

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 1077

**An Archaeological Strip and Record Excavation at
Cringleford Park and Ride, Norwich**

Assessment report and Updated Project Design

39823 HET

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Location: Cringleford, Norfolk
District: South Norfolk
Grid Ref: TG 182 054
HER No.: 39823 HET
Date of excavation: 18th May to 11th June 2004

Summary

Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) undertook a programme of archaeological work on the site of the proposed Cringleford Park and Ride development, located to the south-west of Norwich. This work consisted of an initial fieldwalking and metal detector survey, twenty-seven trial trenches and a large strip and record excavation.

A range of discrete and linear features were excavated during this work and a reasonable quantity of artefacts recovered. This evidence was mainly of prehistoric date and suggests occupation of the surrounding area during several periods. These results add to the increasingly detailed understanding of the location and nature of prehistoric land-use in the area surrounding Norwich. Activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age was represented by a large assemblage of worked flint recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts and a small number of pits containing pottery of this date. More substantial evidence for early to middle Iron Age activity was also recovered. Ditches, possibly representing enclosures and trackway fragments, could be tentatively dated to the Iron Age, demonstrating a developed and organised landscape in the vicinity of the site by this time. A small number of Iron Age pits were also identified. A large number of poorly dated or undated pits and postholes were also identified. While many were of potentially prehistoric date, these showed little spatial patterning and could not be related to any specific phase of activity.

The first part of this report presents the full results of the excavation that concluded this programme of work. This is followed by an assessment of the potential of the stratigraphic and artefactual data from recovered during all phases of work. The final part of this report presents an Updated Project Design. This summarises the further analysis and nature of publication required to meet the work's specific and general aims as stated in the original Project Designs.

Part 1: Introduction

(Fig. 1)

Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU) was commissioned by Norfolk Planning and Transportation to undertake a programme of archaeological work on the site of a proposed Park and Ride development at Cringleford, Norwich. This work consisted of two phases of archaeological investigation, the first of which consisted of a field survey and evaluation carried out in November 2003 (Birks 2003). The second phase of work took the form of a strip map and record excavation undertaken during May and June 2005.

This report presents the results of the excavation and an assessment of the potential and significance of the stratigraphic and artefactual data recovered from all phases of work. This is then followed by an Updated Project Design listing the further work required to meet the specific and wider research aims of the project.

1.1 Project Background

Both phases of archaeological investigation were undertaken in accordance with Project Designs and Method Statements prepared by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU Refs: JB/1169 and JB/1720) and Briefs issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Refs: DG/08-05-01 and DG/13-01-04)

The site was located c. 1.5km to the south-west of Norwich, near the Thickthorn A47, A11 and B1172 Interchange, which lies between Cringleford and Hethersett. It comprised an area of c. 4ha that covered the location of the proposed development and its associated access road.

The 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 Planning and Policy Guidance 16 — Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990).

The site archives are currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

1.2 Geology and Topography

The site lay on the higher tracts of ground overlooking the Yare valley to the north-west. The topography slopes from north-west to south-east at c. 35m OD and c. 26m OD respectively. The site is bordered by two west-to-east flowing tributaries of the River Yare.

This area lies on the eastern edge of the north-to-south boulder clay watershed plateau of High Norfolk (Wade-Martin 1994). The solid geology consists of Upper Cretaceous Chalk, overlain by glacial sands and gravels. Within the site these deposits took the form of fine, pale brown sands and mid orange brown clays.

A mid orange brown silty sand subsoil with a maximum depth of 0.20m was present across much of the site, overlain by a dark grey brown silty sand topsoil. This topsoil deposit had an average depth of 0.30m.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The survey area was situated in a rich archaeological landscape. A number of large archaeological investigations have taken place in recent years, revealing extensive evidence of past activity in the area. Recent excavations at Harford revealed activity of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date. Previous work by NAU in advance of the Norwich Southern Bypass also uncovered Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon material (Ashwin and Bates 2000).

While no previous archaeological intervention has taken place within the vicinity of the site a total of eleven previous finds and identified features are recorded in the Norfolk Historic and Environment Record (NHER). Findspots of worked, probably Neolithic, flints are recorded in three locations (NHERs 22812, 22828 and 28021). A number of prehistoric barrows are also recorded includes two round barrows situated 275m apart in the former plantation 'Big Wood' (NHERs 9463 and 9464). A further barrow (NHER 9395) survives only as a cropmark despite being indicated on the OS 1:25000 as an upstanding earthwork.

Undated cropmarks of a rectilinear field system or settlement (NHER 9396) has also been identified in the area. A variety of finds were found in the vicinity of these

cropmarks including Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint, Iron Age and Romano-British coins, medieval pottery sherds and a post-medieval seal.

An archaeological field survey has previously been carried out to the north-west of the Thickthorn Interchange (NHER 40130 to 40137 inclusive and 40205). This survey revealed scatters of prehistoric worked flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery, metal-working debris, ceramic building material and assorted metal finds.

The fieldwalking and metal detector survey that proceeded the recent work at Cringleford used a 20m by 20m grid to sample the plough soil. A multi-period finds assemblage was recovered, the majority of which consisted of struck flint of prehistoric date. Little in the way of meaningful spatial patterning was identified, although slightly higher densities of worked flint were recovered in the north and east of the area surveyed. The other material was of a similar variety to the nearby survey discussed above and probably resulted from manuring of these fields.

A total of twenty-seven, 40m long trenches was subsequently excavated in the survey area. These revealed a several pits of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date and a number of undated pits, postholes, and natural features.

The stratigraphic and artefactual data from these earlier phases of work is included, along with that from the excavation, in the assessment that forms the latter part of this report.

Part 2: The Excavation

2.1 Methodology

In line with the Project Design the objective of this excavation 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.

Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed by machine, under constant archaeological supervision. This stripping was carried out in two phases. The first 0.30m to 0.50m of overburden was removed by an elevator scraper (a wheeled, mechanical excavator with rotating toothless arms) to just above the interface between topsoil and subsoil. The use of an elevator scraper for such work is not unprecedented in Norfolk, having been used successfully prior to archaeological work at the Harford Park and Ride site (Trimble 2004). The remaining soil deposits were removed more carefully with closer monitoring using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

It was decided that after the removal of all overburden in the northern part of the site distinct working areas should be created, with excavation beginning in safe working zones away from the ongoing machine stripping. Following monitoring approval, excavated and recorded areas were handed over to the main contractors, who were then able to proceed with their programme of works.

This stripping method gave generally good results with little rutting of the subsoil or natural deposits, other than at the south-eastern end of the site where the fully-laden elevator scraper sank into a reinstated evaluation trench.

Metal-detecting of the topsoil and subsoil deposits took place prior to their removal. Exposed features were also scanned. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those of obviously modern date, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

The temporary surveying stations, archaeological features and the edge of site were surveyed using a Trimble 3605 DR total station. The level of STN 1 (33.96m OD) was transferred from a temporary surveying station linked to the Ordnance Survey national grid. The temporary surveying station was located on the northern side of the B1172, approximately 50m west of a row of cottages at TG 1810 0558. STN 7 was located on the southern side of the site at TG 1819 0521 with an elevation of 27.54m OD. The change in height elevation was just under 6.5m OD sloping north-to-south.

Site conditions and access were very good. Weather condition remained favourable during the project.

2.2 Results

Linear features

Two ditches of possible Early Iron Age date were identified in the northern part of the site. The first (M[1156], slots [1014], [1041], [1043] and [1154]) was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west as it emerged from the northern edge of the site. Further south it turned slightly onto a north-east to south-west alignment. It was between 0.40m and 0.70m in width, had a maximum depth of 0.30m and was filled with a predominantly light brown silty sand. A total of eight sherds of Early Iron Age pottery and three pieces of struck flint were recovered from the excavated slots. The second ditch identified in this part of the site (M[1157], slots [1047] and [1049]) ran parallel to the southernmost length of ditch M[1156]. This was up to 0.70m wide and roughly 0.22m deep. Its mid-to-light brown silty sand fill produced only three struck flints in the way of dating evidence. The extent to which it respects ditch M[1156], coupled with the similarity of their fills suggests that they are probably broadly contemporary. Both ditches appeared to have been truncated beyond their southern extents.

A further three ditches were identified in the southern part of the site. These features were probably also of prehistoric date. Given the presence to the north of Early Iron Age ditches of similar dimensions a comparable date can tentatively be suggested for these features. The first was aligned north-east to south-west (M[1159], slots [1070] and [1112]) and while 0.50m wide it only survived to a depth of 0.08m. This ditch met a second, north-west to south-east aligned ditch (M[1160], slots [1072], [1074] and [1080]). While of a similar width, this length of ditch was much less shallow at up to 0.30m deep. Both ditches were filled with similar brown grey silty sand deposits and an investigation of their junction showed them to be contemporary. Three pieces of worked flint and two sherds of prehistoric (not closely dateable) pottery were recovered from these ditches. Two samples (<6> and <7>) were taken, one from each length of ditch. These produced hazel, charcoal, burnt/fired clay, vesicular bone fragments, a small amount of vitrified material and small (presumably intrusive) coal fragments. The third ditch identified in this area (M[1158], slots [1068], [1110] and

[1148]) lay 3.5m to the north-west of ditch M[1159], on a parallel alignment. It was between 0.37m and 0.40m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.11m. Unlike ditch M[1159] this ditch did not turn, continuing beyond the western extent of the site. Only a single worked flint was recovered from its mid brown grey silty sand fill. Its similar fill, dimensions and alignment to ditch M[1159] do however suggest an equally early date for this feature.

Pits and post-holes

Pits and postholes possessing a variety of shapes and profiles were identified on the site. All the artefactual material recovered from these features was of prehistoric date. While many produced little or no dating evidence a prehistoric date is thought probable for the majority of these pits and postholes.

Dispersed clusters of pits were identified in several parts of the site. The presence of charcoal, in varying quantities, was noted in many. While a small number showed signs of *in situ* burning and were possibly fire-pits, the use or function of the majority remains unclear.

Postholes were also identified in many areas of the site. While some were found in isolation a number were present in small dispersed clusters. However little meaningful patterning could be discerned. It seems unlikely that these represented buildings, being more likely the remains of fences, temporary structures or pens associated with animal husbandry and agriculture activity.

