

Report 3172



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation of
Land between A12 and Hall Road,
Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk**

ENF130583



Prepared for
Cripps Developments Ltd
c/o Chaplin Farrant Limited
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Location:	Land between A12 and Hall Road, Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk
District:	Great Yarmouth District
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
Grid Ref.:	TG 5237 0018
HER No.:	ENF130583
OASIS Ref.:	144741
Client:	Cripps Developments Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	15, 22 January -5 February 2013

Summary

An archaeological evaluation of land between the A12 and Hall Road, Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk by NPS Archaeology was conducted for Cripps Developments Ltd ahead of proposed redevelopment. The evaluated site lies within an area identified by cropmarks and archaeological investigations as being rich in archaeological remains dating from late prehistory to the Second World War.

The evaluation examined 11 trenches each measuring c.30m by 1.80m in plan, with some trenches targeted to examine specific cropmarks, in particular a possible farmstead and a ring ditch of extremely large size.

Archaeological remains were present in all the trenches and the site produced evidence for human activity dating from perhaps the Mesolithic to the early Roman period.

A small quantity of worked flint typologically dated as possibly Mesolithic represented the earliest evidence for human activity. More convincing evidence for early activity was provided by a small quantity of Early Neolithic pottery (c.3800-3300BC) recovered from a small number of features at the southern end of the site.

A large ring ditch feature comprising inner and outer circuits with an apparently discontinuous intermediate circuit is interpreted as a barrow of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. Its diameter of c.80m marks it as among the largest example of this monument type known from the county and likely to be of regional; if not national, significance. Comparison with smaller, excavated examples of similar form suggests it might be the remains of a disc barrow. Cremated human remains of a type concordant with an Early Bronze Age date appeared to have been redeposited, perhaps at a considerably later date, within the inner circuit ditch.

Though undated, two circular structures revealed at the site are considered to be roundhouses of Iron Age or Romano British date, the largest of these contained within a trapezoidal enclosure. Other ditches probably spanning several periods of activity at the site would seem to define fields, enclosures and possibly track or droveways.

Roman activity of some intensity, most noticeably at the south of the site, was associated with secondary metal working and possible cereal processing. The pottery suggested Roman activity was limited to the 1st and 2nd centuries, and

that the assemblage had similarities to those from military sites. A substantial ditch with evidence for a large internal bank is tentatively interpreted as an earthwork of Roman date, perhaps part of a beacon or signal station. One intriguing possibility is that this structure had been reused or modified from an earlier 'Thornham' style enclosure.

Analysis work is considered necessary to more accurately determine the date and character of the large ring ditch; this to include radiocarbon determination, pollen, soil chemistry and soil micromorphology of deposits associated with this feature.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The evaluated site lies within an area identified by cropmarks and archaeological investigations as being rich in remains of archaeological interest (Figs 1 and 2).

Following planning advice received from Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES), an archaeological evaluation of the site (land between A12 and Hall Road at Hopton-on-Sea) was undertaken as part of proposals to construct new housing there. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Reference No: NAU/BAU3172/DW). This project was commissioned by Chaplin Farrant Ltd and funded by Cripps Developments Ltd.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found. The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

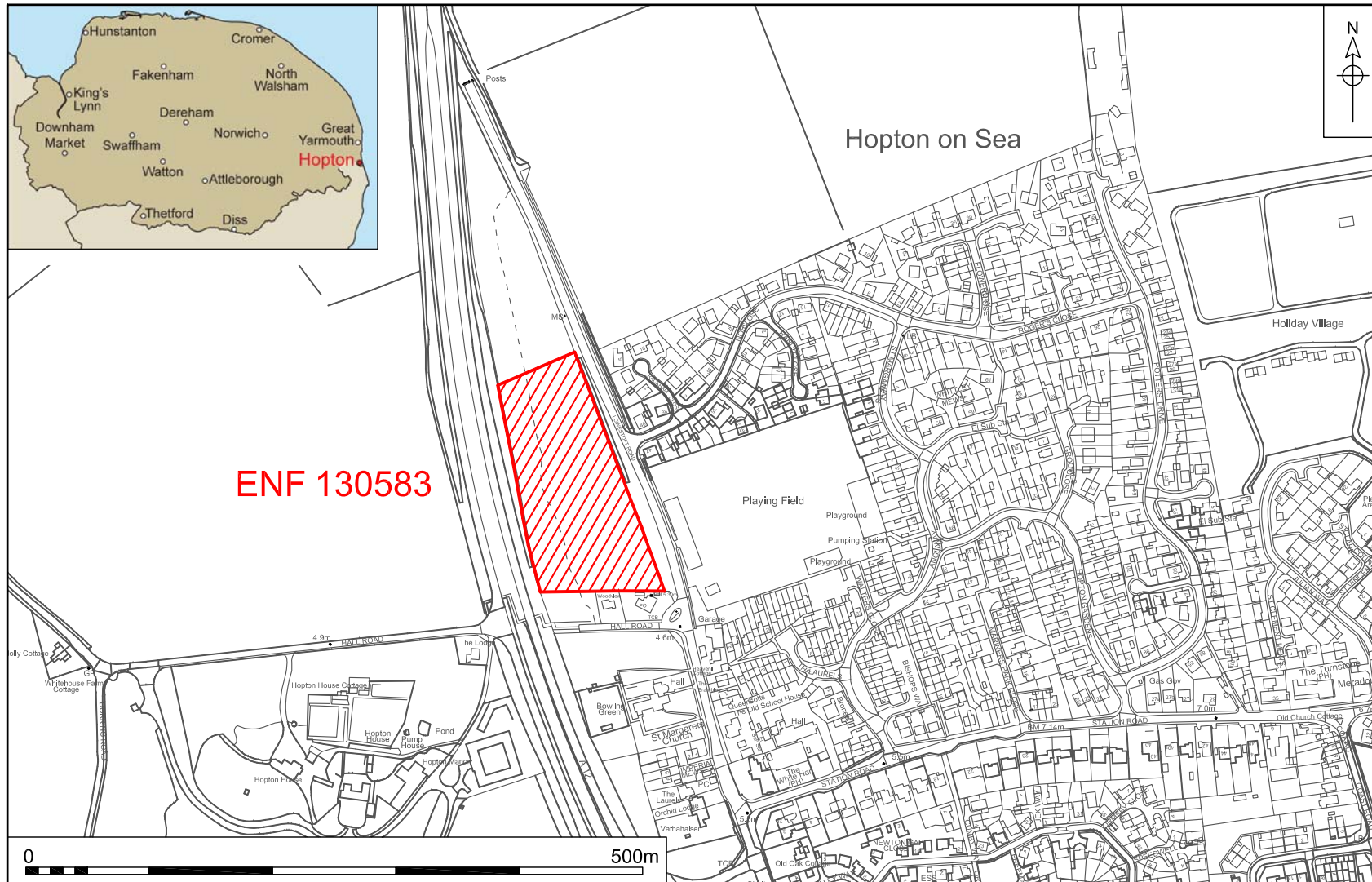
2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located in the parish of Hopton-on-Sea, approximately 1km west of the coastline. The site is currently open land, not under cultivation, and forms part of a triangular parcel of land bounded to the west by the A12, to the east by Lowestoft Road and to the south by Hall Road. It occupies a slightly sloping aspect, sloping down from north to south, with current ground levels of c.5.00m in the south and c.12.00m OD in the north.

The underlying sedimentary bedrock geology consists of Crag group sands and gravels formed up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods.

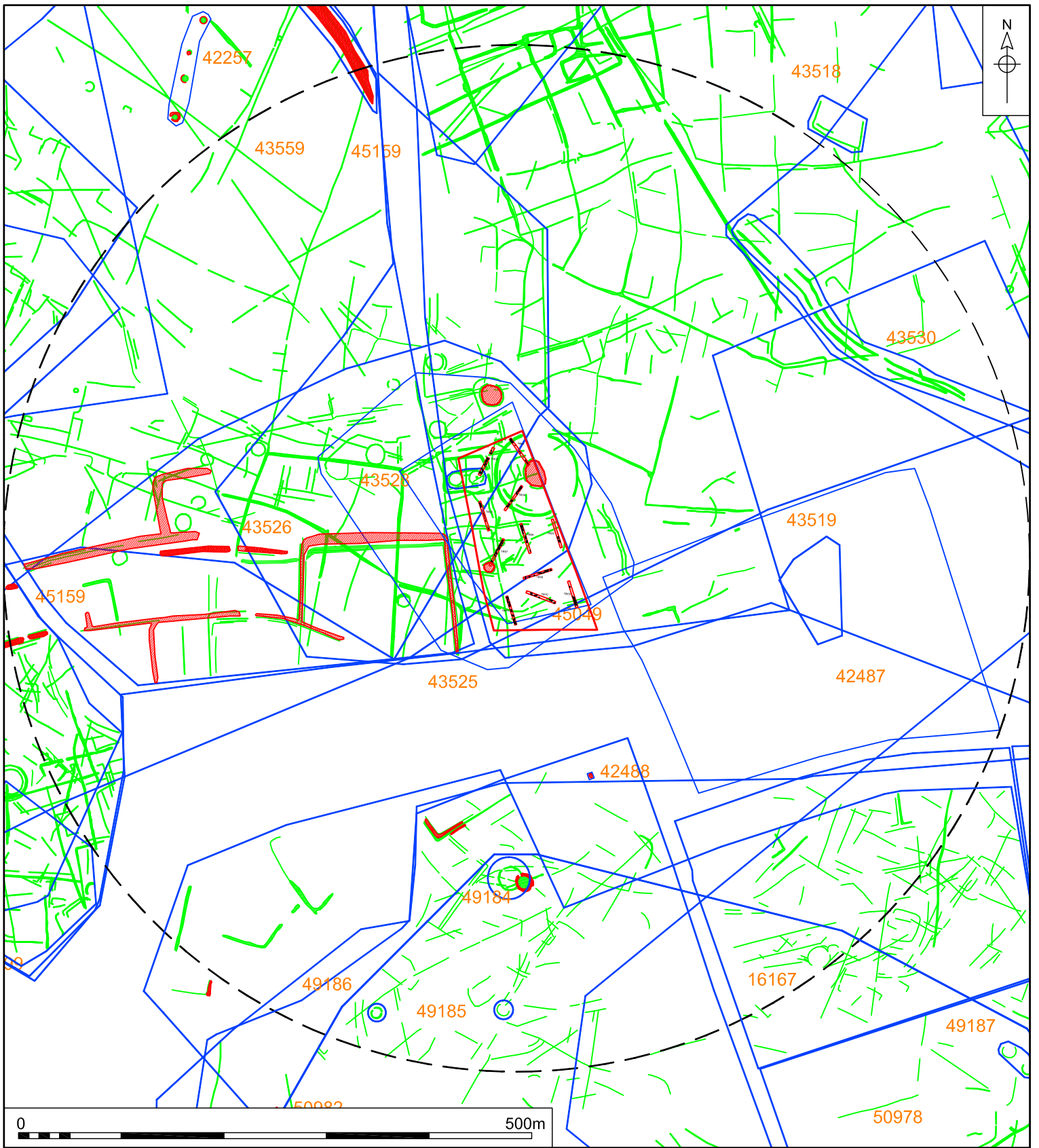
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Hopton-on Sea-covers an area of c.564 hectares. A search of information held in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) undertaken by Mark Nolan of Chaplin Farrant Ltd retrieved a total of 39 sites or finds spots present within a 500m radius centred on TG 5234 0020. Of these sites a total of 14 considered the most relevant to the evaluated site are presented below in summarised form. The locations of these sites with the exception of sites 11788,



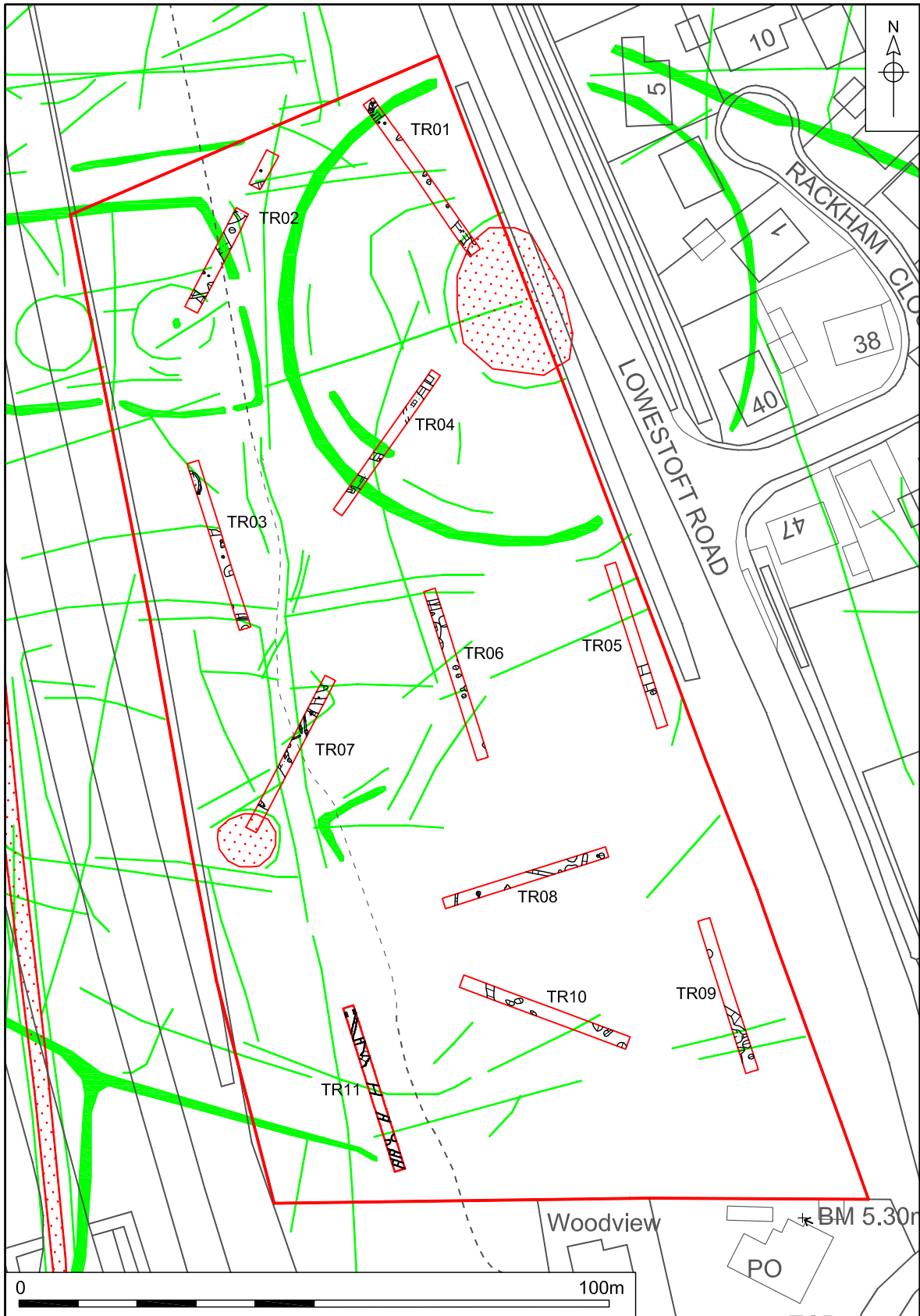
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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000



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Figure 2. HER data within a 500m radius of the site. Scale 1:5000



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Figure 3. Location of trenches, with cropmarks. Scale 1:1000

16167 and 45199 are shown on Figure 2. The records of the remaining sites are held in the site archive.

Mapping of cropmarks visible from aerial photography indicate that the proposed development site is located within a rich archaeological landscape. The density of cropmarks across the Hopton and Gorleston area is indicative of extensive settlement and occupation of all periods.

NHER 11788 - Valley Farm site, multi-period finds and excavations, Mason's Farm

A great number of archaeological objects and features are recorded from this site, dating from the Mesolithic through to post-medieval. A good proportion of these objects are Early Bronze Age or Beaker period and features of this period have been excavated, including a possible ritual site. This is also the site of a complex area of cropmarks indicating settlement, fields and funerary activity from the prehistoric onwards. These features are recorded separately.

A number of World War Two defences are also located within this site.

Cropmarks previously included under this number have been split into a number of new sites.

Undated or un-phased cropmarks are grouped into two large multi-period sites (NHER 45202 and NHER45203).

NHER 45202 covers the whole area from Sidegate Road in the west and north, Hall Road to the south and the A12 to the east.

NHER 45203 deals with features to the east of the A12 and between the Links Road to the north and Station Road to the south.

The phased cropmarks have been split into several different sites.

NHER 43494-6 and 43525 deals with settlement, enclosures and fields of potential late prehistoric to Roman date.

NHER 43494 is a large late prehistoric settlement and field system that appears to be overlain by NHER 43495, a large coaxial Roman field system and/or settlement. Several trackways run through the site, recorded under NHER 43501 and NHERs 43529-30.

A large prehistoric round barrow cemetery is located at the southern end of the site (NHER 43526) and a number of other ring ditches are located within this area (NHERs 43515-6, NHER 43552, and NHERs 43557-8).

Sites NHER 43559 and NHER 43163 consist of enclosures and fields of unknown, but prior to post-medieval date.

All of the medieval to post-medieval field boundaries are grouped under NHER 45157-9. The World War Two sites previously recorded under this number form part of a much wider network of defences.

NHER 16167 - Probable post-medieval ring ditch and associated features

Cropmarks of the site revealed a ring ditch and linear features. An excavation of the ring ditch in 2002 pointed to a relatively late date, with post-medieval clay pipes and pottery from the ditch fill. It has been suggested the ring ditch was the stand for a post-medieval windmill.

NHER 42487 - A World War Two training site at the former Mariners Park

Holiday Centre on Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea.

A World War Two military training site and camp visible on aerial photographs at the former Mariners Park Holiday Centre on Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea. A workshop, a possible training tank and two masts or towers plus several Nissen huts are visible at this site. The exact nature of the military usage of the site is not known, although it seems likely that it was a military training site.

NHER 42488 World War Two air raid shelter on Lowestoft Road

A World War Two air raid shelter visible as an earthen mound, probably covering an Anderson shelter. The area has been redeveloped since the 1940s and the location of the former shelter is now within the garden of 4 Imperial Mews.

NHER 43519 - Possible site of exposed archaeological features

A possible area of cropmarks, soilmarks or surface archaeological features may be visible on aerial photographs to the north of Station Road, Hopton on Sea. The archaeological origin of these features is not certain and it is possible that these may be the result of recent construction activities in the area.

NHER 43525 - Cropmarks of a possible Iron Age to Early Roman date - farmstead

The cropmarks of a possible Iron Age to Early Roman date farmstead are visible on aerial photographs in Hopton-on-Sea. The site consists of a broad-ditched trapezoidal enclosure with conjoined fields and enclosures. These cropmarks were previously recorded under NHER 11788. Two circular ring ditches (NHER 43528) within the main enclosure may represent round houses.

The site is also located within a Bronze Age round barrow cemetery (NHER 43526) so it is also possible the ring ditches are the remains of Bronze Age barrows. The farmstead is located to the immediate east of an extensive field system of unknown definite date (NHER 43558). The alignment of some elements of the field system are similar to that of the farmstead and its associated fields, however the relationship between the two areas of cropmarks is not clear.

The southern side of the enclosure is more irregular than the other three sides. The ditch is 1.0-2.0m wide. The corners of the enclosure are slightly rounded and several potential entrance gaps are visible. One is located in the centre of the eastern ditch and another in the southern. A second break in the ditch along the southern side of the enclosure is not considered an original entrance feature. The possible roundhouses (NHER 43528) are positioned centrally within the enclosure and are both 12.0m in diameter. This similarity in size and positioning within the enclosure ditches would suggest they represent round houses, although many of the surrounding round barrows share these general dimensions (NHER 43526). Another ring ditch is located at TG 5231 0019, within the corner of the southern enclosure. In this case the cropmarks reveal an internal mound, indicating a round barrow rather than a round house. (See NHER 43528 for detailed discussion of these ring ditches.)

Conjoined to this main enclosure are a series of enclosed fields and paddocks, in particular to the south, where the ditches appear to form a ladder arrangement of enclosures 150.0m long. The ditches of these southern enclosures are much narrower and clearly distinguishable from the main enclosure. Internal sub-

divisions within this long enclosed strip divide the space into 30-40m wide plots. Double ditched features leading into and alongside these areas suggest trackways, probably for the movement of stock into these enclosures. A series of trackway-like features lead off from the main enclosures to the east and west. A continuation of one of the eastern trackways may be visible on the other side of the Lowestoft Road at TG 5243 0023. This appears to form a slightly irregular trackway running broadly parallel to the ladder arrangement. To the north of the main domestic enclosure is a slightly larger enclosed area measuring 55.0m by 45.0m.

Finds recorded under NHER 11788 from this general area included some early Roman material dating from the mid- to late-1st century AD, plus some later material dating to the 2nd century AD. This suggests the farmstead either spans the first to second centuries or that some of the material is associated with Roman activity of different date. The morphology of the enclosure with its possible round houses suggest an Iron Age date and it is possible the early Roman material suggests a farmstead of Late Iron Age date continuing into the Roman period. This site is located within an area of dense and complicated cropmark evidence, with many different phases of cropmarks overlying one another. To the immediate west of this site is an extensive field system (NHER 43559) is on a similar alignment to the farmstead and its fields. The date of this system is unknown, although it is possible some components of it are broadly contemporary. This farmstead itself appears to be overlain by, or overlies, the south-western edge of a large field system (NHER 43495), which continues for almost two kilometres to the north and is thought in part to represent a planned Roman field system. The date of this extensive area of fields is not known for certain, although it is assumed to date to the middle to later Roman period. It has been suggested some parts of this system, including those in the area of this proposed development site, represent an earlier phase, possibly with late prehistoric origins. The western part of the farmstead and associated enclosures and ditches are now under the A12 and it is possible that road construction has disturbed other nearby sub-surface elements of the site.

NHER 43526 - Cropmarks of a Bronze Age round barrow cemetery

The cropmarks of a Bronze Age round barrow cemetery are visible on aerial photographs in Hopton-on-Sea (S1-S10). The site consists of one extremely large round barrow, plus sixteen smaller barrows all arranged in an elongated group. The large barrow appears to have been the focus for the site and may be Neolithic in date. The site is centred on TG 5207 0015, although this point does not correspond to an archaeological feature on the ground. Another barrow group is located to the south (NHER 43527) and two groups are separated by the narrow and shallow end of the Fritton Valley, which forks in two directions at Hopton House. Two additional ring ditches are located within the vicinity of the barrow cemetery (NHER 43528), although these have been interpreted as Iron Age to Roman date round houses, see record for details. It is possible that some of the other ring ditches recorded as part of the cemetery are also the remains of round houses, as there are several phases of field system and enclosures covering this area, in particular NHER 43559.

The main focus of the barrow cemetery is an extremely large ring ditch, 82.0m in diameter, centred on TG 5236 0028. The ditch is 1.0-2.5m wide and is bisected by

the Lowestoft Road. Traces of an inner ring ditch are also visible within the south-western arc of the ring, 3.0-4.0m in from the outer ring. A small section of ditch 4.0m to the south of the main ring also appears to follow the curve of the ditch, although this is too fragmentary to suggest that an outer concentric ring also existed. An inner ring ditch, 30.0m in diameter, is visible within the centre of the larger ring. This surrounds the parching and soilmarks of a former mound up to 26.0m across. The faint traces of the earthwork mound may be visible (although this is not definite). The large diameter of this ring ditch around the barrow is quite unusual and it must be assumed that this round barrow was of particular significance and importance. The large size of this barrow and surrounding ring ditch could indicate that it is Neolithic in date. The fact that it appears to act as a focus for the smaller barrows to the west would also suggest that it the earliest element of the cemetery.

To the north of this at TG 5231 0035 is another round barrow with a slightly oval central mound, 20.0m in diameter, surrounded by an elliptical ditch, 24.5m in diameter. The mound is still clearly visible as an earthwork in 1976, although continued ploughing has diminished it over the years. Another ring ditch to the south has visible traces of a former central mound at TG 5231 0019. This barrow is quite small, only 10.0m across. It is located within the corner of one of the enclosed fields or paddocks of the Iron Age to Roman date farmstead (NHER 43525), but the circular parching suggest it is the remains of a small barrow and not a round house. The remainder of the barrows within the eastern part of the site are only visible as ring ditches, with no obvious traces of internal mounds. Not all of the ring ditches are complete circles and they range in diameter from 12.0m to 19.0m. Eight of the mounds (including one to the west of Hall Road) form a linear arrangement of barrows running from TG 5226 0039 to TG 5180 0011.

This linear sitting of the barrows appears to be linking the large eastern barrow with another relatively large concentric ring ditch at the western end of the cemetery across Hall Road. This concentric ring ditch is centred on TG 5184 9998 and was previously recorded under NHER 17475. The cropmarks show two full rings, 24.0m and 31.0m in diameter, plus the traces of a third outer ring around the southern side of the monument. Three incomplete or penannular ring ditches are visible near to this concentric ring ditch at TG 5174 9995, TG 5180 0011 and TG 5182 0001. The larger two both measure between 20.0-22.0m across. The third is less circular and has a C-shaped appearance; it measures 15.0m by 8.0m. This cluster of four ring ditches is separated from the main group to the east by the shallow end of the Fritton valley. So it is possible that this group may have formed a separate cemetery group to that on the eastern side of the valley, however they do appear to follow the same roughly linear arrangement.

Although it must also be borne in mind that some of the ring ditches interpreted as round barrows could be the remains of round houses, as there are several phases of field system and enclosures covering this area, in particular NHER 43559. The group of four ring ditches centred on TG 5205 0027 are all located within a series of enclosed fields or paddocks; one ring ditch appears to sit quite neatly in the corner of the enclosure. However the linear arrangement, plus the proximity of the larger and more definite round barrow sites probably indicates that they are part of the cemetery and not the enclosures and fields.

NHER 43528 - Cropmarks of two ring ditches, probably Iron Age to Roman date - round houses within a farmstead

The cropmarks of two ring ditches, probably round houses within a farmstead of Iron Age to Early Roman date (NHER 43525), are visible on aerial photographs in Hopton-on-Sea. Although it is also possible that these ring ditches are the remains of Bronze Age round barrows as the site is located within the area of a Bronze Age cemetery (NHER 43526). Although it cannot be known for certain, the roundhouse interpretation seems most likely given the positioning of the ring ditches within the enclosure.

The cropmarks of two ring ditches, probably round houses within a farmstead of Iron Age to Early Roman date (NHER 43525), are visible on aerial photographs in Hopton-on-Sea (S1-S2). See record NHER 43525 for discussion of the farmstead and associated features. The site is centred on TG 5229 0027. Although it is also possible that these ring ditches are the remains of Bronze Age round barrows as the site is located within the area of a Bronze Age cemetery (NHER 43526), focused on a large barrow to the immediate east of the farmstead and possible round houses. Although it cannot be known for certain, the roundhouse interpretation seems most likely given the positioning of the ring ditches within the enclosure.

The ring ditches are both 13.0m in diameter. The eastern ring ditch is more oval in plan than the western and has two breaks in the ditch. The rings are roughly equidistantly arranged within located enclosure (NHER 43525), both being 3.5-4m from the ditches. Although it is entirely possible for this positioning within the enclosure to be fortuitous, it does seem likely that the ring ditches and enclosure are contemporary. Also the similarity in the size of ring ditches would suggest that they are both round houses, rather than barrows. The barrow cemetery (NHER 43526) comprises one extremely large barrow, 80.0m in diameter, plus sixteen smaller barrows, the majority of which are between 12.0m to 19.0m in diameter. Therefore the size of the two ring ditches within the enclosure is entirely consistent with that displayed by barrow ditches nearby. However none of the other ring ditches are as closely spaced as the two within the enclosure, which are 6.0m apart. The closest of the other barrow sites are 10.0m apart and in this case the ring ditches are noticeably different in shape and size. Although some of these ring ditches interpreted as round barrows they could also be the remains of round houses as several phases of field system and enclosures cover this area, in particular NHER 43559.

NHER 43530 - Cropmarks of a probable prehistoric trackway

The cropmarks of a probable prehistoric trackway are visible on aerial photographs in-between the Lowestoft Road (A12) and the Holiday Village at Hopton-on-Sea. The trackway follows a sinuous course and is likely to have originally formed part of a much wider system of trackways, joining with NHER 43501 to the northwest. This southern section of trackway appears to have been incorporated into a system of fields, which are likely to be Iron Age in date (NHER 43496). These cropmarks were originally recorded under NHER 11788 and 13040

NHER 43559 - Cropmarks of field system of unknown date

The cropmarks of a large field system and enclosures of unknown date are visible on aerial photographs between Sidegate Farm, Valley Farm and Whitehouse Farm

Cottage, Hopton on Sea. This field system and enclosures are located within an extremely complex area of cropmarks dating from the late prehistoric onwards. Although undated, the plan of these cropmarks and their relationship with surrounding sites could indicate that some elements of the field system are late prehistoric or Iron Age in origin, but with some boundaries potentially surviving until the medieval period. To the immediate east of the field system is a small ladder-like arrangement of enclosures, with possible roundhouses in the interior (NHER 43525 and NHER 43528). This probable farmstead has been interpreted as being Iron Age to early Roman in date. The north-south alignment of the ladder of conjoined enclosures is the same as one of the field enclosures to the west, possibly indicating a degree of contemporaneity.

This field system also appears though to have links with the south-eastern part of the possible Roman field system (NHER 43495), which under- or overlies the farmstead. It has been suggested this part of the field system may be an earlier or later phase to the regular planned fields, see 43495 for details. This possible phasing within 43495 is suggested due to a change in the alignment of the roughly east-west boundaries to almost northwest-southeast. It is these northwest-southeast ditches that appear to follow the alignment of this field system to the west, possibly even joining up with it at TG 5205 0026. Despite this shared alignment the plan and characteristics of the two field systems are completely different. NHER 43559 is quite regular and rectilinear, with large open fields, whereas the south-eastern parts of NHER 43495 are more irregular and piecemeal. It is therefore unlikely that the two systems are part of the same phase but rather that the main structuring elements of one became incorporated into the other.

This field system and enclosures are located within an extremely complex area of cropmarks dating from the late prehistoric onwards. Given the complexity of this palimpsest of ditches it is possible that some have been misinterpreted chronologically. Centred on TG 5172 0063 is another group of enclosures and fields (NHER 45163), which may represent a separate, but related phase of enclosure, as some of the ditches are aligned the same and join with elements of the larger surrounding field system. The chronological relationship is not clear, although it is possible that NHER 45163 is earlier. To the north of the site one of the ditches appears to join with a group of enclosures thought to be medieval in date (NHER 45158). However these may have much earlier origins.

The site consists of a large group of conjoined enclosures and fields, with ditches aligned roughly NW-SE or NE- SW. These ditches define a series of large rectangular and rectilinear fields, up to 330.0m by 180.0m in size, although many are smaller, around 230.0m by 130.0m. Many of these vast fields are defined by double ditches, which are probably the remains of trackways and droves leading in-between the fields. Around the eastern edge of the site are several clusters of smaller enclosed areas, such as at TG 5206 0091, TG 5197 0030 and TG 5179 0004. Within these areas the enclosure units appear to be narrow strips of land, around 20.0-35.0m wide and between 40.0m to 120.0m long, with the smallest divisions located to the north of the site and the longest strips in the south. These smaller subdivisions of land are likely to reflect a different agricultural use or even domestic areas. A ring ditch, 4.0m in diameter, is located to the immediate west of one of these areas of enclosures at TG 5191 0036 (S2). To the southwest of this is a small oblong enclosure, measuring 7.0m by 4.5m. The ring ditch may represent

a round house, although the size is quite small for a domestic house and it may be a hut or even agricultural structure. Another ring ditch of comparable size is located to the north at TG 5210 0070 within one of the double ditches or trackways. A larger ring ditch, 9.0m in diameter, is located at TG 5192 0065 within one of the larger enclosures or fields, plus another at TG 5185 0094, 7.0m diameter, and just to the north of this is a small rectilinear enclosure, 12.0m by 7.0m. Further ring ditches are located to the north of this site (NHER 43558), these may also be round houses or agricultural structures however they are not obviously associated with an area of enclosures.

NHER 45049 - Undated, possibly late prehistoric ditches

The cropmarks of an area of undated, but possibly late prehistoric ditches are visible on aerial photographs to the west of Lowestoft Road, Hopton on Sea. The site is centred on TG 5233 0024. These ditches are located within an extremely busy area of cropmarks, including a barrow cemetery (NHER 43526) and a possible Iron Age to early Roman date farmstead (NHER 43525). The site consists of a number of fragmentary linear ditches, which are likely to represent former field boundaries. A number of these are double ditched and these may be the remains of trackways. These cropmarks appear to pre-date the Iron Age to Roman enclosure and are therefore likely to be late prehistoric in date, but later than the barrow cemetery.

NHER Number 45159 - Cropmarks of post-medieval field boundaries

The cropmarks of a large area of post-medieval field boundaries are visible between Mason's Farm and Whitehouse Farm Cottage, Hopton on Sea. These land divisions form part of a much wider spread of post-medieval field boundaries within this area; NHER 45056 to the north and NHER 45165 to the south. Some of these boundaries appear to follow the same alignment as the Roman field systems to the east (NHER 43495).

NHER 49186 - Cropmarks of a possible ring ditch

The cropmarks of a possible ring ditch, potentially the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow, may be visible on aerial photographs to the south of Hopton Manor. The ring ditch is centred on TM 5220 9975. This possible round barrow is located within a barrow cemetery, see NHER 43527 for details. The ring ditch is slightly sub-circular and between 10.0-11.0m across. The cropmarks are quite faint and it is possible that the feature is non-archaeological. There are two breaks in the ditch and these appear to be agricultural in origin. Although the archaeological origin of these cropmarks are not completely convincing, the fact that the site is surrounded by a number of more definite ring ditches could suggest that the cropmarks are genuine.

