si	mall to 25.10m	1 -
152	Cut	Linear, as for 1 on same west-e	50 above excep	pt 2m further to	o north 25.10m	a -24.80m
173	Fill	Mid brown san angular to sub- gravel, occasio	rounded small	stones and mod		1 -
174	Cut	Linear, 12m lor running south-v southern limit of moledrain 145/	ng x 0.22m wid west to north-ea of excavation a	le x 0.2m deep, ast, emerging f	rom	a -24.90m
313	Fill	Dark brown sat	ndy clay silt.		24.90m	1 -

314	Cut	Linear, 19.1m long x 0.2m wide x 0.2m + deep, running north-west to south-east in northern part of site, cutting north-west corner of enclosure.	24.90m -24.70m
315 316	Fill Cut	Mid to dark brown sandy clay silt. Linear, 22.9m long x 0.2m wide, unexc., running south to north outside of enclosure near western limit of excavation.	25.10m (approx.) 25.10m (approx.)

This group represents a series of mole- or land-drains arranged in a rough grid across the site and part of a system draining the whole field in which the site was located. These drains were dug in the second half of the 19th century, when land cleared by the felling of the last of Hainault Forest was turned over to agricultural use.

<u>Group 61.</u>

109	111
110	112

109	Fill	Grey sandy silt, with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small angular flints.	24.98m -
110	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.32m x 0.24m x 0.09m, forming a shallow bowl.	24.98m -24.89m
111	Fill	Grey sandy silt, with moderate fragments and flecks of charcoal and moderate small to medium sub-angular flints.	24.96m -
112	Cut	Sub-circular, $0.3m \ge 0.2m \ge 0.1m$, steep sided coming to a flat base.	24.96m -24.86m

This group contained two features interpreted as postholes. They were located near the south-western corner of the site close to the western limit of excavation, and were cut into the subsoil. They were separated from each other by 1.5m approximately. They may have formed part of a fence line or some other relatively temporary structure.

Phase 7.

This phase is the latest and contained only one group itself containing a single context. Material collected from the spoil from this layer indicates a date range from the mid 19th to the 20th century.

Group 62.

101

101 Layer Mid brown clay silt, with moderate sub-round and 25.49m -24.95m sub-angular small and medium stones.

This group contains a single context representing the topsoil laying across the site. This layer is an organically derived soil resulting from agricultural activity, prior to the acquisition of the field for gravel extraction. The soil varied considerably in depth from approximately 0.25m to 0.40m. It was only recorded in section. The modern ground-surface sloped from west to east down to Seven Kings Water, with an additional slight north to south slope.

Appendix IV.

METHODOLOGY

<u>1 METHOD STATEMENT</u>

<u>1.1</u> The main trench was opened up using a JCB with a ditching bucket, driven by an experienced driver. Topsoil and subsoil were stripped to reveal potential archaeological features, at an depth of between 0.2 to 0.4 m below the surface. Spoil was removed from the area by the JCB.

<u>1.2</u> As stripping took place, a member of the site staff watched the machining and cleaned the exposed surfaces with a hoe, scoring in any identified features.

1.3 Due to adverse weather conditions in conjunction with underlying geology, features could be impossible to identify at a later time. In order to circumvent this problem, features identified during machining were located onto an overall site plan at a scale of 1:100. This process was subject to continuous review. The weathering of exposed surfaces often brought features to view that had not been visible during the initial machining and planning. In order to facilitate this a 10m grid was established on site, and extended as the trench was stripped.

1.4 Once the features had been identified and located, they were excavated and recorded. A single context recording and planning system was used where practicable, with larger features being half-sectioned or investigated by slots, as appropriate. Deeper features were excavated to comply with Health and Safety regulations, completed with the sides being battened or stepped in at a depth of 1.2m. There was provision for use of a pump to remove excess water to enable the features to be worked and recorded. A wet box was kept against the potential survival of material in water-logged deposits.

<u>1.5</u> The drawn record includes plans generated by the single context system (as above, paragraph 1.4) and profiles and sections as appropriate. In addition, the feature location process (see paragraph 1.3 above) produced an overall site plan at 1:100.

<u>**1.6**</u> An extensive photographic record was made of the work on site, and of the features during and after excavation.

<u>1.7</u> Samples of all deposits were taken during excavation for recovery of potential environmental information, for the application of dating techniques, and for the recovery and quantification of cultural material. These samples were evaluated and processed by specialists, with the exception of those taken for cultural material, which were sieved on site, and a record kept of the success of this technique (only four of

the sieved samples produced material). Initial processing of environmental samples by floatation had taken place on site.

1.8 The site grid was established on the same alignment as that used for the resistivity survey, and was tied in to the survey points used in the evaluation in 1993. The site was located on to a plan of the field surveyed by Sokiesha total station, the survey being provided by the quarry management. This has enabled the site grid, and the resistivity plot to be accurately located in relation to the field, and will allow the cropmarks as proved by excavation and resistivity survey to be properly located from the aerial photographs.