Late Neolithic / Bronze Age and Iron Age Pits

Only a small number of pits produced a sufficient quantity of finds to enable firm dating. A pit located in the central part of the site appeared to be of early prehistoric date. This feature ([1100], Fig.18) was sub-circular in shape with a rounded irregular base and concave sides. It was 0.70m long, 0.60m wide, 0.20m deep and filled with a mid grey brown, charcoal flecked, silty sand ([1101]). This deposit produced three sherds of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery and nine worked flints (three flakes and six fragments). This was the only feature that could be firmly dated to this early period.

Another pit ([1053]), within the area bounded by ditches M[1159] and M[1158], was of possible Iron Age date. This feature had an oval shape in plan and an irregular concave base. It was 2.40m long, 1.85m wide, 0.34m deep and was filled by two deposits. The primary fill ([1052]) was 0.04m deep and consisted of a mottled orange yellow and pale brown sand. It most likely resulted from natural weathering of the feature's edges. The upper deposit ([1051]) consisted of a pale yellow brown silty sand that contained frequent charcoal lumps and flecks. A lump of reddened sand was noted towards the centre of the feature, suggesting that fire or hearth debris was dumped into the pit. A total of eleven worked flints (many of which were fragments and spalls) and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature.

Poorly Dated or Undated Pits

The remaining pits were all poorly dated, producing either no finds or very small assemblages of struck flint. These are discussed below in order of where they appeared on the site.

Northern Part of Site

Two pits were identified in the north-eastern corner of the site. The first ([1008], Fig.7) was sub-circular in shape with an irregular flat base. It was 0.84m long, 0.90m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a primary fill ([1009]) of pale grey silty sand. This was sealed by a dark grey sand ([1007]) that appeared to have had a high organic content. A sample taken from this upper deposit (<4>) which produced evidence of herbs, hazel, charcoal, charred root/rhizomes/stem, black porous 'cokey' material, black tarry material and small (presumably intrusive coal fragments). A single worked flint (platform core) and several fragments of heat-crazed flint were recovered from this feature. The second pit in this corner of the site was also sub-circular in shape, with a rounded base ([1010], Fig. 3). It was 0.64m long, 0.57m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained two deposits. A primary deposit ([1012]) of dark yellowish brown silty sand was sealed by black sand which was once probably highly organic ([1011]).

A number of widely dispersed pits were excavated in the north-west area of the site.

Pit [1016] (Fig. 8) was sub-circular in shape with a 'V'-shaped base. This feature was 0.54m long, 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled with very dark brown silty sand ([1015]) and occasional patches of orange redeposited sand. One flint flake was recovered from this deposit.

Pit [1018] (Fig. 9) was sub-circular with a concave base. It was 1.18m long 0.98m wide and 0.15m deep. Its single fill ([1017]) consisted of mid brown silty sand with patches of black ?organic rich sand. This deposit produced a single flint flake.

Pit [1027] had a sub-circular shape in plan and a flat base. It was 1.90m long, 1.36m wide and 0.20m deep. Four distinct fills were identified in this feature. The primary deposit ([1026]) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a mid brown yellow silty sand and was thought to represent redeposited natural. This was sealed by a thin layer of charcoal flecked, reddened sand. The red discolouration of this deposit is possibly due to heat from an *in situ* fire. This is supported by the presence of a black ashy charcoal deposit ([1025]) overlying this layer. The remainder of the feature was filled with a mid grey brown silty sand ([1024]). This feature appeared to truncated by a much smaller pit or post-hole ([1029]). Neither feature produced any finds.

Pit [1032] was circular in shape with a concave base. It was 0.78m in diameter, 0.23m deep and was filled by two deposits. Its primary fill ([1152]) consisted of a mid brownish yellow silty sand with occasional patches of charcoal. This was sealed by a very dark grey silty sand ([1153]) that contained more frequent patches of charcoal. No finds were recovered from either deposit. A much larger sub-oval pit ([1039]) was identified relatively close to pit [1032]. This was sub-oval in shape with a flat base. It was 1.24m long, 0.76m wide, 0.10m deep and filled with a charcoal flecked, very dark grey, silty sand ([1040])

Pit [1033] (Fig. 10) was circular in shape with a flat base. It was 0.78 long, 0.74m wide, 0.13m deep and was filled with a very dark grey, charcoal flecked, silty sand ([1034]). One struck flint fragment was retrieved from this feature. Another feature ([1035]) identified relatively close to pit [1033] was also circular in shape, though with a concave base. This pit was 0.68m long, 0.65m wide, 0.20m deep and filled with a dark grey charcoal flecked silty sand ([1036]). A sample taken from this deposit (<8>) produced only charcoal fragments. This deposit produced no finds.

Pit [1037] was sub-circular in shape with an irregular flat base. This feature was 0.91m long, 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep. It was filled with a very dark grey charcoal flecked silty sand ([1038]). No finds were recovered from this feature.

Pit [1045] (Fig. 11) was oval with a concave base. It was 1.50m long, 0.80m wide and 0.48m deep. This pit was filled with a mid brown silty sand ([1046]) that produced a single struck piece of flint. This deposit appeared to be truncated by Early Iron Age ditch M[1156].

Central part of site

A number of poorly dated pits were also identified in the central part of the site. These were present in a number of dispersed clusters.

One cluster consisted of three roughly circular pits of broadly similar dimensions. The first pit ([1054]) was flat based, 0.91m in diameter and 0.18m deep. The second ([1056]) was 0.68m in diameter, 0.17m deep and had a concave base. The third pit in this cluster ([1058]) was 0.96m in diameter, 0.18m deep and flat based. All were filled by similar, mid grey brown charcoal flecked silty sand deposits, none of which produced any dating evidence.

Another cluster of features was identified to the east of these pits. This included a pair of circular pits with concave profiles. The first of these ([1138]) was 0.74m in diameter and 0.23m deep. The second ([1140]) was 0.68m in diameter and 0.39m deep. Both were filled by similar mid brown silty sand deposits. No finds were recovered from either feature. Further features were present to the south of these pits. The first ([1134]) was a circular pit. This was 0.58m in diameter, 0.07m deep and filled with a very dark grey charcoal flecked silty sand deposit ([1133]). No finds were recovered and a sample taken from this deposit (<5>) produced only charcoal and black porous 'cokey' material. The remaining features in this group were two smaller circular pits. The first of these ([1132]) was 0.58m in diameter, 0.07m deep and filled with pale grey silty sand ([1131]). The second ([1123]) was 0.36m in diameter, 0.24m deep and contained a mid brown, charcoal flecked silty sand deposit ([1124]). These two features also produced no dating evidence.

A small, rectangular, straight-sided pit ([1142]) was identified in isolation, between these two clusters of features. This was 0.42m long, 0.32m wide and 0.17m deep. A sample (<3>) taken from its black silty sand fill ([1143]) produced charcoal, charred root/rhizome/stem and interestingly a quantity of burnt bone fragments. It is possible that this bone was human, with the range of other material found typical of a cremation deposit. Even if this is the case the precise nature of this deposit is unclear. It may represent an actual cremation burial (possibly once in an organic container of some kind), as this pit is probably too small to have been at base of a pyre. It is however possible that this deposit represents material redeposited from a pyre, following the removal of the main burial deposit. This would explain why a relatively limited quantity of very small bone fragments was found, dispersed throughout the deposit. No datable artefacts were recovered from this feature, although a prehistoric date seems likely.

Two further pit pits were identified in the central part of the site. The first ([1116]) was sub-circular in shape with an irregular flat base. This was 1.10m long, 0.82m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled with a light grey brown, charcoal flecked silty sand ([1117]) that produced a single flint blade. The second pit ([1125]) was also sub-

circular and flat based. This feature was 0.58m in diameter, 0.07m deep and filled with a very dark grey silty sand ([1126]). No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Southern part of site

A number of poorly dated pits, found both in clusters and in isolation, were also excavated in the southern part of the site.

A line of three pits was identified close to the eastern edge of the site. The first ([1104]) was oval and had a rounded, concave profile. This was 1.00m long, 0.70m wide, 0.18m deep and filled with a very dark grey, charcoal flecked, silty sand ([1105]). The second ([1114]) had a similar shape and profile. This pit was 1.08m wide, 0.85m wide, 0.16m deep and filled with a dark grey silty, charcoal flecked sand ([1115]). Neither feature produced any dating evidence. The third pit in this cluster ([1121]) was sub-circular with an irregular, flat base. This pit was 0.50m in diameter, only 0.03m deep and filled with a reddened and charcoal flecked light grey sand ([1122]). A single flint blade was recovered from this deposit. The evidence for *in situ* burning suggests that this feature may have been used as a fire-pit. A small rectangular pit ([1108]) was identified to the west of these features. This was 0.48m long, 0.24m wide, 0.10m deep and filled was a pale grey silty sand ([1109]). This deposit produced no finds.

Two poorly dated pits were identified to the south of ?Iron Age pit [1053]. Both of these sub-circular, flat-based pits showed possible evidence for *in situ* burning and may have also been fire-pits of some kind. The first ([1067]) was 0.96m in diameter and 0.11m deep. This was filled with a pale yellow brown silty sand that contained frequent lumps of charcoal and reddened sand at its western extent ([1066]). The base of this feature was noticeably heat-reddened. A burnt flint, a worked fragment and three spalls were recovered from this feature. The second of these pits ([1079]) was more substantial at 1.16m in diameter and 0.24m deep. This base was also reddened. Its pale yellow brown silty sand fills ([1077], [1076]) contained frequent flecks of charcoal and produced a worked flint flake, six fragments and two spalls. A sample taken from this feature (<1>) produced only charcoal and black porous 'cokey' material.

A single pit lay in isolation in the middle of this part of the site. This sub-circular, flat based, feature ([1150]) was 0.86m in diameter, 0.23m deep and filled with a mid brown silty sand ([1151]). While no dating evidence was recovered, this deposit appeared to have been truncated by ?prehistoric ditch M[1158]. A further, circular pit ([1135]) was identified in isolation to the north of pit [1150]. This was 0.58m in diameter, 0.07m deep and filled with near black silty sand ([1136]). Lenses of burnt red sand identified towards the top of this deposit suggest that this feature was partially infilling with fire debris from elsewhere.