NHER 49184 - Cropmarks of a possible ring ditch

The cropmarks of a possible ring ditch, potentially the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow, are visible on aerial photographs bisected by a circular pit to the south of Hopton Manor. This possible round barrow is located within a barrow cemetery, see NHER 43527 for details.

NHER 49185 - Cropmarks of a possible ring ditch

The cropmarks of an incomplete ring ditch, potentially the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow, are visible on aerial photographs to the south of Hopton Manor (S1). The ring ditch is centred on TM 5232 9976. This possible round barrow is located within a barrow cemetery, see NHER 43527 for details. The ring ditch is slightly sub-circular, 12.0m across, with the north-eastern arc not visible. The cropmarks are quite faint and within an area of geological cropmarks and therefore it is possible that the feature is actually non-archaeological in origin. However the site is surrounded by a number of more definite ring ditches and this could suggest that the cropmarks are genuine.

Note NHER 45199 was present within the search area however there appeared to be no associated records recovered by the search or cross references for it within the other site documentation.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.



Plate 1. Looking south across site to St Margaret's church, with Trench 7 and roundhouse [188] in foreground

A total of 11 evaluation trenches each measuring approximately 30.0m by 1.8m in plan (594m²) were arranged across the site to target particular areas such as the large ring ditch in the north of the site and a possible enclosure located to the west of it.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Twelve environmental samples consisting of bulk samples, a monolith and pollen /soil chemistry samples were taken during the course of fieldwork from selected archaeological remains.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate. All of the archaeological cut features referred to in the results section of this report have been illustrated in plan form but for brevity not all of the elevation drawings have been presented. Examples not reproduced include some features considered to be of natural origin and where multiple examples of a similar form of feature were recorded. These are referred to as 'not illustrated' in the text.

Temporary benchmarks used during the course of this work were established by GPS.

Site conditions were mixed with delays to fieldwork at the beginning of the project because of wintry weather. During the course of the fieldwork the site was illegally metal detected and was reported to the police and to NHES. It is not clear what material, was removed from the site.

Dating

The following period classifications (Brown and Murphy 1997) are used in this report.

Earlier Neolithic	c.4000 BC-2800 BC
Later Neolithic /earlier Bronze Age	c.2800 BC-1500 BC
Middle Bronze Age	c.1500 BC-1000 BC
Late Bronze Age	c.1000 BC- 800 BC
Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Transition	c.800 BC- 450 BC
Middle Iron Age	c.450 BC- 100 BC
Late Iron Age	c.100 BC- AD 50

5.0 RESULTS


Trench 1				
		Figs 3, 4 and 5; Plates 2-9		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-west to south-east	
		North-west end	652334, 300316	
		South-east end	652351, 300289	
		Dimensions		
		Length	31.80m	
		Width	2.00m	
		Depth	0.55m	
		Levels		
North-west top	11.81m OD			
South-east top	10.91m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
191	Cut	A small pit, oval or sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.45m and depth of 0.16m. The sides of this feature have a gradual slope along the south-west and slightly steeper along the north-east sides. Its base was rounded. Reasonably clear in plan and section, it is interpreted as a small, undated pit or post-hole.	0.16m	10.64m OD
192	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand fill of [191]. This contained occasional medium stones.	0.16m	10.64m OD
193	Cut	A pit, sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.72m and depth of 0.20m. Its sides were shallow and somewhat irregular along its south-west side and steeper along the north-east. Its base was rounded.	0.20m	10.68m OD
194	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [193]. This contained occasional small and medium stones.	0.20m	10.68m OD
195	Cut	Sub-oval or elongate in plan with a length of 0.79m, width of 0.77m and depth of 0.19m. The sides of this feature were irregular and	0.19m	10.73m OD

Plate 2. Trench 1, working shot, looking south

Trench 1				
		gradual, the base also irregular and uneven. It is interpreted as a tree throw. Not illustrated.		
196	Deposit	A dark brown sand silt fill of [195]. This contained frequent small and medium stones.	0.19m	10.73m OD
197	Cut	A possible pit or ditch terminal, the feature was only partly present within the evaluation trench. Elongate in plan, it measured 1.05m in length and 0.95m in width, with a depth of 0.28m. Its sides sloped gradually to a slightly uneven base. Quite well defined in plan and section, this feature was possibly a pit or the terminal of a small ditch heading eastwards.	0.28m	11.02m OD
198	Deposit	A mid grey brown silt sand fill of [197]. This contained frequent small and medium stones.	0.28m	11.02m OD
199	Cut	(Plates 3, 4 and 5). The cut of a large ditch located at the south-east end of the evaluation trench. Considered part of a large barrow, this ditch possibly defines the central area of the monument. It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 3.40m in width and 0.80m in depth. Well defined in plan and section, this feature contained a number of fills, perhaps the most significant being context (203), the remains of a cremation placed within the fill sequence of the ditch. A report on this cremation is presented elsewhere in this report (Sect. 6.10: <i>Human Skeletal Remains</i>). The appearance of deposits infilling this ditch are thought to suggest that material, presumably upcast from the original digging of this ditch, had been banked up along the inner (south) side of the ditch. It was also noted that a deposit of almost pure silt (233) clearly defined in the ditch section and by its slope and location suggesting the presence of a bank, appeared not to be present in the geological deposits cut by the ditch at this location. The inference is that at least some bank material was perhaps sourced from elsewhere on the site, where such geological	0.80m	10.46m OD

Trench 1				
		deposits were present. Also associated with this ditch were two small post-holes [265] [267] present in the base of the ditch cut. Several samples including a monolith were taken from fills of this ditch.		
200	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt that was an upper fill of ditch [199]. This contained occasional small stones.	0.27m	10.46m OD
201	Deposit	A pale to mid brown sand silt fill of ditch [199]. This contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks. This deposit infilled the central area of the ditch.	0.48m	10.39m OD
202	Deposit	A dark brown to black sand silt fill of ditch [199] that contained occasional small stones. The dark colour of this deposit resulted from its fine charcoal content present throughout the context but increasing towards the base of the context.	0.25m	10.46m OD
203	Deposit	A black deposit of fine charcoal containing cremated human remains. This measured 0.12m in depth. Well defined as a context, it appeared to have been placed within the ditch rather than having been weathered in. No evidence for a container of these remains, either ceramic or organic such as leather or timber, was indicated. Its placement within the ditch clearly occurred after the ditch had already been partly backfilled. A bulk sample (Sample <2>) was taken from this deposit, with a view that bone recovered would be suitable material for radiocarbon dating.	0.12m	10.20m OD
206	Cut	The terminus of a ditch. This was aligned north-south and measured 0.45m in width and 0.13m in depth. Its sides were steep and its base rounded. Well defined in plan and section, it had clearly cut the upper fills of ditch [199].	0.13m	10.46m OD
207	Deposit	The mid brown sand silt fill of [206]. This contained occasional medium stones.	0.13m	10.46m OD
208	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand upper fill of ring ditch [210]. This contained	0.50m	11.34m OD

Trench 1				
		<p>rare charcoal flecks and occasional small to medium stones. This deposit, the upper fill of the outer ring ditch, appeared to merge with the overlying topsoil, any indication of subsoil having been ploughed away. Containing no obvious tip lines, one possibility is that this deposit is the fill of a separate, later ditch cutting the fills of ditch [210], if so this might explain the stepped profile seen along the southern edge of ditch [210]. A small quantity of worked flint was recovered from this context.</p>		
209	Deposit	<p>A pale brown sand that was the primary fill of ditch [210]. Containing occasional small stones and quite affected by rooting, the sandy geology cut by ditch [210] meant this deposit had almost merged with the edges of the ditch cut, making the precise definition of the cut edge indiscernible. The interpretation of this deposit is that it represents weathered in material, including geological sands, deposited soon after the initial digging of the ditch. Soil Sample <5> was taken from this deposit.</p>	0.25m.	10.90m OD
210	Cut	<p>Plates 7, 8 and 9. The cut of the outer ring ditch. This was aligned north-east to south-west and measured c.2m in width and 0.65m in depth. Reasonably well defined in plan and section despite containing pale coloured fills and disturbance from root and animal activity. The base of this ditch, present at 10.63m OD, was flat and well preserved with a slight skim of overlying silts, presumably its form surviving because it had been quickly covered by the weathering in of the ditch following its completion. The sides of this ditch, while both broadly gradual in slope, were of differing profiles; the southern edge of the ditch having a clear stepped profile thought to indicate a recut. If this recutting identifies an event contemporary with use of the ring ditch then it might have an implication in relation to the location of any internal bank, as it</p>	0.65m	11.27m OD

Trench 1				
		appears to have incised the inner edge of the ditch. No indication of any bank in association with this ditch was provided, with the evidence from the two exposed sections considered contradictory. No cut features were present within the area examined of this ditch and there was no indication of any lining to perhaps maintain the sides of this feature within the underlying mobile sands. This ditch clearly cut deposit (260), a spread of brown sand present to the south of the ditch.		
211	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [212]. This contained small, rare charcoal flecks and occasional small stones. Initially thought the fill of a separate feature [212] set within the side of ditch [210], this is now considered the survival of an earlier phase of the ring ditch, material surviving the cutting through of [210]. It is significant as it identifies the earliest material associate with the outer ring ditch. Soil Sample <3> was taken from this deposit.	0.14m	11.0m OD
212	Cut	Initially considered a separate feature within the north side of ditch [210], now interpreted as the survival of an previous cleaning out/recutting of the large ring ditch [210].	0.12m	11.0m OD
213	Master	Master Number for outer ring ditch recorded as [210] in Trench 1 and [149] in Trench 4.	--	--
231	Deposit	Dark orange brown sand silt fill of [199]. This contained occasional small stones. A deposit limited to the southern edge of the ditch cut.	0.18m	10.46m OD
232	Deposit	Mid orange brown sand silt fill of ditch [199]. This contained occasional small stones. Present along the southern edge of the ditch cut.	0.30m	10.46m OD
233	Deposit	Mid grey sand silt fill of [199]. This contained occasional small stones. This deposit of interest as a well defined band of material different in character to other deposits contained by ditch [199], consisting almost entirely of a firm, clean silt. The tipping down	0.20m	10.36m OD

Trench 1				
		of this particular deposit from south to north within the ditch is thought to indicate the presence of a bank along the southern edge of ditch [199].		
234	Deposit	A pale orange brown sand fill of ditch [199]. This contained moderate small stones. As with deposit (233) this deposit seems to have eroded down from the southern side of ditch [199] and forms one of the earliest fills identified within this ditch.	0.15m	10.10m OD
235	Deposit	A pale orange brown sand silt fill of post-hole [265] present at the base of ditch [199]. This contained frequent small stones.	0.10m	9.76m OD
236	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of [199]. This contained occasional small and medium stones and was present along the northern edge of the ditch cut.	0.20m	10.06m OD
237	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt fill of [199]. This contained occasional small stones and was present along the northern edge of the ditch cut.	0.45m	10.46m OD
238	Deposit	A pale brown sand silt fill of [199]. This contained moderate small stones. Appeared to be a layer of weathered -n geological deposits along the northern edge of the ditch cut.	0.10m	10.46m OD
239	Deposit	Plate 6. A layer seen in the west baulk of the evaluation trench to the south of ditch cut [199]. This layer of mid orange brown sand silt with occasional small stones measured 0.15m in depth. Similar in appearance to the subsoil, it did appear to rise slightly in the area immediately to the south of ditch [199]. One tentative suggestion for this material is that if it is not the actual survival of an inner bank, it might be a subsoil protected from ploughing by having had a greater depth of material previously over it.	0.15m	10.65m OD
241	--	Unstratified finds from Trench 1	--	11.09m OD
247	Deposit	A mid to dark brown silt sand fill of [248]. This contained occasional small stones. A clear post pipe was defined within this deposit, with a vertical wedge of gravelly sands present along the eastern side of the feature	0.38m	11.09m OD

Trench 1				
		thought to be post packing.		
248	Cut	A clear post-hole, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.44m and depth of 0.38m. Steep sided with a rounded base, a post-pipe in the fill of this feature indicated it had supported a timber with a diameter of c.0.35m.	0.38m	11.09m OD
249	Deposit	A mid to dark brown silt sand fill of [250]. This contained occasional small stones. A clear post pipe was visible in section with sandy post packing material present around the western edge of the cut.	0.28m	11.09m OD
250	Cut	A clear post-hole, circular or slightly oval plan with a diameter of 0.38m and depth of 0.28m. Its sides were steep to a rounded base. A post pipe within this cut indicated it had held a post with a diameter c 0.28m	0.28m	11.09m OD
251	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [252]. Moderate small stones with fill increasingly sandy towards base.	0.20m	11.21m OD
252	Cut	A shallow post-hole, circular or oval in plan with a diameter of 0.52m and depth of 0.20m. Moderately steep sided to a rounded base.	0.20m	11.21m OD
253	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [254]. This contained occasional small stones.	0.20m	11.31m OD
254	Cut	Not fully excavated but sufficiently so to indicate a post-hole, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.52m and depth of 0.20m	0.20m	11.31m OD
255	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand fill of [256]. This contained occasional small stones but no other inclusions.	0.40m	11.40m OD
256	Cut	Only partly present within the evaluation trench, this feature was perhaps circular in plan with a width of 0.70m and depth of 0.40m. Well defined in plan and section though cut in to a very soft sand, it is interpreted as a pit.	0.40m	11.40m OD
257	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [258]. Contained occasional small stones.	0.20m	11.40m OD
258	Cut	Only partly excavated and initially thought to be part of post-hole [254], but in fact a separate feature, possibly another post	0.20m	11.40m OD

Trench 1				
		setting with a depth of 0.20m and diameter of 0.50m. Not illustrated.		
259	Deposit	A mid to pale brown sand fill of ditch [210] that overlies fill (209). Containing occasional small stones, this deposit was visible in section as a layer sloping down within the centre of ditch [210] from north to south. Not clear whether this deposit suggested material tipping in from an external bank located to the north of ditch [210] or whether its appearance had been affected by the possible later recutting of the ditch.	0.08m	11.00m OD
260	Deposit	A area of mid to light brown sand with occasional small stones located to the north of ditch [210]. Not clear what this deposit represents, it had an elongate form in plan with a length of approximately 1.80m and width of 1.10m. Cut by both ditch [210] and post-holes [252-254]. Possibly an antecedent of any structure formed by these features or an earlier linear feature?	0.20m	11.21m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil, mid to dark brown sand silt.	0.31m	11.81m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sand, occasional small stones, rooted	0.25m	11.34m OD
263	Deposit	Geological. Medium sands with occasional gravels an mineralised flecks		11.09m OD
265	Cut	A small post-hole, circular in plan and present at the base of ditch [199]. It measured 0.20m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. The shallow depth of this feature is somewhat at odds with it being able to support a post of any size.	0.10	9.76m OD
266	Deposit	Not recorded, fill of [267]	0.15m	--
267	Cut	A small post-hole similar to but slightly larger than [265] with a diameter of 0.30m and also present at the base of ditch [199], lying slightly upslope on the north edge of the ditch cut.	0.15m	--
Discussion				
This trench sloped gently down from north to south.				
Several features present in this trench were of particular importance as they were associated with the large ring ditch.				

Trench 1

The earliest remains thought to survive in this trench were those of a small group of post-holes recorded at its northern end. While it was clear the outer ring ditch [210] cut a brown sand [260], the relationship between a possible structure represented by these post-holes and the ring ditch was not resolved. Based on what was present in the evaluation trench a circular plan to their arrangement is tentatively suggested, with the caveat that variation in their form hints they might not necessarily be contemporaneous. The proximity of these post-holes to the edge of ditch [210] might provide evidence for the presence or arrangement of any bank associated with the ring ditch, though this depends on understanding the temporal relationship between these features.

The outer ring ditch [210] was well defined and with a width of c.2.00m and depth of 0.65m not considered particularly sizable. At least one possible recutting of this ditch was indicated by its fills and profile. Having been cut through soft sands the feature is presumed to have quickly filled through the action of weathering. No post-holes or other structural feature were present within its cut.

A large ditch [199] at the south end of the evaluation trench is thought to define the central area of a large barrow. Within this ditch cremated human remains had been placed after the ditch had already been approximately 1/3rd backfilled. Whether these remains had been deliberately placed or disposed of accidentally during later activity is unclear, certainly the absence of any associated containment such as a pottery vessel and location along the north side of the barrow is a curious aspect of their deposition. The fill sequence within ditch [199] provided some evidence for soils having been raised along the southern, interior side of this ditch, though in what form, for example as bank or tumulus is unanswered. A further unresolved question was the degree to which this ditch might have been recut following its initial digging. The absence of Roman material from the fills of this feature suggests the initial excavation of this ditch predated the Roman period.

Other features recorded in the trench were possible post-holes, a pit or ditch terminal and a suspected tree throw.



Plate 3. Trench 1, inner ditch circuit [199] with redeposited cremation (203) clearly visible, looking east, 2x1m scales and 0.50m scale

Trench 1



Plate 4. Trench 1, inner ditch circuit [199] looking north with post-holes visible in base, 2x1m scales and 0.50m scale

Trench 1



Plate 5. Trench 1, detail of cremation (203) in ditch [199], looking east, 0.50m scale



Plate 6. Trench 1, deposit (239) in trench baulk to south of ditch [199], looking west, 0.50m scale

Trench 1



Plate 7. Trench 1, outer ditch circuit [210], looking west, 2x1m scales

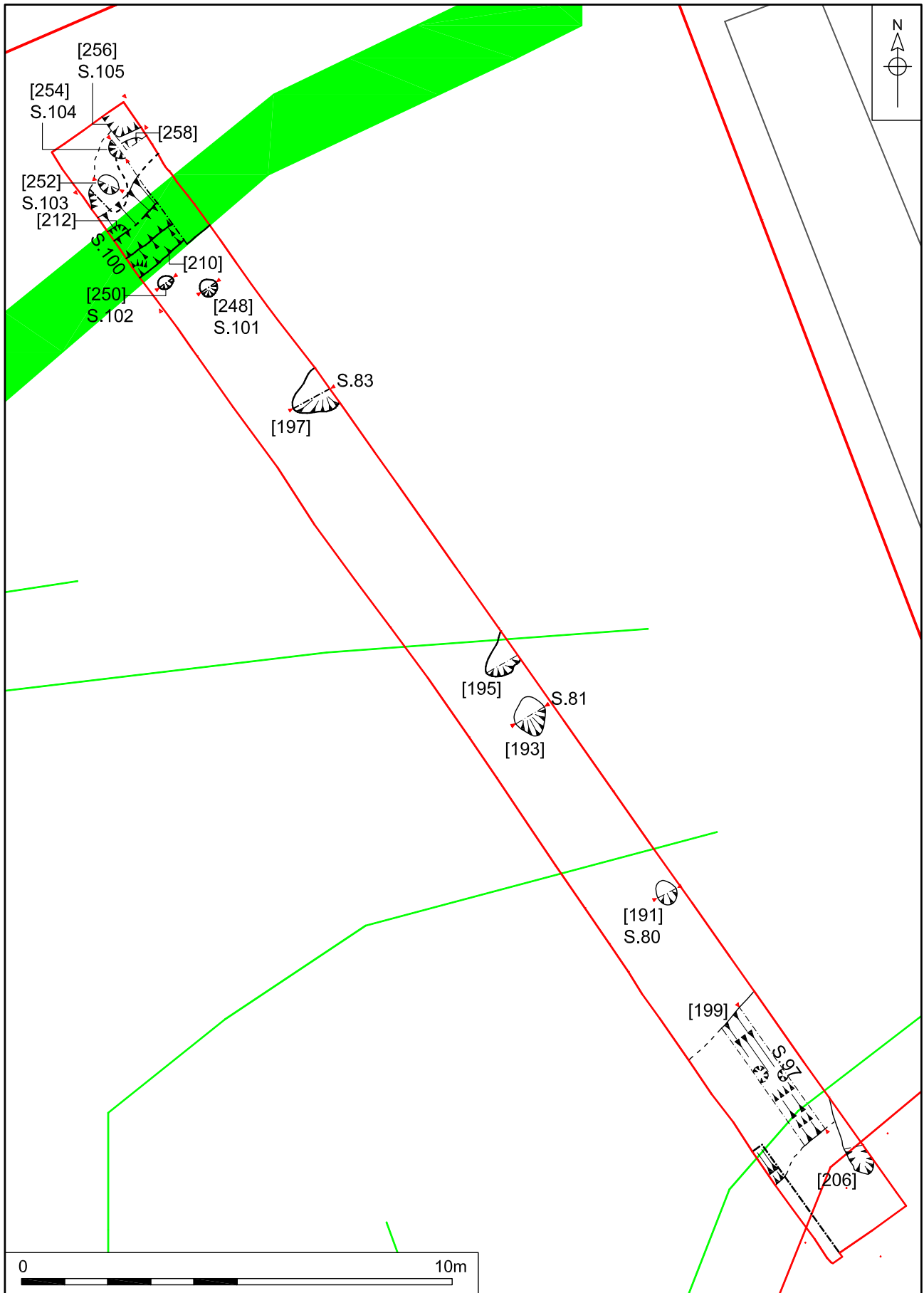


Plate 8. Trench 1, outer ditch circuit [210], looking east, 1m scale

Trench 1



Plate 9. Trench 1, outer ditch circuit [210] with group of post-holes possibly forming circular pattern, looking south, 2x2m scales



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Figure 4. Trench 1, plan. Scale 1:125

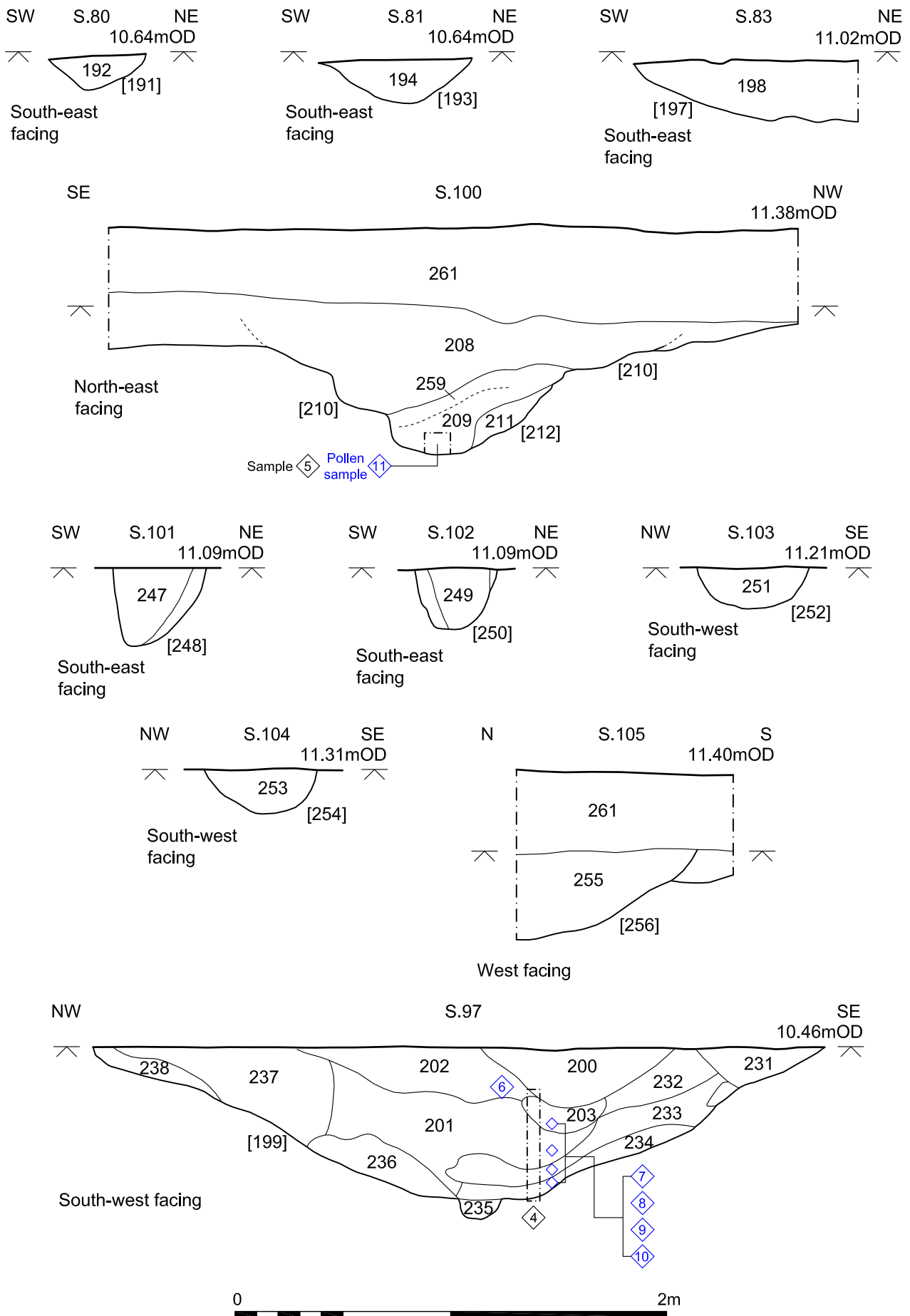


Figure 5. Trench 1, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 2



Plate 10. Trench 2, north end looking south-west, 1m scale (see also Plate 11)

Figs 3, 6 and 7; Plates 10-12

Location

Orientation North-east to south-west

North-east end 652317, 300307

South-west end 652304, 300281

Dimensions

Length 18.90m

Width 2.10m

Depth 0.35-0.60m

Levels

North-east top 11.81m OD

South-west top 11.62mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
153	Cut	A ditch aligned east-west with a width of 1m and depth of 0.30m. Its sides were steep to a slightly rounded base. Well defined in plan and section, this feature was part of a ring ditch identified from crop mark survey as having a diameter of c.13m	0.30m	11.27m OD
154	Deposit	Mid dark brown silt sand fill of [153]. This contained frequent small and medium stones and occasional larger flints. No tip lines visible within this context.	0.30m	11.27mOD
155	Cut	A pit, possibly sub-oval in plan but only partly present within the excavation trench, this was aligned south-west to north-east with a length of 1.50m and width of 0.75m. It was 0.36m in depth and had steep, slightly curved sides with a rounded base.	0.36m	11.25m OD
156	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of [155]. This contained occasional small and medium stones.	0.36m	11.25m OD
157	Cut	A post-hole, circular in plan with a width of 0.25m and depth of 0.19m. Clear in plan and section, its sides were steeply sloping to a rounded base.	0.19m	11.26m OD

Trench 2				
158	Deposit	A dark brown sand silt fill of [157]. This contained several large flints with occasional smaller stones and flints and frequent charcoal flecks.	0.19m	11.26m OD
159	Cut	The cut of a small pit or possible post-hole only partly present within the evaluation trench. Possibly sub-oval in plan on an east-west axis, it measured 0.45m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.39m in depth. Its sides were steep to a flat base.	0.39m	11.28m OD
160	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [159]. This contained occasional small and medium stones and occasional charcoal flecks with a concentration of pea grit around the edges of the cut feature.	0.39m	11.28m OD
161	Cut	A circular or sub-circular pit with a diameter of 1.10m and depth of 0.31m. The sides of this feature were steep along its eastern side and gradual along its west, the base rounded and slightly uneven.	0.31m	11.12m OD
162	Deposit	A mid yellow brown silt sand fill of [161]. This contained frequent small flints and stones.	0.31m	11.12m OD
163	Cut	A ditch aligned east-west with a width of 1.25m and depth of 0.60m. The sides of this ditch were steeply sloping and its base rounded. Well defined in plan and section.	0.60m	11.11m OD
164	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt fill of [163]. This contained occasional small stones and was rather sterile in appearance.	0.60m	11.11m OD
165	Cut	A ditch aligned east-west with a width of 0.92m and depth of 0.62m. Only partly present within the evaluation trench, what could be seen of this feature indicated it was steep sided along its northern edge to a slightly pointed base. This ditch is presumed to be a continuation of ditch [163].	0.62m	11.04m OD
166	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt fill of [164]. This contained occasional small stones but was clean in general appearance. Root disturbed from an adjacent tree.	0.62m	11.04m OD
167	Cut	A small pit or post-hole, sub-circular in plan with a diameter of	0.29m	11.23m OD

Trench 2				
		0.45m and depth of 0.29m. It had steep, slightly rounded curved sides and a rounded base.		
168	Deposit	A dark brown sand silt fill of [167]. This contained frequent small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.29m	11.23m OD
189	Cut	Plate 12. A ditch aligned north-south with a width of 2.32m and depth of 0.70m. This feature had a clear double ditch profile with the smaller ditch cut running along the eastern edge, this measured 0.45m in depth with an extrapolated width of at least 0.95m. Well defined in plan and section, this feature is part of a trapezoidal enclosure identified from crop marks.	0.70m	11.10m OD
190	Deposit	A brown sand silt fill of [189]. This contained frequent medium and small flints, slightly more numerous towards the base.	0.70m	11.10m OD
204	Cut	A small ditch or gully located at the southern end of the evaluation trench. This was aligned east-west and slightly sinuous in plan. It measured 0.53m in width and 0.14m in depth. Its sides were gradual along its south-western edge and steep along its north-eastern: its base was a slightly stepped curved shape. Clear in plan and section, this feature could be seen to cut the underlying ring ditch [153].	0.14m	11.26m OD
205	Deposit	Mid grey brown sand silt fill of [204], charcoal rich, with frequent small- medium stones.	0.14m	11.26m OD
242	-	Unstratified finds from Trench 2	--	--
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.24m	11.81m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark orange brown silt sand	0.36m	11.57m OD
263	Deposit	Geological, mixed yellow and orange sands increasingly gravelly towards the south-west.	--	11.27m OD
Discussion				
<p>This trench was divided into two because of a large tree within the area of the evaluation trench.</p> <p>Two features of a posited farmstead were present within the south-west portion of this trench; one a ring ditch and the other an enclosure ditch. The ring ditch, corresponding to [153] was clearly defined and interpreted as a foundation of roundhouse, perhaps Iron Age or Roman.</p> <p>Enclosure ditch [189] that contained the roundhouse was also identified, though neither feature yielded any dating evidence.</p>				

Trench 2

Ditch [163/=165] similar to [189] was aligned at right angles to it.

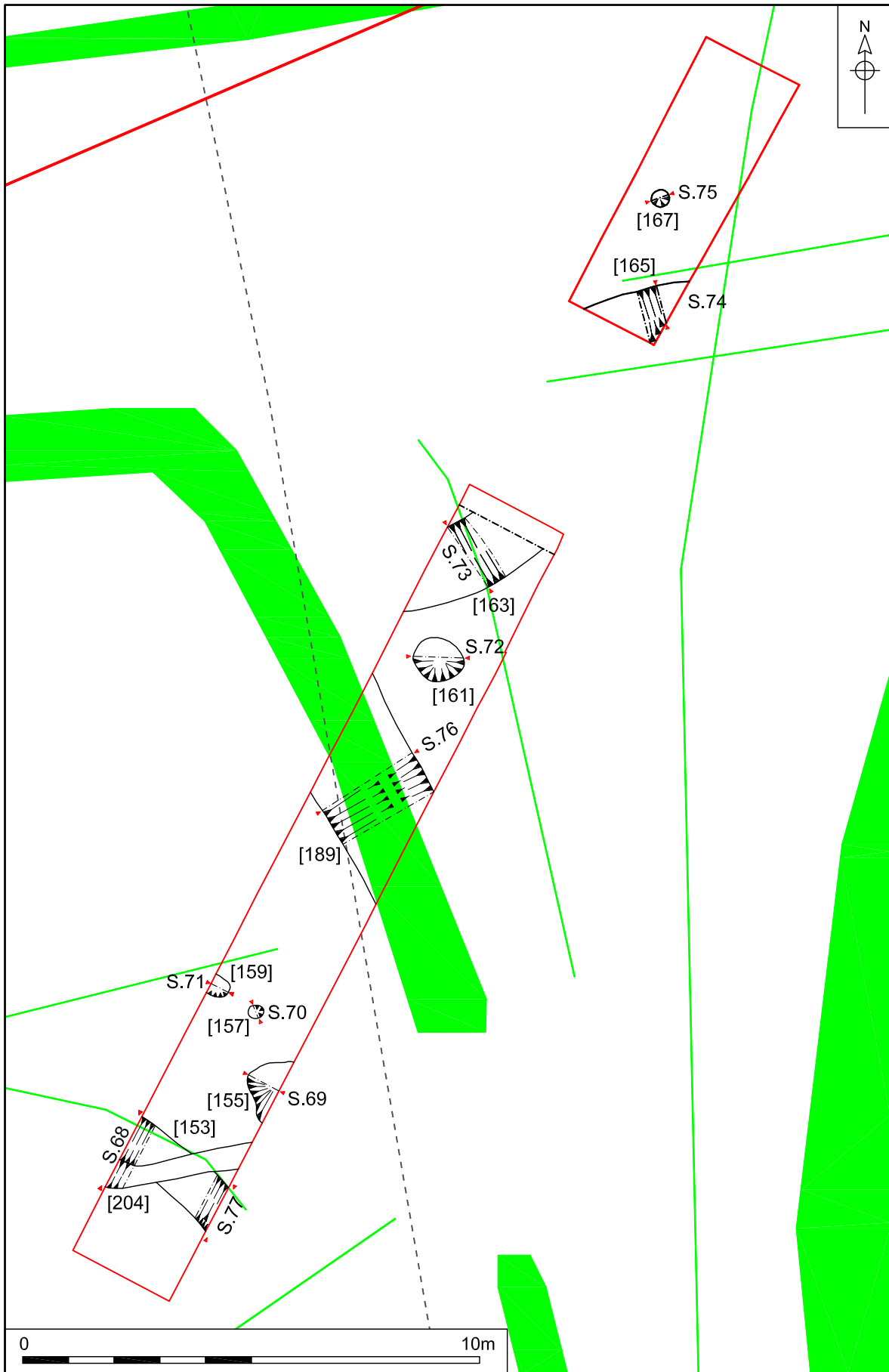
Small ditch [204] cut ring ditch [153]. Other features in this trench included small pits and post-holes and a possible tree throw.