<u>1.9</u> It was intended to use the additional 630 m sq. of trenching to investigate the cropmarks to the north of the main enclosure, once these were located (as above, paragraph 1.8) to see if these corresponded with the results of the resistivity survey.

<u>1.10</u> Finds were taken off site at regular intervals, so that they could be spot-dated. This process proved useful in allowing the results to be checked, and for determining if earlier or later periods of activity (e.g. iron age or later Roman etc.) are present on this site.

<u>1.11</u> The records generated on site are being checked to ensure that the Archive will be internally consistent and complete.

<u>Appendix V.</u>

<u>Report on Resistivity Survey at</u> <u>Fairlop Quarry, Fairlop.</u> London Borough of Redbridge.

> <u>IG - HR 93.</u> <u>LDPEM/ACIG/098.</u> <u>TQ 462 899.</u>

Level III Report.

<u>M. Beasley.</u> 09.06.1994.

Introduction.

A resistivity survey was conducted by members of the Newham Museum Service Archaeology and Local History Section between 28.03.1994 and 28.04.1994, at Fairlop Quarry, Fairlop, London Borough of Redbridge. The survey was conducted as part of continuing archaeological assessment work by Newham Museum Service of the site, scheduled for gravel extraction by Redlands Aggregates Limited. The site was funded by English Heritage, negotiated and directed by Dr. F.M. Meddens for the Museum and supervised by Mark Turner for the Museum. The survey was supervised by the author.

The survey area (*Fig. 2.*) was an area of rough grassland measuring c. 10.5 ha., with known crop marks visible from aerial photographs. The survey budget allowed a maximum of five days field work, so a sample area was decided upon, covering two known cropmark areas, existing excavation trenches, and the area between to provide a survey of the area with the greatest possible concentration of the archaeological deposits.

The survey area appeared dry and well drained, although standing water was observed in several areas where groundworks had removed topsoil. Inspection of these groundworks revealed c. 0.5m. of sandy silt topsoil and subsoil, overlying sandy gravel natural deposits.

The area was covered in rough vegetation with no trees or bushes. The depth of vegetation, in places over a metre high, was considered a problem, so the survey area was flattened by machine before survey. This was not judged to have affected the ground surface of the survey area sufficiently to prejudice the survey.

However, there was substantial rutting evident from earlier heavy plant movement over the area, although these generally did not extend deeper than the top surface. In addition, a large spoil heap to the north was thought to have partially covered one of the crop marks, and this was associated with a temporary road graded through the topsoil onto the top of the gravel. The survey area also included previous archaeological evaluation trenches and the spoil heaps associated with these. There were no services apparent over the site.

The Survey.

The survey was conducted using a Geoscan RM15 Basic resistance meter, with 0.5m. separation twin probe array. The machine was set to a current of 1 mA, with x10 gain. Samples were taken on 20m. x 20m. grids, at 1m. sample and traverse intervals, on a zigzag traverse. Results were processed using Geoplot v1.2 and 2.0 software.

A localised survey base-line was established north to south over the survey area, and grids surveyed from this base-line. This was then tied into the site grid and onto a 1:2000 scale survey plan. A total of twenty-nine full and partial grids were surveyed, oriented north. Obstructions and incomplete grids were dummy logged, and grid information was recorded on Museum pro-forma sheets, these sheets forming part of the site archive.

Processed Results.

The processed results show positive low resistance readings over the entire survey area (*Fig. 9*). These appear to be of both natural and archaeological origins. The two largest and most obvious features both appear to be of natural derivation. The first appears as a band of low resistance readings, c. 30m. wide running north-west to south-east through grids 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7. It is though to be a buried river course. A second natural feature runs on a similar orientation to the north-east through grids 18, 22, 23, 25. This appears to show tributaries on either side, and is thought to be a stream bed.

However, there are several large low resistance readings apparent on the plot. The clearest of these appear to form two arms of a possible rectilinear structure to the north-west of the plot; the first running north-west to south-east through grid 5, the second south-west to north-east through grids 9 and 14. These features appear to be ditches c. 5m.- 6m. across. It is thought that this may be the corner of an enclosure crop mark shown on the aerial photographs of the site. Unfortunately, the area to the north is obscured by a large modern spoil heap.

To the east of the eastern arm of this enclosure, a further linear low resistance feature can be seen running roughly north to south through grids 16 and 17, and to the south east a fourth feature runs through grids 20 and 21. These two are of roughly the same width as the possible enclosure ditches, and may form two arms of a further enclosure or a field boundary.

A further possible ditch alignment is apparent running east to west in grid 26, although rutting from heavy plant had disrupted the ground surface in this grid and to the south in grid 29.