A further three pits were scattered in the southernmost part of the site. Two were rectangular in shape. The first of these ([1102]) was 1.30m long, 0.74m wide, 0.12m deep and flat based. The second ([1094]) was smaller at 0.62m long, 0.40m wide and 0.09m deep. Both were filled with pale grey silty sand deposits, neither of which produced any finds.

The final pit in this area ([1098]) was sub-circular and flat based. This feature was 0.66m in diameter, 0.43m and filled with mid grey silty sand ([1099]). No finds were recovered from this feature.

Poorly Dated or Undated Postholes

A number of postholes were also excavated. These were found across the site and while many were present in discrete clusters, little meaningful spatial patterning could be discerned. These are therefore likely to have been related to either particularly ephemeral structures or, most likely, to small pens or fences associated with animal husbandry.

Northern Part of Site

Only three possible postholes were present in this part of the site, located to the west of pits [1032] and [1039]. Two were circular in shape; the first of which ([1020]) was 0.40m in diameter and 0.38m deep. The second ([1022]) was 0.56m in diameter and 0.20m deep. Both were filled with mid yellow brown silty sands, neither of which produced any finds. The third possible posthole in this area ([1030]) was oval with a 'v' shaped base. This feature was 0.48m wide, 0.35m deep and filled with a pale grey silty sand ([1031]). This also produced no dating evidence.

Central Part of Site

Four isolated circular postholes were identified in the central part of the site. The first ([1144]) was 0.34m in diameter, 0.16m deep and filled with a very dark grey brown charcoal flecked silty sand ([1145]). The second ([1129]) was of identical dimensions to posthole [1144] and filled with a similarly charcoal flecked, mid brown grey silty sand ([1130]). The third posthole ([1118]) was 0.36m in diameter, 0.24m deep and filled with a charcoal flecked very dark orange grey, charcoal flecked, clay sand ([1119]). None of these features produced any dating evidence. The fourth posthole identified in this part of the site ([1146]) 0.36m in diameter, 0.05m deep and filled with a pale grey silty sand ([1147]). A flint blade and a flint flake were recovered from this deposit, which, coupled with its light colour, suggests an early date for this feature.

Southern Part of Site

A number of postholes were identified in the southern part of the site, with the majority found in two discrete clusters. The first cluster consisted of three fairly tightly grouped postholes ([1060], [1062] and [1064]) identified to the west of ditch M[1158]. These circular flat-based postholes were all roughly 0.30m in diameter and between 0.12m and 0.07m in depth. All three were filled with identical very dark grey, charcoal flecked, silty sands. No finds were recovered from these postholes.

A further five circular postholes were clustered in the southernmost part of the site, immediately to the north of ditch M[1160]. The first ([1084]) had a rounded base and vertical sides. This substantial posthole was 0.40m in diameter, 0.34m deep and filled with a charcoal flecked, very dark grey silty sand ([1085]). Another posthole with a similarly steep profile was identified to the east of posthole [1084]. This feature ([1086]) was 0.30m in diameter, 0.19m deep and filled with a light brown silty sand ([1087]). Another posthole appeared to truncate this deposit, suggesting that all these features are not necessarily contemporary. This later posthole ([1088]) was 0.32m in diameter, 0.28m deep and filled with a dark brown silty sand ([1089]). An irregular shaped feature ([1082]) to the west of posthole [1084] may have represented a number of similarly intercut postholes. A further posthole ([1090], Fig.20) lay immediately to the south of these features. This was 0.20m in diameter, 0.17m deep and filled with a mid brown silty sand ([1091]). The final posthole identified in this area ([1092]) lay to the west of the cluster described above. This was 0.34m in

diameter, 0.12m deep and filled with a mid yellow brown clayey sand ([1093]). None of these postholes produced any dating evidence.

?Natural features

A small number of the features excavated were thought too irregular to have been deliberately dug pits and were most likely natural in origin.

A large undated ovoid feature ([1127]), identified in the central part of the site, was of probably natural origin. However its mid brown silty sand fill contained charcoal flecks, suggesting that this feature was possibly contemporary with the other charcoal rich features on this site.

Two further irregular features present in the southern part of the site ([1107] and [1096]) were thought to represent tree-boles. Both were filled with grey brown clay sands. Neither produced any finds.

Subsoil finds

During the subsoil stripping two discrete clusters of early Iron Age pottery were identified and hand excavated ([1005] and [1006]). It is likely that this material was originally placed within negative features of some kind, although the extent of these could not be determined.

2.3 The Finds and Environmental Evidence

The finds from the excavation are presented in tabular form with basic quantitative information in Appendix 2. In addition to this summary, more detailed information on specific finds and the environmental material is included in separate reports below. Supporting tables for these contributions are included in the Appendices.

2.3.1 Prehistoric Pottery by Sarah Percival

(Appendix 3)

The prehistoric pottery assemblage comprises 245 sherds, weighing 0.897kg. The majority of the sherds are of Earlier Iron Age date (800-300BC). Three sherds (0.007kg) are Later Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (3200-1800BC) and two are not closely datable.

This small assemblage is of interest as little Earlier Iron Age pottery has been excavated under modern archaeological conditions in Norfolk. Two hundred and forty Earlier Iron Age sherds, weighing 0.885kg, were recovered from six contexts. It should be noted that 156 of these sherds were found in two discrete groups (contexts [1005] and [1006]), within subsoil deposits. The assemblage overall is characterised by angular shoulders with fingertip impressed decoration, similar to the assemblage from Micklemoor Hill, West Harling, Norfolk. Micklemoor Hill, which lies c. 23k to the south west of Cringleford, is the 'typesite' for Earlier Iron Age pottery in this region dating to around the 6th century BC (Clark and Fell 1953; Cunliffe 1968). Valley Belt, Trowse is located much closer, around 6km east of Cringleford, and has produced a broadly contemporary assemblage, dated to approximately the 5th century BC (Ashwin and Bates 2000).

2.3.2 Flint by Sarah Bates

(Appendix 4)

A total of 134 pieces of struck flint and seventeen pieces of burnt flint, weighing a total of 0.235kg, were recovered during the excavation.

Type	Number
Multi platform flake core	3
Single platform flake core	1
Keeled core	2
Struck fragment	3
Flake	86
Blade-like flake	2
Blade	9
Spall	11
Scraper	3
Spurred piece	1
Retouched flake	9
Utilised flake	2
Utilised blade	2
Total	134
Burnt fragment	17

Table 1: Flint summary

Six cores are included, all but one of them from unstratified deposit [1004], a subsoil context, which would explain the battered nature of the pieces.

Most of the assemblage consists of unmodified flakes, again many of them (mostly from [1004]) have quite heavy edge damage. The flakes are predominantly quite irregular types although there are some neater pieces and a few blades and blade-like flakes are present.

Classifiable tools are rare. Three pieces are defined as scrapers although two of these have only short lengths of an edge retouched and the other has quite shallow retouch around its distal end. A thicker flake has coarse retouch across one end which forms irregular 'spurred' edge.

There are a number of miscellaneous retouched and utilised pieces although these are often edge damaged and in some cases the 'retouch' may have occurred accidentally.

The flint indicates activity in the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric period. Much of it probably dates to the Later Neolithic period or Bronze Age – although some pieces may be slightly earlier or later in date.

2.3.3 Fired clay

A single fragment of fired clay (0.016kg), most likely daub, was recovered from the fill of a Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age pit [1100].

2.3.4 Small Finds by Julia Huddle

(Appendix 5)

Two items from this excavation were given small finds numbers. Both were metal detected and from topsoil or subsoil deposits. The first was a medieval buckle (SF10). An almost identical buckle from London was found in a mid to late 14th-century context (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 74, fig 44, no 299). The evidence from there points to this style of buckle (with bar offset and narrowed, ornate oval frame) being in use from the late 12th to the late 14th century.

The second was a copper alloy die-stamped brooch of Victorian date (SF11).

2.3.5 Other metal objects by Julia Huddle

(Appendix 6)

A total of thirty-one other metal objects (in fifty-seven pieces) was recovered from unstratified contexts. All are either post-medieval or modern and include items such as the buttons, furniture-fittings, coins, thimbles, a lucky charm pendant and a flag from a toy soldier or ship. Undatable items such as the lead and copper alloy metal working debris complete the assemblage. This small assemblage recovered by metal detector is not unusual for rural excavations in Norfolk. The type of finds present may be a reflection of muck spreading or casual loss.

2.3.6 Environmental Evidence by Val Fryer

(Appendix 7)

A total of nine samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were collected (deposits [1076], [1077], [1143], [1007], [1133], [1071], [1075], [1036] and [1050]). The rationale for selection and the methodology employed for study are based on those presented in *Environmental Archaeology* (EH 2002).

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. The density of material within the assemblages is expressed in the table as follows: x = 1 – 10 specimens, xx = 10 – 100 specimens and xxx = 100+ specimens. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia were present in all samples.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were removed for further specialist analysis.

Results of assessment

With the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils were extremely rare, occurring in only two samples. Seeds of black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/ lapathifolia*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.) were recorded from sample <4> alongside pieces of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, and the latter were also common in sample <6>. Other plant macrofossils included fragments of

charred root/stem and tuber, which notably occurred together in sample <3>. Charcoal fragments were common or abundant throughout.

Other materials were also generally rare. The fragments of black 'cokey' and tarry material are possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Burnt bone fragments were moderately common in sample <3> and unburnt fragments (principally vesicular material) formed the major component of sample <7>. The coal fragments in samples <3>, <4>, <6> and <9> are almost certainly intrusive from later deposits.

Discussion

Although the assemblage from sample <3> is extremely small, the occurrence of burnt bone fragments and pieces of charred root, stem and tuber possibly indicates that the material is derived from a cremation deposit. Similar plant assemblages frequently occur in cremations of prehistoric and later date, where they are either indicative of the use of dried grasses and grassland herbs as kindling or fuel, or of material burnt *in situ* beneath the pyre.