Plate 11. Trench 2, south end looking north-east, 1m scale (see also Plate 10)



Plate 12. Trench 2, enclosure ditch [189], looking north, 1m scale



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Figure 6. Trench 2, plan. Scale 1:125

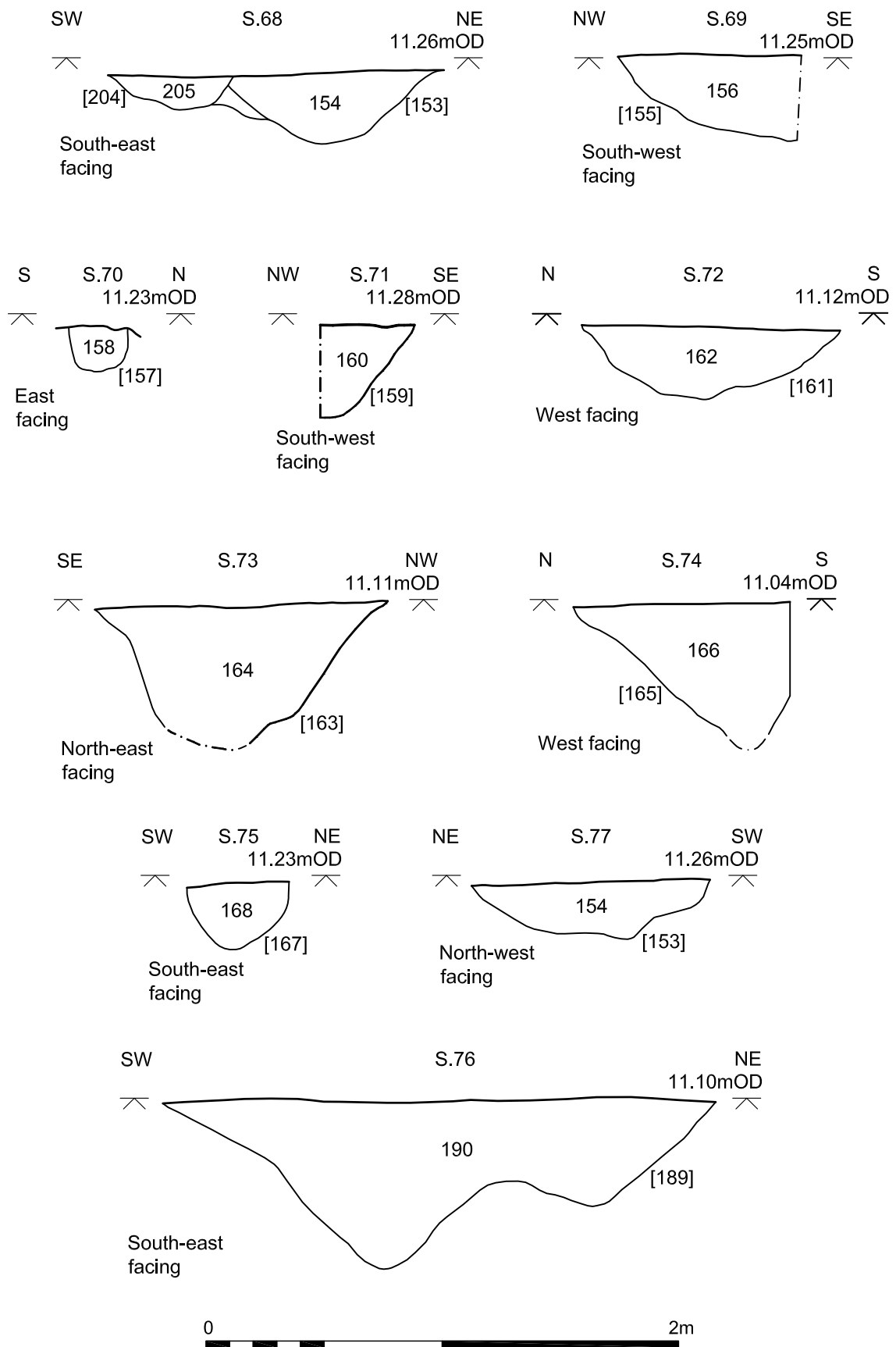


Figure 7. Trench 2, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 3



Plate 13. Trench 3, looking south, 1m scale

Figs 3, 8 and 9; Plates 13 and 14

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 652304, 300255

South-east end 652313, 300227

Dimensions

Length 29.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.55-0.64m

Levels

North-west top 10.75 m OD

South-east top 9.20 m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
171	Deposit	A slightly mixed mid to dark brown sand silt fill of [172]. This contained occasional small and medium sized stones and was disturbed by roots and animal activity.	0.42m	8.73m OD
172	Cut	A pit, possibly circular in plan present at the very southern end of the evaluation trench. It measured 1.30m in width and 0.42m in depth. Well defined in both plan and section its sides were steep to gradual and the base rounded. Interpreted as a pit, perhaps of prehistoric date?	0.42m	8.73m OD
173	Deposit	Pale to mid brown sand fill of [174]. Contains very occasional charcoal flecks. Interpreted as a weathered-in geological deposit filling gully or structural feature [174].	0.18m	8.72m OD
174	Cut	A gully or possibly structural feature aligned east-west and located at the southern end of the evaluation trench. Somewhat ephemeral in plan because of its pale fill against a pale background, It measured 0.35m in width and 0.18m in depth and had steep sides and a flat base. What appeared to be a bona fide stake hole was revealed in the excavated portion of this feature, though it was not possible to determine if	0.18m	8.72m OD

Trench 3				
		<p>this was part of this feature or a later insertion. The irregular edge of this feature in plan might be due to it having been cut through soft geological sands. It also appeared to have a slight curve in plan, though this was not certain. It also appeared to run parallel to ditch [176].</p>		
175	Deposit	<p>A pale to mid brown sand with small silt content, this was the fill of ditch [176]. It contained occasional small stones and very occasional charcoal flecks. This deposit was similar to, but slightly darker than the fill of the adjacent feature [174], perhaps as it contained slightly more silt and charcoal. A single piece of pottery, spalled from a larger fragment and thus very fragile was recovered from this deposit.</p>	0.20m	8.74m OD
176	Cut	<p>A ditch aligned east-west and present at the south end of the evaluation trench. This measured 0.55m in width and 0.20m in depth. Its sides had been disturbed by tree rooting, but appeared to be gradual to a rounded base. Reasonably well defined, it appeared similar in the nature of its fill to adjacent feature [174] with which it was parallel.</p>	0.20m	8.74m OD
177	Deposit	<p>A mid dark brown silt sand fill of [178]. This contained occasional small stones with a single fragment of charcoal at its base. Along its northern side was an area of disturbed sand, which may have belonged to [178].</p>	0.26m	8.96m OD
178	Cut	<p>A small pit or post-hole present at the limit of the evaluation trench. Possibly circular in plan, it measured 0.70m in width and 0.26m in depth. Its sides were gradually sloping to a rounded base. Well defined in plan and section, interpreted as a small pit or post-hole.</p>	0.26m	8.96m OD
179	Deposit	<p>A pale to mid brown sand fill of [180]. This contained occasional small stones. A clean, pale fill without any inclusions, in particular charcoal, this is thought to be a geological deposit possibly infilling a</p>	0.55m	9.17m OD

Trench 3				
		natural hollow.		
180	Cut	A pit-like cut perhaps sub-circular in plan though the edges were poorly defined. It was present at the trench edge and measured a minimum of 1.50m in length with a depth of 0.55m. It was only partly excavated as it was considered likely to be a natural feature and this appeared to be the case. The sides of the feature were steep to a sloping base, and its single fill [179] seemed unvarying from top to bottom of the cut, containing no indication of human activity.	0.55m	9.17m OD
181	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [182]. This contained moderate small and medium stones possibly acting as packing material?	0.16m.	9.25m OD
182	Cut	Circular in plan this feature measured 0.40m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. Its sides were steep to gradual and its base rounded. Well defined in plan, it is interpreted as a post-hole.	0.16m	9.25m OD
183	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [184]. It contained moderate small and medium stones, particularly along its southern and western sides, possibly as post packing?.	0.30m	9.41m OD
184	Cut	Sub-oval in plan and aligned north-south, this feature measured 0.80m in length and 0.60m in width with a depth of 0.30m. Reasonably clear in plan and section, it was steep sided with a rounded base. Considered to be a post setting, with possible post packing present in its fill (183), to the north of this feature was a smaller possible post-hole, unexcavated and initially thought to be part of this feature.	0.30m	9.41m OD
185	Deposit	A mixed mid and dark brown silt sand fill of ditch [186]. It contained occasional stones, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small flecks of burnt clay. Mixed or disturbed by animal and root activity, pottery of Roman date was recovered	0.40m	9.60m OD

Trench 3				
		from this context.		
186	Cut	A ditch aligned east-west with a width of 1.40m and depth of 0.40m. Its sides were steep to a slightly pointed base. Well defined in plan and section, it narrowed somewhat in plan to the east of its excavated portion. Considered to be of Roman date based on pottery recovered from its fill (185).	0.40m	9.60m OD
187	Deposit	A pale brown silt sand fill of [188]. This contained moderate small and medium stones and very occasional charcoal flecks. Homogenous in nature across feature [188], it appeared to be a weathered-in deposit with root and animal disturbance. The fill appeared to contain a possible concentration or line of stones along the length of [188]. A small volume of this fill was sieved but no finds recovered.	0.25m	10.12m OD
188	Cut	Plate 14. Clear in plan as part of a circular feature the majority of which lay to the west beyond the evaluation trench. What could be seen in plan was a curved, slot-like cut. Its maximum dimensions were recorded at its north end where machining levels were raised to preserve more of the associated deposit sequence, in particular any evidence for a central tumulus. Here the ditch measured 0.50m in width and 0.25m in depth. The remainder of this feature survived at a reduced depth and width than this. There was a clear terminal to this ditch at its southern end, though the degree of root and animal disturbance hindered a better understanding of the feature's form at this point, in particular whether any structural elements were present in association with this terminal. From what was present within the evaluation trench an external diameter of c.4.60m is suggested.	0.25Mm	10.12m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil dark brown sand silt	0.40m	9.20m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown silt sands with occasional small stones.	0.10m	8.64m OD
263	Deposit	Geological. Pale yellow brown	--	8.74m OD

Trench 3

		medium sand with a small silt content, few stones and gravel.		
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Discussion

This trench sloped gently down from north to south.

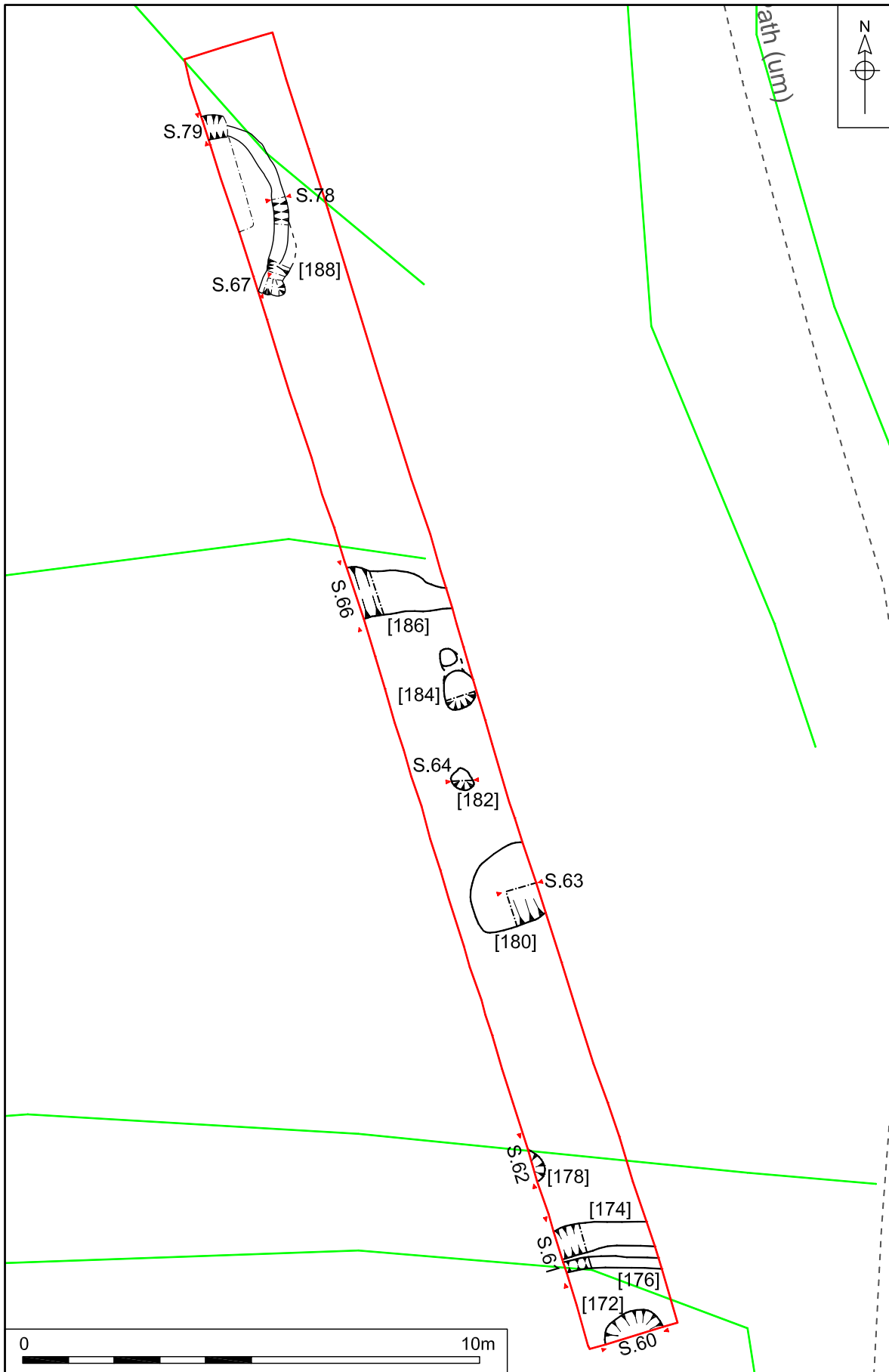
The most significant remains present in the trench were of what is interpreted as the foundation of a small roundhouse present at the north end of the trench. Undated, its diameter is extrapolated as being c.4.60m. It was discontinuous with a clear terminal identified, perhaps suggesting in an entrance to the structure in its south-east quadrant. The break within its circuit and small size of the admittedly truncated ditch in respect of depth and width is thought to make it unlikely to have been a barrow, though circular structures are not uniquely associated with any period or purpose.

Also considered to be a structural feature was narrow gully or slot [176] at the south end of the trench which appeared to be associated with an adjacent ditch [174]. Both features were relatively shallow.

Other features within this trench included a pit, a small number of seemingly unconnected post-holes and a ditch of Roman date, perhaps serving as a field boundary. The presence of a small number of pottery sherds within this feature suggests occupation of this period in the vicinity. A pit-like feature [180] is thought to have natural origins.



Plate 14. Trench 3, roundhouse [188], looking south, 2x1m scales



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Figure 8. Trench 3, plan. Scale 1:125

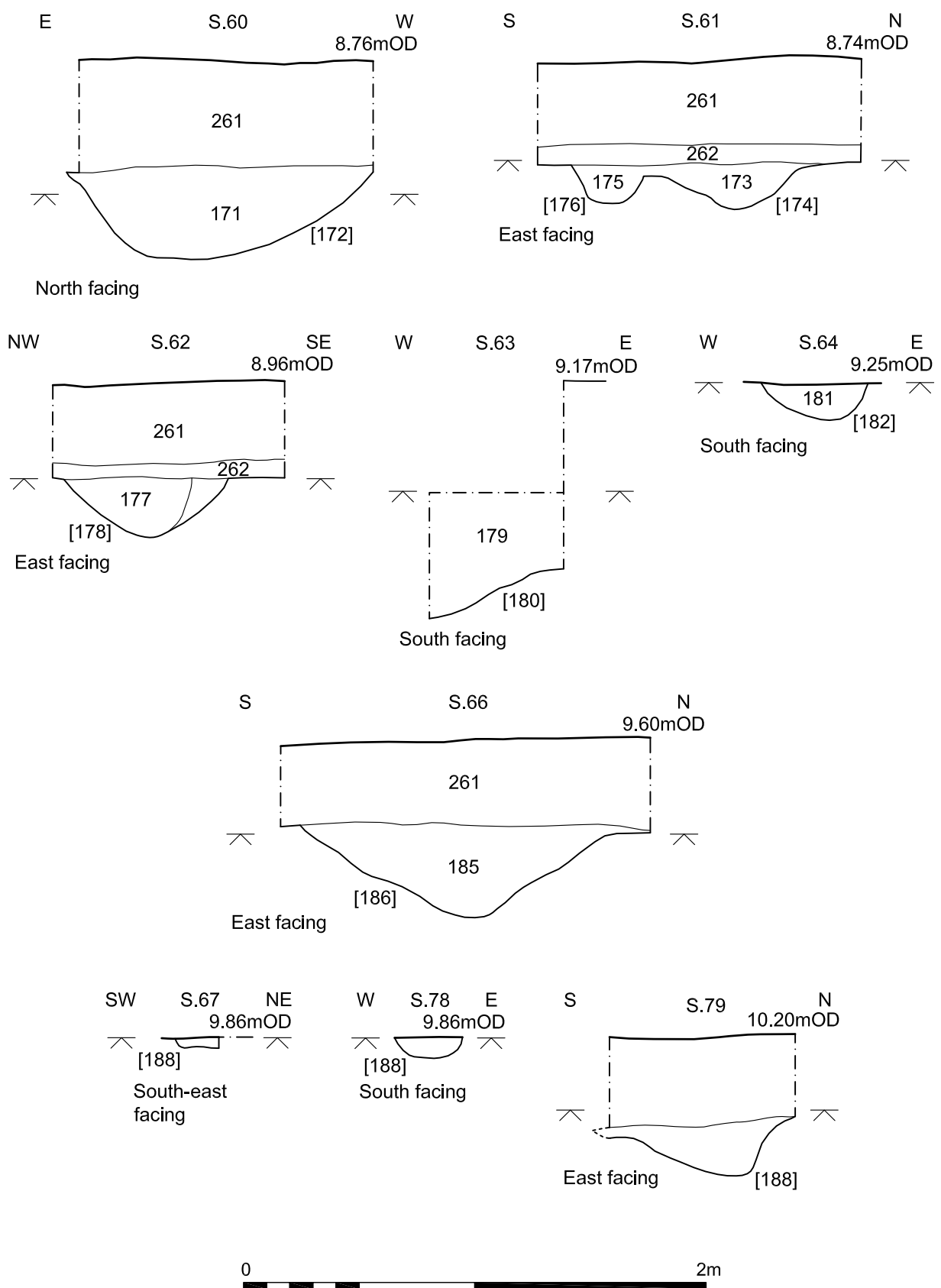


Figure 9. Trench 3, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 4



Plate 15. Trench 4, looking south-west, 1m scale

Figs 3, 10 and 11; Plates 15 and 16

Location

Orientation North-east to south-west

North-east end 652346, 300271

South-west end 652328, 300246

Dimensions

Length 29.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.40-0.54m

Levels

North-east top 10.51m OD

South-west top 10.01m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
141	Cut	<p>Plate 16. A large ditch located at the north-east end of the evaluation trench. This measured 4m in width with a depth established by hand augur of c.1.80m. The size of this feature meant it could not be fully excavated, but enough was tested to indicate its form and suggest a Roman date for its use. The north-east side of this ditch initially sloped in a gradual fashion before breaking more steeply to the base. The size of this feature in relation to the area exposed within the evaluation trench made it difficult to provide a precise indication of its alignment, but it would appear to have extended in a northerly and easterly direction. Tip lines seen in section [particularly contexts (143) and (219)] suggest that material, presumably up cast from the original excavation of this feature, had formed a bank on the inside of the ditch line, and based on the proportions together with the ditch must have produced a sizable earthwork.</p>	c.1.80m	9.91m OD

Trench 4				
		While it is thought likely that such a feature might have been re-established, perhaps several times, no recuts within the section were identified.		
142	Deposit	Dark brown sand silt fill of [141]. This contained occasional small stones and flints, charcoal and small fragments of CBM. This deposit formed the upper fill of ditch [141] and defined the ditch in plan. A small quantity of CBM of Roman date was recovered from this context.	0.54m	9.91m OD
143	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of [141] with frequent small and medium stones. This deposit was present along the north-east edge of the ditch and sloped down from north-east to south-west. This deposit is interpreted as material weathering in from a bank located along the north-east edge of ditch [141].	0.70m	9.91m OD
144	Deposit	A pale yellow brown sand clay fill of ditch [141]. This is described as a band of material present along both sides of ditch [141]. One interpretation of this deposit is that it identifies the survival of an earlier ditch, cut away by [141].	0.08m	9.91m OD
145	Cut	A ditch aligned north-west to south-east with its terminus described separately as [147]. This ditch measured 1.20m in width and 0.44m in depth. Its sides were almost steep along its south-west edge, along its northern side it broke from gradual to steep. The base of this ditch was flat. This ditch is significant as based on the cropmark survey it forms an intermediate ditch within ring ditch [149] and [210] (in Trench 1).	0.44m	9.84m OD
146	Deposit	A mid orange brown sand silt that was the upper fill of ditch [145]. This contained occasional small stones and flints.	0.28m	9.84m OD
147	Cut	The terminus of ditch [145]. This was well defined as a terminus as the south-eastern edge of this feature rose steeply giving an abrupt limit to ditch [145]. No post setting was present within this	0.30m	9.84m OD

Trench 4				
		terminus, the south-west edge of the feature having been disturbed by what appeared to be a tree throw.		
148	Deposit	Mid orange brown sand silt upper fill of [147] containing occasional small stones and flints. Similar to (146), the upper fill of [145].	0.16m	9.84m OD
149	Cut	A ditch aligned north-east to south-west, present at the south-west end of the evaluation trench. This measured 2.2m in width and had a depth of 0.32m. Its sides were extremely gradual to a slightly rounded base. Reasonably well defined in plan, a small sondage was excavated to establish the veracity of its profile as it was cut into soft geological deposits. The significance of this ditch is that it forms the large outer ring ditch identified by cropmark survey. Also examined in Trench 1 as [210].	0.32m	9.74m OD
150	Deposit	Pale grey brown sand silt fill of [149]. This contained frequent small and medium sized stones and flints. The fill of ring ditch [149], no tip lines were visible within this deposit, or any indication for the recutting of this feature.	0.32m	9.74m OD
151	Cut	A possible tree throw lying close to ditch [149]. This was irregular in plan with uneven, curved sides. It measured 1.25m in length and 0.20m in depth. At its north-western end it appeared to join with ditch [149].	0.20m	9.74m OD
152	Deposit	Pale grey brown sand silt fill of [151]. Contained frequent small stones and flints.	0.20m	9.74m OD
219	Deposit	Pale brown sand silt fill of large ditch [141]. This deposit contained abundant small and medium sized stones. This deposit could be seen in section sloping up to the north-east of the cut of [141], forming a clear tip line suggesting it was material perhaps originally excavated as upcast on to a bank and later weathering down to infill the ditch.	0.05m	9.91m OD
220	Deposit	A dark brown black sand silt fill of ditch [141]. This contained	0.20m	9.58m OD

Trench 4				
		frequent flecks and small pieces of charcoal. Possibly a deliberate tip of burnt debris within a series of weathered-in deposits		
221	Deposit	A mid grey sand clay fill of ditch [141]. Contains occasional small stones with frequent flecks of charcoal and burnt clay or CBM. Perhaps similar to overlying deposit (220), this layer which sloped downwards from the south-west was darker in colour and more extensive.	0.20m	9.38m OD
222	Deposit	A mid grey sand fill of ditch [141]. Containing frequent small stones and located on the south-west side of ditch [141], this deposit was of redeposited geological sands perhaps weathered in from the edges of the ditch cut.	0.18m	9.24m OD
223	Deposit	Mid yellow brown clay fill of ditch [141]. Containing occasional small stones, this deposit was very firm and visible in section as a layer of clay present along the south-western side of the ditch cut.	0.14m	9.10m OD
224	Deposit	A mid yellow brown clay fill of ditch [141] that contained occasional small stones. Firm in texture, this deposit was present in the north-east of the ditch cut as a layer of clay similar to deposit (224). Possibly weathered-in?	0.10m	9.02m OD
225	Deposit	A dark grey sand clay fill of ditch [141]. This contained occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal and fired clay or CBM. Firm in texture, this deposit was the earliest deposit examined by excavation within the ditch. Similar to deposit (221), a small quantity of pottery of Roman date was retrieved from this context. Auguring below this fill revealed more clay-rich deposits similar to this context before the base of the ditch was encountered.	0.30m	8.98m OD
226	Deposit	A dark grey brown sand silt fill of ditch [147]. This contained occasional small stones and was notably darker than other fills of this feature. Also thought to be the same as context (229) seen in part of this same feature where it is recorded as [145]. Not clear	0.20m	9.74m OD

Trench 4				
		what this deposit might represent, possibly organic.		
227	Deposit	Pale brown sand silt fill of [147]. This contained occasional small stones and was present along the north-east side of the terminal [147] of ditch [145]. It is thought to be weathered-in material along the side.	0.30m	9.84m OD
228	Deposit	A pale brown sand silt fill of [147]. This contained occasional small stones and was similar to [227] also present in this feature.	0.12m	9.70m OD
229	Deposit	A dark grey brown sand silt fill of [145], this contained occasional small stones. Silty and darker in appearance to other fills of this feature, it is possible this deposit contained some organic content. It seemed to be confined to the north-east side of ditch cut [145].	0.30	9.70m OD
230	Deposit	A grey brown sand silt fill of [145]. This contained occasional small stones and present along the south-west side of ditch cut [145]. Appeared to be a weathered-in deposit.	0.18m	9.80m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.54m	10.51m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil, only visible in central area of evaluation trench , a mid orange brown sand silt with moderate small and medium stones.	0.20m	10.10m OD
263	Deposit	Geological. Mid yellow sand with patches of stonier sand toward the south-west end of the trench.	--	9.62m OD

Discussion

Several important features were present within this trench. At its south-west end two ditches forming part of what is interpreted as a large barrow were identified. The outer circuit [149] was cut through soft sand and had a particularly shallow profile, it proving necessary to excavate a sondage to test this profile was correct. The presence of an intermediate circuit was also demonstrated, the presence of a terminal indicating this intermediate ditch was discontinuous. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

Based on the small quantity of artefacts recovered from its fills a large ditch [141] at the north-east end of the trench is thought to be of Roman date. This feature is thought to have been identified on the cropmark survey as forming part of the western side of a sub-rectangular structure aligned slightly north-west to south-east with minimum dimensions of 30m by 15m. Though this feature is shown on the cropmarks to cross Trench 1 no indication of it was seen there.

These findings suggest that feature [141] is part of sub-rectangular enclosure of Roman date formed with a substantial ditch and internal bank. Located on what would have been a topographic high point perhaps already enhanced by the prehistoric construction of a tumulus, is it possible that some type of military function might be ascribed to this feature, for example as the setting of a signal beacon?

Trench 4



Plate 16. Trench 4, section showing remnants of bank associated with ditch [144], looking north, 1m and 0.50m scale

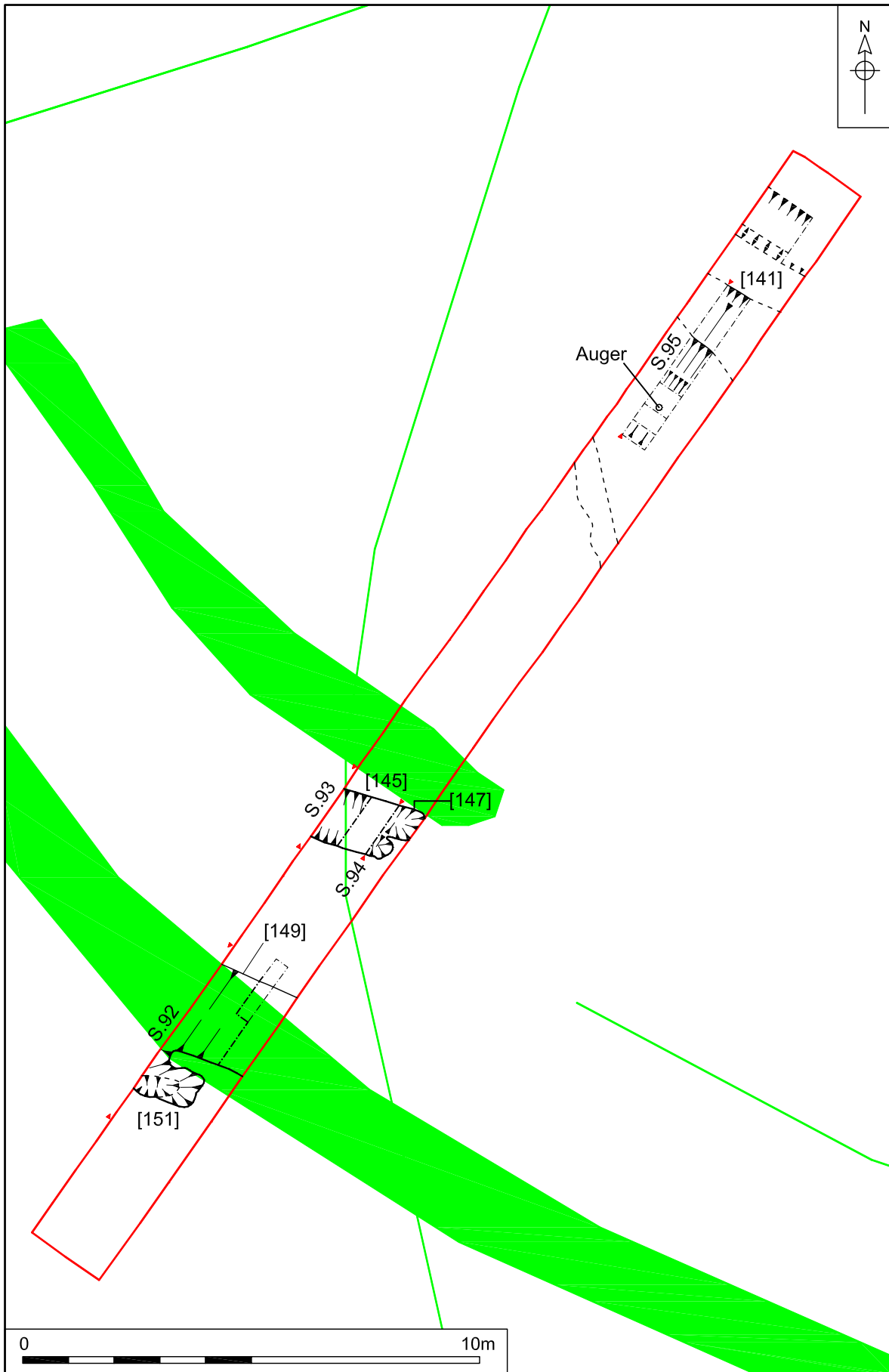


Figure 10. Trench 4, plan. Scale 1:125

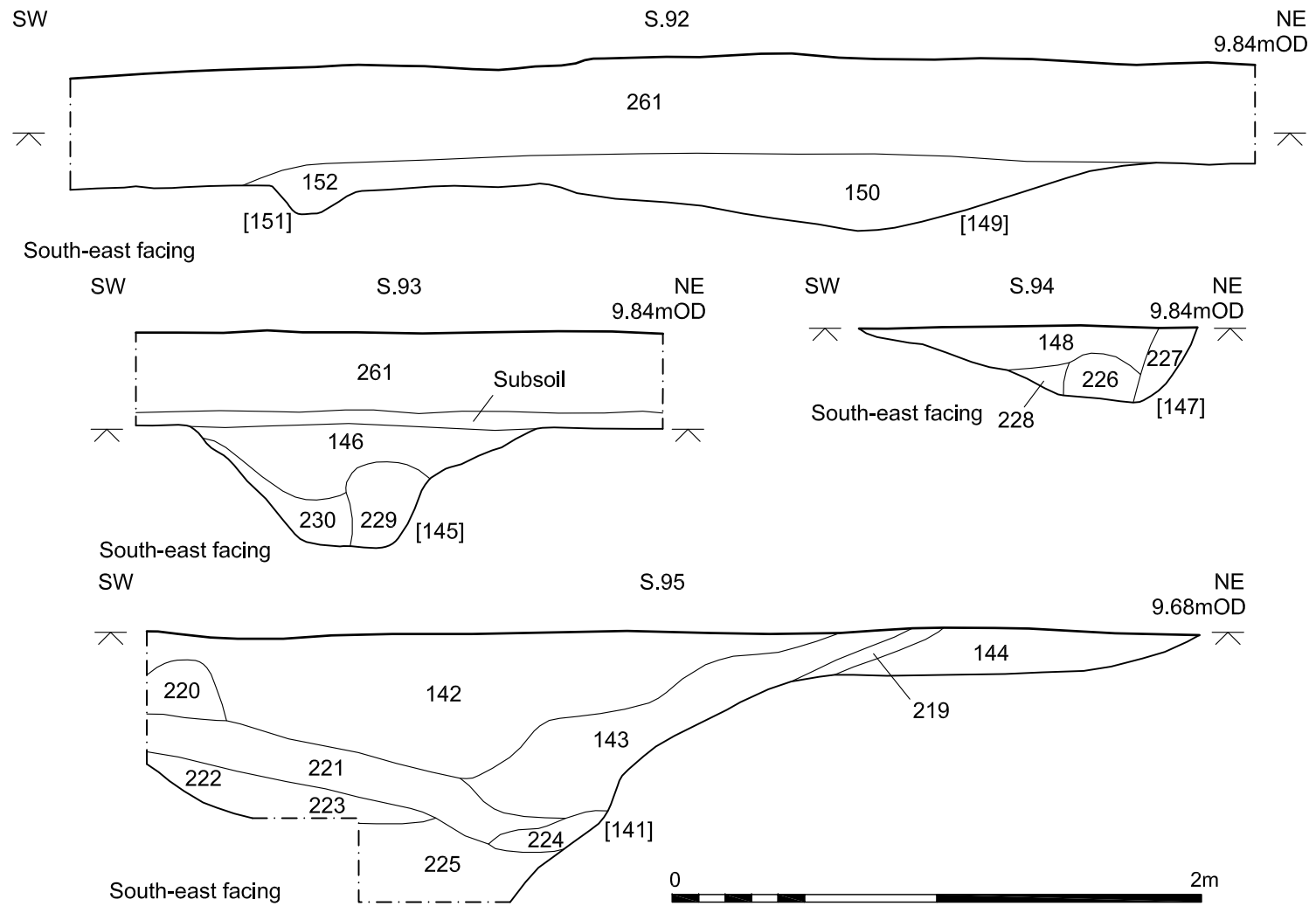


Figure 11. Trench 4, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 5



Plate 17. Trench 5, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 3 and 12; Plate 17