The evidence for occupational deposits is sketchy, being limited to a faint circular structure in grid 4. Although faint, this may represent a ring ditch c. 15m. in diameter. Smaller settlement features are unlikely to appear individually on a 1m. sample and traverse interval.

To the south of this, running through grids 3, 6, 7, 8, and 11, is a linear arrangement of four circular high and low resistance features. These show as central low resistance readings c. 5m. in diameter with an outer ring a further 5m. wide of higher resistance readings. The interpretation of these is unclear. They may represent a former tree line across the site, the features representing tree boles, but may also represent a line of bomb craters, heading as they do towards the airfield to the north. Clearly, without sample excavation the nature of these features will remain unclear.

The high resistance readings to the centre and east of the plot are probably a rise in the natural gravel. In places these areas were of too high resistance for the current to penetrate; these areas being represented by dummy logging. It is thought that this phenomenon may be caused by iron panning, large areas of which were reported from the evaluation trenches.

Dummy logs in the south-west corner of grid 1 shows the position of evaluation trenches and spoil heaps.

Interpretation and Conclusions.

The processed plot shows several large ditches on various alignments. Comparison with the aerial photographs of the site indicates that the two most northeasterly of these form two arms of the enclosure crop mark. Although the match is not identical this can be explained by transpositional error in transferring the oblique photograph to plan. The two ditches to the east may represent a boundary ditch with entrance, although this is by no means certain. Small scale excavation (machine trenching) would further clarify the exact nature of these deposits.

No evidence was obtained on the nature of any possible settlement activity; the only indications being that of a possible ring ditch. However, as previously stated specific definition of smaller settlement features is unlikely with a 1m. survey, especially with high resistance disturbance from the natural in the centre of the plot and to the east.

In addition, the survey appears to have revealed a buried landscape, with probable streams or rivers apparent. In addition a possible field boundary may be present, represented by a line of tree holes, although the size of these features may suggest that bombing during the 1939-1945 war as an alternative interpretation. It is possible that archives exist to confirm or deny this bomb damage theory.

Acknowledgements.

The author and the Museum would like to thank Redlands Aggregates Ltd for allowing access to the site, English Heritage for funding the survey, and Frank Meddens, Mark Turner, Jo Udall from the Museum, Graham Reed for the illustrations, and especially Sam Potter for her assistance in carrying out the survey.

Appendix VI.

Finds Report.

<u>Appendix VII.</u>

Conservators Report.

Appendix VIII.

Note on the Coin, by P. M. Wilkinson.

Small find no. 132, from context 214. This is a copper alloy coin. The coin is too severely damaged for detailed identification. However, it does appear to be either an *As* or a *Dupondius*, and of probable 1st or 2nd century A.D. date.

Appendix IX. Sample Index

Sample	Context	Amount (lt.)	Floated	Material Present
101.	117	10		
102a.	127	10		
102b.	127	10		
102c.	127	10		
103.	127	10		
104.	129	10		
105.	131	5		

106.	153			
107.	157			
108.	159			
109.	125			
110.	105	20	yes	
111.	163	10		
112.	103	10	yes	
113.	165	10	yes	yes
114.	161		2	2
115.	129	10	yes	yes
116.	129	10	yes	5
117.	103	10	5	
118.	165	10		
119.	172	10		
120.	168	10		
121.	175	10		
122.	176	10		
123.	167	10	yes	yes
124.	167	10	<i>y</i> e s	<i>y</i> c s
125.	177	10		
126.	182	7.5		
120.	186	7.5		
127.	188	10	yes	yes
120.	189	10	yes	y c 3
129.	184	10	Vec	Ves
130.	190	10	yes	yes
131.	191	10	VAC	VAC
132.	200	10	yes	yes
133.	200	10		
134.	202	3.3	VAC	
136.	202	3	yes	
130.	202	10		
137.	224	10		
130.	209	30	VAC	
139.	210	30	yes	VAC
140.	210	30	yes	yes
	Context no.		yes Floatod?	
Sample no.	Context no.	Amount (lt.)	Floated?	
142.	212	30	VAC	
142. 143.	212	10	yes	
143. 144.		10	yes	
	228	5	yes	
145. 146	231			
146. 147	229 247	10		
147.	247	10		
148. 140	229	10		
149.	263	10		
150.	251	3.3		
151.	242	10		
152.	274	10	yes	

NOTE;

The samples that have been floated are marked (yes). Those flots that have material to be analysed are also marked (yes). The material present includes carbonized seed, bone, and charcoal\wood.

Samples were chosen for floatation for two reasons; firstly to examine the fills of the enclosure boundary ditch, particularly the lower, waterlogged fills to test the potential for significant survival of organic material. Secondly, a selection of samples from a range of different feature types was floated in order to gain an idea of the potential for survival of organic material across the site. Samples identified as containing seed, bone etc. should warrent further investigation to determine their state of preservation.