Charred seeds are only recorded from one sample (<4>). Although all are of common cereal crop contaminants, it is not possible to conclusively interpret this assemblage due to the very low density (i.e. < 10 specimens in total) of material present. It is perhaps most likely that all are derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, which accidentally became incorporated within the fill of pit [1008]. Hazel nutshell fragments are reasonably common within the assemblage from sample <6> but, as with sample <4>, there is insufficient material to indicate anything other than a small deposit of charred refuse within ditch [1070].

The remaining assemblages are too limited for conclusive interpretation, although it is perhaps safe to assume that the charcoal fragments from fire-pit [1079] (samples <1> and <2>) are principally derived from fuel waste.

Part 3: Assessment

This assessment considers the potential of the stratigraphic, artefactual and ecofactual data from the evaluation and excavation phases of work. Its potential is considered both in relation to the specific aims of the work and in the wider context of the regional research agenda laid out in *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

3.1 Stratigraphic Assessment

A total of 106 features were identified during archaeological work on this site, forty-six of which were recorded during the evaluation and sixty during the excavation. These can be summarised as follows;

3.1.1 Discrete features of prehistoric date

Several features were of definite prehistoric date. The earliest was a large shallow pit of possible Neolithic date identified during the evaluation (Trench 20). A reasonable quantity of Neolithic pottery was recovered from dumps of burnt material in its base. It appears that this pit survived as a negative feature for an exceptionally long period

as Iron Age pottery was recovered from its upper fill. It is not clear whether this was a deliberately dug feature or a natural hollow of some kind.

A charcoal rich pit of Bronze Age date was also found during the evaluation (Trench 7). Another pit, found during the excavation, contained pottery of a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

A number of Iron Age features were also identified. Several were found during the evaluation, including a probable hearth (Trench 16). This consisted of a shallow charcoal rich pit surround by several stakeholes. Two pits of Iron Age date were also excavated during the evaluation, (Trenches 20 and 23) one of which was of possibly middle Iron Age date. A single large pit of Iron Age date was also identified during the excavation.

3.1.2 Discrete features of possibly prehistoric date

A number of discrete features found on the site produced no dating evidence or only limited assemblages of worked flint. A large number of these were pits, of which a total of forty-four were identified; twelve during the evaluation and thirty-two during the excavation. The function or use of these features was unclear although a large number contained moderate to high amounts of charcoal. A small number also showed signs of *in situ* burning. A total of twenty poorly or undated postholes were also identified; two during the evaluation and eighteen during the excavation.

3.1.3 Prehistoric ditches

A total of four ditches were identified on the site.

Two ditches present in the northern part of the site were of possible Iron Age date (although only one produced dating evidence). As their western extents were unclear their purpose is somewhat unclear, although they may represent the remains of a trackway.

A possible enclosure ditch identified in the southern part of the site was also prehistoric, although closer dating was not possible. A second ditch in this part of the site ran parallel to the north-east to south-west aligned portion of the first, and while it produced little in the way of finds was probably of a similarly prehistoric date.

It is worth noting that while evaluation trenches crossed three of these ditches, none were identified during this earlier phase of work. These ditches were however particularly ephemeral and only visible when their full length was exposed.

3.1.4 Poorly dated linear features

Two linear features identified during the evaluation could not be closely dated. A ditch identified in Trench 13 was of uncertain date, producing only four struck flints. While much more substantial than the prehistoric ditches found in the southern part of the excavated area, it does lie on a similar alignment and may have been of a similar date. This ditch could not however be investigated further as it lay outside of the subsequently excavated area.

A gully that appeared to terminate within Trench 26 produced no finds. No further traces of this feature were identified during the excavation. It is possible that it was in fact an ovate pit or natural features of some kind.

3.1.5 Natural features

A total of twenty-four features were deemed to be natural in origin, most likely tree-throws. Twenty-one were identified during the evaluation, with a further three found during the excavation. Such features are a common occurrence on open rural sites such as this.

Statement of potential

Evidence of activity during several prehistoric periods was identified during the various phases of work on this site. These can be summarised as follows.

Early Neolithic and Bronze Age

A human presence in the vicinity of the site during the early prehistoric period was evidenced largely by the worked flint assemblage, recovered mainly from unstratified contexts. A small number of the excavated features did however produce artefact assemblages that allowed them to be conclusively dated to this period.

Features of these periods are rare and often limited to the kind of dispersed pits identified on this site. Hence any dated Neolithic and Bronze Age features are of value in understanding the location and intensity of activity in the region during these periods.

Iron Age

Evidence for Iron Age activity was more extensive, with all of the four ditches identified on the site being potentially of this date. This evidence adds to the present understanding of the extent and nature of organised land-use in the region during this period. Several pits and a probable hearth were also of this date and provide further evidence of an inhabited landscape during this period. There was however no conclusive evidence of a long-term settlement focus in the vicinity.

Possible prehistoric features

A number of possible pits and several postholes, exhibiting a wide variety of shapes and sizes, were also thought to have been largely of prehistoric date. No closely dateable material such as pottery was recovered from these features. A prehistoric date is largely suggested by the lack of evidence for activity in subsequent periods with which they could be associated. Two also appeared to be cut by ditches of probable Iron Age date, suggesting an early date for at least some of them.

While many contained struck flint, in all cases only very small assemblages were present, often largely composed of unmodified flakes, fragments and spalls. Such material could easily have been previously residual in the contemporary topsoil, migrating into these features as they silted up. Many of these features are therefore probably later in date than this material suggests.

The potential of these features to contribute to our understanding of prehistoric activity in the area is limited by their poor dating resolution. It is impossible to determine how many of these features were present at any one time or to which prehistoric period they belonged. Their lack of spatial patterning also limits their significance, as they do not appear to be related to structures or any other focused activity. They mainly serve to add to the overall impression of this as an inhabited and exploited landscape during the prehistoric period.

Their use or purpose is also particularly unclear. While many contained varying amounts of charcoal only a few showed convincing signs of having had fires set within them. It seems unlikely that the others would have been dug simply to dispose of small quantities of hearth debris. The suspicion remains that they could have resulted from early land-clearance, being associated with the burning and digging out of vegetation and trees.

Potentially the most interesting and significant of the undated features was the small pit possibly containing cremated human bone. While the quantity of bone present seems low for a cremation burial it may be the remains of a pyre site or at least the location of redeposited pyre material. Such a deposit may well have been of prehistoric date. It is interesting that semi-complete Iron Age vessels were found within the subsoil during the excavation, as these may well have been the remains of cremation burials. It is therefore a possibility that funerary rites of some kind were taking place in the area, although the evidence for this is obviously limited.

3.2 The Artefactual Data

The following section addresses the finds from this stage of work (excavation) alongside finds from the previous stages of work (field survey and trial trenching).

3.2.1 Prehistoric Pottery

A substantial assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered from all phases of work on the site consisting of 268 sherds weighing 1.291kg. Nine sherds of Neolithic pottery (0.100kg) were recovered, all during the evaluation. Two sherds of Bronze pottery (0.020kg) were found during the evaluation while a further three sherds of a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (0.007kg) were recovered during the excavation. A large quantity of Iron Age pottery was also recovered. The bulk of this assemblage consisted of 240 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery found during the excavation (0.885kg). The majority of this material was recovered from unstratified subsoil deposits, with 156 sherds found in two discrete groups. A further eleven sherds (0.201kg) of possible Middle Iron Age date were recovered from four stratified and one unstratified context during the evaluation. No prehistoric pottery was collected during the field walking survey, most likely due to the poor survival rates of such fragile pottery within ploughed soils.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

The range of datable prehistoric pottery recovered from this site indicates activity in the area for much of the prehistoric period. No further work is required on the Neolithic and Bronze Age material, which lacked any decorated, rim or base sherds that would warrant further study or illustration.

The Iron Age material however warrants further work. The Earlier Iron Age pottery is of particular interest as little has been excavated under modern archaeological conditions in Norfolk. Decorated and diagnostic sherds were present in this assemblage. The potentially Middle Iron Age pottery assemblage also included base and rim sherds. While analysis is complete it is suggested that a full catalogue be produced for this material with a number of sherds selected for illustration in the final report.

3.2.2 Post-Medieval Pottery

A total of thirty-eight sherds of post-medieval pottery (0.394kg) were recovered from topsoil contexts during the field walking survey.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

This assemblage is of limited significance most likely resulting from the manuring of these fields with domestic waste from elsewhere. No further work is required.

3.2.3 Flint

A reasonably-sized assemblage was recovered with 148 struck flints and thirty five burnt flints found during the field-walking. A further 193 struck flints were recovered from topsoil contexts during the machine excavation of the evaluation trenches. Forty-one struck flints and sixty-nine fragments of burnt flint (0.762kg) were recovered from excavated features during the evaluation. A total of 134 pieces of struck flint were found during the excavation and a further seventeen pieces of burnt flint (0.213kg).

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

The flint indicates activity in the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric period. The majority of the assemblage consisted of unmodified flakes. Many showed heavy edge damage, which would be expected given the largely unstratified soil contexts from which this material was derived. No fragments were sufficiently diagnostic to allow close dating. The majority of the flint is probably of later Neolithic to Iron Age date. A small number of fragments were of possibly earlier date and residual in later contexts.

The potential of this assemblage to provide detailed evidence for the nature of past activity or its date is limited by its largely undiagnostic and residual nature. No further work is required.

3.2.4 Fired Clay

Three small fragments of fired clay (0.028kg) were recovered from two prehistoric pit fill contexts during the evaluation. This material was most likely daub.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

The presence of this material in potentially prehistoric contexts is significant as it may have originated from structures or hearths present in the vicinity. No further work is required on this material.

3.2.5 Ceramic Building Material

Nine fragments of medieval, post medieval and modern brick, roof tile and pantile (0.180kg) were recovered during the field walking survey.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

This material is of little significance, most likely having been imported during the manuring of these fields. No further work is required.

3.2.6 Small Finds

Small find numbers were assigned to a total of eleven artefacts. Four, all copper alloy, were recovered during the field-walking survey. These included a ?furniture handle of possible Roman date, a medieval or post-medieval belt fitting, a vessel rim and belt fitting of post-medieval date. A further five were found during the evaluation. These included a medieval jetton, a lead weight of medieval or post-medieval date and copper alloy belt buckles of post-medieval date. Two metal small finds were recovered during the excavation; a medieval buckle and a Victorian brooch.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

All of these finds are of limited significance, being exclusively from unstratified deposits. They represent stray losses or material that was incorporated into the topsoil during the manuring of these fields. No further work is required on this material.