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 652374, 300239

South-east end 652383, 300210

Dimensions

Length 29.00m

Width 1.90m

Depth 0.50-0.70m

Levels

North-west top 8.97 m OD

South-east top 7.84 m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
57	Deposit	Pale grey brown sand fill of [58]. This contained occasional small stones. A small quantity of pottery of Roman date and fired clay was recovered from this context.	0.14m	7.58m OD
58	Cut	A small pit, oval in plan. Aligned east-west, it measured 1m in length and 0.47m in width with a depth of 0.14m. The sides of this feature were moderately steep to a rounded base	0.14m	7.58m OD
59	Deposit	A pale grey brown sand fill of [60] that contained occasional stones. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this context.	0.29m	7.57m OD
60	Cut	A ditch aligned east west. It measured 1.06m in width and 0.29m in depth. The sides were slightly curved to a rounded base.	0.29m	7.57m OD
61	Deposit	Pale grey brown sand fill of [62]. It contained occasional flints and small stones. Pottery and metal working debris of Roman date was recovered from this deposit.	0.30m	7.67m OD
62	Cut	Ditch aligned east-west with a width of 1.38m and depth of 0.30m. The sides of this feature were steep along its southern side and more gradual along the northern side. The base was flat.	0.30m	7.67m OD

Trench 5				
		Well defined in plan and section, this ditch was parallel to ditch [60] and contained finds of Roman date.		
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.30m	8.9m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil Orange brown silt sand with moderate small and medium stones.	0.31m	7.63m OD
263	Deposit	Geological, bright yellow sand with range patches, an east-west band of gravels present at the north end of the evaluation trench.	--	9.02m OD
Discussion				
<p>Trench 5 contained two ditches of shared east-west alignments that are dated as Roman along with a small pit or post-hole of similar date.</p> <p>A possible ditch identified by cropmarks to have crossed the northern part of the trench seems to have been the result of a linear variation in the underlying geology. An area perhaps peripheral to the main focus of Roman activity at the site, i.e. Trench 8.</p>				

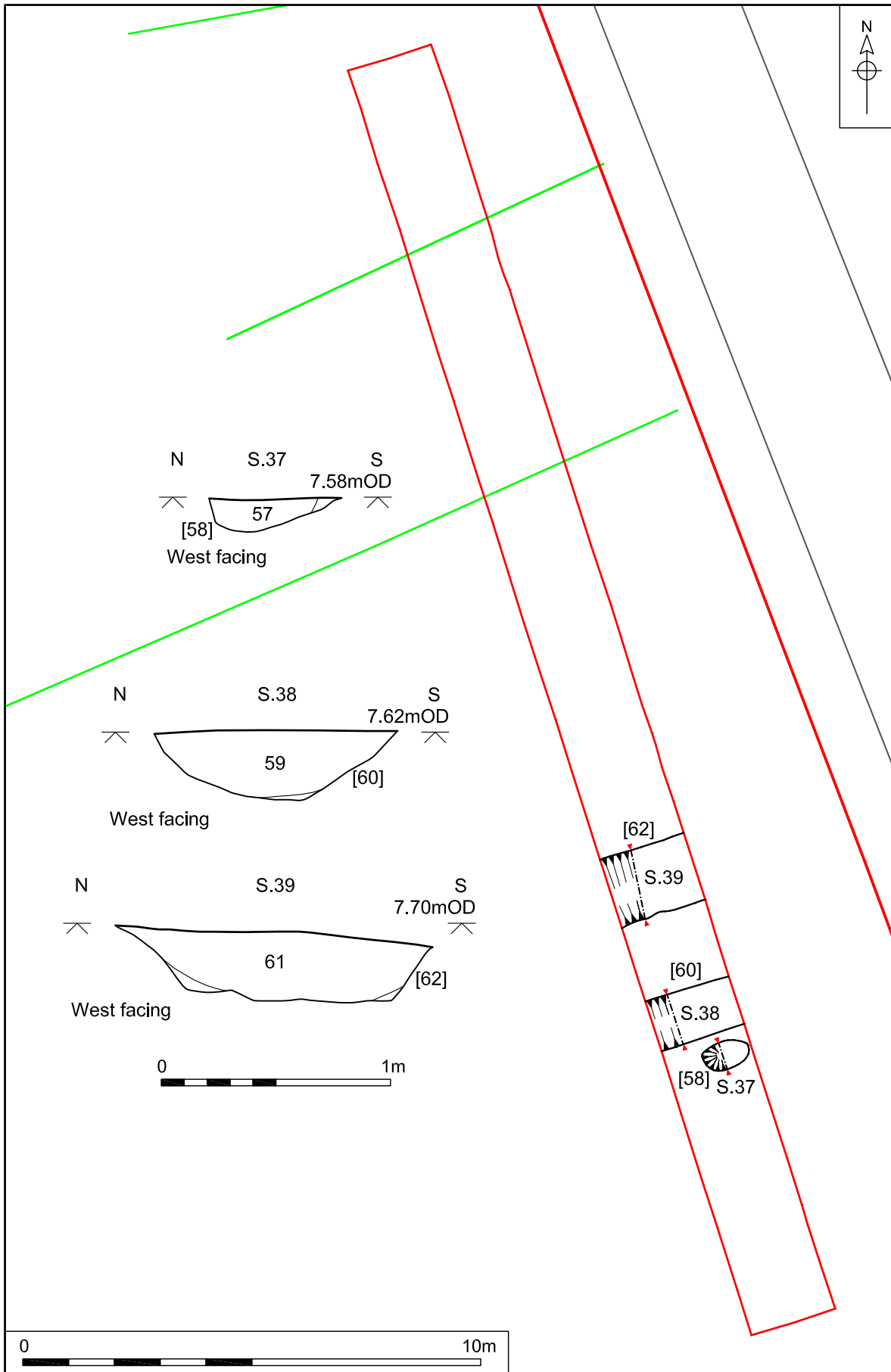


Figure 12. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6



Plate 18. Trench 6, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 3, 13 and 14; Plate 18

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 652344, 300233

South-east end 652353, 300205

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 2.20m

Depth 0.60m

Levels

North-west top 9.23 m OD

South-east top 8.15 m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
82	Cut	A shallow feature possibly sub-circular or oval in plan. Only partly present within the evaluation trench, it measured 0.95m in width and 0.15m in depth. The sides of this feature were gradual to a rounded base. Initially considered to be a pit, this is possibly a natural feature such as a tree throw.	0.15m	7.83m OD
83	Deposit	A pale yellow grey silt sand fill of [82]. This measured 0.15m in depth and contained occasional small flints and stones.	0.15m	7.83m OD
84	Cut	A small pit, sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.70m and depth of 0.16m. The sides of this feature were moderately steep and its base uneven. A small quantity of worked flint recovered from this feature, suggests a prehistoric date for it.	0.16m	8.05m OD
85	Deposit	A mid yellow grey silt sand fill of [84]. Contained frequent small and medium flints and stones as well as occasional charcoal flecks. A small quantity of worked flint was recovered from this deposit.	0.16m	8.05m OD
86	Cut	A possible feature such as a pit	0.26m	8.09m OD

Trench 6				
		affected by a tree throw, this was irregular in plan, seeming to consist of a circular element with a linear east-west extension. It measured 1.1m in length and 0.84m in width with a depth of 0.26m. The sides of the circular element were steep and well defined and the base rounded.		
87	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [86]. Contained frequent small and medium flints as well as frequent charcoal flecks.	0.26m	8.05m OD
88	Cut	A small pit or possible post-hole, sub-oval in plan with an east-west alignment. It measured 0.90m in length and 0.49m in width with a depth of 0.16m. Its sides varied from gradual to steep and the base was uneven with a slight depression in the centre.	0.16m	8.30m OD
89	Deposit	A pale to mid brown silt sand fill of [88]. It contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	0.16m	8.30m OD
90	Cut	Aligned east-west and sub-oval in plan, this feature measured 1.50m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.32m in depth. The sides of the feature were steep to a pointed base. Though similar on plan form to other features within this trench, the geological appearance of its fill suggests it is of natural origin.	0.32m	8.36m OD
91	Deposit	Pale red brown silt sand fill of [90]. Contained rare small stones and a single large flint. Considered to be a geological deposit.	0.32m	8.36m OD
94	Cut	A post-hole or small pit, probably circular in plan but obscured by the trench edge. It measured 0.47m in width and 0.22m in depth. The sides were steep to a flat base. Well defined in plan and section.	0.22m	8.37m OD
95	Deposit	A dark grey brown sand silt fill of [94] which contained frequent charcoal and occasional small and medium flints.	0.22m	8.37m OD
96	Cut	A medium to large pit partly present within the evaluation trench. It appeared to be sub-oval in plan and measured 2m in length with a width of 1m present in the trench. It measured 0.43m	0.43m	8.45m OD

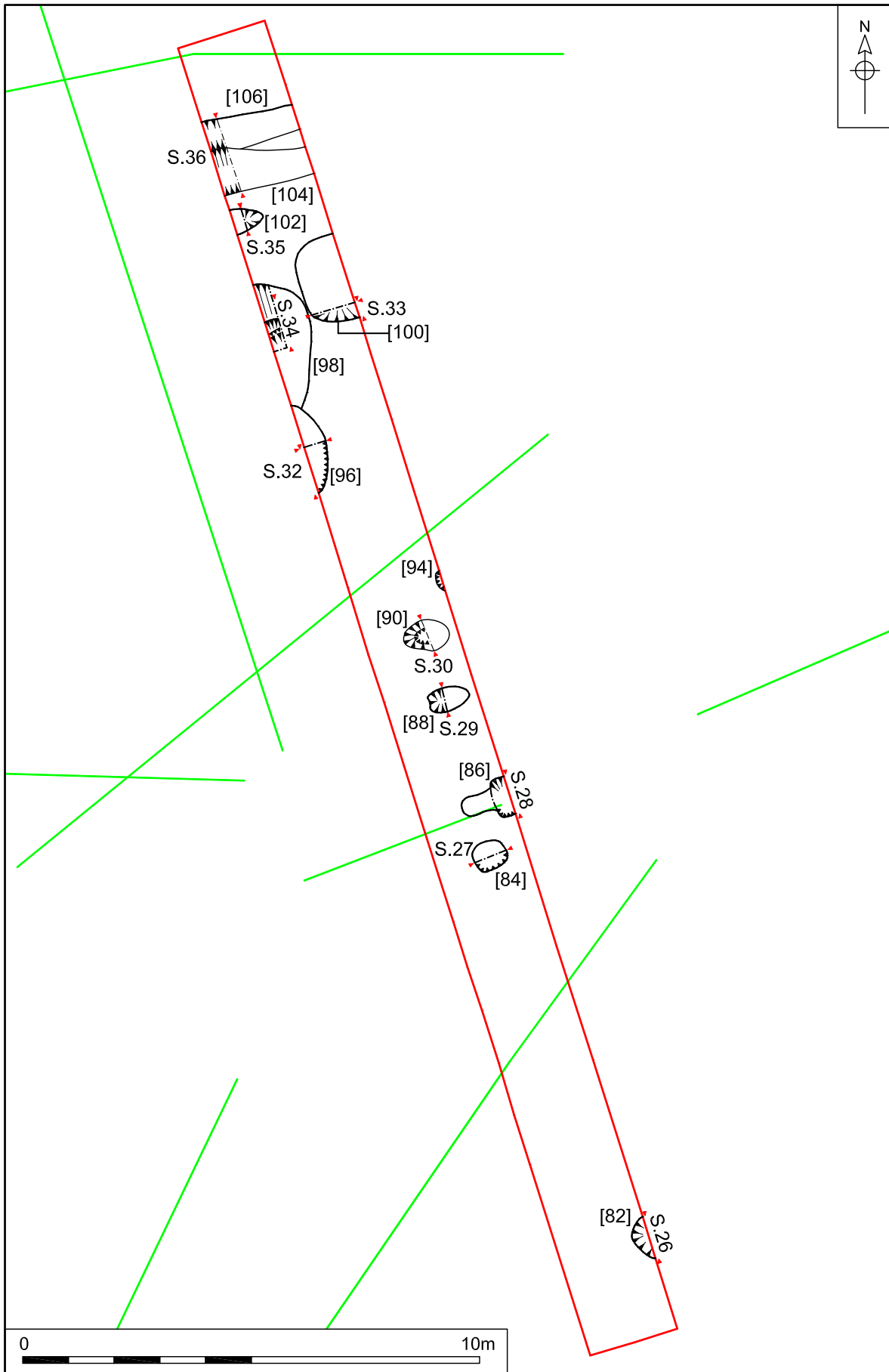
Trench 6				
		in depth. Its sides were steep and slightly stepped down to a flat base. Similar to other pits thought to be of Roman date present in Trench 6.		
97	Deposit	Dark grey brown sand silt fill of pit [96]. This contained frequent large and small flints and stones as well as frequent charcoal flecks. Several pottery sherds of Roman date were recovered from this context.	0.43m	8.45m OD
98	Cut	A large pit only partly present within the evaluation trench. It was sub-oval in plan with a length of 3m, width of 0.95m and depth of 0.33m. Its sides were initially steep before breaking more gradually towards the base, which was sloping.	0.33m	8.50m OD
99	Deposit	Dark brown sand silt fill of [98]. This contained frequent charcoal flecks and large and small flints and stones. A number of pottery sherds of Roman date were retrieved from this context.	0.33m	8.50m OD
100	Cut	A pit, only partly present within the evaluation trench but possibly sub-rectangular in plan. It measured 2m in length and up to 1.20m in width with a depth of 0.44m. Gradual to steep sided with a flat base, it was well defined in plan and section.	0.44m	8.55m OD
101	Deposit	Mixed mid to dark brown silt sand fill of [100]. This contained occasional small and medium stones and sparse charcoal flecks. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this deposit as well as a small quantity of worked flint.	0.44m	8.55m OD
102	Cut	A small feature sub-oval in plan and aligned east west. It measured 0.65m in length and 0.61m in width with a depth of 0.14m. The sides of this feature varied from curved to steep to gradual and the base was slightly sloping. It is possible this is a natural feature such as a tree throw.	0.14m	8.44m OD
103	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand fill of [102]. It contained occasional small and medium stones.	0.14m	8.44m OD
104	Cut	A ditch located at the north end of	0.36m	8.19m OD

Trench 6				
		the evaluation trench. Aligned east-west, it measured 0.95m in width and 0.36m in depth. Well defined in plan and section, the sides of the ditch were equally steeply sloping to a slightly pointed base. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this feature. This feature cut a similar, parallel ditch [106].		
105	Deposit	A dark brown sand silt fill of ditch [104]. This contained frequent small stones and flints, occasional large stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this deposit.	0.36m	8.19m OD
106	Cut	The cut of a ditch aligned east-west and located at the north end of the evaluation trench. It measured 0.72m in width and 0.40m in depth. The sides of this ditch were steep and slightly irregular, the base uneven. Well defined in plan and section, it was parallel to ditch [104] which cut it. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this feature	0.40m	8.39m OD
107	Deposit	A dark brown sand silt fill of ditch [106]. This contained frequent small stones, moderate large stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this context.	0.40m	8.39m OD
243	--	Unstratified finds recovered from Trench 6	--	--
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.30m	9.23 m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil, orange brown sand silt	0.40m	8.93m OD
263	Deposit	Geological, yellow sands with occasional gravels		8.19m OD

Discussion

This trench sloped gently down from north to south.

Several undated small pits or post-holes were recorded from this trench as well as features of possible natural origin. Possible prehistoric activity is hinted at by the presence of a small number of worked flints and small quantity of Early Neolithic pottery. Two east-west ditches and a cluster of pits at the north end of the site all attest to activity in the Roman period and the possibility of occupation activity nearby.



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Figure 13. Trench 6, plan. Scale 1:125

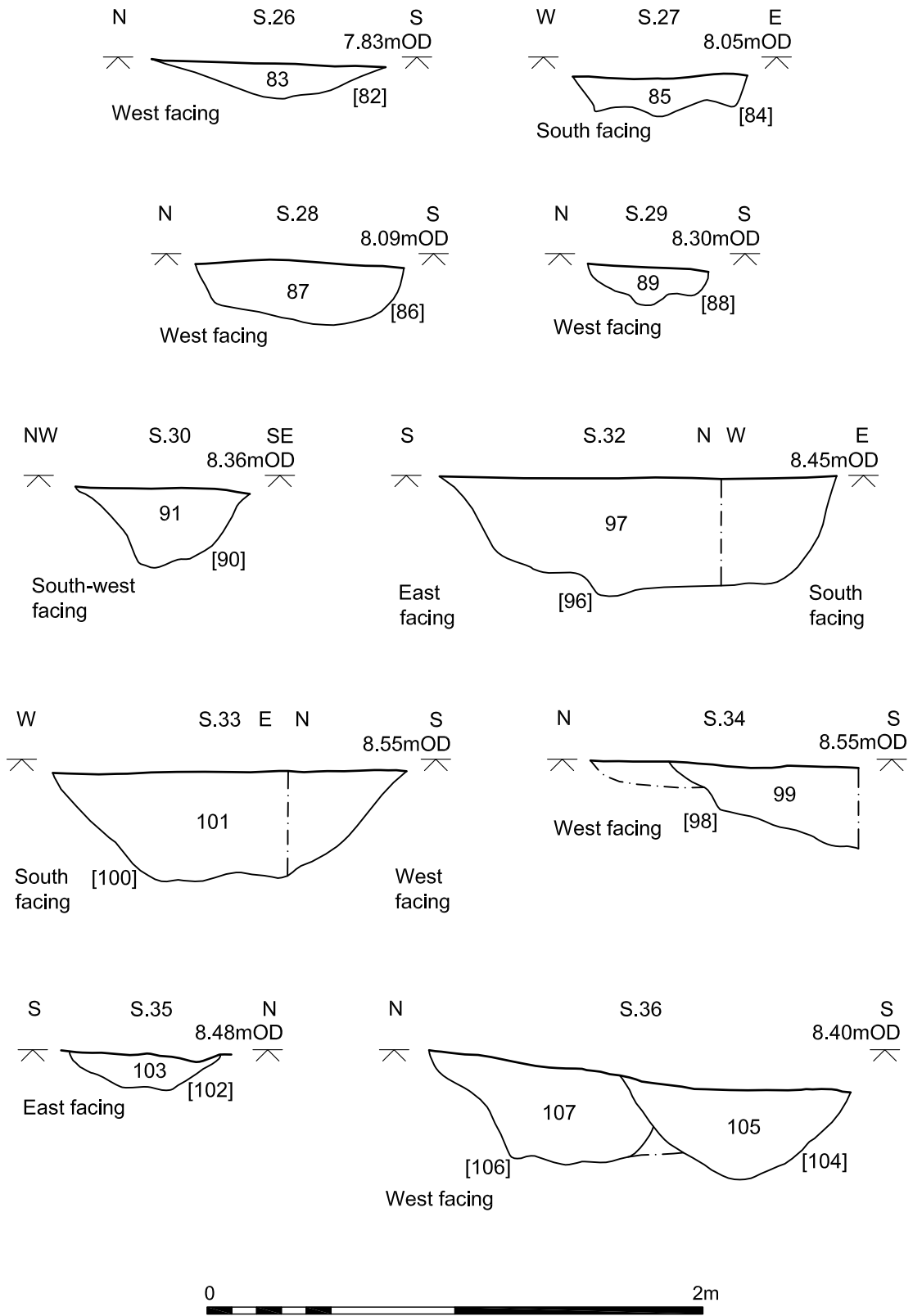


Figure 14. Trench 6, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 7



Plate 19. Trench 7, looking south-west, 1m scale

Figs 3, 15 and 16; Plates 19 and 20

Location

Orientation North-east to south-west

North-east end 652327, 300219

South-west end 652314, 00193

Dimensions

Length 29.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.36-0.53m

Levels

North-east top 7.65 m OD

South-west top 9.00 m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
108	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [109] than contained moderate stones to 0.10m in size. A generally sandy deposit, it had frequent root and animal disturbance. The fill appeared to contain no charcoal.	0.30m	7.40m OD
109	Cut	The cut of a possible ditch, nothing of this feature was seen in plan, but what is interpreted as a ditch cut was defined in section, with a similar feature [111] present to the north-east. The ditch, recorded only in section had a width of 1.10m and depth of 0.30m. Its sides were even in profile with gradual slope to a rounded base. Though suffering from root and animal disturbance it was reasonably well defined in section.	0.30m	7.40m OD
110	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [111] that was seemingly identical to deposit (108). This too is considered to be a weathered-in deposit disturbed by later rooting and animal burrows.	0.32	7.52m OD
111	Cut	A ditch seen in section . Measuring 1.20m in width and	0.32m	7.52m OD

Trench 7				
		0.32m in depth this ditch was similar in form to [109] though not as well defined, in particular its northern edge appeared disturbed by root and animal activity. It lay almost immediately the north-east of [109]. Though neither of these two ditches were seen in the corresponding section of the evaluation trench, ditch [113] might represent a continuation of [111].		
112	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of ditch [113]. This deposit contained sparse charcoal flecks and occasional small stones, with a mixed appearance because of rooting and animal disturbance. Increasing silt content towards base.	0.40m	7.61m OD
113	Cut	The apparent terminal of a small ditch which measured 1.30m in width and 0.40m in depth. With moderately steep sides to a rounded base, the eastern end of this ditch appeared to grade away gradually, without the abrupt termination seen at the ends of other ditches. It is possible this ditch in association with ditches [109] and [111] formed part of a posited ring ditch identified from crop mark survey.	0.40m	7.61m OD
114	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand upper fill of ditch [115]. This contained occasional charcoal flecks and flecks of orange fired clay as well as occasional small and medium stones. Seen in section this deposit formed a lighter coloured, sandier context within the ditch. Several pottery sherds of Roman date were recovered from this deposit and a metal detected coin of Vespasian (AD 69-79) recovered from its upper surface.	0.40m	7.96m OD
115	Cut	A ditch aligned approximately north-south. Well defined in plan and section, it measured 0.60m in depth with a width of 2.25m. Containing two distinct fills, [114] [134] the dating evidence supports a Roman date for this feature, interpreted as part of a filled system or enclosure.	0.60m	7.96m OD
116	Deposit	A dark mixed grey brown silt sand fill of [117]. This contained	0.18m	7.84m OD

Trench 7				
		frequent lenses of fine charcoal flecks and occasional burnt flint (not collected). Not thought to represent <i>in situ</i> heating, this deposit might be burnt debris redeposited with a small cut.		
117	Cut	A small pit, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.66m and depth of 0.18m. Well defined due of the distinctive appearance of its dark, charcoal rich fill, this feature had gradual sides and a flat base. It is notable for cutting the backfill of ditch [115], and had similarities in form and character to features [119] and [123].	0.18m	7.84m OD
118	Deposit	A pale yellow brown sand fill of [119]. This deposit formed the upper fill of a small pit, seemingly identifying the deliberate infilling of the feature with geological deposits.	0.30m	8.00m OD
119	Cut	Thought to be circular in plan as only partly present within the evaluation trench, this small pit measured 0.70m in width and 0.45m in depth. Cut into a soft clean sand, it appeared to have a slightly 'baggy' profile with slightly curved sides and a rounded base. Well defined in section, it contained two clear fills, the primary (246) appearing to be the deposition of burning debris while the upper fill (118) was a deliberately redeposition of geological material.	0.45m	8.00m OD
120	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [121] that contained occasional small stones. Along the eastern edge of this deposit a strip c.0.15m wide of a dark brown silt or possibly degraded organic material was visible in plan, though less so in section.	0.12m	7.95m OD
121	Cut	A gully or possible structural feature aligned approximately north-east to south-west. Measuring 2.90m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.12m in depth, this feature was moderately clear in plan, though required detailed manual cleaning to reveal it with any clarity. No post-holes or stakes holes were visible within the portions excavated, though this does not	0.12m	7.95m OD

Trench 7				
		preclude their presence. This feature formed a right angle with similar feature [127] and with possible gully [125].		
122	Deposit	Mixed dark grey with yellows, this sand fill of [123] contained frequent lenses of fine charcoal. Interpreted as the redeposition of burnt material into a small pit.	0.14m	8.12m OD
123	Cut	A small pit, sub-square or possibly rectangular in plan with a length of 0.60m and depth of 0.14m. Well defined in plan and section with gradually sloping sides and a flattish base, this feature contained what appeared to be the burning debris, seemingly redeposited from some activity carried out elsewhere. This feature, similar to some other features in the evaluation trench, had cut gully [125].	0.14m	8.12m OD
124	Deposit	A pale brown silt sand fill of [125] that contained occasional small stones.	0.12m	8.15m OD
125	Cut	A gully or possible structural feature aligned approximately north-south. This extended diagonally across the evaluation trench with a length of 3.50m. It measured 0.30m in width and 0.12m in depth. Containing a pale coloured fill this feature was quite clear in plan though less so in section. A possible association with features [121] and [127] is suggested both by similarities in form and alignments that appreciate the same axis.	0.12m	8.15m OD
126	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt fill of [127]. This contained inclusions of very occasional charcoal flecks.	0.11m	8.10m OD
127	Cut	A slot like gully or possible structural feature aligned approximately north-south. This measured 1.75m in length and 0.32m in width with a depth of 0.11m. It appeared to have extended beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. Poorly defined in profile with gradual sides to a rounded base, it was reasonably clear in plan. Appears to form a right angle with feature [121] and lies parallel to [125], suggesting some degree of association with these features.	0.11m	8.10m OD

Trench 7				
128	Deposit	A mixed dark grey and yellow sand fill of [129] that contained charcoal lenses, this deposit is interpreted as the remains of a burnt post setting.	0.10m	8.30m OD
129	Cut	A small post-hole circular or slightly oval in plan with a diameter of 0.20m and depth of 0.10m. Similar, though smaller, to [131]?. Not illustrated.	0.10m	8.30m OD
130	Deposit	Mixed yellow and mid dark brown silt sand fill of [131]. Containing frequent charcoal flecks, this deposit is thought to identify the burnt <i>in situ</i> remains of a post or stake. The profile of a post setting visible as a post pipe within the profile of the fill suggests a post with a diameter of c.0.14m.	0.30m	8.31m OD
131	Cut	Oval in plan, this post-hole measured 0.38m in length and 0.30m in depth. Steep-sided, a clear post-pipe was defined within this features fill, indicating it had supported a post c 0.14m in diameter. The nature of the fill suggested that this post was initially burnt, the unburnt remnants then rotting away to leave the post pipe. This feature appeared to cut [133].	0.30m	8.31m OD
132	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt fill of [133]. This contained frequent medium stone and flints, occasional small lenses of what appeared to be heated but unfired clay, occasional charcoal flecks and several oyster shells. Notably stony, this deposit seems to contain the debris of oyster consumption tipped within feature [133].	0.10m	8.26m OD
133	Cut	A ditch or gully-like feature that was aligned approximately south-east to north-west. The full extent of this shallow feature was not well defined and it is not clear if it extended north-westwards beyond post-hole [131]. It measured 0.50m in width and 0.10m in depth, its fill seemingly consisting of backfilled occupation debris.	0.10m	8.26m OD
134	Deposit	Mid to dark brown sand silt fill of [135]. Contained moderate charcoal flecks with occasional burnt clay flecks and stones. A	0.60m	7.96m OD

Trench 7				
		notably darker, silty fill than overlying (114) it also contained more charcoal flecks. The primary fill of ditch [115], a small quantity of pottery of Roman date was recovered from this deposit.		
135	Cut	A ditch aligned south-west to north-east, this measured 1m in width with a depth of 0.35m. The sides of this ditch were gradual along its northern edge and slightly steeper along the south to a slightly pointed base. Well defined in plan and section it contained no dating evidence.	0.35m	8.29m OD
136	Deposit	A mid yellow brown sand silt fill of [135]. This contained frequent medium and occasional large flints and stones.	0.35m	8.29m OD
137	Cut	The terminus of a ditch aligned south-west to north-east. It measured 0.23m in depth and 0.75m in width. The sides were gradual to steep in profile and the base uneven. The end of the ditch rose quite steeply suggesting a clear limit to the feature rather than a change in truncation for example. Root or animal disturbance was present along the edge of this feature.	0.23m	8.39m OD
138	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of [137] that contained frequent medium flints and stones along with moderate charcoal flecks.	0.23m	8.39m OD
139	Cut	A post-hole, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.33m and depth of 0.11m. Sides steeply sloping to curved with a rounded base.	0.11m	8.29m OD
140	Deposit	A mid yellow brown sand silt fill of [139] that contained some medium and large flints, possibly as post packing material?	0.11m	8.29m OD
169	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of [170] that contained few small stones.	0.08m	8.10m OD
170	Cut	A shallow post-hole, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.55m and depth of 0.08m. Its sides sloped gradually to a slightly rounded base. It cut slot or gully [127]	0.08m	8.10m OD
240		Unstratified finds from Trench 7. Includes a piece of lava quern	--	--
245	Deposit	A layer of gravelly sand seen in section at the south end of the	0.14m	7.36m OD

Trench 7				
		trench. Considered significant because of the posited presence of a ring ditch and possible barrow at this location, this material is not thought to represent the survival of a possible tumulus, thought only limited observation of it was possible. In section it could not be seen to extend north-eastwards towards ditches [109] and [111].		
246	Deposit	A mixed black and brown silt sand with perhaps a 40% charcoal content that is the Primary fill of [119]. It contained occasional small stones and orange flecks of burnt clay. The fill consists of large lenses of charcoal mixed with clean sands and seems to represent redeposited material rather than <i>in situ</i> burning.	0.25m	7.88m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt.	0.30.	7.65m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil, pale brown silt sand with occasional small and medium stones.	0.20m	7.36
263	Deposit	Geological pale brown silt sand, sandier at south-west end of evaluation trench, contained occasional small-medium stones	--	8.47m OD (south-west)
Discussion				
<p>The evaluation sloped down from north-east to south-west. A range of features were revealed in this trench. At the south-west end of the trench a ditch terminal [113] is thought to be part of a ring ditch identified by crop marks. This ditch is interpreted as the remains of a roundhouse or similar type of circular structure with a break in its circuit. Other structural elements include two gullies or slots [121/127] which seem to form a right angle possibly for a square or rectangular structure (Plate 20) with a further gully or slot [125] also seeming to be part of this arrangement. Three ditches were recorded, the largest of which [115] is of Roman date, a coin of 1st century date being recovered from its upper fill. Informatively, a fill of this ditch was cut by [117], one of several similar small pits containing burnt material, these features also suggested to be post-dating the posited square or rectangular structure. They would appear to represent a separate phase of activity following the disuse of ditch [115]. Occupation in the vicinity of this trench was also indicated by finds of oyster shell from one feature, while what appeared to be two burnt post settings are taken to indicate structural remains, unfortunately undated. Two undated ditches were also present at the north-east end of the evaluation trench. The presence of lava quern though an unstratified find, hints at cereal processing taking place.</p>				

Trench 7



Plate 20. Trench 7, corner of ?structure formed by features [121] and [127] with [125] to right, looking north-east with 0.50m and 1m scales