3.2.7 Other Metal Objects (not small found)

A total of 178 other metal objects were recovered from the three phases of work. All were recovered either during the field-walking survey or during subsequent metal detecting of topsoil deposits. All were of late post-medieval or modern date.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

This material is typical for such plough-soil assemblages and requires no further analysis.

3.2.8 Other finds

Two small fragments of post-medieval wine bottle and 0.110kg of oyster shell were recovered during the field walking survey. No further analysis of this material is required.

3.3 Environmental Evidence

A total of nine environmental samples were taken during the excavation from a variety of contexts (see report above and Appendix 7). Samples taken during the evaluation could not be processed at the time due to the limited time available to complete the report. Due to the gap between the phases of work these samples were deemed no longer viable by the time the excavation took place and were discarded.

The small number of samples taken and the diversity of results obtained limits the conclusions that can be drawn from this evidence. This material provides little information on the nature of prehistoric activity on the site. The samples taken from charcoal rich pits add little to the understanding of these somewhat enigmatic features.

The analysis of this material is largely complete. It is however suggested that a human bone specialist examine the possible cremated human bone, in an attempt to gain a positive identification.

Part 4: Updated Project Design

The assessment of the stratigraphic and artefactual data from all phases of work and its potential significance allows a programme of further analysis and publication to be suggested that will meet the specific and general aims of the work (as laid out in the original Project Designs). These aims relate both to fully characterising the archaeological material and a consideration of its contribution or otherwise to matters raised in the regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997 and Brown and Glazebrook 2000)

It is proposed that these aims would be best addressed by a limited programme of additional work and the production of a short report to be published in *Norfolk Archaeology*, the journal of the local historical and archaeological society. This report will summarise the results of all phases of work and the artefactual assemblages recovered. The report will focus on discussing the nature of the varied prehistoric evidence recovered, placing it in the context of recent work in the surrounding area.

Much of the analysis and research required to meet the aims of the project has already been completed. No further stratigraphical analysis is required due to the limited and dispersed nature of the archaeological remains present. Much of the required artefactual analysis is also complete. The specific areas where additional research or further work is required are as follows;

- Integration of the evaluation results into the stratigraphic and material archives
- A degree of further research to enable the evidence from this site to be placed within its wider regional context.
- A reworking of the illustrations to produce a single site plan that includes the features identified during the evaluation.
- A reassessment of the potential of material from surviving environmental samples for C14 dating
- A further examination of the possibly cremated bone by a specialist in human skeletal remains. Conclusive identification may not however be possible.
- The cataloguing of the Iron Age pottery assemblage and the illustration of selected sherds.

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The processing and assessment of the plant macro samples by Val Fryer. Andy Barnett undertook the metal detecting.

David Gurney (NLA) advised during the project and Jan Allen (NLA) supplied the NHER data.

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Appendix 1a: Excavation Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
1001	Deposit	Topsoil	-
1002	Deposit	Subsoil	-
1003	Deposit	Topsoil	-
1004	Deposit	Subsoil	-
1005	Finds	Pottery	Iron Age
1006	Finds	Pottery	Iron Age
1007	Deposit	Fill of pit [1008]	
1008	Cut	Pit	
1009	Deposit	Fill of pit [1008]	
1010	Cut	Pit	
1011	Deposit	Fill of pit [1010]	
1012	Deposit	Fill of pit [1010]	
1013	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1014]	Early Iron Age
1014	Cut	Ditch	Early Iron Age
1015	Cut	Fill of pit/posthole [1016]	
1016	Deposit	Pit	
1017	Deposit	Fill of pit [1018]	
1018	Cut	Pit	
1019	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1020]	
1020	Cut	Post-hole	
1021	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1022]	
1022	Cut	Post-hole	
1023	Deposit	Fill of pit [1027]	
1024	Deposit	Fill of pit [1027]	
1025	Deposit	Fill of pit [1027]	
1026	Deposit	Fill of pit [1027]	
1027	Cut	Pit	
1028	Deposit	Fill of pit / posthole [1029]	
1029	Cut	Pit / posthole	
1030	Cut	Post-hole	
1031	Deposit	Fill of pit [1030]	
1032	Cut	Pit	
1033	Cut	Pit	
1034	Deposit	Fill of pit [1033]	
1035	Cut	Pit	
1036	Deposit	Fill of pit [1035]	
1037	Cut	Pit	
1038	Deposit	Fill of pit [1037]	
1039	Cut	Pit	
1040	Deposit	Fill of pit [1039]	
1041	Cut	Ditch	Early Iron Age
1042	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1041]	Early Iron Age
1043	Cut	Ditch	Early Iron Age
1044	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1043]	Early Iron Age
1045	Cut	Pit	
1046	Deposit	Fill of pit [1045]	
1047	Cut	Ditch	?Prehistoric
1048	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1047]	?Prehistoric
1049	Cut	Ditch	?Prehistoric
1050	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1049]	?Prehistoric
1051	Deposit	Fill of pit [1053]	Iron Age
1052	Deposit	Fill of pit [1053]	Iron Age
1053	Cut	Pit	Iron Age

Context	Category	Description	Period
1054	Cut	Pit	
1055	Deposit	Fill of pit [1054]	
1056	Cut	Pit	
1057	Deposit	Fill of pit [1056]	
1058	Cut	Pit	
1059	Deposit	Fill of pit [1058]	
1060	Cut	Post-hole	
1061	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1060]	
1062	Cut	Post-hole	
1063	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1062]	
1064	Cut	Post-hole	
1065	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1064]	
1066	Deposit	Fill of pit [1067]	
1067	Cut	Pit	
1068	Cut	Ditch	?Prehistoric
1069	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1068]	?Prehistoric
1070	Cut	Ditch	Prehistoric
1071	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1070]	Prehistoric
1072	Cut	Ditch	Prehistoric
1073	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1072]	Prehistoric
1074	Cut	Ditch	Prehistoric
1075	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1074]	Prehistoric
1076	Deposit	Fill of pit [1079]	
1077	Deposit	Fill of pit [1079]	
1078	Deposit	Fill of pit [1079]	
1079	Cut	Pit	
1080	Cut	Ditch	Prehistoric
1081	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1080]	Prehistoric
1082	Cut	?Posthole	
1083	Deposit	Fill of ?posthole [1082]	
1084	Cut	Post-hole	
1085	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1084]	
1086	Cut	Post-hole	
1087	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1086]	
1088	Cut	Post-hole	
1089	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1088]	
1090	Cut	Post-hole	
1091	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1090]	
1092	Cut	Post-hole	
1093	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1092]	
1094	Cut	Pit	
1095	Deposit	Fill of pit [1094]	
1096	Cut	Natural feature	
1097	Deposit	Fill of natural feature [1096]	
1098	Cut	Pit	
1099	Deposit	Fill of pit [1098]	
1100	Cut	Pit	Late Neolithic / Bronze Age
1101	Deposit	Fill of pit [1100]	Late Neolithic / Bronze Age
1102	Cut	Pit	
1103	Deposit	Fill of pit [1102]	
1104	Cut	Pit	
1105	Deposit	Fill of pit [1104]	
1106	Deposit	Fill of natural feature [1107]	
1107	Cut	Natural Feature	
1108	Cut	Pit	
1109	Deposit	Fill of pit [1108]	

Context	Category	Description	Period
1110	Cut	Ditch	?Prehistoric
1111	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1110]	?Prehistoric
1112	Cut	Ditch	Prehistoric
1113	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1112]	Prehistoric
1114	Cut	Pit	
1115	Deposit	Fill of pit [1114]	
1116	Cut	Pit	
1117	Deposit	Fill of pit [1116]	
1118	Cut	Posthole	
1119	Deposit	Fill of pit [1118]	
1120	VOID	VOID	
1121	Cut	Pit	
1122	Deposit	Fill of [1121]	
1123	Cut	Pit/post-hole	
1124	Deposit	Fill of pit/posthole [1123]	
1125	Cut	Pit	
1126	Deposit	Fill of pit [1125]	
1127	Cut	?Natural feature	
1128	Deposit	Fill of ?natural feature [1127]	
1129	Cut	Posthole	
1130	Deposit	Fill of posthole [1129]	
1131	Deposit	Fill of pit [1132]	
1132	Cut	Pit	
1133	Deposit	Fill of pit [1134]	
1134	Cut	Pit	
1135	Cut	Pit	
1136	Deposit	Fill of pit [1135]	
1137	Deposit	Fill of pit [1135]	
1138	Cut	Pit	
1139	Deposit	Fill of pit [1138]	
1140	Cut	Pit	
1141	Deposit	Fill of pit [1140]	
1142	Cut	Pit	
1143	Deposit	Fill of pit [1142]	
1144	Cut	Post-hole	
1145	Deposit	Fill of posthole [1144]	
1146	Cut	Post-hole	
1147	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [1146]	
1148	Cut	Ditch	?Prehistoric
1149	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1148]	?Prehistoric
1150	Cut	Pit	
1151	Deposit	Fill of pit [1150]	
1152	Deposit	Fill of pit [1032]	
1153	Deposit	Fill of pit [1032]	
1154	Cut	Ditch	Early Iron Age
1155	Deposit	Fill of ditch [1154]	Early Iron Age
1156	Ditch master number	Cuts 1014, 1041, 1043 and 1154	Early Iron Age
1157	Ditch master number	Cuts 1047 and 1049	?Prehistoric
1158	Ditch master number	Cuts 1068,1110 and 1148	?Prehistoric
1159	Ditch master number	Cuts 1070 and 1112	Prehistoric
1160	Ditch master number	Cuts 1072,1074 and 1080	Prehistoric

Appendix 1b: Excavation OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Unknown	Pit	32
	Posthole	18
Late Prehistoric (4000 BC to 42 AD)	Ditch	2
	Pit	1
Iron Age (800BC to 42AD)	Pit	1
Early Iron Age (800 to 401BC)	Ditch	2

Appendix 2a: Finds From Excavation by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
1001	Lead	1	-	?
1002	Pottery	75	0.206	Early Iron Age
1004	Copper Alloy (SF 1, SF16)	47	-	Medieval to modern
1004	Nickel brass	4	-	Modern
1004	Silver	1	-	Post-medieval
1004	Lead	6	-	?Post-medieval
1004	Flint	100	-	Prehistoric
1005	Pottery	65	0.280	Early Iron Age
1006	Pottery	91	0.373	Early Iron Age
1006	Flint	2	-	Prehistoric
1007	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1013	Pottery	4	0.007	Early Iron Age
1013	Flint	3	-	Prehistoric
1015	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1017	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1023	Stone	1	0.118	-
1034	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1044	Pottery	4	0.010	Early Iron Age
1046	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1048	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1050	Flint	2	-	Prehistoric
1051	Pottery	1	0.009	Early Iron Age
1051	Flint	4	-	Prehistoric
1051	Flint – burnt	4	0.021	-
1051	Shell	-	0.016	-
1052	Flint	3	-	Prehistoric
1066	Flint	3	-	Prehistoric
1066	Flint – burnt	1	0.009	-
1069	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1075	Pottery	2	0.005	Prehistoric
1076	Flint	7	-	Prehistoric
1076	Flint – burnt	5	0.099	-
1077	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1077	Flint – burnt	1	0.022	-
1081	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1101	Pottery	3	0.007	Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age
1101	Fired clay	1	0.016	-
1101	Flint	3	-	Prehistoric
1101	Flint – burnt	6	0.084	-
1117	Flint	1	-	Prehistoric
1145	Flint	2	-	Prehistoric

Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Shell	-
	Burnt flint	17
Late Prehistoric (4000 BC to 42 AD)	Pottery	5
	Flint	134
	Fired clay	1
Early Iron Age (800 to 401BC)	Pottery	240
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Metal buckle	1
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD) / Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	Metal object	58

Appendix 3: Pottery From Excavation

Context	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Date
1002	75	0.206	Early Iron Age
1005	65	0.280	Early Iron Age
1006	91	0.373	Early Iron Age
1013	4	0.007	Early Iron Age
1044	4	0.010	Early Iron Age
1051	1	0.009	Early Iron Age
1075	2	0.005	Undated
1101	3	0.007	Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age
Total	245	0.897	

Appendix 4: Flint From Excavation

Context	Type	Number
1004	Blade	7
1004	Keeled core	2
1004	Multi platform flake core	2
1004	Single platform flake core	1
1004	Blade-like flake	1
1004	Flake	70
1004	Spurred piece	1
1004	Retouched flake	8
1004	Scraper	3
1004	Struck fragment	1
1004	Utilised blade	2
1004	Utilised flake	2
1006	Spall	2
1007	Multi platform flake core	1
1013	Flake	1
1013	Retouched flake	1
1013	Struck fragment	1
1015	Flake	1
1017	Flake	1
1034	Struck fragment	1
1046	Flake	1
1048	Flake	1
1050	Blade-like flake	1
1050	Spall	1
1051	Burnt fragment	4
1051	Flake	2
1051	Spall	2
1052	Flake	2

Context	Type	Number
1052	Spall	1
1066	Burnt fragment	1
1066	Spall	3
1069	Flake	1
1076	Burnt fragment	5
1076	Spall	2
1077	Burnt fragment	1
1077	Flake	1
1081	Flake	1
1101	Burnt fragment	6
1101	Flake	3
1117	Blade	1
1145	Blade	1
1145	Flake	1

Appendix 5: Small Finds From Excavation

Small Find	Context	Quantity	Material	Object name	Description	Period/date
10	1004	1	Copper Alloy	Buckle	With ornate oval frame, pin bar offset and narrowed with remains of rolled sheet from broken plate, outside edge has five grooves flanked by two prominent knobs; pin missing	Late 12th to the late 14th century
11	1004	1	Copper alloy	Annular die-stamped brooch	Annular ring with repoussé decoration and hinge on reverse for missing pin. The plain inner band is surrounded by a band of beading and a further band of punched square dots. The outside edge is punctuated with tiny knobs.	Victorian

Appendix 6: Catalogue of Other Metal Objects From Excavation not Small Found (either late post-medieval or undiagnostic)

Context	Quantity	Material	Object Name	Description	Object date
1001	1	Lead	Spillage	Molten piece of lead. 7g	Undiagnostic
1004	3	Copper alloy	Drawer handle	-	Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	1		Chain	Chain for bath or sink plug	Modern
1004	1	Copper alloy	Tack		Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	3	Copper alloy	Binding strip		Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	1	Copper alloy	Escutcheon plate fragment		Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	1	Copper alloy	Rolled sheet fragment		Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	1		Small annular ring	?O-ring	Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	1		Disc	Circular flat disc with ghost of ?stub on reverse from missing ?shank.	Modern and Late post-medieval
1004	1	Copper Alloy	Toy	?gilded flag with cross on one side from toy soldier or ship.	Post-medieval
1004	1	Copper Alloy	Buckle	With cast rectangular frame with double-spiked chape c.1720-90	Post-medieval
1004	11	Copper Alloy	Button	All post-medieval includes one from the Great Eastern Railway dated 1935	
1004	3	Copper Alloy	Coin	All too badly worn/corroded to date.	Post-medieval and modern?
1004	4	Nickel Brass	Coin	One with date 1935 George VI; and a threepenny piece dated 1942, George VI	Modern

Context	Quantity	Material	Object Name	Description	Object date
1004	2	Copper Alloy	Thimble	Both machine-made with evenly punched lozenge-shaped dots around sides and top; one is a 'ring' thimble.	Post-medieval
1004	1	Silver	Pendant	'lucky charm' made from silver alloy sheet metal in the form of a thimble with small suspension loop. Silver alloy/?tin.	Post-medieval
1004	8	Copper Alloy	Metal working debris	Metal working debris; 67g	Undiagnostic
1004	3	Lead	Fitting	Ring, perhaps a weight, a strip with semi-circular hole cut out of one edge perhaps an offcut and a bar with ?screw towards rounded top - ?fitting of some sort.	Undiagnostic
1004	4	Copper Alloy	Fitting	Teaspoon bowl fragment, repoussé circular button cap, cast symmetrical mount with two stubs on reverse from missing lugs and a watch key.	Post-medieval
1004	2	Lead	Shot		Post-medieval
1004	1	Lead	Disc	Incomplete sub-circular disc made from a single piece of lead folded over. Part of a seal or a tag.	

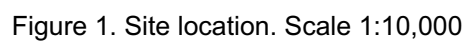
Appendix 7: Environmental Evidence From Excavation

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Context No.	1076	1077	1143	1007	1133	1071	1075	1036	1050
Feature No.	1079	1079	1142	1008	1134	1070	1074	1035	1049
Feature type	Fire pit	Fire pit	?Crem.	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch
Herbs									
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A. Love				x					
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>				x					
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.				xcf					
<i>Rumex</i> sp.				x					
Tree/shrub macrofossils									
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.				x		xx			
Other plant macrofossils									
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx	x	xxx	xxx	xx	xx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xx		x	xx	x		xxx	x
Charred root/rhizome/stem		x	xx	x					x
Indet. seeds				x					
Indet. tuber frags.			x						
Other material									
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x	x		x			
Black tarry material				x	x				x
Burnt/fired clay						x			
Bone			xxb				xxx		
Small coal frags.			x	x		x			x
Vitrified material							x		
Sample volume (litres)	1	2	16	16	8	6	6	6	8
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.4	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	25%	100%	100%	50%	100%

Key to Table

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

b = burnt ?Crem. = possible cremation



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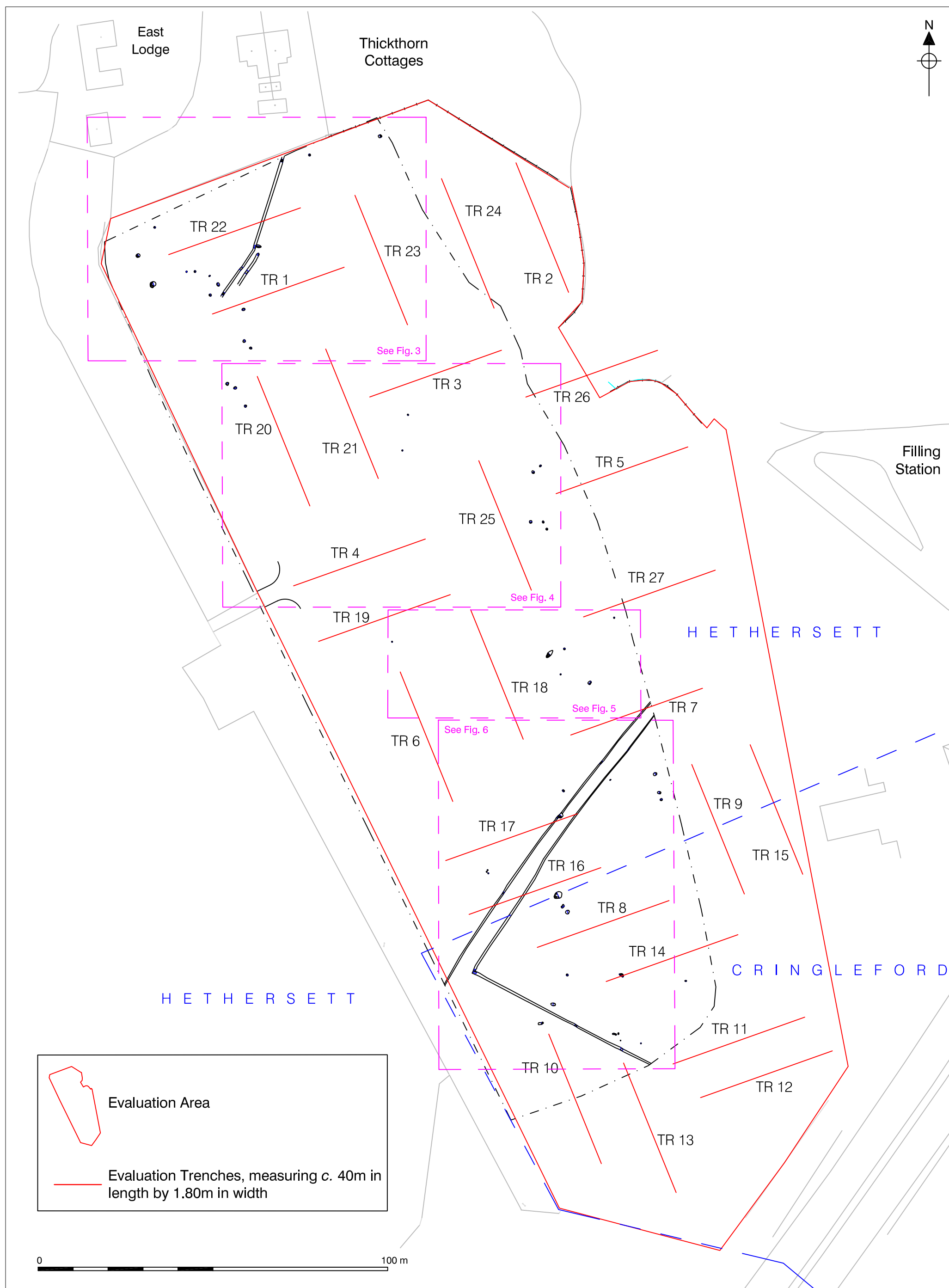
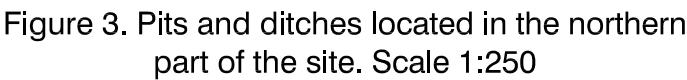