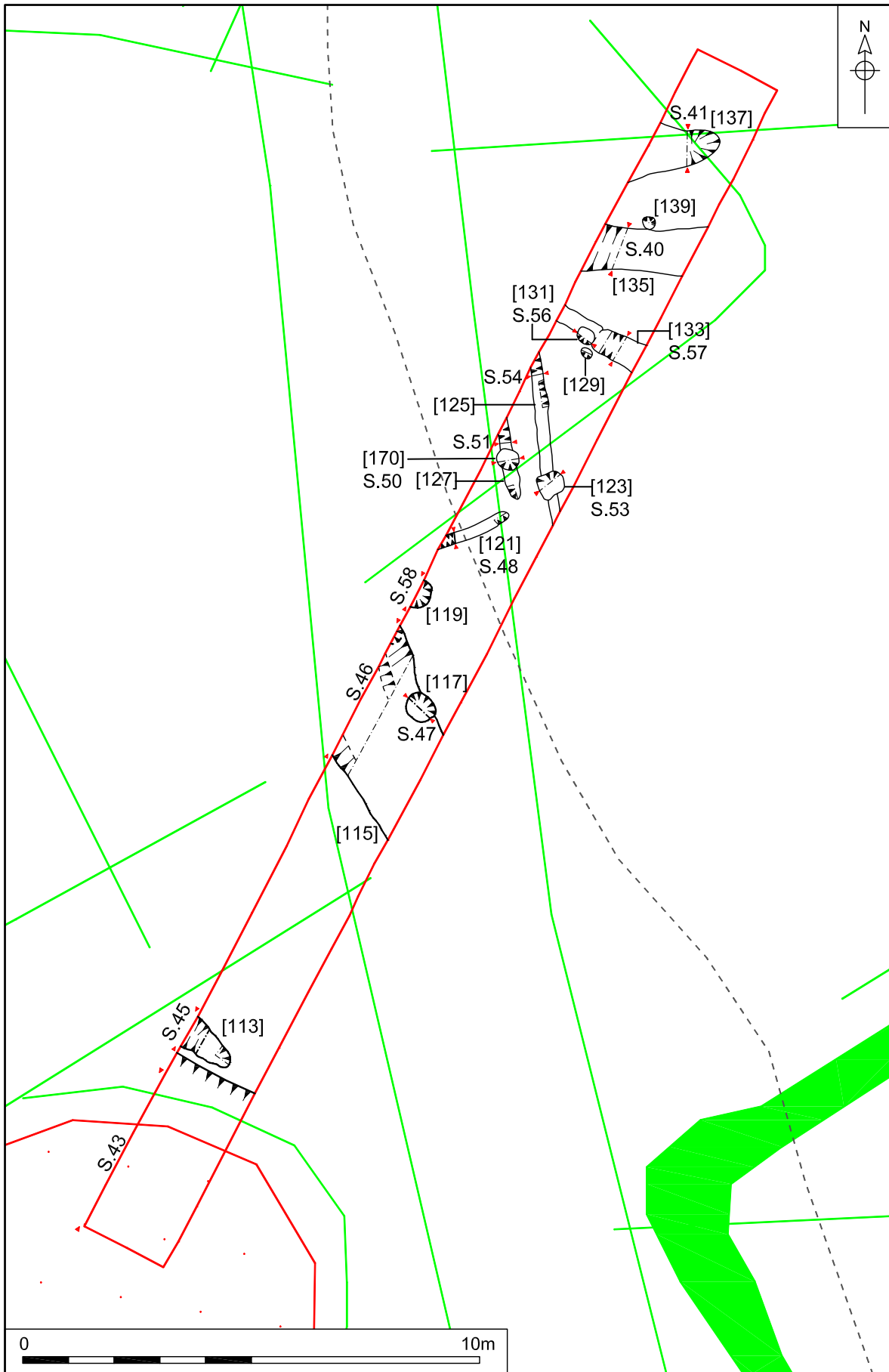


Figure 15. Trench 7, plan. Scale 1:125

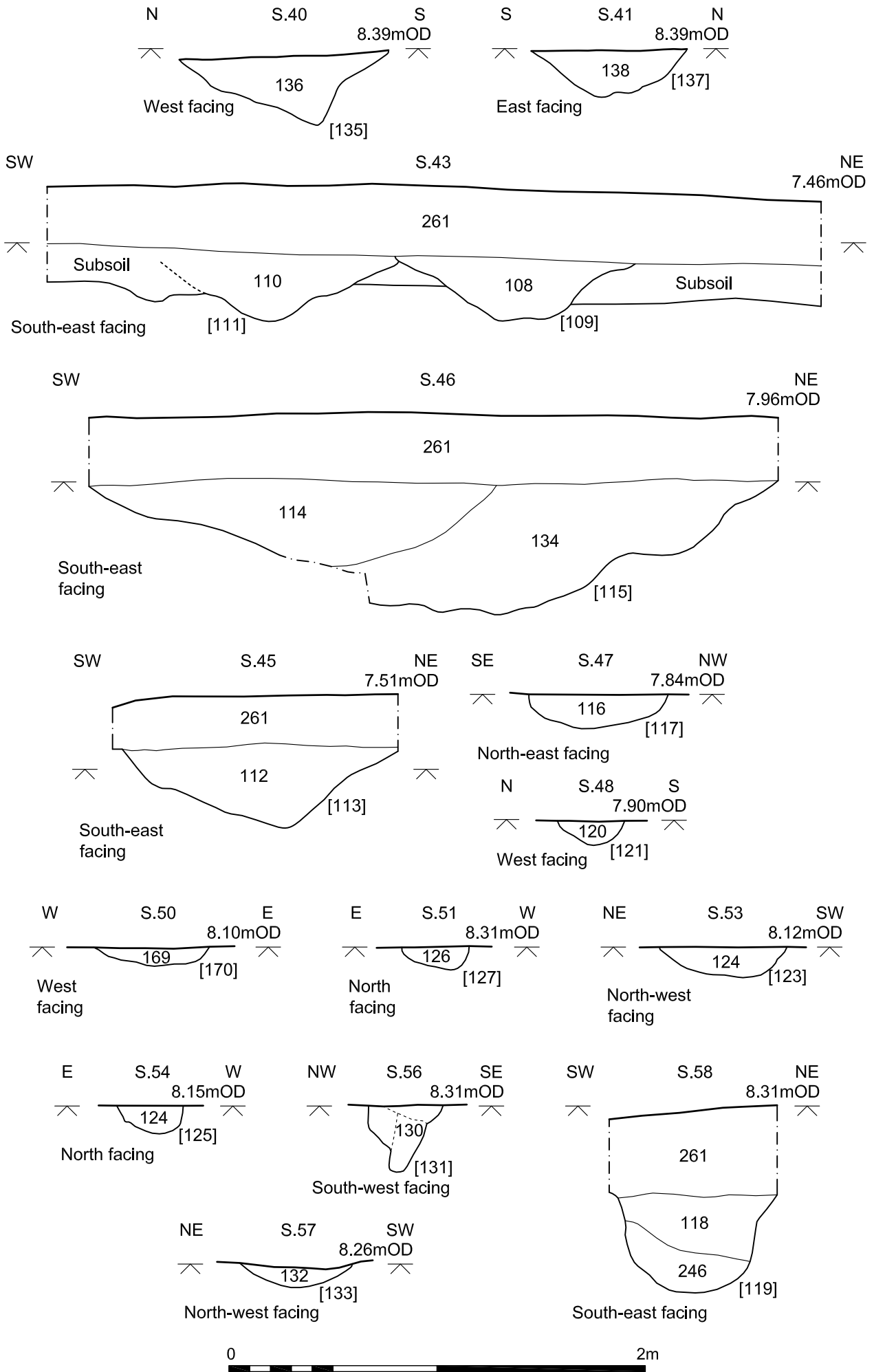


Figure 16. Trench 7, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 8



Plate 21. Trench 8, looking west, 1m scale

Figs 3, 17 and 18; Plates 21 and 22

Location

Orientation East to West

East end 652375, 300189

West end 652346, 300180

Dimensions

Length 29.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.50-0.80m

Levels

East top 7.03 m OD

West top 7.01 m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
63	Cut	A small ditch or gully at the west end of Trench 8. This was aligned north-east-south-west and measured 0.07m in depth and 0.40m in width. Its sides were gradual and appeared uneven in plan. It is possible this feature was connected in some way to an oven [65] located 3.5m to the east, perhaps having a structural purpose?. Its fill contained CBM and charcoal flecks.	0.07m	6.61m OD
64	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of [63] with frequent small stones. Inclusions of small fragments of fired clay or CBM and charcoal were also present in this context.	0.07m	6.61m OD
65	Cut	Plate 22. A clearly defined and well preserved small oven located at the west end of Trench 8. Circular in plan this feature has a diameter of 0.75m and depth of 0.35m. The survival of this feature was notable as it was present just below the ploughsoil at a height of 6.78m OD. Approximately 25% of this feature was excavated, examining the body of the oven and what appeared to be a stoke hole	0.35m	6.78m OD

Trench 8				
		located in the south of the oven. The structure of the oven was built from fired clay (217) that was c.2cm in thickness and it appeared that the top of the oven had collapsed in on itself so that this material was still preserved within the body of the oven. Fills within the oven produced pottery of Roman date. A sample (Sample <1>) was taken from the charcoal rich fill (66) present at the base of this feature.		
66	Deposit	The main, though not primary fill of oven [65], this was a mixed dark brown to black sand silt with areas of charcoal lenses. This would seem to contain some material generated by the use of the oven, perhaps mixed with material backfilling the feature once it had gone out of use. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this context and a soil sample (Sample <1>) taken.	0.35m	6.61m OD
67	Deposit	A mid orange and deep red mix of fired clay that represented the upper structure of the oven having collapsed down into the body of the feature.	0.06m	6.73m OD
68	Cut	A shallow ditch aligned north-west to south-east with a width of 0.60m and depth of 0.09m. Though shallow, it contained several pottery sherds of Roman date, suggesting it was located close to settlement of this period.	0.09m	6.67m OD
69	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of ditch [68] with occasional small flints, stones and charcoal flecks.	0.09m	6.67m OD
70	Cut	A small pit, possibly circular in plan though only partly present in the evaluation trench. It measured 0.26m in depth and 0.60m in width and had steep sided to a rounded base. Though undated, the character of its fill within this pit might indicate it predates Roman activity in this area.	0.26m	6.58m OD
71	Deposit	A mixed pale and mid orange brown silt sand fill of pit [70]. This contained few small stones	0.26m	6.58m OD
72	Cut	A pit, semi-circular to elongate in plan with a width of 2.20m and depth of 0.36m. Possible	0.36m	6.58m OD

Trench 8				
		disturbed, perhaps by a three throw at its east edge, it had steep sides to a rounded base.		
73	Deposit	A mixed pale to mid orange brown silt sand fill of pit [72] that contained occasional small stones and flints. Worked flint and a small quantity of prehistoric pottery was recovered from this context.	0.36m	6.58m OD
74	Cut	A feature that was sub-circular in plan with uneven, steep to gradually sloping sides to an uneven base. It is possible this feature is of natural origin, rather than a pit. It measured 0.21m in depth and 1.80m in width.	0.21m	6.65m OD
75	Deposit	A mix of pale and mid orange browns, this was a silt sand fill of [74] that contained occasional small stones.	0.21m	6.65m OD
76	Cut	A well defined ditch terminus aligned north-east to south-west. Measuring 0.70m in width and 0.26m in depth, it had steep sides to a rounded base. It was noted that the fill [77] of this feature was similar in character to those of nearby features [70], [72] and [74]. These features are thought to predate Roman activity, with prehistoric pottery recovered from this feature.	0.26m	5.94m OD
77	Deposit	A mix of pale and mid orange brown silt sand with occasional small stones that is the fill of ditch [76]. Pottery of Early Neolithic date was recovered from this context.	0.26m	5.94m OD
78	Cut	A small pit or post-hole at the east end of the evaluation trench. Circular in plan it measured 0.40m in diameter and had a depth of 0.13m. Near vertical to steep sided with a flattish base, the sides of this feature had in places a reddish pink colour, perhaps suggesting burning within this feature.	0.13m	6.38m OD
79	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of pit or post-hole [78]. This deposit contained occasional small stones and had dark lenses of charcoal present throughout.	0.13m	6.38m OD
80	Cut	A shallow pit, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.70m and depth of	0.10m	6.38m OD

Trench 8				
		0.10m. Its sides were mostly near vertical except to the east where it was gradual. Its base was flat. This feature lay adjacent to [78].		
81	Deposit	A dark mid grey brown sand silt fill of pit [80]. With occasional small stones, this deposit also contained lenses of charcoal rich soil throughout.	0.10m	6.38m OD
214	--	Unstratified finds from Trench 8.	--	--
215	Deposit	A mid orange brown sand silt fill of oven [65]. This deposit appeared to be a mix of soils and fired clay from the oven's construction and subsequent collapse within the body of the structure following disuse.	0.10m	6.73m OD
216	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt upper fill of oven [65]. This contained frequent small stones. This deposit seems to have been naturally accumulated within the oven following its disuse.	0.10m	6.78m OD
217	Deposit	A mid pink to red clay sand fill of oven [65] that formed the lining of this structure. This material was somewhat mixed towards the centre of the oven, but had survived <i>in situ</i> along the edges of the cut and clearly defined the circular shape of the oven in plan as a ring of heated clay.	0.15m	6.76m OD
218	Deposit	Pale brown sand silt fill of oven [65]. This deposit was present on the base of the ovens construction cut, below deposit (66). It appears to represent material perhaps accidentally deposited during construction.	0.04m	6.55m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.30m	7.03 m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil, mid orange brown sand silt with occasional small and medium stones.	0.50m	6.73m OD
263	Deposit	Geological, mid yellow brown sand with patches of gravels and medium stones.	--	6.55m OD

Discussion

This trench appears to contain at least one pit [72] of prehistoric date with other undated features of similar appearance but lacking finds considered to be of similar date. Features of Roman date recorded within this trench included a small oven, present at the west of the trench and presumably enclosed within a structure. Roman pottery recovered from this oven and a ditch in this trench indicate occupation of this period in and around the vicinity of the trench. One unstratified find recovered from the spoil of this trench is the base of a small pottery vessel of Roman date with a pattern inscribed on its base.

Trench 8



Plate 22. Trench 8, oven [65] of Roman date, looking east, 0.50m scale

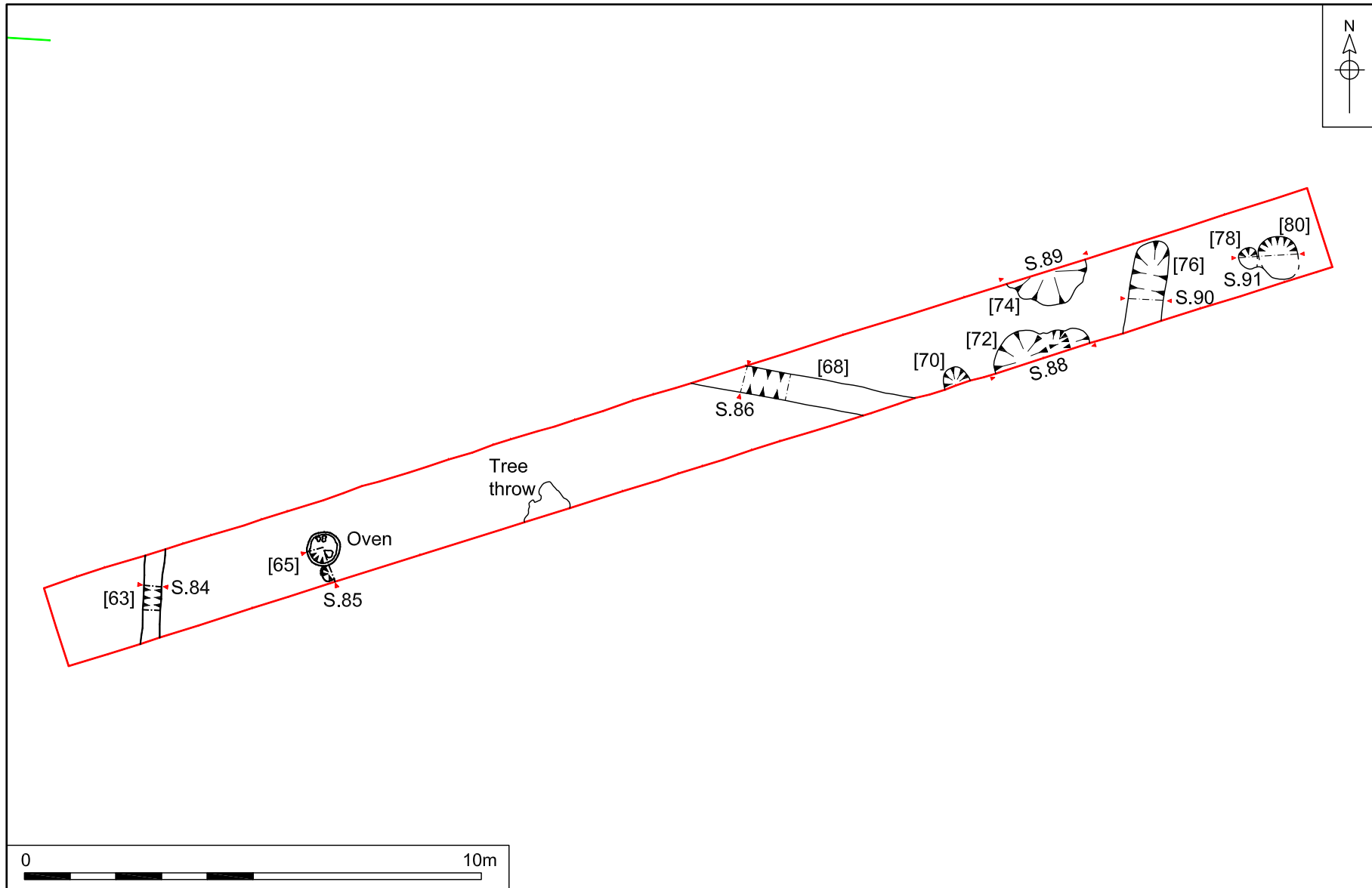


Figure 17. Trench 8, plan. Scale 1:125

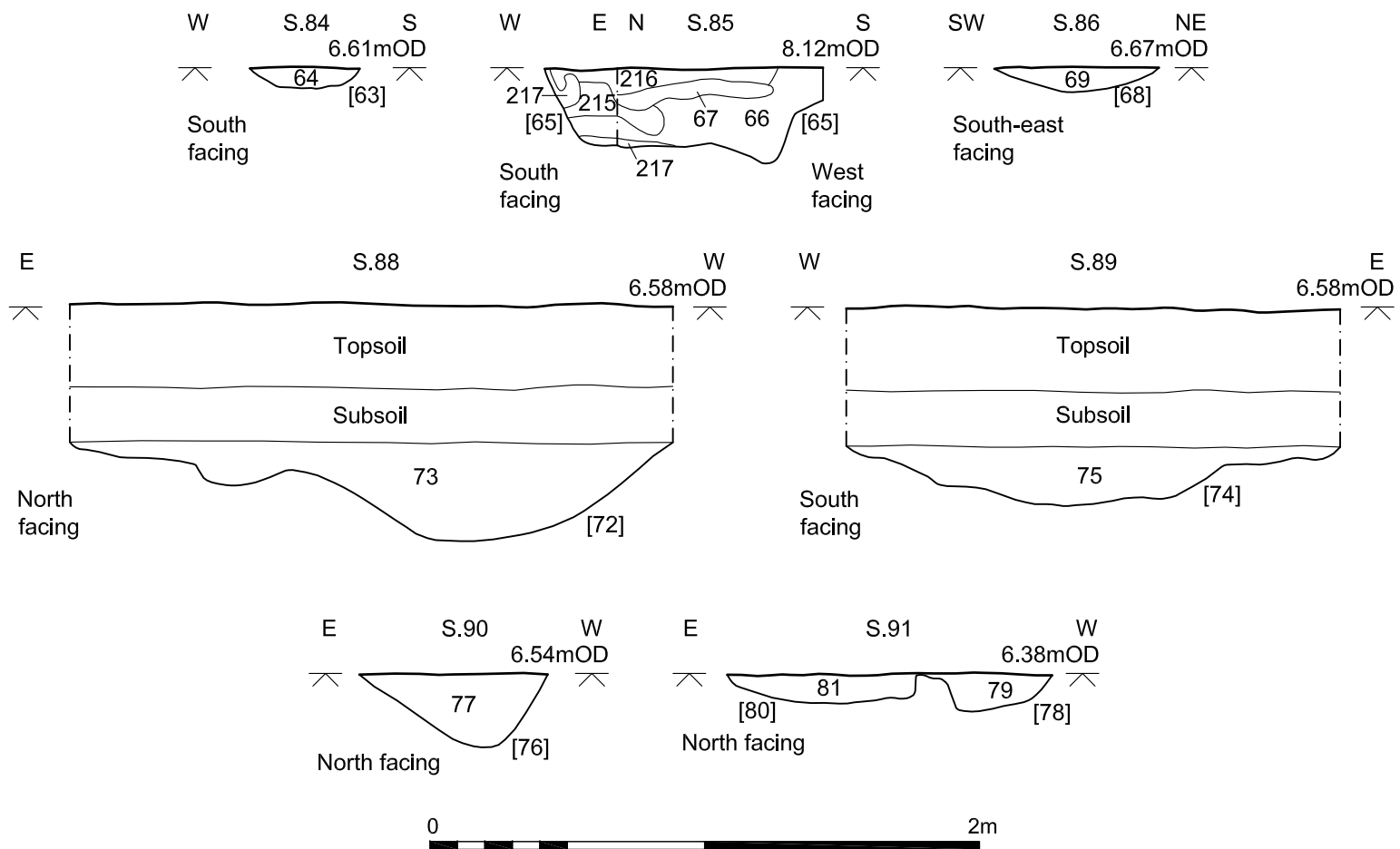


Figure 18. Trench 8, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 9



Plate 23. Trench 9, looking north, 2x1m scales

Figs 3, 19 and 20; Plate 23

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 652390, 300180

South-east end 652399, 300152

Dimensions

Length 27.00m

Width 2.15m

Depth 0.78-0.86m

Levels

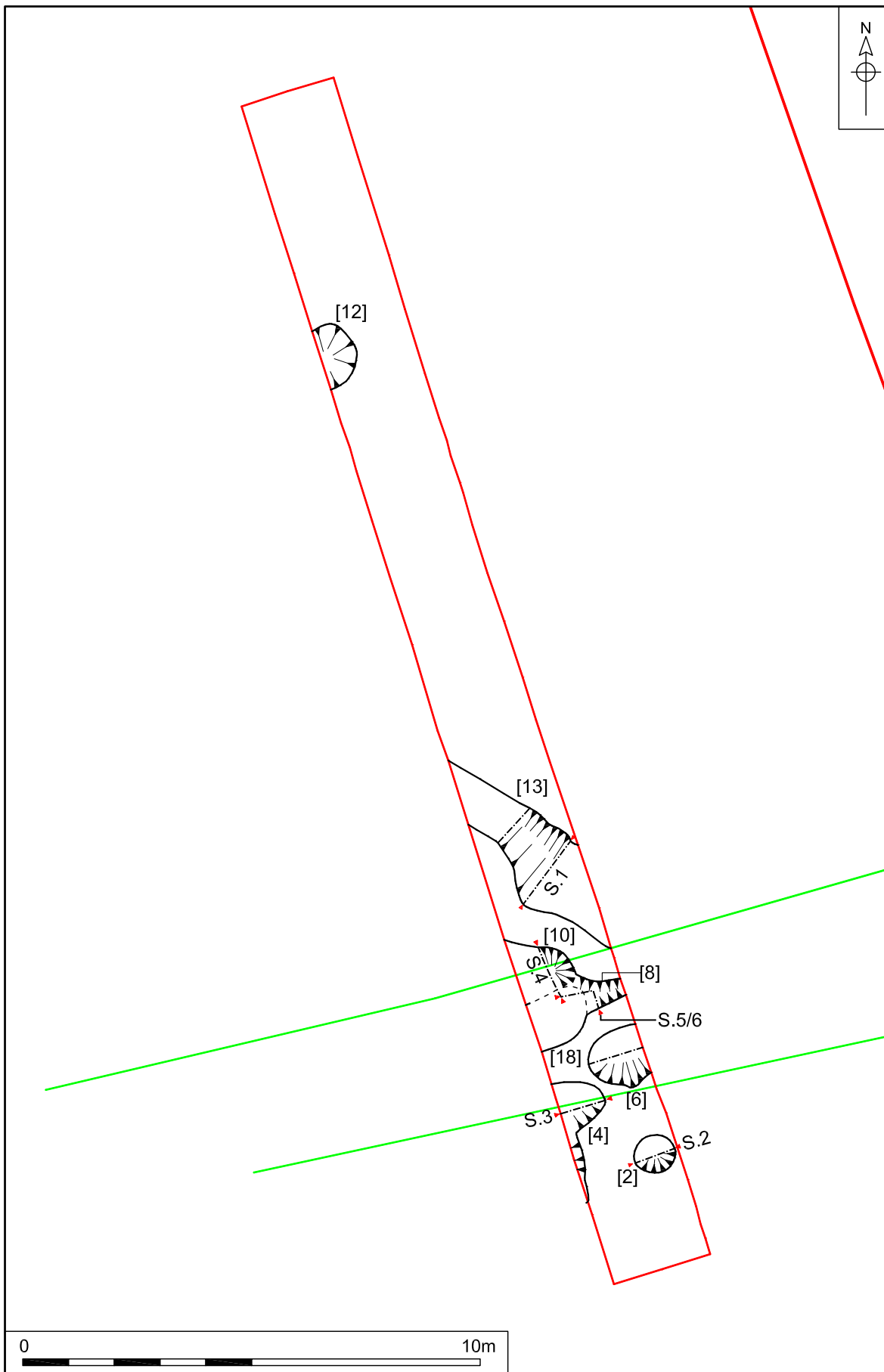
North-west top 6.62m OD

South-east top 5.66m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Mid grey brown sand fill of pit [2]. It contained frequent fragments of flints and stones.	0.14m	5.88m OD
2	Cut	A circular pit with a diameter of 0.94m and dept of 0.14m. This feature was shallow with very gradual sides to a flattish base.	0.14m	5.88m OD
3	Deposit	A dark grey brown sand fill of pit [4]. This contained frequent small and medium flints and stones. A single worked flint was also recovered from this deposit.	0.46m	4.92m OD
4	Cut	A pit, oval in plan and broadly east-west aligned. It measured 1.14m in length and 1.00m in width with a depth of 0.46m. Its sides were steep to gradual to a rounded base.	0.46m	4.92m OD
5	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand fill of [6] that contained frequent flints and small stones.	--	4.99m OD
6	Cut	Considered to be the remains of a tree throw, this feature was irregular in plan with irregular sides. It measured 1.25m in length. Not illustrated.	--	4.99m OD
7	Deposit	Mid grey brown sand fill of ditch [8] that contained frequent flints and small stones. Cut by pit [10].	0.20m	5.05m OD

Trench 9				
8	Cut	A ditch aligned approximately east-west. It measured 0.20m in depth with a width of 0.66m. Its sides were gradual to a rounded base. This ditch appeared to be the earliest of three intercutting features that included a ditch terminal [10] and pit [18].	0.20m	5.05m OD
9	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand fill of ditch [10]. This contained frequent flints and stones. A piece of worked flint was recovered from this context.	0.65m	5.11m OD
10	Cut	This feature, interpreted as the terminal of a ditch, was aligned east-west and measured 0.65m in depth and 1.20m in width. Well defined in plan and section, it was considerably larger than ditch [8] which it appeared to cut. The end of this ditch rose steeply at its eastern limit to provide a clearly defined limit, without any indication of a post setting or similar structural element.	0.65m	5.11m OD
11	Deposit	A dark grey brown sand silt fill of [12]. It contained frequent small stones and flints.	0.36m	5.40m OD
12	Cut	Sub circular in plan with sides varying from steep to gradual and areas of what appeared to be disturbed geological deposits, this feature is interpreted as a tree throw. It measured 0.36m in depth with a length of 1.32m and width of 0.75m. Not illustrated.	0.36m	5.40m OD
13	Cut	A ditch aligned north-west to south-east with a maximum depth of 0.53m and width of 1.70m. Its sides were steep along its north-east side and gradual along its south-west side, breaking more steeply closer to the base of the feature. The bottom of the ditch was slightly uneven. The fill of this feature [14] demonstrated two distinct shades of brown, and this combined with the different profiles seen in section might indicate that a shallow pit cuts this ditch, possibly seen in plan as the bulge present on the south-west line of the ditch.	0.36m	5.15m OD
14	Deposit	Mid to dark brown sand silt fill of ditch [13]. This deposit contained frequent medium flints and stones. There were two distinct	0.53m	5.15m OD

Trench 9				
		shades of brown within this deposit, with a paler brown fill present to the west of the ditch.		
17	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand fill of pit [18]. This deposit contained frequent flints and stones, particularly toward the base of the deposit.	0.23m	5.11m OD
18	Cut	A medium-sized pit, possibly elongate in plan which cut features [10] and [8]. It measured 1.25m from east to west, with a width of 1.05m and depth of 0.23m. With moderately steep sides to a rounded base, it appeared to cut both ditches [8] and [10].	0.23m	5.11m OD
19	Deposit	A layer of small stones /gravels present along the north-west edge of ditch [13].	0.11m	5.13m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.43m	6.62m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil, orange brown silt sand with occasional small stones	0.43m	6.19m OD
263	Deposit	Geological	--	5.68m OD
Discussion				
Of the features in this trench two ditches and a ditch terminal were the best defined, with possible pits and tree throws also recorded. None of the features were dated. The absence of Roman artefacts suggests this area was peripheral to the focus of Roman activity at the site.				



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Figure 19. Trench 9, plan. Scale 1:125

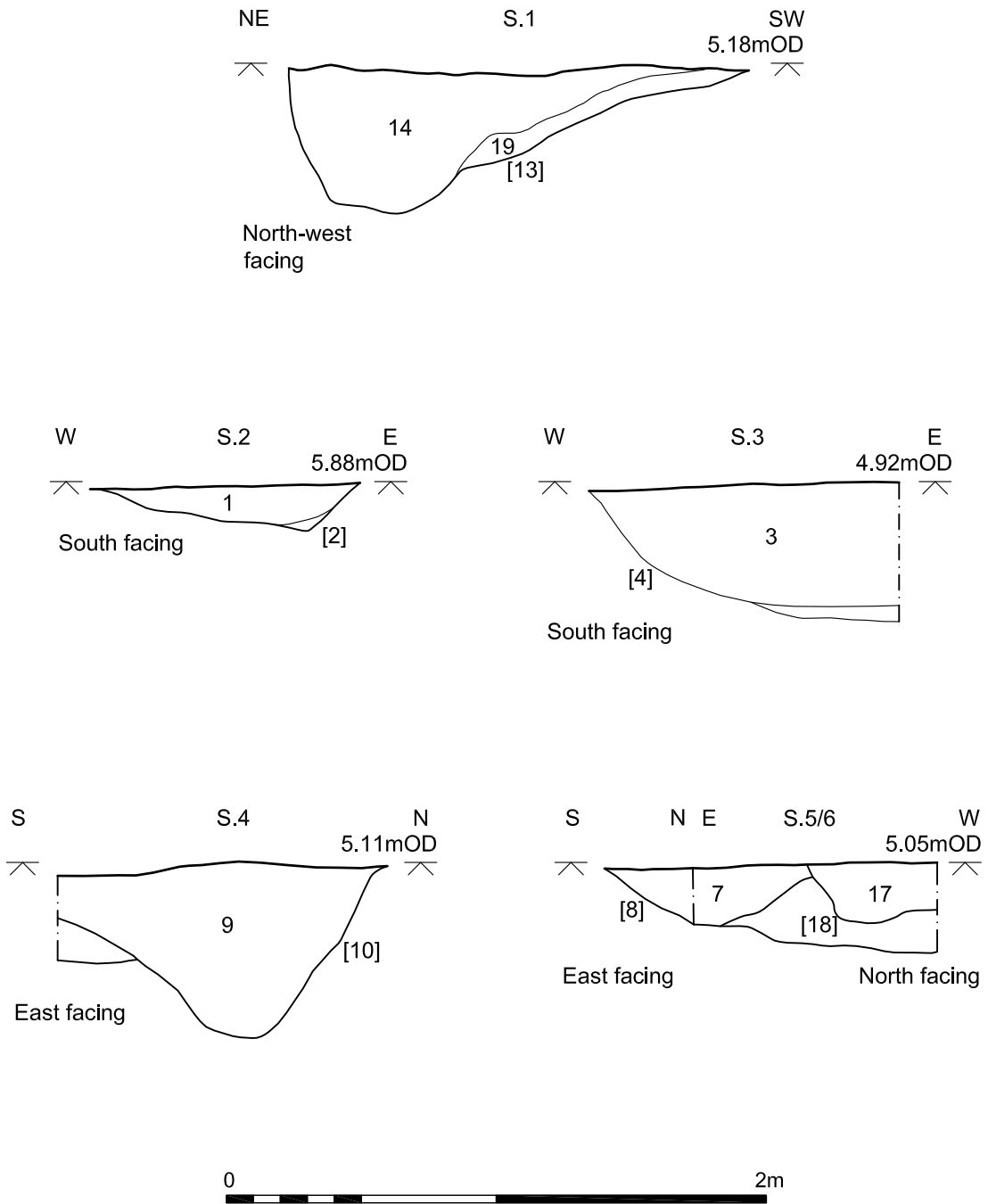


Figure 20. Trench 9, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 10



Plate 24. Trench 10, looking north-east, 1m scale

Figs 3, 21 and 22 and 12; Plates 24 and 25

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 652349, 300167

South-east end 652378, 300156

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 2.20m

Depth 0.60-0.96m

Levels

North-west top 6.27m OD

South-east top 5.63m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
40	Cut	Well defined in plan and section, this north-south aligned ditch was different in profile along its edges, with a gradually sloping side to the west and steep-sided along the east. It measured 0.47m in depth and 1.36m in width.	0.47m	5.27m OD
41	Deposit	This deposit, the fill of ditch [40] was a mid to dark grey brown, slightly silt sand. It contained frequent small and medium stones and moderate charcoal flecks. The appearance of this deposit was quite mixed, with patches of darker soil and sand lens from animal and root disturbance. Artefacts recovered from this deposit included pottery and metal working debris of Roman date.	0.47m	5.27m OD
42	Deposit	A dark grey brown sand fill of pit [43], this represented the upper fill of this pit, overlying its primary fill [50]. This deposit contained frequent charcoal flecks and lumps along with moderate stones and flints. Finds of metal working debris were recovered from this deposit as well as	0.53m	5.20m OD

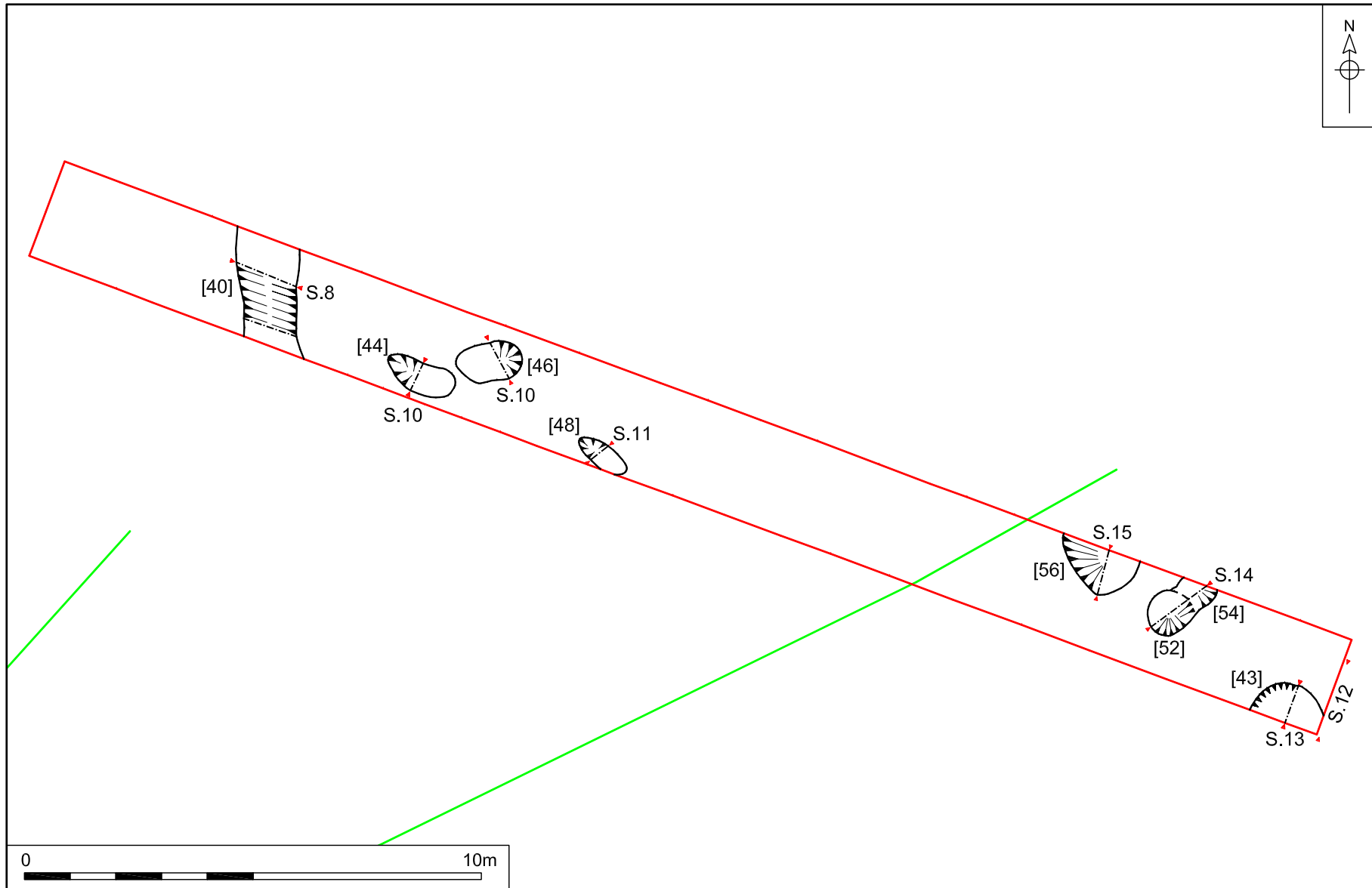
Trench 10				
		pottery of Roman date.		
43	Cut	Plate 25. A well defined pit, circular in plan and present at the south-east end of Trench 10. The quantity of finds recovered from this particular feature meant a small proportion of this pit was excavated, sufficient to establish its depth and likely date. It measured 0.55m in depth with a diameter of 1.60m. Steep sided and flat based, it appeared to contain occupation debris, in particular metal working slag.	0.55m	5.20m OD
44	Cut	A small pit, sub-oval or slightly curved/reniform (kidney-shaped) in plan with a slight north-west-south-east alignment. It measured 1.55m in length and 0.61m in width with a depth of 0.21m. Its profile was quite gradually sides to a rounded base. Interpreted as a pit or feature of probable prehistoric date.	0.21m	4.85m OD
45	Deposit	The fill of feature [44], this was a mid brown silt sand with some animal or root disturbance. It contained occasional small stones and flints.	0.21m	4.85m OD
46	Cut	A small pit or similar type of feature that was sub-oval or slightly irregular in plan and measured 1.40m in length and 0.84m in width, and was 0.30m in depth. Generally with gradual sides, it was notably steeper along its north-western edge.	0.30m	4.98m OD
47	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of feature [46] that contained rare small stones. Finds worked flint were recovered from this deposit	0.30m	4.98m OD
48	Cut	A small feature, possibly a pit, which was an elongate sub-oval in plan. It measured 1.25m in length and 0.46m in width, with a depth of 0.16m. It was aligned approximately north-south. Its sides were gradual to a rounded based	0.16m	4.84m OD
49	Deposit	A mid brown silt sand fill of feature [48]. This contained occasional medium flints.	0.16m	4.84m OD
50	Deposit	A charcoal rich sand which formed the primary fill of pit [43]. It contained occasional small	0.32m	4.66m OD

Trench 10				
		stones and Oyster shell. A quantity of Roman pottery including Samian ware was retrieved from this fill as well as metal working debris.		
51	Deposit	The fill of pit [52], this was a mid grey brown sand containing occasional flints and stones. Pottery of Early Neolithic date was recovered from this context.	0.35m	4.58m OD
52	Cut	A small pit, circular in plan with a diameter of 0.79m and depth of 0.35m. The sides of this feature were steep and its base rounded.	0.35m	4.58m OD
53	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand fill of [54]	0.15m	4.55m OD
54	Cut	Irregular in plan and section, this feature is interpreted as a tree throw. It measure 0.15m in width and 0.19 in depth, and had possibly disturbed pit [55].	0.15m	4.55m OD
55	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand fill of pit [56] containing occasional small flints and stones. Two pieces of worked flint and a sherd of prehistoric pottery of Early Neolithic date were recovered from this deposit.	0.31m	5.25m OD
56	Cut	A pit, sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.60m and depth of 0.31m. Its sides were gradual and its base flat to slightly round. Quite well defined in plan and section.	0.31m	5.25m OD
244	--	Unstratified finds from Trench 10	--	--
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.36m	6.27m
262	Deposit	Subsoil, dark orange brown sand silt moderate small and medium stones	0.60m	5.35m OD
263	Deposit	Geological, pale yellow orange sands with occasional gravels	--	4.90m OD
Discussion				
<p>Features of possible prehistoric date were revealed in this trench. The best example of these was pit [56] which contained flint work and prehistoric pottery of early Neolithic date, while other undated features such as [44] an [46] are thought likely to be of pre-Roman date, particularly as Roman material was so prevalent in the trench that it would be expected to be incorporated within features of Roman or later date.</p> <p>Roman features comprised a circular pit at the south-east end of the evaluation trench which contained Samian ware and a ditch which also contained pottery of Roman date. The quantities of material recovered from these features suggest occupation of some density occurring nearby, with secondary metal working one of the activities taking place.</p>				

Trench 10



Plate 25. Trench 10, pit [43] of Roman date, looking south-west, 1m scale



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Figure 21. Trench 10, plan. Scale 1:125

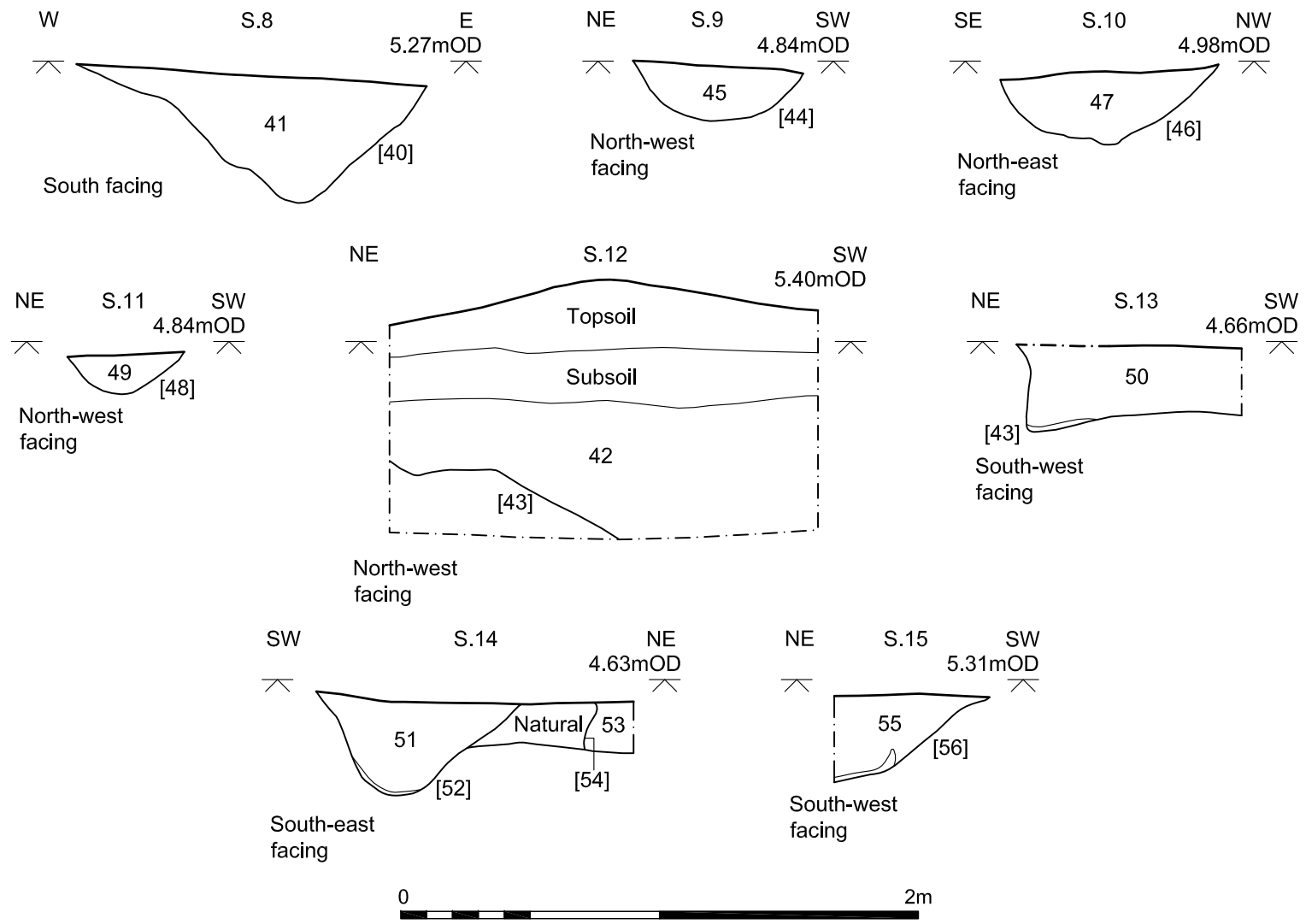


Figure 22. Trench 10, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 11



Plate 26. Trench 11, looking south, 1m scale

Figs 3, 23 and 24; Plate 26

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 652330, 300162

South-east end 652339, 300134

Dimensions

Length 29.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.80m

Levels

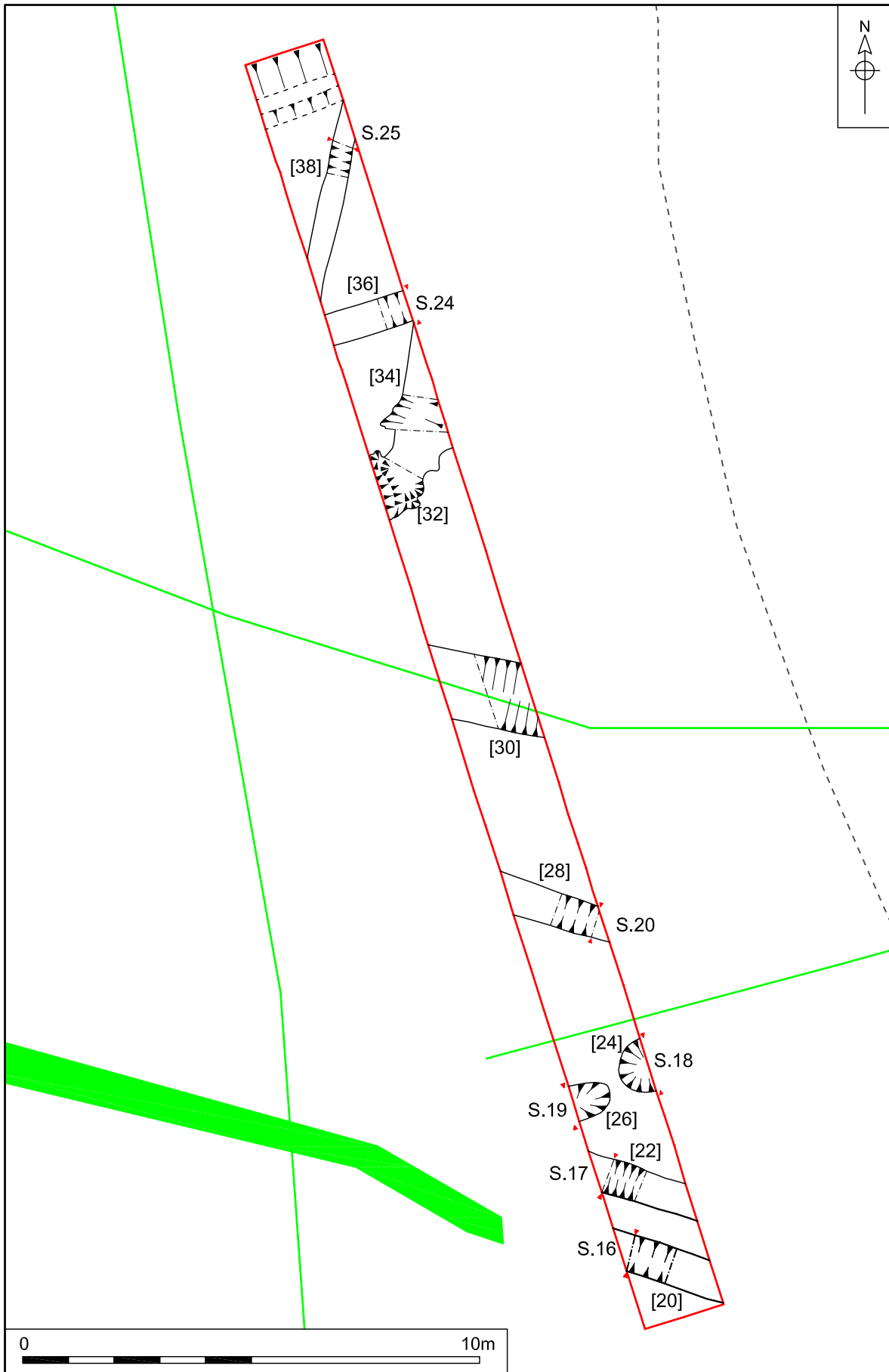
North-west top 6.00m OD

South-east top 4.92m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
20	Cut	A shallow ditch at the south end of the evaluation trench. Aligned south-east to north-west, this feature appeared to have been identified by the crop mark survey. It measured 0.18m in depth and 0.80m in width and was parallel to adjacent ditch [22]. Well defined in plan and section, it had gradual sides and a flattish base.	0.18m	4.07m OD
21	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of Fill of ditch [20]. It contained occasional medium to large flints. Pottery of Roman date was recovered from this deposit.	0.18m	4.07m OD
22	Cut	A ditch aligned south-east to north-west that was similar to ditch [20] but with a steeper 'V'-shaped profile. It measured 0.30m in depth 0.80m in width.	0.30m	4.10m OD
23	Deposit	Fill of ditch [22], a mid grey brown sand silt with occasional mediums flints and stones.	0.30m	4.10m OD
24	Cut	A pit, semi-circular in plan with a rounded base and gradual sides. It measured 0.30m in depth and 1.20m in width. It lay close to a similar feature [26].	0.30m	4.13m OD
25	Deposit	The single fill of pit [24], this was	0.30m	4.13m OD

Trench 11				
		a mid grey brown sand silt with infrequent small stones and flints.		
26	Cut	A small pit perhaps oval in plan along an east-west axis. Only partly present within the evaluation trench, it measured 0.20m in depth and had a width of 0.80m.	0.20m	4.13m OD
27	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of pit [26]. It contained infrequent small stones and flints.	0.20m	4.13m OD
28	Cut	A ditch aligned north-west to south-east with a rounded base and moderately steep sides. It measured 0.25m in depth and 0.70m in width.	0.25m	4.26m OD
29	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of ditch [28] containing occasional small stones and flints.	0.25m	4.26m OD
30	Cut	A ditch aligned north-west to south-east with a steep sided profile and slightly pointed base. Approximately twice the size of other ditched recorded in this trench, it measured 0.55m in depth with a width of 1.7m.	0.55m	4.50m OD
31	Deposit	The deposit, the single identified fill of ditch [30] was a mid grey brown sand silt containing occasional large flints and stones. Some patches of blackened sand were present throughout this fill, as well as areas of animal and root disturbance. Pottery of Roman date and fired clay was recovered from this deposit.	0.55m	4.50m OD
32	Cut	This feature appeared to cut the terminus of ditch [34] and is interpreted as a tree throw, suggested by its irregular form and shape in plan and section. It did contain a worked flint, but this is considered residual. Not illustrated.	0.60m	4.76m OD
33	Deposit	A mid grey brown sand silt fill of tree throw [32]. This fill contained blackened patches of sand. A single worked flint was recovered from the surface of this deposit.	0.60m	4.76m OD
34	Cut	A ditch aligned north-east to south-west in plan. It measured 0.75m in width and 0.40m in depth and appeared to terminate in the evaluation trench at the location of tree throw [32], as this ditch did not appear to extend	0.40m	4.89m OD

Trench 11				
		beyond this point. Quite 'U' shaped in profile, it had moderately steep sides to a rounded base.		
35	Deposit	The fill of [34] was a mid grey brown sand silt containing occasional small stones.	0.35m	4.89m OD
36	Cut	A ditch aligned east-west and located at the north end of the site, it had moderately steep sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.15m in depth and had a width of 0.70m. It would seem to be slightly different to that of other ditches recorded in Trench 11.	0.15m	4.91m OD
37	Deposit	The mid grey brown fill of ditch [36]. This was a mid grey brown sand silt with occasional small and medium sized stones.	0.15m	4.91m OD
38	Cut	A small ditch aligned north-east to south-west with gradual sides and rounded base, it measured 0.17m in depth and 0.55m in width.	0.17m	5.04m OD
39	Deposit	The mid grey brown sand silt fill of ditch [38]. It contained occasional small stones.	0.17m	5.04m OD
261	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown sand silt	0.60m	6.00 m OD
262	Deposit	Subsoil, mid orange brown sand silt	0.30m	4.73m OD
263	Deposit	Geological, bright to mid yellow sand with occasional gravels	--	4.13m OD
Discussion				
A total of six ditches were present in this evaluation trench, of which four ([20]/[22]/[28]/[30]) shared the same alignment. Based on the pottery recovered from two of these, as a group they appear to be of Roman date. Other ditches while appreciating different alignments are also thought likely to date to this broad period. Two undated pits were also recorded.				



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Figure 23. Trench 11, plan. Scale 1:125

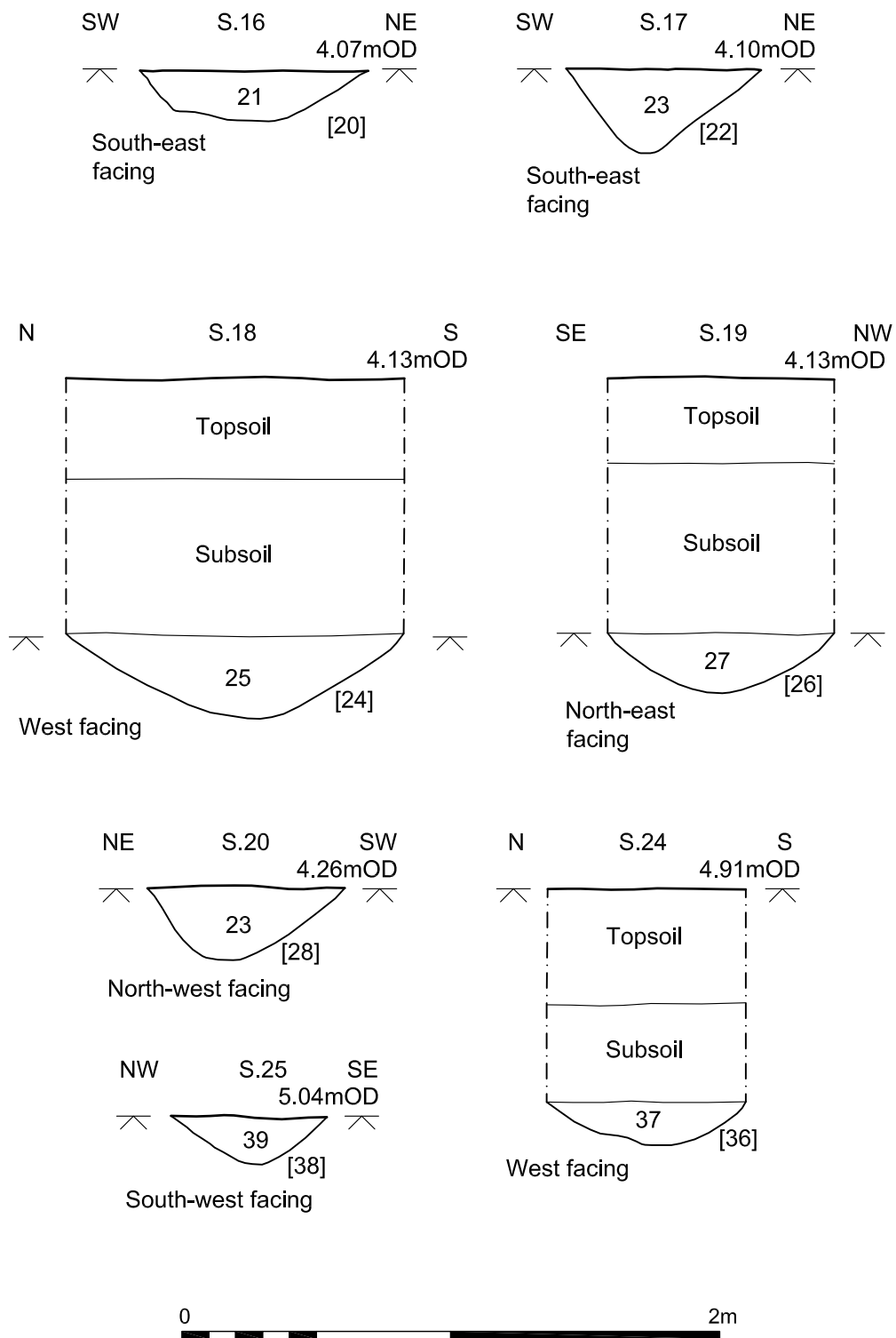


Figure 24. Trench 11, sections. Scale 1:25

6.0 ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and information was entered on an Excel spreadsheet, outlining broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and reports are presented below ordered by material.

A list of finds in context number order can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Prehistoric Pottery

by Sarah Percival

6.1.1 Introduction

A total of nine sherds weighing 133g were recovered from five excavated contexts (Appendix 3). All are undecorated body sherds of Earlier Neolithic Plain Bowl form. The assemblage is fragmentary and in moderate to poor condition.

6.1.2 Description

The sherds are all made of coarse flint-tempered fabric containing moderate to common angular, white flint pieces. The exterior of the sherds has been smoothed with occasional flint pieces protruding from the surface. No rim sherds are present and there are no other diagnostic sherds to indicate vessel form. The coarse, flinty fabric and thick curved body sherds suggest round-based, bag-shaped bowl forms similar to those found along with other shouldered forms at Eaton Heath and Broome Heath (Wainwright 1973, fig.14, P7; Wainwright 1972, fig.17, P44) and more recently at Colney near Norwich (Percival 2004).

The sherds were recovered from the fills of small circular pits [52] and [56], Trench 10 and pit [72] and ditch [76] Trench 8. In the East Anglian region pottery of Earlier Neolithic date is most often found within pit fills and appears to represent redeposited settlement debris placed into pits subsequent to exposure in a midden or surface deposit (Garrow 2006).

6.1.3 Discussion

Few finds of Earlier Neolithic pottery have been made in the Hopton area. A significant assemblage recovered at Broom Heath, Ditchingham some 30km to the south-west (Wainwright 1972) provides a significant regional assemblage and small numbers of sherds have also been found at sites at Loddon and Chedgrave around 25km west along the Waveney Valley (Healy 1984). The presence of the assemblage represents activity at the site during the earlier Neolithic with the pottery dating to c.3800-3300BC (Percival 2004).

6.2 Roman Pottery

by Andrew Peachey

6.2.1 Introduction

Trial-trench excavations recovered a total of 230 sherds (5,781g) of Roman pottery in a well-preserved to slightly abraded condition (Appendix 4). The Roman pottery, including a range of coarse wares supplemented with low quantities of imported samian ware bowls and dishes, and white ware flagons appears to have a relatively narrow chronological range spanning the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries,

probably within c.AD120-150. The assemblage includes a significant group in pit [43], with a number of chronologically comparable smaller groups in ditches.

6.2.2 Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight and R.EVE. Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and assigned a code from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998), or assigned an alpha-numeric code based on this system. Samian forms reference Webster (1996). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

6.2.3 Fabric Descriptions

6.2.3.1 Samian ware

- LGF SA La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)
- LEZ SA2 Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32)
- MAD SA La Madeleine samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 38). Abundant limestone (generally <0.1, but sparse to 0.25mm), sparse red/black iron rich grains (<0.2mm), sparse mica, and occasional quartz (0.1-0.3mm)

6.2.3.2 Sandy Grey wares and related coarse wares

- GRF1 Fine sandy grey ware 1. A mid to pale grey fabric. Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted quartz (generally <0.1mm), occasional iron rich grains (<0.5mm) and common fine mica, especially visible on the surface (but not as abundant as WAT RE1). The fabric has a slightly powdery to smooth feel
- GRF2 Fine sandy reduced (grey/black) 'London' ware 2. Black surfaces fading to a brown-yellow core/margins, sometimes with a thin black core (mica is especially visible on the surface). Inclusions comprise well-sorted, common-abundant fine quartz (<0.1mm), common very fine mica and sparse-occasional chalk/limestone and oxidised clay pellets (generally <0.5mm, occasionally to 2mm). A hard fabric with a smooth to glossy finish. Probably a West Stow product (Tomber & Dore 1998, 185)
- WAT RE1 Wattisfield/Waveney Valley region reduced ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 184)
- BSW1 Black-surfaced grey ware 1. Black to dark grey surfaces, thin red margins and a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted fine quartz (0.1-0.2mm), common fine mica, and sparse dark grey/red clay pellets (0.1-0.5mm). Moderately hard with a finely abrasive to powdery feel
- GRS1 Sandy Grey Ware 1. Dark grey surfaces over a grey-brown to red-brown core. Inclusions comprise common moderately-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm) and sparse fine mica, with occasional limestone/voids (0.1-1mm, occasionally to 3mm). Hard, with a slightly abrasive feel
- GRS2 Sandy Grey Ware 2. Mid/dark grey surfaces over a mid grey-brown core, sometimes with thin red margins. Inclusions comprise common poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse limestone/voids (0.1-1mm, occasionally to 3mm). Hard, with a slightly abrasive feel
- GRS3 Sandy Grey Ware 3. Mid/dark grey surfaces, dark red margins and a dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common-abundant, moderately-sorted angular quartz (0.1-0.5mm). Probably an Essex (Colchester?) product. Very hard with an abrasive feel
- GRS4 Sandy Grey Ware 4. Mid grey surfaces and core, typically slightly contrasting. Inclusions comprise common, moderately sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), with occasional fine mica and chalk (<2.5mm). Hard with a slightly-moderately abrasive feel

GRS5 Sandy Grey Ware 5. Mid-grey surfaces over a fractionally darker core. Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), common fine mica, sparse dark grey iron rich grains (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally to 2mm). Hard with a slightly abrasive feel

6.2.3.3 Other coarse wares and amphora

SOW BB1 South-West black-burnished ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 129), probably produced in west Dorset or south Somerset

UNS WH1 White surfaces over an off-white to very pale grey core. Inclusions comprise common well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse dark red, iron stained clay pellets/grog (0.25-1.5mm), and occasional limestone/voids (0.25-1.5mm, occasionally to 5mm) that also often appear iron stained. A medium hardness fabric with a smooth finish

UNS WH2 Cream to pale orange surfaces over a mid orange core. Inclusions comprise common quartz and calcareous grains (<0.2mm), sparse fine mica, and sparse red/cream clay pellets (0.25-1mm). Hard with a smooth to slightly powdery feel. Probably a West Stow product (West 1990, 76: fabric 1)

BAT AM2 Baetican (late) amphorae 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 85)

Fabric Type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
LGF SA	3	139	0.00
LEZ SA2	4	89	0.00
MAD SA	1	28	0.00
GRF1	4	20	0.00
GRF2	23	168	0.20
WAT RE	4	67	0.00
BSW1	22	664	0.40
GRS1	44	1162	0.15
GRS2	58	1520	1.25
GRS3	6	374	0.30
GRS4	43	984	1.12
GRS5	3	77	0.20
SOW BB1	2	31	0.10
UNS WH1	6	261	0.00
UNS WH2	6	156	1.10
BAT AM2	1	41	0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>5781</i>	<i>4.82</i>

Table 1. Quantification of Roman fabric types

6.2.4 Distribution

The highest concentration of Roman sherds, comprising a total of 67 sherds (2520g) was contained in pit [43] (42 & 50). This group accounts for c.29% of the assemblage by sherd count (c.44% by weight), and includes decorated samian ware in association with coarse ware beakers, jars, bowl-jars and a storage jar that date the group to the early to mid 2nd century AD, probably c.AD120-150. Further chronologically comparable small groups of 10-20 sherds (205-280g) were contained in ditches [40], [68], [104], [106] & [115], pit [100], as well as sherds collected as unstratified material (214) & (243). The remainder of the assemblage is sparsely distributed, predominantly in pit and ditch features but also oven [65]

and can frequently be assigned a terminus post-quem of the early 2nd century, but lacks sufficient fabrics or forms to provide a terminal date.

6.2.5 Discussion of Fabric and Form Types

The imported samian ware includes fragments of vessels from south Gaul (LGF SA), central Gaul (LEZ SA2) and east Gaul (MAD SA), with fragments from all three centres of production contained in pit [43]. The LGF SA is the base and lower body of a Dr.29 bowl, with part of a moulded decorative scheme including a scroll and gadroon extant. The style of this limited decoration suggests the bowl was the work of Coelus ii of La Graufesenque (c.AD70-110), whose vessels are known from sites including Verulamium and Vechten (Knorr 1919: Taf.24C; <http://www1.rgzm.de/samian/home>). As is typical of LGF SA vessels, this bowl maintains a very high gloss, with a fresh (sharp) antique break, suggesting the bowl remained in circulation in the decades of the early-mid 2nd century AD. In comparison, the fragment of a MAD SA Dr.37 bowl from the same context appears to have been subject to a greater degree of wear, having been subject to repair and slight abrasion. The moulded decoration of this vessel includes an ovolo above a hare within a medallion (Ricken & Fischer 1963: types E17 & T163) that indicates a Hadrianic to early Antonine (early-mid 2nd century AD) date of manufacture. Just beneath the rim of this vessel are the remains of a lead rivet, fitted into a *post-cocturam* hole. Incidences of repair are common on mould decorated bowls, but rare on rural and small civil centre sites (Willis 2005: 11.6), suggesting that despite a ready supply of samian ware in the 2nd century AD, this vessel had a relatively high value placed on it by the occupants of this site. The remaining samian ware in the assemblage comprises LEZ SA2 plain ware including, from unstratified (217) the burnt base of a Dr.18/31 dish bearing the terminus of an unidentifiable manufacturer's stamp.

In addition to the high status decorated samian ware bowls, the assemblage also has a relatively high incidence of fine wares in the form beakers, bowls and a flask in two fine reduced fabrics (GRF1 and GRF2). Vessels of GRF1 are limited to two comparable bag-shaped beakers with panels of barbotine dot decoration, in ditch [40] (41) and pit [43] (50 respectively, which were produced at West Stow (West 1990, 78-9: type 202) and regional production including Wherstead and Pakenham from the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries AD. Vessels in GRF2 also do not post-date the mid 2nd century AD, and appear to predominantly comprise 'London' ware probably produced at West Stow, although a single sherd has close affinities with 'Parisian' ware produced in Lincolnshire. Pit [43] (50) included a GRF2 narrow-neck jar or flask with burnished lattice decoration (West 1990, 79-9: vessel 222) as well as the base of an unidentified platter or dish. The remaining GRF2 in ditches [68] (69), [115] (114) and pit [100] (101) comprises small body sherds with decoration including ring-and dot stamps, compass-inscribed circles and narrow vertical comb stokes, which may have derived from beaker or bowl form types. One body sherd in ditch [68] (69) also exhibits a lozenge of (comb?) stamped dots, which is a decorative trait more closely associated with Dr.37 imitation 'Parisian' ware bowls produced in Lincolnshire (i.e. Elsdon 1982, 45: vessel 108).