Figure 2. Plan of evaluation trenches and archaeological features recorded during the Strip, Map and Sample Excavations. Scale 1:1000



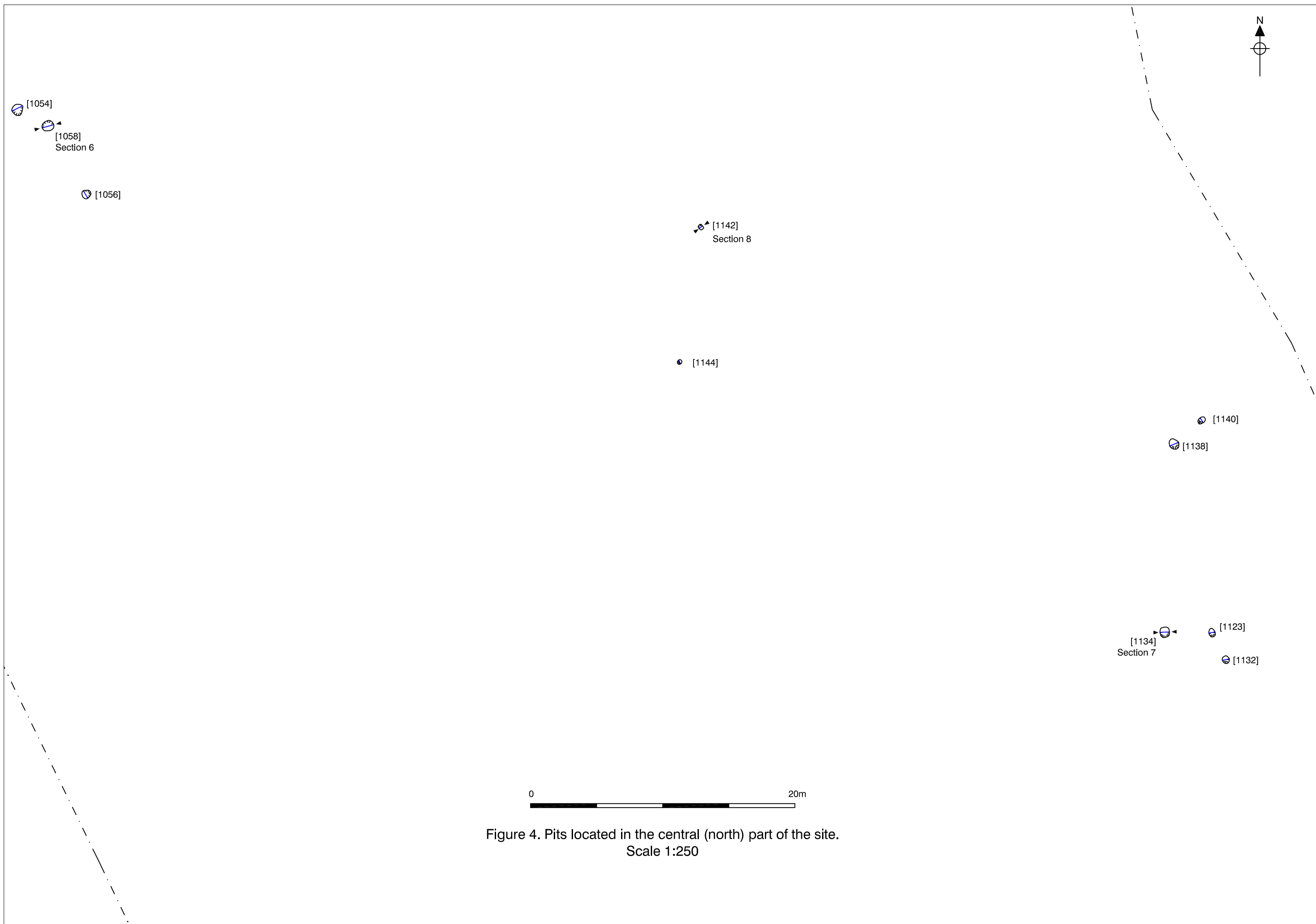
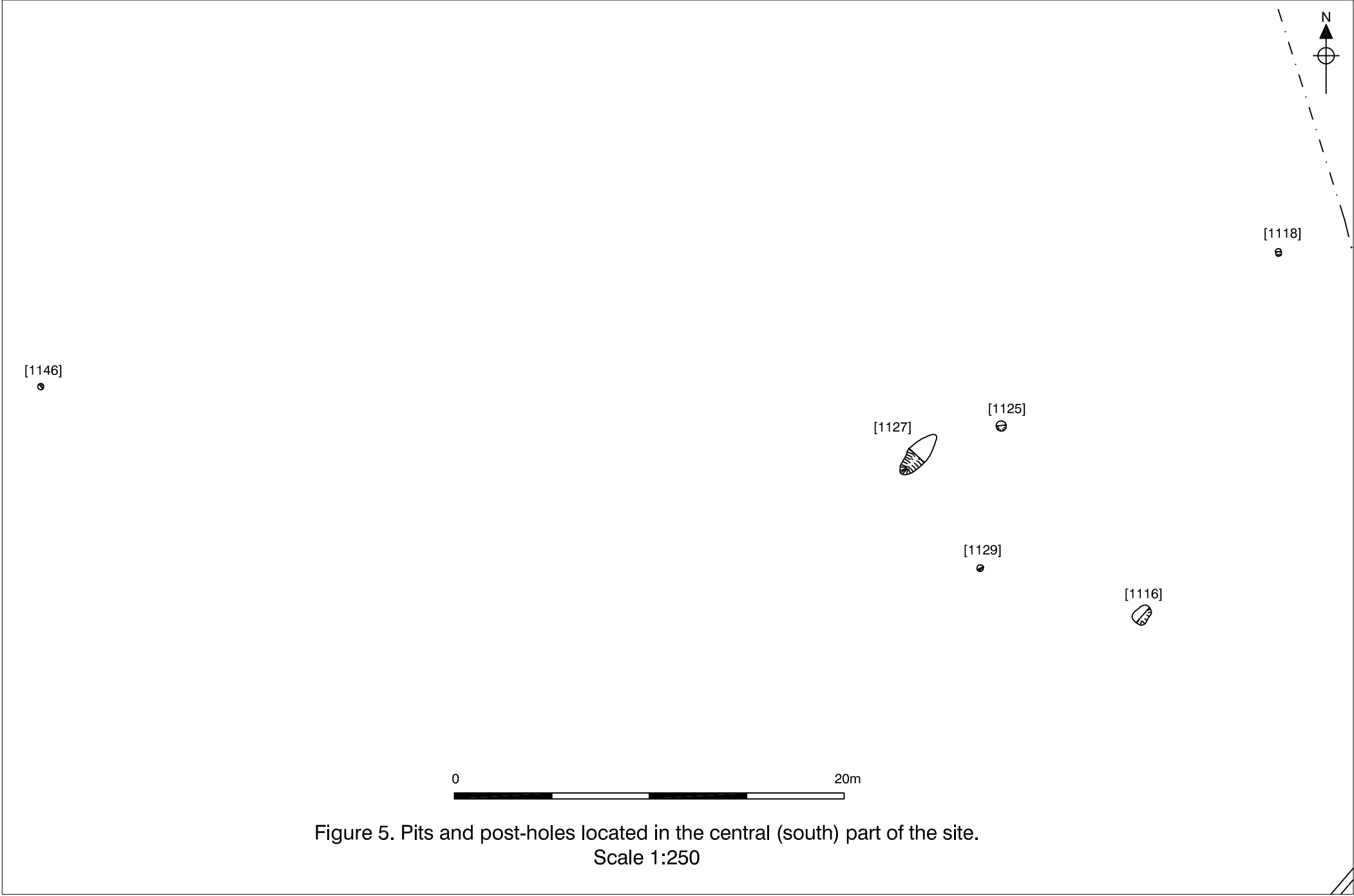