Of the coarse ware fabric groups, two are of particular interest: SOW BB21 and UNS WH2. The former: SOW BB1 is relatively common regional import from the west Dorset area often associated with military supply, although a single vessel does not infer such a presence. Ditch [68] (69) contained a hemispherical, bead

rim bowl with vertical burnished lines on the exterior that was only produced up to the early/mid 2nd century AD (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991, 124-5: type 42.1). The UNS WH2 was limited to fragments from ring-necked flagons including a small rim sherd in pit [43] (50) and the complete neck and rim recovered from unstratified (216). These types of flagon were produced at West Stow between the late 1st and mid 2nd centuries AD (West 1990, 77-8: type 1.2 & 1.10), suggesting that with GRF1/2 vessels, this area of Suffolk may have been an important supplier to the site.

The remaining coarse wares, expectedly, comprise a wide range of utilitarian form types but provide further information on the supply and chronology of the site. GRS4 appears a relatively generic Roman sandy grey ware, and includes common cooking pot and lid types, but is notable for the presence of an unusual shallow dish with a squared off, grooved rim recovered from unstratified (214). This form type is associated with the early/mid 2nd century AD kilns at Caistor St. Edmund (Swan 1982, 142: fig.8.5.29), a logical supplier by road or river as an urban centre to the west of Hopton.

Transport vessels in the assemblage are limited to a body sherd of south Spanish (Baetican) Dressel 20 amphora in ditch [62] (61) and GRS3 storage jar in pit [43] (50). GRS3 is an exceptionally well-fired, granular sandy grey ware that was probably produced at Colchester, in this instance as a storage jar with an in-turned, flat-topped undercut rim (Symonds & Wade 1999: type Cam.275), whose production ceased after the early 2nd century AD. The micaceous BSW1 and GRS5 probably also have origins to the south of Hopton, possibly in Suffolk or at Colchester, and notably include the bulk of an early Roman, BSW1 Gallo-Belgic derived platter recovered as un-stratified (218).

In contrast the common sherds of GRS1, GRS2 and UNS WH1 share a very similar suite of inclusions, and it is likely these were produced fairly locally to Hopton, which is supported by the very generic, utilitarian range of cooking pots, jars and bowl-jars that occur in these fabrics, often with soot on the exterior. The base of one such cooking pot, recovered from un-stratified (243) exhibits a *post-cocturam* device carved into its underside, comprising a six pointed star formed of three straight lines. Such devices may have been used to denote ownership, contents or particular uses of a vessel (Theodore Pena 2007, 29).

6.2.6 Discussion

The quantity of this assemblage is limited by the constraints of the sample provided by a trial-trench evaluation, but provides an indication of a potentially substantial distribution of pottery associated with phase of Roman occupation tightly focussed on the early to middle 2nd century AD, including well-stratified groups from pit and ditch features. The presence of mould-decorated samian ware bowls alongside fine reduced wares, and a diverse range of utilitarian coarse wares from the region suggest that this occupation was associated with a form of settlement with a relatively high pattern of consumption. The limited chronology, presence of a repaired samian bowl, Baetican amphora and south-west Black Burnished ware 1 bowl may even provide a tentative comparison with consumption patterns on Roman military sites. It is notable that the shore forts at Caister-on-Sea (Darling & Gurney 1993, 240-242) and Burgh (Johnson 1983, 115-7) adjacent to the estuary of the River Yare to the north have chronologies that do not begin until the late 2nd or 3rd centuries AD, and little affinity with this

assemblage. Whereas the fort and settlement at Caistor St. Edmund (Atkinson 1937; Swan 1982) and settlement at Scole include late 1st to 2nd century AD pottery groups from pits and ditches with very close affinities to this assemblage, as does the settlement at Melford Meadows, Thetford (Rollo 2002, 82).

6.3 Post-Roman Pottery

by Rebecca Sillwood

Two fragments of pottery, one of medieval, and one of post-medieval date were recovered, both as unstratified finds.

The medieval fragment is an unglazed piece, part of a strap handle probably from a coarseware jug. The fabric is pale orange, with a reduced mid grey core. This came from the spoil of Trench 1 (241), and probably dates to the 12th-14th centuries.

The post-medieval piece is a fragment of glazed red earthenware, with a pale green glaze on both surfaces. This is likely to be of 16th-18th century date and came from the spoil of Trench 4 (264).

6.4 Ceramic Building Material

by Andrew Peachey

A total of 11 fragments (346g) of Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM) was collected, all in a fragmented and abraded condition.

The CBM was manufactured in a single oxidised orange fabric with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse red and cream clay pellets (0.5-5mm) and occasional flint (2-10mm).

The bulk of the CBM, accounting for nine fragments (208g) was contained in Roman ditch [141] (142), while isolated fragments were also recovered as unstratified (214) and (243). All fragments appeared to comprise flat tile, probably derived from tegula roof tile, although the lack of any diagnostic features dictates that it is possible other types of tile are represented.

6.5 Fired Clay

by Sarah Percival

A small assemblage of 33 pieces of fired clay weighing 681g was collected from seven excavated features including possible hearth or oven [65] (Appendix 5).

The fired clay assemblage is almost entirely composed of small to medium sized fragments in hard fired, orange, sandy fabric with moderate small quartz and flint inclusions. Almost all the pieces have one smoothed or finger-wiped surface and an opposing rough surface occasionally with sand or rounded voids where larger pebbles have been lost. These are consistent with clay used as lining to a hearth or oven base.

A small assemblage from pit [43] includes pieces with well-smoothed pale oxidised surfaces, perhaps suggesting that they were produced as a result of a high heat process.

Two pieces, from ditch [30] and pit [43] are made of less well fired laminated fabric of poorly mixed clay with common elongated voids and sparse sub-rounded voids. These pieces also have one smoothed surface.

No pieces with wattle impressions characteristic of structural material were present.

6.6 Metalworking Debris

by Sarah Percival

A total of 55 pieces of metal working debris weighing 2,753g were collected from six excavated features and from unstratified surface collection (Appendix 6).

The assemblage comprised a homogenous collection of secondary smithing waste characterised by rusty, highly vitrified pieces with numerous rounded voids within the body of the slag. Many of the pieces have a smoothed or slightly dished surface formed from exposure to air blasted from bellows (Bayley *et al.* 2001, 10) and several have flint or other detrital stone adhering to the underside which collected as the pieces cooled in the hearth base.

A small plano-convex hearth bottom was found in pit [43].

The assemblage represents debris from secondary working of iron produced by the bloomery process undertaken to forge the unprocessed iron into tools. Metal working debris is not intrinsically datable but it is likely that this assemblage is Roman utilizing iron smelted from ore sourced in the Lower Greensand (Paynter 2006, 287) and produced at sites such as the second century iron production centre at Ashwicken near King's Lynn (Tylecote and Owles 1960).

6.7 Glass

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single fragment of post-medieval bottle glass was recovered from the spoil of Trench 2 (242).

The piece is curved, dark green in colour and may be a part of the neck of a wine bottle.

6.8 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

6.8.1 Iron

Five objects and fragments of iron were recovered from three contexts.

Three of the pieces consist of nails, with two from pit fill (42) in Trench 10, and one from ditch fill (41), also in Trench 10. Both of these contexts are likely to be Roman in date, and so a Roman date for the nails is likely. A small oval fragment of iron was also found in pit fill (42), but this piece is undiagnostic.

One piece was unstratified, and came from the spoil of Trench 8 (214). This piece is also undiagnostic, but is rather heavy, and may be quite modern in date.

6.8.2 Copper Alloy

Four objects of copper alloy were recovered from the site, including two coins. One of the coins was from a stratified context, but the other three pieces were unstratified, from the spoil of trenches.

The stratified coin came from upper fill (114) of ditch [115] in Trench 7. The coin is a little nibbled around the edges and worn, but the design is reasonably clear. The Emperor represented is Vespasian (AD 69-79), and the reverse depicts Pax. The coin itself probably dates to AD72 (see *Portable Antiquities Scheme* database ref: FAPJW-3A5790), indicating that it could have been in circulation for some time before it was deposited in the ditch - the pottery from the same context is of early-mid 2nd-century date.

Another coin was found in the spoil of Trench 7 (240), and although illegible it is possibly post-medieval in date, due to the thinness of the piece.

A small undiagnostic fragment was also found in Trench 7 (24), but has since been discarded.

A crudely made object, recovered from Trench 8 (214), could possibly be a lock-pin of Roman date. The piece consists of a very rough rectangular-sectioned shaft surmounted by a roughly conical section, made in two pieces, with the shaft inside the cone. The wider circular end of the cone is very pitted and uneven. This object is not entirely convincing as a lock pin, but its crude appearance could be the result of weathering and damage from being in the ground.

6.8.3 Lead

Two lead objects were recovered from the site - a weight or spindle whorl and an undiagnostic fragment, both unstratified from Trench 7 (240).

The lead weight is circular, with a central perforation, and weighs 44g (or 1½ oz.). This type of object is fairly ubiquitous, and has no distinguishing features which can aid closer dating.

The undiagnostic fragment has been discarded as it can offer no further information.

6.9 Stone

6.9.1 Worked Flint

by Andrew Peachey

Twenty-seven pieces of struck flint (206g) and a single sandstone hammer stone (305g) in an unpatinated, fresh condition were recovered (Appendix 7).

The technological composition (Table 2) of the bulk of the assemblage, including a platform rejuvenation flake, denticulate and blades, has close affinities with Mesolithic flint work; while two un-stratified scrapers are possibly of earlier Neolithic origin, and an isolated debitage flake may be of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age origin.

Implement/Flake Type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Platform Rejuvenation Flake	1	12
Hammer Stone	1	305

Implement/Flake Type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Denticulate	1	27
Scraper	4	70
Blade	4	8
Debitage	17	89
<i>Total</i>	28	511

Table 2. Quantification of Struck Flint implement and flake types

The struck flint with Mesolithic affinities was recovered from ditch and pit features, of which some are dated by ceramics to the prehistoric or Roman periods, but many remain undated except by the struck flint. This component of the assemblage may represent hunter-gather activity on the North Sea coastal zone, possibly including *in situ* core reduction and tool manufacture, but as the quantity of the assemblage is limited the struck flint appears unlikely to infer the presence of a hunting or base camp.

6.9.1.1 Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as its breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

6.9.1.2 Commentary on lithic technology of assemblage

Core Technology

The principal evidence for core technology in the assemblage comprises a single platform rejuvenation flake contained in pit [100] (101), with numerous small blades in the assemblage representing the products, and therefore secondary evidence of this reduction process. The 30-35mm wide platform rejuvenation flake is a classic example of a Mesolithic core tablet, removed from a single platform or bi-polar blade core once a striking platform had been exhausted and no further blades could be sensibly removed. The 'upper' face of the flake exhibits a partial flake scar that suggests a previous tablet removal was made to create the striking platform, whose remnants are visible around the circumference of the flake. Truncated, facet like scars around the tablet demonstrate repeated blade removals; and are consistent with the size of the small blades in the assemblage. In the Mesolithic period cores were often rotated 90 or 180 degrees and further tablet flakes removed to create new striking platforms, resulting in cube-shaped exhausted cores. While none of these cores were recovered, uncorticated

debitage flakes in pits [44] (45) and [56] (55) exhibit dorsal scars perpendicular to the ventral bulb and ripples, indicating they were removed from rotated cube-like blade cores, possibly as rejuvenation flakes, typical of Mesolithic technology.

The predominance of small blades or bladelets, and blade-likedebitage in the assemblage is also consistent with Mesolithic core reduction. The four blades in the assemblage, contained in pits [43] (42), [44] (45) (two examples) and [46] (47) are all uncorticated, soft-hammer struck and 30-40mm in length. Further very smalldebitage flakes in pit [4] (3), ditch [40] (41) and ring ditch [210] (208) also exhibit profiles that are close to being classified as bladelets. The onlydebitage flake that is not consistent with this model comprises a broad, squat tertiary flake also contained in ring ditch [210] (208), which is more typical of the hard-hammer struck flakes of the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

An extension of the core technology in the assemblage is a sandstone hammer stone (305g) recovered from unstratified (241). Under conditions replicated by experimental archaeology the hammer stone may be categorised as being of medium size and hardness in the repertoire of a flint knapper's tools (Whittaker 1994, 87). It exhibits a wear pattern of a single face chipped by percussive force, indicating it was utilised in carefully-directed, systematic fashion.

Implements and Tools

The retouched implements in the assemblage include a denticulate, two side scrapers, two end scrapers, with further un-retouched implements comprising four blades.

The denticulate or serrated blade, contained in ditch [199] (201), was formed on a long blade by the application of limited, semi-abrupt retouch and may have functioned as a single element hand tool, or possibly with an organic backing. The side scrapers contained in tree throw [32] (33) and pit [74] (75) were also formed on blades. It is feasible that all three of these tools were manufactured in the Mesolithic period, but it is equally likely they were manufactured in the earlier Neolithic, which is the probable origin of the end scrapers manufactured on flakes recovered as unstratified (242) and (244).

The four blades (described above) are notable for their small size (30-40mm in length), with one blade in pit [44] (45) exhibiting a gloss on one lateral edge that may have resulted from the cutting of fibrous material. To facilitate such cutting functions the blades would have to have been mounted as simple or composite tools on a wood, bone or antler shaft in a comparable fashion to classic Mesolithic microliths. Indeed such blades would almost certainly have been a secondary or complimentary product to microliths in the Mesolithic period. Microliths were typically produced from truncated blades and a blade-like tertiary flake contained in ditch [10] (9) may represent a proximal micro-burin discarded during this process and consistent with Mesolithic technology.

6.9.2 Burnt Flint

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single piece of burnt flint (34g) was recovered from the lower fill (201) of ditch [199]. This was found alongside worked flint of possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date and may be evidence for the use of flint to heat liquids.

6.9.3 Other Stone

by Rebecca Sillwood

A lump of grey vesicular lava was recovered from the spoil of Trench 7 (240). The piece weighs 215g, and has no worked surfaces. It is likely to be a fragment of a quernstone, although as there are no surfaces remaining, this is not certain.

A smallish sliver of micaceous stone (16g) was recovered from pit fill (42), along with pottery of Roman date, metalworking debris and other finds. It appears that the context is of Roman date and the inclusion of mica in pottery is well known from this period.

This fragment of stone has not been visibly worked, but its finding is interesting in an area rich in Roman remains, and could raise the possibility of the manufacture of pottery in the vicinity.

6.10 Human Skeletal Remains

by Sue Anderson

6.10.1 Introduction

This report examines the cremated bone collected from an unurned cremation burial of probable Bronze Age date (Appendices 8a and 8b).

6.10.2 Methodology

Bone from context 203 was collected as a bulk sample and hand-sorted. The material submitted for analysis was sieved into four fractions (>10mm, >4mm, >2mm, <2mm). The bone was sorted into five categories: skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb, and unidentified. All fragment groups were weighed to the nearest tenth of a gram. Measurements of maximum skull and long bone fragment sizes were also recorded. Observations were made, where possible, concerning bone colour, age, sex, dental remains and pathology. Identifiable fragments were noted. Methods used follow the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA 1980) and McKinley (1994 and 2004).

6.10.3 The cremated bone

Table 3 shows the bone weights and percentages of identified bone from the burial, and the proportions of bone identified from the four areas of the skeleton (skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb). Expected proportions are provided based on McKinley (1994, 6).

Area	Total no.	Total wt/g	% identified	% expected
Skull	51	33.4	12.2	18.2
Axial	64	33.8	12.3	20.6
Upper limb	47	55.2	20.1	23.1
Lower limb	96	152.4	55.5	38.1
Total identified		274.8		-
Unidentified		173.5		
Total		448.3	-	-

Table 3. Percentages of identified fragments out of total identified to area of skeleton

Skull and axial fragments were under-represented amongst the identifiable material. As it is usually easy to identify skull fragments, this is a true reflection of the quantity of skull present in the remains. As the total weight of the bone is well below the total expected for an average adult of either sex, it is likely that the disparity is due to disturbance rather than to any bias of collection following cremation. Mays (1998, Table 11.2) notes that the combusted weight of an adult skeleton has a mean of around 1500g for females and 2300g for males.

Identifiable pieces in this group included cranial vault (frontal, temporal, occipital), facial bones (zygoma), mandible, pieces of vertebral arch and body, rib, humerus (including head and epicondyles), ulna and radius (including proximal ends), wrist and finger bones (including complete first metacarpal and distal thumb phalanx), femur (including condyles), patella, tibia, fibula, and metatarsals (including the head of the first). No tooth roots were present, but this may be due to lack of wet-sieving of the sample.

The majority of bone in this group was fully oxidised and greyish-white in colour, although a few inner fragments of thicker long bones, particularly the femur and tibia, were darker grey or brown in colour. The presence of a high proportion of white bone indicates firing temperatures in excess of c.600°C (McKinley 2004, 11).

The degree of fragmentation was quite low, with the highest proportion of the bone being in the >10mm fraction (67% by weight), allowing for a high identification rate of 61.3%. The largest fragment of skull was 40mm long and the largest piece of long bone 65mm long.

There was no evidence to suggest that the bone from this burial represented more than one individual, although a few pieces appeared to show signs of abrasion.

The remains were those of a ?young adult male. The sexing is based on the large size of the first metatarsal head, the humerus head, and a fragment of glabella. The third molar was erupted at the time of death and all surviving epiphyseal fragments appear to have been fused. Cranial sutures were still open and there was no evidence for degeneration in any of the surviving joints or vertebral bodies.

No pathological evidence was observed in the assemblage, but the glabella and other fragments of frontal bone suggest that the metopic suture was retained. This is a genetic trait which occurs in approximately 8% of the population.

6.10.4 Radiocarbon dating

A fragment (5.6g) of lower limb bone suitable for radiocarbon dating was selected from the 10mm fraction.

6.10.5 Summary and discussion

The burial contained the fragmented remains of one individual, a young adult male. There was no evidence for any pathology, but a possible genetic trait was present. The total weight of bone indicates that the skeleton was incomplete, probably due to disturbance and truncation.

The size of the fragments is typical of Early Bronze Age urned cremations and this would fit in with other evidence from the site. However the bone is still to be dated at the time of writing.

6.11 Animal Bone

by Rebecca Sillwood

Twelve fragments of animal bone were recovered from two contexts, both in Trench 10.

The fragmented remains of a sheep tooth, in eight pieces (10g), was found in pit fill (42).

Four pieces of animal bone, including three burnt fragments, were recovered from pit fill (50). One of these fragments was part of a toe bone (unburnt), the remainder being parts of long bones (all burnt or heat affected). The burnt material is interesting, given that it was located in a Roman context which also contained metalworking debris. It is likely that these pieces of bone were incorporated somehow into a fire of some heat, given that the bones have become a bluish-white.

6.12 Shell

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single oyster shell (8g) was recovered from ditch fill (107), along with Roman pottery.

The piece is probably evidence of oysters as food, which is not surprising at a coastal site in the Roman period, and indeed later. The shell has been discarded.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

A total of twelve samples (Table 4) were taken from key archaeological deposits (i.e. fills of the large ring ditch).

Sample No	Type	Context
1	Bulk	(66)
2	Bulk	(203)
3	Bulk	(211)
4	Monolith	Ditch [199]
5	Bulk	(209)
6	Pollen/soil chemistry	n/a
7	Pollen/soil chemistry	n/a
8	Pollen/soil chemistry	n/a
9	Pollen/soil chemistry	n/a
10	Pollen/soil chemistry	n/a
11	Pollen/soil chemistry	n/a
12	Pollen/soil chemistry	(211)

Table 4. Environmental Samples

Bulk samples (<1>, <2>, <3> and <5>) have been analysed and the results are presented below (Section 7.1). Samples (<4> and <6>-<12>) have been retained.

7.1 Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other remains

by Val Fryer

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and four (Samples <1>, <2>, <3> and <5>) were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 9. Nomenclature within the appendix follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots were also present within all four assemblages.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.1.2 Results

Plant macrofossils are generally scarce within the assemblages, although Sample <2> from cremation deposit (203), present within what is interpreted as the inner ring ditch of the barrow, does contain a high density of small charcoal/charred wood fragments. Otherwise, Sample <1> (from oven [65]) includes a possible black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) seed, Sample <3> (from outer barrow ditch [210]) contains what appears to be a fragment of cereal grain and Sample <5> (also from context [210]) includes a spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base.

Fragments of black porous and tarry material are possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, whilst others are very hard and brittle and, along with the coal fragments, may be intrusive within the contexts from which the samples were taken. Small pieces of bone, including some burnt/calcined fragments, are present within the assemblages from Samples <1>, <2> and <5>.

7.1.3 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the current assemblages are small (0.1 litres in volume or less) and very limited in composition. It is assumed that the remains from oven [65] are probably derived from spent fuel, whilst Sample <2> is largely composed of pyre debris. However, the assemblages from the outer barrow ditch [210] are too small to interpret with any degree of accuracy, and it is thought most likely that the few remains which are recorded are probably derived from scattered detritus which was accidentally incorporated within the ditch fills.

Although the current assemblages are sparse, they do illustrate that plant remains are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Hopton.

It was hoped that material suitable for C14 dating would be recovered from the current assemblages. However, as it cannot be assumed that a single ecofact is necessarily contemporary with the context from which it was recovered, none of

the current remains, with the possible exception of some charcoal fragments within Sample <2>, are considered to be suitable.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

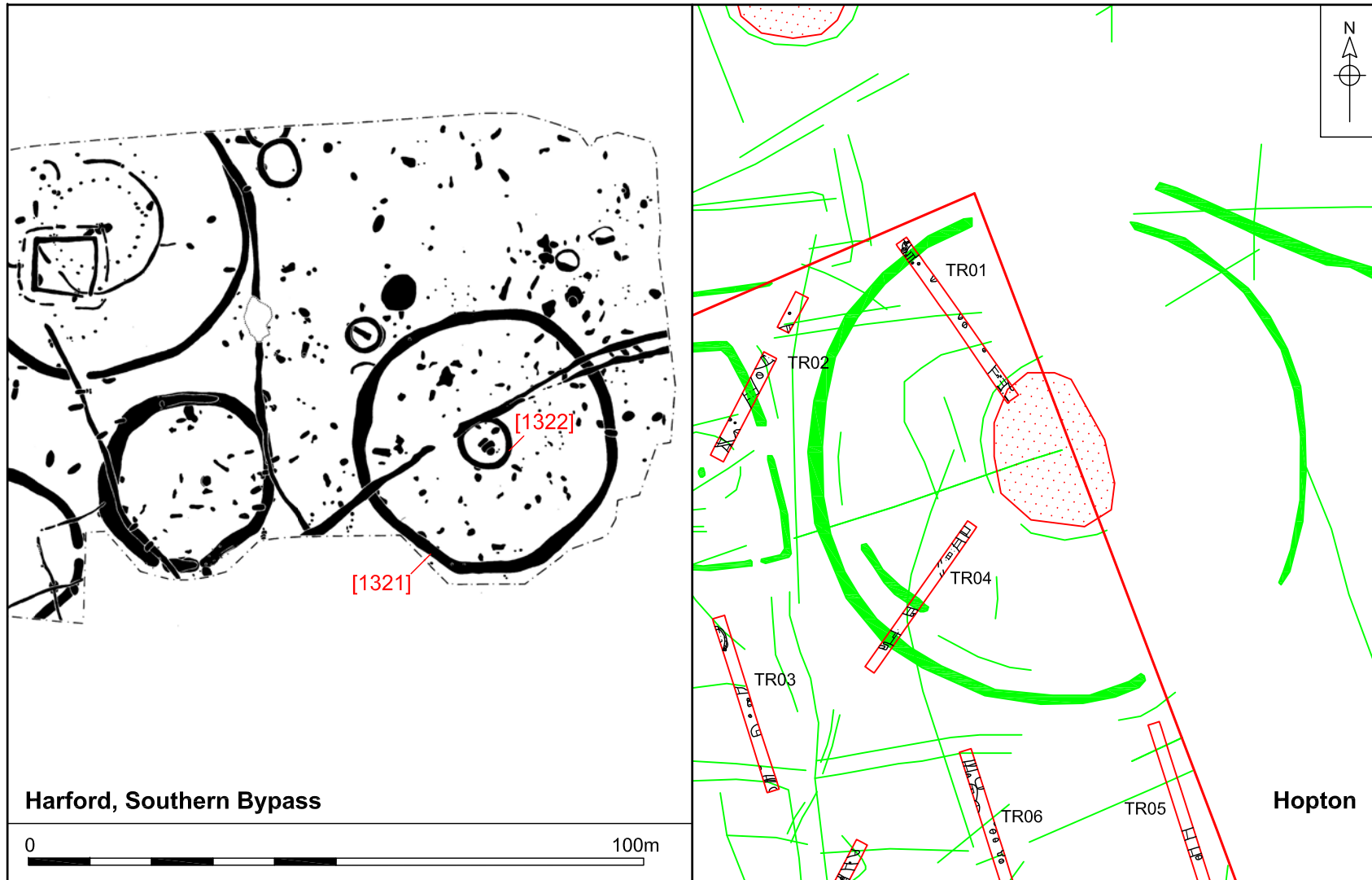
The trial trench evaluation of land between Hall Road and the A12 at Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk recorded archaeological remains in each of the 11 trenches examined. The results demonstrated a human presence at the site from perhaps the Mesolithic period (c.8,000-4,000 BC) based on typological dating of a small collection of worked flints. More convincing evidence for Early Neolithic activity was provided by a small number of features containing pottery of this period (c.3,800-3,300BC). Furthermore the setting of the site, on a south-facing slope, might be considered characteristic of this period; three settlements of comparable date in the Yare Valley near Norwich were similarly located on south-facing slopes (Ashwin and Bates 2000, 236). The proximity of light, easily cultivated soils and diverse environments allowing exploitation of several resources also appear to be important factors in prehistoric settlement locations.

Though features and artefacts attributable to this period are small in number, any evidence of settlement for this period is rare within the county, examples being from Eaton Heath (Wainwright 1973) and Harford Park and Ride (Trimble forthcoming). Possible remains of this period from this site at Hopton comprised pit and elongated pit-like features present in Trenches 8 and 10, towards the south of the site, with a possible slot or ditch terminal [76] in Trench 8, to which might be tentatively added a post-hole group revealed at the north end of Trench 1. Though not directly dated by artefacts or stratigraphy, it is possible these belonged to a structure pre-dating large ring ditch [213].

The Large Ring Ditch

A key aim of this evaluation was to date and classify the large circular feature located in the northern part of the site. The evaluation provided evidence to support interpretation of this feature as a particularly large form of round barrow, and based on smaller examples known from excavations at the Southern Bypass it is considered likely to be of late prehistoric date, broadly late 3rd and 2nd millennium cal BC. The interpretation of this ring ditch as a barrow is also given credence by the recovery of a cremation attributable to the Early Bronze Age (c.2800 BC-1500 BC). Other classes of prehistoric monument such as causewayed enclosures or henges display some similarities with the Hopton monument, e.g. a broadly circular arrangement, but overall these are considered unlikely parallels. Causewayed enclosures have discontinuous outer circuits (Oswald 2011) and while Henge monuments display a range of forms, so cannot be entirely discounted; there is a tendency for them to be set in low lying river valleys, such as at Arminghall in the Yare Valley, south of Norwich. It is interesting to note that the external ring ditch of the Hopton monument and that of Arminghall Henge are both c.80m in diameter (Ashwin and Bates 2000, 230).

The outer ring ditch of this putative barrow was examined in two trenches - Trenches 1 and 4. A large ditch [199] recorded in Trench 1 is thought to have



Based on fig. 44, Ashwin, T. and Bates, S. 2000

Figure 25. Comparison of Barrows, Southern Bypass and Hopton. Scale 1:1000

defined the central area of this barrow, this ditch forming an uninterrupted circuit visible on the cropmark survey. Within this ditch cremated human remains had been placed at a time after the ditch was already partly backfilled. Whether these remains represent a deliberate burial or disposal for another reason, such as redeposition after disturbance during later activity is not known. The absence of any associated container for these remains and the cremation's location along the north side of the barrow is certainly intriguing. The fill sequence within ditch [199] provided some evidence for soils having been raised along the southern, interior side of this ditch, though in what form, as for example a bank or tumulus, was unanswered. A further unresolved question was the degree to which the internal and external ring ditches might have been recut or modified after their initial digging, particularly if some longevity to the use of this monument is hypothesised.

The outer ring ditch was broadly similar in appearance in Trenches 1 and 4 being neither particularly wide nor deep. Its form in Trench 2 (ditch [149]) was particularly shallow, with its base present at 9.39m OD. The base of its counterpart (ditch [210]) in Trench 1 was at 10.63m OD.

Three ditch circuits are indicated by the crop mark analysis with the intermediate of these appearing discontinuous or interrupted along its course. This arrangement seems supported by the evaluation with this intermediate ditch recorded in Trench 4 as contexts [145] and [147] where a clear terminal could be seen.

Parallels for the type of barrow suggested at Hopton are provided by examples from the barrow cemetery excavated at Harford Farm during excavations along the Southern Bypass (Ashwin and Bates 2000). In particular, the barrow formed by ring ditches 1321/1322 which demonstrates a similar arrangement (see Figure 25, this report for comparison) though the Southern Bypass barrow is smaller, with an outer diameter of 44m in comparison to the c.80m indicated for the Hopton example; it also lacks an intermediate circuit. The Harford example 1321/1322 was interpreted as a disc barrow. The Norfolk Mapping Program (NMP) has identified what are described as a class of giant ring ditch from elsewhere in Norfolk (Medlycott 2011, 12), with possibly similar features known from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk (Wilson 2000 cited in Medlycott 2011).

Roundhouses or Barrows?

The variety of sizes, forms, functions and dates attributable to circular structures makes any attempt to classify undated examples a difficult undertaking. Aside from the giant example discussed previously, a total of three other ring ditches were present at the site, of which two ([153] in Trench 2 and [188] in Trench 3) are interpreted as the settings of roundhouses. A third, a possible double ring ditch [109] and [111] in Trench 7 is of unclear purpose.

Ring ditch [153] was examined as part of a cropmark indicating two similar circular structures located within a trapezoidal enclosure (see NHER 43528 in 3.0 Archaeological and Historic Background, above). The setting within the enclosure and small depth and width of the ring ditch in proportion to its diameter suggest it is the foundation of a round house. A comparison for this feature can be seen with a group of fully excavated circular structures at Stansted Airport (Havis and Brooks 2004, 81) which display similar form and size to [153] and are also set within an enclosure ditch. The Stansted examples were dated between c.75BC and c.25AD, towards the end of the Late Iron Age. No post-settings or other structural elements

were revealed within ring ditch [153] and no artefacts were recovered, although only a small area was examined. Based on the cropmark analysis and what is now known of the site from the evaluation, the original interpretation of this feature in conjunction with the enclosure as a farmstead of Iron Age to Roman date seems valid.

A smaller ring ditch ([188] in Trench 3) had a clear break of its circuit in its south-east quadrant, and is interpreted as the setting for a small circular structure. The small size (an external diameter of c.4.60m is suggested) and absence of cultural material from its fill perhaps suggests not a dwelling but for some other use. A subtle alignment of stones seen in its fill might have served as packing or support for structural elements, though no post-holes or other indications for structures were recorded.

The third example of a possible double ring ditch in Trench 7 (ditches [109] and [111]) provided little excavated evidence; the two possibilities considered are that it is either a structure such as a round house or a round barrow, the cropmark survey suggesting the latter is more likely.

One further structure was suggested in Trench 7 where a possible square or rectangular building formed by features [121] and [127]. Undated and somewhat ephemeral, when superimposed over the cropmark survey these features appear to form separate parts of a two ditch alignments.

Roman Activity

Based on pottery evidence and a single coin, Roman activity at the site appeared limited to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Small-scale industry in this period, identified by secondary metalworking, appears to have occurred alongside agricultural activity, the latter identified by the presence of lava quern and a small oven, perhaps for grain drying. Both suggest crop processing occurring at the site. Ditches containing occupation debris of this period would have enclosed and defined settlement boundaries, with field boundaries peripheral to occupation containing considerably less material.

The Roman pottery assemblage infers some degree of status to the sites occupants with similarities to assemblages from known military sites. Based on particularly the latter point, it is tempting to suggest the sizeable ditch and bank [141] recorded in Trench 4 had served some defensive/military purpose. The scale of this particular ditch sets it apart from others recorded at the site, for example enclosure ditch [189]. The cropmark survey suggests this feature perhaps formed part of a larger north-south rectangular arrangement also present in Trench 1, though there was no indication of it here.

Large, square or rectangular ditched enclosures referred to as 'Thornham' type, with internal banks or ramparts perhaps comparable to the structure seen in Trench 4, are known from Norfolk. Typically present in coastal settings on the north coast of the county and set on high points within the local relief (Gregory and Gurney 1986, 34) such structures have been dated as Late Iron Age. Re-occupation of some enclosures in the Roman period has also been identified. Though no Iron Age artefacts were recovered during the evaluation, Iron Age activity at the site is strongly hinted at by remains such as roundhouses set within an enclosure. Whether re-used from an earlier period or an entirely new construction, one suggested use for such square or rectangular ditched features in

the Roman period is as a signal beacon, a conclusion based on its topographic setting and the possible military presence suggested by the pottery. The site at Hopton is c.6.5km (4 miles) from the Roman fort at Burgh Castle, and with no land higher than 10m OD between these two points it offers an apparently uninterrupted sight line between the two sites, with the coastal setting of the Hopton site also of possible significance. Roman activity at the Hopton site, on current understanding, would however predate Roman works at Burgh Castle. The paucity of metal finds of this period might in part be explained by the poor conditions (churned mud and snow cover) for detecting in the early part of the excavation and the possible removal of finds by illegal metal detecting.

Key Findings of the Evaluation

The evaluation at Hopton recorded a range of archaeological features, the most significant of which are considered to be the large ring ditch feature with its associated circuits.