Figure 4. Pits located in the central (north) part of the site.
Scale 1:250



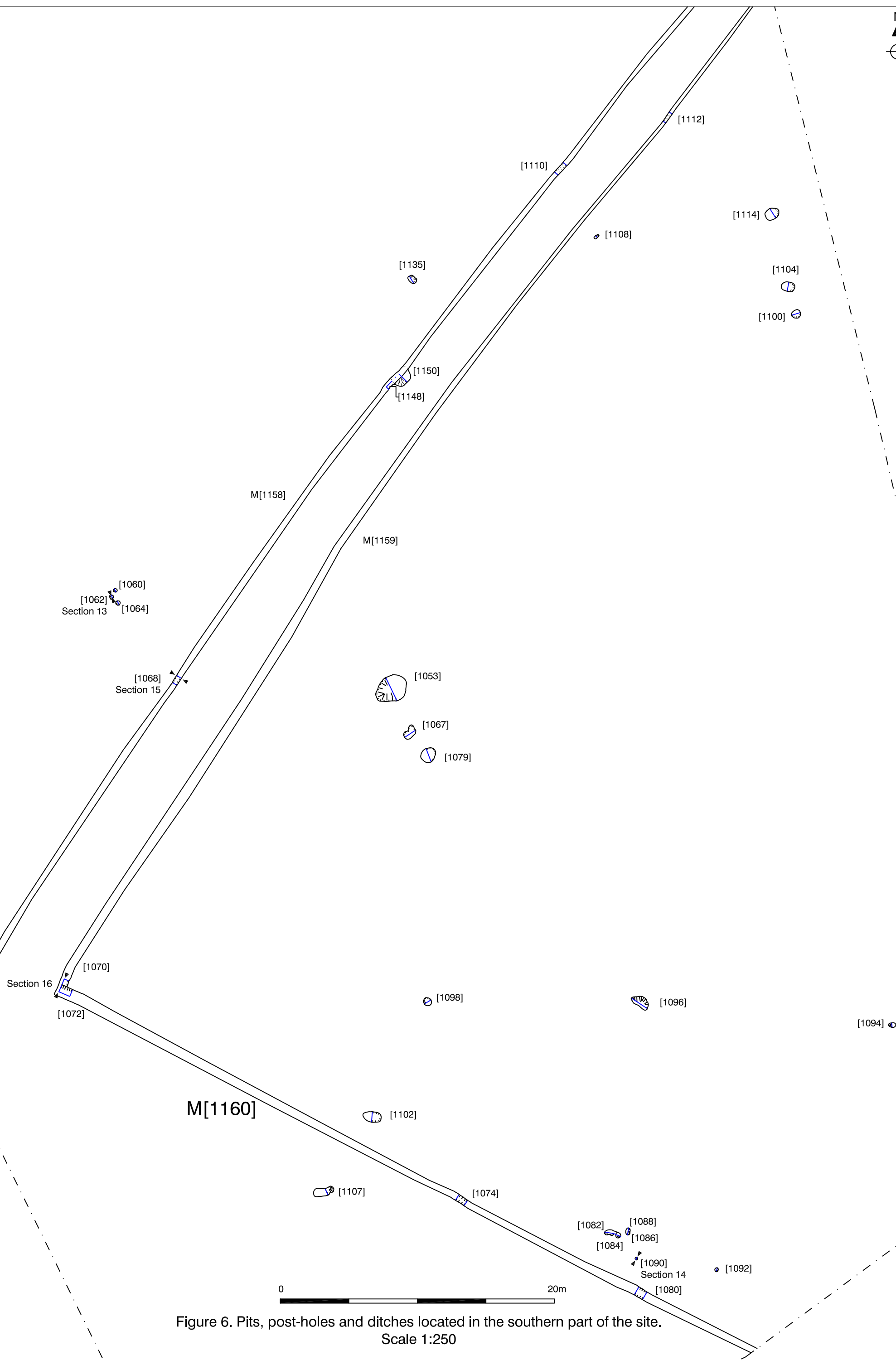


Figure 6. Pits, post-holes and ditches located in the southern part of the site.
Scale 1:250

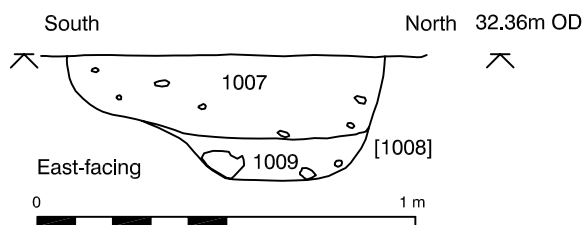


Figure 7. Section 1. Pit [1008]. Scale 1:20

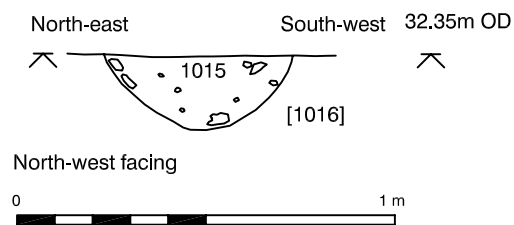


Figure 8. Section 2. Pit [1016]. Scale 1:20

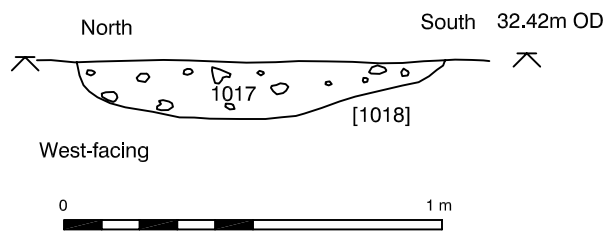


Figure 9. Section 3. Pit [1018]. Scale 1:20

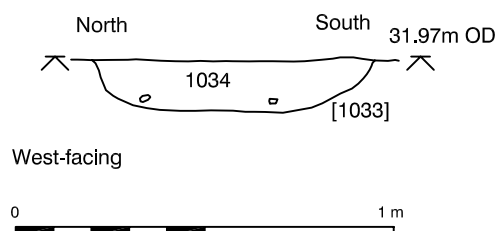


Figure 10. Section 4. Pit [1033]. Scale 1:20



Figure 11. Section 5. Ditch [1044] and Pit [1045]. Scale 1:20

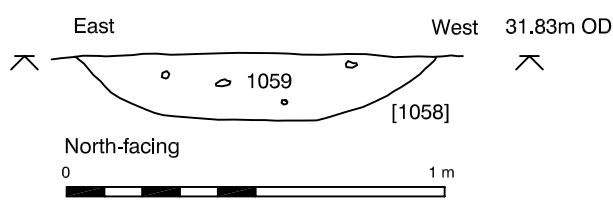


Figure 12. Section 6. Pit [1058]. Scale 1:20

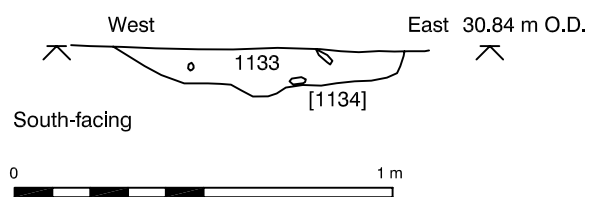


Figure 13. Section 7. Pit [1134]. Scale 1:20

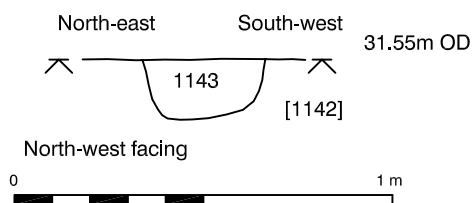


Figure 14. Section 8. ? Cremation pit [1142]. Scale 1:20

Figures 7-14. Sections 1 to 8

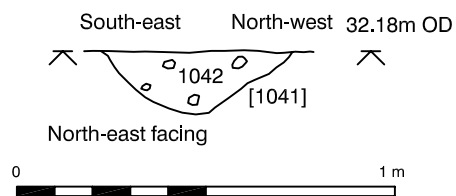


Figure 15. Section 9. Ditch [1041]. Scale 1:20

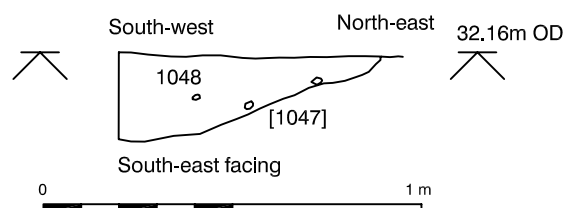


Figure 16. Section 10. Ditch [1047]. Scale 1:20

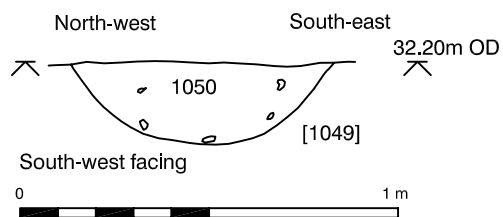


Figure 17. Section 11. Ditch [1049]. Scale 1:20

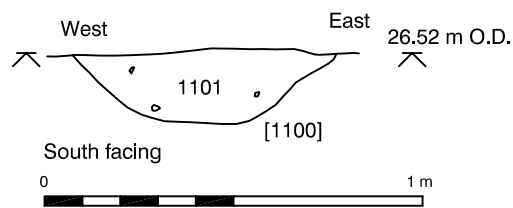


Figure 18. Section 12. Pit [1100]. Scale 1:20

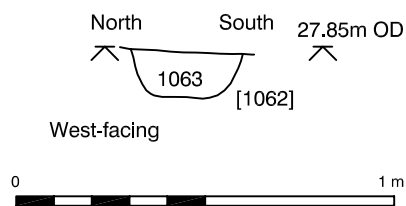


Figure 19. Section 13. Post-hole [1062]. Scale 1:20

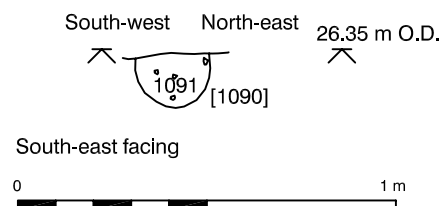


Figure 20. Section 14. Post-hole [1090]. Scale 1:20

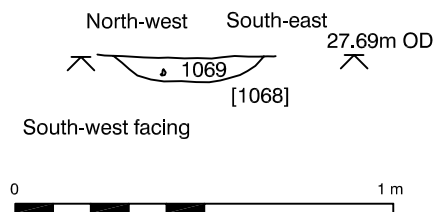


Figure 21. Section 15. Ditch [1068]. Scale 1:20

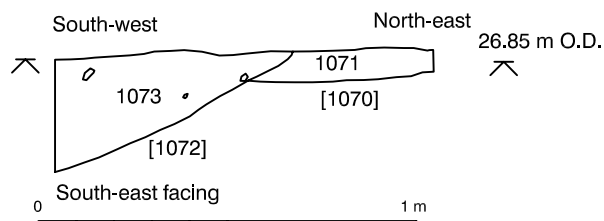


Figure 22. Section 16. Ditches [1070] and [1072]. Scale 1:20