Further dating is necessary to provide an absolute date for this feature; its dating is currently based on typological similarities with comparable, dated examples. The radiocarbon dating of material recovered (if present) from its ring ditches should provide an absolute date. With more certainty the cremated remains recovered from the site could be radiocarbon dated, and would be particularly informative in respect of dating the possible use of the monument. Soil samples from this feature also have the potential to inform on the environmental setting, construction and purpose of this monument. The setting of such a significant monument on a relative highpoint with sightlines eastwards to the sea might have identified a special place within the prehistoric landscape. Early Neolithic (pottery) and Iron Age (roundhouse) evidence hint at continuity of activity at the site in late prehistory, and it is possible that other monuments, pre- and post-dating construction of the large barrow, made use of the same conspicuous location.

The location of a possible Roman signal or beacon is of significance, particularly if it represents re-use of an earlier structure.

In addition there appears to be occupation of Early Neolithic date and structural evidence of Iron Age occupation at the site, though unfortunately, and somewhat surprisingly, no dating evidence was associated with the latter. Bone survival at the site was poor with only cremated examples recovered. Though feature survival was variable in respect of truncation, it was evident that there was potential for relatively ephemeral features of prehistoric date to survive, for example roundhouse [188].

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Deposit		2	Fill of 2	Undated	T9
2	Cut	Pit		Circular pit	Undated	T9
3	Deposit		4	Fill of 4	Undated	T9
4	Cut	Pit		Oval pit	Undated	T9
5	Deposit		6	Fill of 6	Undated	T9
6	Cut	Tree throw		Tree throw?	Undated	T9
7	Deposit		8	Fill of 8	Undated	T9
8	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T9
9	Deposit		10	Fill of 10	Undated	T9
10	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T9
11	Deposit		12	Fill of 12	Undated	T9
12	Cut	Tree throw		Tree throw?	Undated	T9
13	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T9
14	Deposit		13	Fill of 13	Undated	T9
15				Void	-	-
16				Void	-	-
17	Deposit		18	Fill of 18	Undated	T9
18	Cut	Pit		Circular pit	Undated	T9
19	Deposit		13	Primary fill of 13	Undated	T9
20	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T11
21	Deposit		20	Fill of 20	Roman	T11
22	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T11
23	Deposit		22	Fill of 22	Roman	T11
24	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T11
25	Deposit		24	Fill of 24	Undated	T11
26	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T11
27	Deposit		26	Fill of 26	Undated	T11
28	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T11
29	Deposit		28	Fill of 28	Roman	T11
30	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T11
31	Deposit		30	Fill of 30	Roman	T11
32	Cut	Tree throw		Tree throw?	Undated	T11
33	Deposit		32	Fill of 32	Undated	T11
34	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T11
35	Deposit		34	Fill of 34	Roman	T11
36	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T11
37	Deposit		36	Fill of 36	Roman	T11
38	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T11
39	Deposit		38	Fill of 38	Undated	T11

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
40	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T10
41	Deposit		40	Fill of 40	Roman	T10
42	Deposit		43	Fill of 43	Roman	T10
43	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	T10
44	Cut	Pit		Pit	Prehistoric	T10
45	Deposit		44	Fill of 44	Prehistoric	T10
46	Cut	Pit		Pit	Prehistoric	T10
47	Deposit		46	Fill of 46	Prehistoric	T10
48	Cut	Pit		Pit	Prehistoric	T10
49	Deposit		48	Fill of 48	Prehistoric	T10
50	Deposit		43	Primary fill of 43	Roman	T10
51	Deposit		52	Fill of 52	Early Neolithic	T10
52	Cut	Pit		Circular pit	Early Neolithic	T10
53	Deposit		54	Fill of 54	Undated	T10
54	Cut	Tree throw		Tree throw?	Undated	T10
55	Deposit		56	Fill of 56	Early Neolithic	T10
56	Cut	Pit		Circular pit	Early Neolithic	T10
57	Deposit		58	Fill of 58	Roman	T5
58	Cut	Pit		Oval pit	Roman	T5
59	Deposit		60	Fill of 60	Roman	T5
60	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T5
61	Deposit		62	Fill of 62	Roman	T5
62	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T5
63	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman?	T8
64	Deposit		63	Fill of 63	Roman?	T8
65	Cut	Oven		Oven	Roman	T8
66	Deposit		65	Upper fill of 65	Roman	T8
67	Deposit		65	Fill of 65	Roman	T8
68	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T8
69	Deposit		68	Fill of 68	Roman	T8
70	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T8
71	Deposit			Fill of 70	Undated	T8
72	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Neolithic	T8
73	Deposit		72	Fill of 72	Early Neolithic	T8
74	Cut	Pit		Pit or natural feature?	Early Neolithic	T8
75	Deposit		74	Fill of 74	Early Neolithic	T8
76	Cut	Ditch		Ditch terminus	Early Neolithic	T8
77	Deposit		76	Fill of 76	Early Neolithic	T8
78	Cut	Pit		Pit or post hole	Roman	T8
79	Deposit		78	Fill of 78	Roman	T8
80	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T8
81	Deposit		80	Fill of 80	Undated	T8

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
82	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T6
83	Deposit		82	Fill of 82	Undated	T6
84	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T6
85	Deposit		84	Fill of 84	Undated	T6
86	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T6
87	Deposit		86	Fill of 86	Undated	T6
88	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T6
89	Deposit		88	Fill of 88	Undated	T6
90	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T6
91	Deposit		90	Fill of 90	Undated	T6
92				Void	-	-
93				Void	-	-
94	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Roman	T6
95	Deposit		94	Fill of 94	Roman	T6
96	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	T6
97	Deposit		96	Fill of 96	Roman	T6
98	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	T6
99	Deposit		98	Fill of 98	Roman	T6
100	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	T6
101	Deposit		100	Fill of 100	Roman	T6
102	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T6
103	Deposit		102	Fill of 102	Undated	T6
104	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T6
105	Deposit		104	Fill of 104	Roman	T6
106	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T6
107	Deposit		106	Fill of 106	Roman	T6
108	Deposit		109	Fill of 109	Prehistoric	T7
109	Cut	Ring Ditch		Ring ditch?	Prehistoric	T7
110	Deposit		111	Fill of 111	Prehistoric	T7
111	Cut	Ring Ditch		Ring ditch?	Prehistoric	T7
112	Deposit		113	Fill of 113	Undated	T7
113	Cut			Ditch terminal?	Undated	T7
114	Deposit		115	Upper fill of 115	Roman	T7
115	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T7
116	Deposit		117	Fill of 117	Roman	T7
117	Cut	Post hole		Post hole cutting 115	Roman	T7
118	Deposit		119	Fill of 119	Undated	T7
119	Cut	Pit		Small pit	Undated	T7
120	Deposit		120	Fill of 121	Undated	T7
121	Cut	Structural		Gully or structural feature?	Undated	T7
122	Deposit		123	Fill of 123	Undated	T7
123	Cut	Pit		Small pit cutting 124	Undated	T7

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
124	Deposit		125	Fill of 125	Undated	T7
125	Cut	Structural		Gully or structural feature?	Undated	T7
126	Deposit		127	Fill of 127	Undated	T7
127	Cut	Structural		Structural feature?	Undated	T7
128	Deposit		129	Fill of 129	Undated	T7
129	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Undated	T7
130	Deposit		131	Fill of 131	Undated	T7
131	Cut	Post hole		Post or stake hole cutting 132?	Undated	T7
132	Deposit		133	Fill of 133	Undated	T7
133	Cut	Ditch		Ditch or gully like feature	Undated	T7
134	Deposit		135	Fill of 135	Roman	T7
135	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T7
136	Deposit		137	Fill of 137	Undated	T7
137	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T7
138	Deposit		137	Fill of 137	Undated	T7
139	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Undated	T7
140	Deposit		139	Fill of 139	Undated	T7
141	Cut	Ditch		Ditch, with recuts?	Roman	T4
142	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
143	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
144	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
145	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric	T4
146	Deposit		145	Fill of 145	Prehistoric	T4
147	Cut	Ditch		Ditch terminus	Prehistoric	T4
148	Deposit		147	Fill of 147	Prehistoric	T4
149	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric	T4
150	Deposit		149	Fill of 149	Prehistoric	T4
151	Cut	Tree throw		Pit or tree throw?	Undated	T4
152	Deposit		151	Fill of 151	Undated	T4
153	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age?	T2
154	Deposit		153	Fill of 153	Iron Age?	T2
155	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T2
156	Deposit		155	Fill of 155	Undated	T2
157	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Undated	T2
158	Deposit		157	Fill of 157	Undated	T2
159	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T2
160	Deposit		159	Fill of 159	Undated	T2
161	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T2
162	Deposit		161	Fill of 161	Undated	T2
163	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T2
164	Deposit		163	Fill of 163	Undated	T2
165	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T2

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
166	Deposit		165	Fill of 165	Undated	T2
167	Cut	Pit ph		Pit or post hole?	Undated	T2
168	Deposit		167	Fill of 167	Undated	T2
169	Deposit		170	Fill of 170	Undated	T7
170	Cut	Post hole		Post hole? Cuts 126-127	Undated	T7
171	Deposit		172	Fill of 172	Undated	T3
172	Cut	Pit		Pit/	Undated	T3
173	Deposit		174	Fill of 174	Undated	T3
174	Cut	Structural		Slot or gully, structural?	Undated	T3
175	Deposit		176	Fill of 176	Roman	T3
176	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T3
177	Deposit		178	Fill of 178	Undated	T3
178	Cut	Pit		Pit?	Undated	T3
179	Deposit		180	Fill of 180	Undated	T3
180	Cut	Pit		Medium to large pit?	Undated	T3
181	Deposit		182	Fill of 182	Undated	T3
182	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Undated	T3
183	Deposit		184	Fill of 184	Undated	T3
184	Cut	Pit ph		Pit or post hole/	Undated	T3
185	Deposit		186	Fill of 186	Roman	T3
186	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	T3
187	Deposit		188	Fill of 188	Prehistoric	T3
188	Cut	Ring Ditch		Ring ditch?	Prehistoric	T3
189	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age?	T2
190	Deposit		189	Fill of 189	Iron Age?	T2
191	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T1
192	Deposit		191	Fill of 191	Undated	T1
193	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T1
194	Deposit		193	Fill of 193	Undated	T1
195	Cut	Tree throw		Tree throw?	Undated	T1
196	Deposit		195	Fill of 195	Undated	T1
197	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	T1
198	Deposit		197	Fill of 197	Undated	T1
199	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric	T1
200	Deposit		199	Upper fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
201	Deposit		199	Lower fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
202	Deposit		199	Dark fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
203	Deposit		199	Burnt bone and charcoal tip in 199	Prehistoric	T1
204	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	T2
205	Deposit		204	Fill of 204	Undated	T2
206	Cut	Ditch		Terminus	Undated	T1

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
207	Deposit		206	Fill of 206	Undated	T1
208	Deposit		210	Upper fill of 210	Prehistoric	T1
209	Deposit		210	Primary fill of 210	Prehistoric	T1
210	Cut	Ring Ditch		Outer ring ditch	Prehistoric	T1
211	Deposit		212	Fill of 212	Prehistoric	T1
212	Cut			Feature cut by 210	Prehistoric	T1
213	Master			Master Number for outer ring ditch	Prehistoric	T1
214	Unstratified			Finds from Trench 8	-	-
215	Deposit		65	Fill of 65	Roman	T8
216	Deposit		65	Fill of 65	Roman	T8
217	Deposit		65	Fill of 65	Roman	T8
218	Deposit		65	Fill of 65	Roman	T8
219	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
220	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
221	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
222	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
223	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
224	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
225	Deposit		141	Fill of 141	Roman	T4
226	Deposit		147	Fill of 147	Prehistoric	T4
227	Deposit		147	Fill of 147	Prehistoric	T4
228	Deposit		147	Fill of 147	Prehistoric	T4
229	Deposit		145	Fill of 145	Prehistoric	T4
230	Deposit		145	Fill of 145	Prehistoric	T4
231	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
232	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
233	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
234	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
235	Deposit		265	Fill of post hole 265	Prehistoric	T1
236	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
237	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
238	Deposit		199	Fill of 199	Prehistoric	T1
239	Deposit			Upcast from 199?	Undated	T1
240	Unstratified			Unstratified	-	-
241	Unstratified			Unstratified	-	-
242	Unstratified			Unstratified	-	-
243	Unstratified			Unstratified	-	-
244	Unstratified			Unstratified	-	-
245	Deposit			Gravelly sand layer	Undated	T7
246	Deposit		210	Primary fill of 210	Prehistoric	T7
247	Deposit		248	Fill of 248	Prehistoric	T1

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
248	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Prehistoric	T1
249	Deposit		250	Fill of 250	Prehistoric	T1
250	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Prehistoric	T1
251	Deposit		252	Fill of 252	Prehistoric	T1
252	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Prehistoric	T1
253	Deposit		254	Fill of 254	Prehistoric	T1
254	Cut	Post hole		Post hole	Prehistoric	T1
255	Deposit		256	Fill of 256	Prehistoric	T1
256	Cut	Pit?		Pit?	Prehistoric	T1
257	Deposit		258	Fill of 258	Prehistoric	T1
258	Cut	Post hole?		Post hole?	Prehistoric	T1
259	Deposit		210	Fill of 210, overlies 209	Prehistoric	T1
260	Deposit	Feature		Possible feature cut by 210?	Prehistoric	T1
261	Deposit			Topsoil across site	Modern	T1-T11
262	Deposit			Subsoil across site	Undated	T1-T11
263	Deposit			Geological deposits	-	T1-T11
264	Unstratified			Unstratified finds	-	-
265	Cut	Post hole		Post hole cut in [199]	Prehistoric	T1

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Prehistoric	Pit	4
	Ditch	4
	Post-hole	6
	Ring ditch	4
	Feature	1
Early Neolithic	Pit	4
	Ditch	1
Iron Age?	Ditch	2
Roman	Pit	8
	Ditch	15
	Post-hole	2
	Oven	1
Undated	Pit	25
	Ditch	10
	Post-hole	6
	Tree throw	6
	Gully/structural	4

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
3	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Prehistoric	
9	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Prehistoric	
21	Pottery	1	12g	Roman	
31	Fired Clay	1	4g	Unknown	
31	Pottery	10	105g	Roman	Early 2nd-mid 3rd century
33	Flint – Struck	1	14g	Prehistoric	
35	Metalworking Debris	8	199g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth lining
37	Pottery	6	195g	Roman	Early 2nd-4th century
41	Fired Clay	1	19g	Unknown	
41	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Prehistoric	
41	Iron	1	2g	Unknown	Nail
41	Metalworking Debris	17	304g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth lining
41	Pottery	21	239g	Roman	Late 1st-Mid 2nd century
42	Animal Bone	8	10g	Unknown	
42	Fired Clay	1	2g	Unknown	
42	Flint – Struck	1	3g	Prehistoric	
42	Iron	2	34g	Unknown	Nails
42	Iron	1	8g	Unknown	
42	Metalworking Debris	17	1,316g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth bottom
42	Pottery	13	199g	Roman	2nd century
42	Stone	1	16g	Unknown	Micaceous
45	Flint – Struck	6	27g	Prehistoric	
47	Flint – Struck	2	7g	Prehistoric	
50	Animal Bone	4	31g	Unknown	
50	Fired Clay	13	254g	Unknown	?Hearth lining
50	Metalworking Debris	2	307g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth lining
50	Pottery	54	2,321g	Roman	Early 2nd century
51	Pottery	2	21g	Early Neolithic	
55	Flint – Struck	2	18g	Prehistoric	
55	Pottery	1	19g	Early Neolithic	
57	Fired Clay	4	32g	Unknown	
57	Pottery	3	42g	Roman	2nd century

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
59	Pottery	1	9g	Roman	
61	Metalworking Debris	1	91g	Unknown	Secondary smithing
61	Pottery	2	51g	Roman	Late 1st - 3rd century
64	Fired Clay	1	148g	Unknown	?Brick
66	Fired Clay	12	222g	Unknown	?Hearth lining
66	Pottery	6	124g	Roman	
69	Pottery	16	253g	Roman	Early/Mid 2nd century
73	Flint – Struck	2	14g	Prehistoric	
73	Pottery	4	85g	Early Neolithic	
75	Flint – Struck	1	6g	Prehistoric	
77	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Prehistoric	
77	Pottery	1	5g	Early Neolithic	
79	Metalworking Debris	6	137g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth lining
95	Pottery	1	8g	Roman	
97	Pottery	9	194g	Roman	2nd-4th century
99	Pottery	1	26g	Roman	
101	Flint – Struck	1	12g	Prehistoric	
101	Pottery	12	164g	Roman	Late 1st-Mid 2nd century
105	Pottery	8	280g	Roman	Late 1st-Mid 2nd century
107	Pottery	13	349g	Roman	Early/mid 2nd-mid 4th century
107	Shell	1	8g	Unknown	Oyster; DISCARDED
114	Copper-Alloy	1	11g	Roman	Coin; Vespasian, AD 69-79; Dupondius; D28
114	Pottery	14	205g	Roman	Early/mid 2nd century
122	Fired Clay	1	30g	Unknown	
134	Pottery	2	54g	Roman	
142	Ceramic Building Material	9	208g	Roman	
142	Pottery	4	19g	Roman	
175	Pottery	1	1g	Roman	
185	Pottery	4	131g	Roman	
201	Flint – Burnt	1	34g	Prehistoric	
201	Flint – Struck	1	27g	Prehistoric	

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
203	Human Skeletal Remains	100+	448	Prehistoric	Cremation
208	Flint – Struck	3	22g	Prehistoric	
214	Ceramic Building Material	1	132g	Roman	
214	Copper-Alloy	1	22g	Unknown	?Lock pin
214	Iron	1	78g	Unknown	
214	Metalworking Debris	1	99g	Unknown	Secondary smithing, possible tuyere
214	Pottery	17	690g	Roman	Early/Mid 2nd century
214	Pottery	1	3g	Early Neolithic	
225	Pottery	3	20g	Roman	
240	Copper-Alloy	1	8g	Unknown	Fragment; DISCARDED
240	Copper-Alloy	1	5g	Post-medieval	Coin; D24
240	Lava	1	215g	Unknown	No surfaces remaining
240	Lead	1	44g	Unknown	Weight; 1½ oz.
240	Lead	1	1g	Unknown	Fragment; DISCARDED
241	Pottery	1	18g	Medieval	MCW; 12th-14th century
241	Stone	1	305g	Prehistoric	Hammer stone
242	Flint – Struck	1	20g	Prehistoric	
242	Glass	1	6g	Post-medieval	Bottle fragment
242	Pottery	1	6g	Roman	
243	Ceramic Building Material	1	6g	Roman	
243	Metalworking Debris	2	10g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth lining
243	Pottery	5	76g	Roman	Late 1st-Mid 2nd century
244	Flint – Struck	1	30g	Prehistoric	
244	Metalworking Debris	1	290g	Unknown	Secondary smithing; hearth lining
244	Pottery	2	8g	Roman	
264	Pottery	1	36g	Post-medieval	GRE; 16th-18th century

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	1
	Flint – Struck	26
	Human Skeletal Remains	100+
	Stone	1
Early Neolithic	Pottery	9
Roman	Ceramic Building Material	11
	Copper-Alloy	1
	Pottery	230
Medieval	Pottery	1
Post-medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
	Glass	1
	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	12
	Copper-Alloy	2
	Fired Clay	34
	Iron	5
	Lava	1
	Lead	2
	Metalworking Debris	55
	Shell	1
	Stone	1

Appendix 3: Prehistoric Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Description	Qty	Wt	vessel type	surface	Spot date	Feature	Feature type	Description
51	F1	Undecorated body sherd	2	21	Plain bowl	Smoothed	Earlier Neolithic	52	Pit	Fill of 52
55	F1	Undecorated body sherd	1	19	Plain bowl	Smoothed	Earlier Neolithic	56	Pit	Fill of 56
73	F1	Undecorated body sherd	4	85	Plain bowl	Smoothed	Earlier Neolithic	72	Pit	Fill of 72
77	F1	Undecorated body sherd	1	5	Plain bowl	Smoothed	Earlier Neolithic	76	Ditch	Fill of 76
214	F1	Undecorated body sherd	1	3	Plain bowl	Smoothed	Earlier Neolithic	Unstratified	Unstratified	Finds from Trench 8

Appendix 4: Roman Pottery Catalogue

Context	Spot Date	Total		LGF SA		LEZ SA2		MAD SA		GRS1		GRS2		GRS3		GRS4	
		No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
21	RB	1	12													1	12
31	E2-M3	10	105							4	51	2	6			2	38
37	E2-4	6	195													6	195
41	L1-M2 C AD	21	239							11	148	4	45				
42	2nd C AD	13	199			1	1			5	155	3	16				
50	Early 2nd C AD	54	2321	3	139			1	28	4	401	23	965	2	324	7	96
57	2nd C AD	3	42			1	7										
59	RB	1	9									1	9				
61	L1-3rd C AD	2	51														
66	RB	6	124														
69	E/M2	16	253							1	13	4	75			3	96
95	RB	1	8													1	8
97	2nd-4th C AD	9	194							4	33					4	121
99	RB	1	26							1	26						
101	L1-M2 C AD	12	164							2	89	2	17	3	36	1	5
105	L1-M2 C AD	8	280									3	183			5	97
107	E/M2-E4	13	349									2	60			6	96
114	E/M2	14	205							4	53						
134	RB	2	54							1	51	1	3				
142	RB	4	19							1	2	1	4			1	12
175	RB	1	1									1	1				
185	RB	4	131							4	131						
214	E/M2	17	690			2	81			1	3	5	59			6	208

		Total		LGF SA		LEZ SA2		MAD SA		GRS1		GRS2		GRS3		GRS4	
225	RB	3	20									1	3	1	14		
242	RB	1	6									1	6				
243	L1-M2 C AD	5	76							1	6	3	67				
244	RB	2	8									1	1				
		230	5781	3	139	4	89	1	28	44	1162	58	1520	6	374	43	984

Appendix 4 continued...

Context	Spot Date	Total		GRF1		GRF2		WAT RE		BSW1		SOW BB1		UNS WH1		UNS WH2		BAT AM2	
		No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
21	RB	1	12																
31	E2-M3	10	105							1	3			1	7				
37	E2-4	6	195																
41	L1-M2 C AD	21	239	3	14			2	24										
42	2nd C AD	13	199							3	22			1	5				
50	Early 2nd C AD	54	2321	1	6	8	96							3	243	2	23		
57	2nd C AD	3	42											1	6				
59	RB	1	9																
61	L1-3rd C AD	2	51													1	10	1	41
66	RB	6	124							6	124								
69	E/M2	16	253			6	38					2	31						
95	RB	1	8																
97	2nd-4th C AD	9	194																
99	RB	1	26																
101	L1-M2 C AD	12	164			4	17												

		Total		GRF1		GRF2		WAT RE		BSW1		SOW BB1		UNS WH1		UNS WH2		BAT AM2	
105	L1-M2 C AD	8	280																
107	E/M2-E4	13	349							5	193								
114	E/M2	14	205			4	14			6	138								
134	RB	2	54																
142	RB	4	19												1	1			
175	RB	1	1																
185	RB	4	131																
214	E/M2	17	690					1	36	1	184				1	119			
225	RB	3	20												1	3			
242	RB	1	6																
243	L1-M2 C AD	5	76			1	3												
244	RB	2	8					1	7										
		230	5781	4	20	23	168	4	67	22	664	2	31	6	261	6	156	1	41

Appendix 5: Fired Clay Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Qty	Wt	Surfaces	Impressions	Function	Description	Feature	Feature type
31	Laminated poorly mixed clay with common elongated voids and sparse sub-rounded voids	1	4	two	veg	unknown	Fill of 30	30	Ditch
41	Hard fired orange sandy fabric with moderate small quartz and flint inclusions	1	19	one rough one flinger smoothed			Fill of 40	40	Ditch
42	Laminated poorly mixed clay with common elongated voids and sparse sub-rounded voids	1	2	one			Fill of 43	43	Pit
50	Hard fired orange sandy fabric with moderate small quartz and flint inclusions	13	254	x 1 smoothed surface opposing rough	voids large stones suggesting irregular	hearth lining?	Primary fill of 43	43	Pit
57	Hard fired orange sandy fabric with moderate small quartz and flint inclusions	4	32	one			Fill of 58	58	Pit
64	Hard fired orange sandy fabric with moderate small quartz and flint inclusions	1	148	2 opposing. Thick		possible brick?	Fill of 63	63	Ditch
66	Hard fired orange sandy fabric with moderate small quartz and flint inclusions	12	222	one rough one smoothed, includes angled corner		hearth lining?	Upper fill of 65	65	Oven

Appendix 6: Metalworking Debris Catalogue

Context	Type	Qty	Weight	Comment	Description	Feature	Feature Type
35	Secondary smithing	8	199	Highly vitrified hearth lining numerous voids	Fill of 34	34	Ditch
41	Secondary smithing	17	304	Highly vitrified hearth lining numerous voids	Fill of 40	40	Ditch
42	Secondary smithing	17	1316	Plano convex hearth bottom	Includes hearth bottom	43	Pit
50	Secondary smithing	2	307	Highly vitrified hearth lining numerous voids, underside numerous flint and quartz pieces from hearth base	Primary fill of 43	43	Pit
61	Secondary smithing	1	91	Rusty lump, vitrified	Fill of 62	62	Ditch
79	Secondary smithing	6	137	Highly vitrified hearth lining numerous voids	Fill of 78	78	Pit
214	Secondary smithing	1	99	Possible tuyère	Finds from Trench 8	Unstratified	Unstratified
243	Secondary smithing	2	10	Highly vitrified hearth lining numerous voids	Unstratified	Unstratified	Unstratified
244	Secondary smithing	1	290	Highly vitrified hearth lining numerous voids	Unstratified	Unstratified	Unstratified

Appendix 7: Worked Flint Catalogue

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Find/type	No.	Wt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	L	W	D	Comment
3	1	1	Tertiary Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	1	\	\	dark grey	white, chalky	\	\	\	\	close to bladelet with hinge fracture, probably Meso/E.Neo
9	1	1	Tertiary Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	1	\	\	dark grey	grey, thin	\	\	\	\	snapped, possible proximal microburin from Mesolithic microlith manufacture
33	1	14	Side scraper	1	14	\	yes	mid grey	\	\	50	20	5	abrupt retouch along one lateral edge of a blade, typically EN
41	1	1	Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	1	\	\	mid grey	\	\	\	\	\	snapped, possible bladelet
42	1	3	Blade	1	3	\	\	dark grey	\	\	35	15	4	parallel dorsal scars
45	6	27	Blade	1	1	\	\	dark grey	\	\	35	8	3	parallel dorsal scars
			Blade	1	2	\	\	dark grey	\	\	30	10	3	edge gloss on one lateral edge
			Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	4	24	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	one flake struck for core with two perpendicular platforms, others possible blades
47	2	7	Blade	1	2	\	\	mid grey	\	\	40	7	5	parallel dorsal scars
			Tertiary Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	5	\	\	dark grey	grey, thin	\	\	\	\	\

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Find/type	No.	Wt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	L	W	D	Comment
55	2	18	Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	2	18	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	struck from cube core with two perpendicular, prepared (abraded) platforms
73	2	14	Tertiary Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	13	\	\	dark grey	grey, thin	\	\	\	\	appear broad, but snapped, with blade-like dorsal scars
			Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	1	\	\	mid grey	\	\	\	\	\	\
75	1	6	Side scraper	1	6	\	yes	dark grey	\	\	45	25	5	fine abrupt retouch along one lateral edge of a blade, typically EN
77	1	1	Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	1	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	\
101	1	12	Platform Rejuvenation Flake	1	12	\	na	dark grey	\	\	35	30	5	Tablet removal from platform of core to reduce angle of striking platform, facets of previous blade removals present around 75% of circumference of flake, also very small bulb scars just under platform edge
201	1	27	Denticulate	1	27	\	yes	dark grey	white, chalky	\	85	25	10	long blade with serrations formed by unifacial semi-abrupt retouch along one lateral edge, probably Mesolithic, possibly earlier Neolithic
	1	2	Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	1	2	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	\

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Find/type	No.	Wt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	L	W	D	Comment
208	3	22	Tertiary Flake, broad squat (<50mm)	1	20	\	\	dark grey	white, chalky	\	\	\	\	hard hammer struck, LN/EBA
			Uncorticated Flake, blade-like (<50mm)	2	2	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\	possible bladelets
241	1	305	Hammerstone	1	305	\	na	yellow-brown	na	\	50	50	50	sandstone pebble, with one face worn by percussion; medium size/hardness
242	1	20	End Scraper	1	20	\	yes	dark grey	grey, thin	\	60	30	10	abrupt retouch around distal end of a blade-like tertiary flake
244	1	30	End Scraper	1	30	\	yes	dark grey	\	\	50	35	10	abrupt retouch around distal end of ovoid uncorticated flake with blade-like dorsal scars and prepared (abraded) striking platform
	28	511		28	511									

Appendix 8a: Human Skeletal Remains Quantification and Measurements

Context	Fraction	Skull			Axial			Upper limb			Lower limb			Unident	Totals	max skull	max l.b.
		No.	Wt/g	Ave. wt	No.	Wt/g	Ave. wt	No.	Wt/g	Ave. wt	No.	Wt/g	Ave. wt	Wt/g	Wt/g	(mm)	(mm)
203	>10mm	24	26.1	1.1	43	29.4	0.7	23	43.1	1.9	65	133.4	2.1	66.3	298.3	40	65
	>4mm	27	7.3	0.3	21	4.4	0.2	23	12.0	0.5	31	19.0	0.6	84.2	126.9	30	33
	>2mm							1	0.1	0.1				2.8	2.9		
	<2mm													20.2	20.2		
Total		51	33.4	0.7	64	33.8	0.5	47	55.2	1.2	96	152.4	1.6	173.5	448.3		

Appendix 8b: Human Skeletal Remains Catalogue

Quantification:	Total weight 448.3g: Skull 51 (33.4g), axial 64 (33.8g), upper limb 47 (55.2g), lower limb 96 (152.4g), unidentified (173.5g).
Description:	Unurned calcined bone.
Condition:	Good, high proportion of large fragments.
Determination of age:	M3 erupted, cranial sutures unfused, epiphyses fused, no degeneration in surviving joints
Determination of sex:	Large glabella, large MT1, large humerus head
Identified elements:	Fragments of cranial vault, frontal, temporal, zygoma, mandibular ramus and body, vertebral facets, C & L vertebral bodies, iliac crest, acetabular rim, humerus, radius, proximal ulna, hamate, pisiform (large), MC1, finger phalanges, femur, tibia, fibula, patella, metatarsals (MT1 head).
Measurements:	Max skull frag size mm, max long bone frag size mm. Distal thumb phal 23mm, MC1 38mm long.
Colours:	White-grey.
Teeth:	No roots, but part of R mandible with sockets for M2-3
Non-metric traits:	Possibly metopic.
Pathology:	Nothing observed.

Appendix 9: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	1	2	3	5
Context No.	66	203	211	209
Feature No.	65		210	210
Feature type	Oven	Crem.	OBD	OBD
Date	R			
Plant macrofossils				
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. (glume base)				x
Cereal indet. (grain)			xcffg	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love	xcf			
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxxx	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xxxx	x	x
Charcoal >5mm		xx		
Charcoal >10mm	x			
Charred root/stem	x	x		x
Indet.bud	x			
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx	x	x	x
Black tarry material				x
Bone	xb	x xxb		x
Burnt/fired clay	xx			
Small coal frags.	x			x
Vitreous material		x		
Sample volume (litres)	14	30	25	25
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key

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

cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt R = Roman Crem = cremation OBD = outer barrow ditch

Appendix 10: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-144741

Project details

Project name	Land between A12 and Hall Road, Hopton-on-Sea
Short description of the project	The site lies in an area of cropmarks and archaeological investigations demonstrating archaeological remains from late prehistory to the Second World War. 11 trenches, c.30m by 1.80m were placed to target cropmarks, especially a possible farmstead and large ring ditch. Archaeological remains were present in all trenches and the site produced evidence for human activity dating from perhaps the Mesolithic to the early Roman period. A small quantity of worked flint typologically dated as possibly Mesolithic represented the earliest evidence for human activity. More convincing evidence for early activity was provided by a small quantity of Early Neolithic pottery (c.3800-3300BC) from a small number of features at the south of the site. A large ring ditch comprising inner and outer circuits with an apparently discontinuous intermediate circuit is interpreted as a barrow of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date. Its diameter of c.80m marks it as among the largest example of this monument type known from the county. and could be the remains of a disc barrow. Cremated humans remains (possibly Early Bronze Age) have been redeposited within the inner circuit ditch. Two circular structures, one in an enclosure, are Iron Age or Romano British roundhouses. Other ditches define fields, enclosures and possibly track or droveways of several periods. Roman activity, most noticeably at the south of the site, was associated with secondary metal working and possible cereal processing. The pottery suggested 1st and 2nd century activity, and had similarities to assemblages from military sites. A substantial ditch with evidence for a large internal bank is tentatively interpreted as a Roman earthwork, perhaps part of a beacon or signal station and may have been reused or modified from an earlier 'Thornham' style enclosure.
Project dates	Start: 15-01-2013 End: 05-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ENF144741 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	POST-HOLE Late Prehistoric

Monument type	RING DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	DITCH Early Neolithic
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	POST HOLE Roman
Monument type	OVEN Roman
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POST-HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	CREMATED HUMAN REMAINS Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	STONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Mesolithic
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK GREAT YARMOUTH HOPTON ON SEA Land between A12 and Hall Road,
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 5237 0018 52 1 52 32 25 N 001 43 19 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	David Whitmore

Project supervisor David Adams
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Cripps Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Human Bones","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Human Bones","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Human Bones","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

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