Report 1995b

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An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at Mellis Road, Wortham

WTM 044

Prepared for
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BAU 1995

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Location:	Mellis Road, Wortham
District:	Mid-Suffolk
Grid Ref.:	TM 0846 7708
HER No.:	WTM 044
OASIS Ref.:	78496
Client:	Baker Construction Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	9 - 25 March 2009

Summary

An archaeological excavation was conducted for Baker Construction ahead of construction of a new housing development and roads to service the houses during March 2009.

Evidence for agricultural activity during the early Iron Age was discovered, with post-holes, pits and gullies all dated to the period. A probable raised granary, seen as five post-holes arranged in a sub-square was uncovered. Also a possible 'working hollow', an area dug to perhaps provide shelter whilst processing grain was seen. An area of hard standing seen in the base of a pit may also be an area used for the drying of grain, and may be in association with post-holes, and therefore possibly had a wattle fence shelter built over it. Pits containing the remains of this wattle material were discovered. Post-holes and pits that appear to have been placed randomly may be the remnants of further occupation, possibly representing fencelines, and an enclosure.

Dating material was almost exclusively of early Iron Age date. Only one pit contained Early Bronze Age pottery (which was likely to be residual in an Iron Age pit) and there was some residual Neolithic flint found alongside Iron Age pottery and lithics. The small amount of Late Saxon and medieval pottery, totalling just three sherds, was probably intrusive.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission was granted for the construction of twelve houses and associated access roads, parking and services on the southern half of a site on land adjacent to Cherry Tree Cottages, Mellis Road, Wortham (TM 0846 7708). An evaluation, which covered this site and a further plot to the north, carried out in March 2008 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service revealed evidence of medieval activity to the north and an area of possible Iron Age occupation within the development site itself (Everett 2008).

The evaluation and this excavation were undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Mid-Suffolk District Council (Ref. 2201/07) and a series of archaeological briefs produced by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. The excavation was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU 1995/DW). The evaluation and excavation were commissioned and funded by Baker Construction.

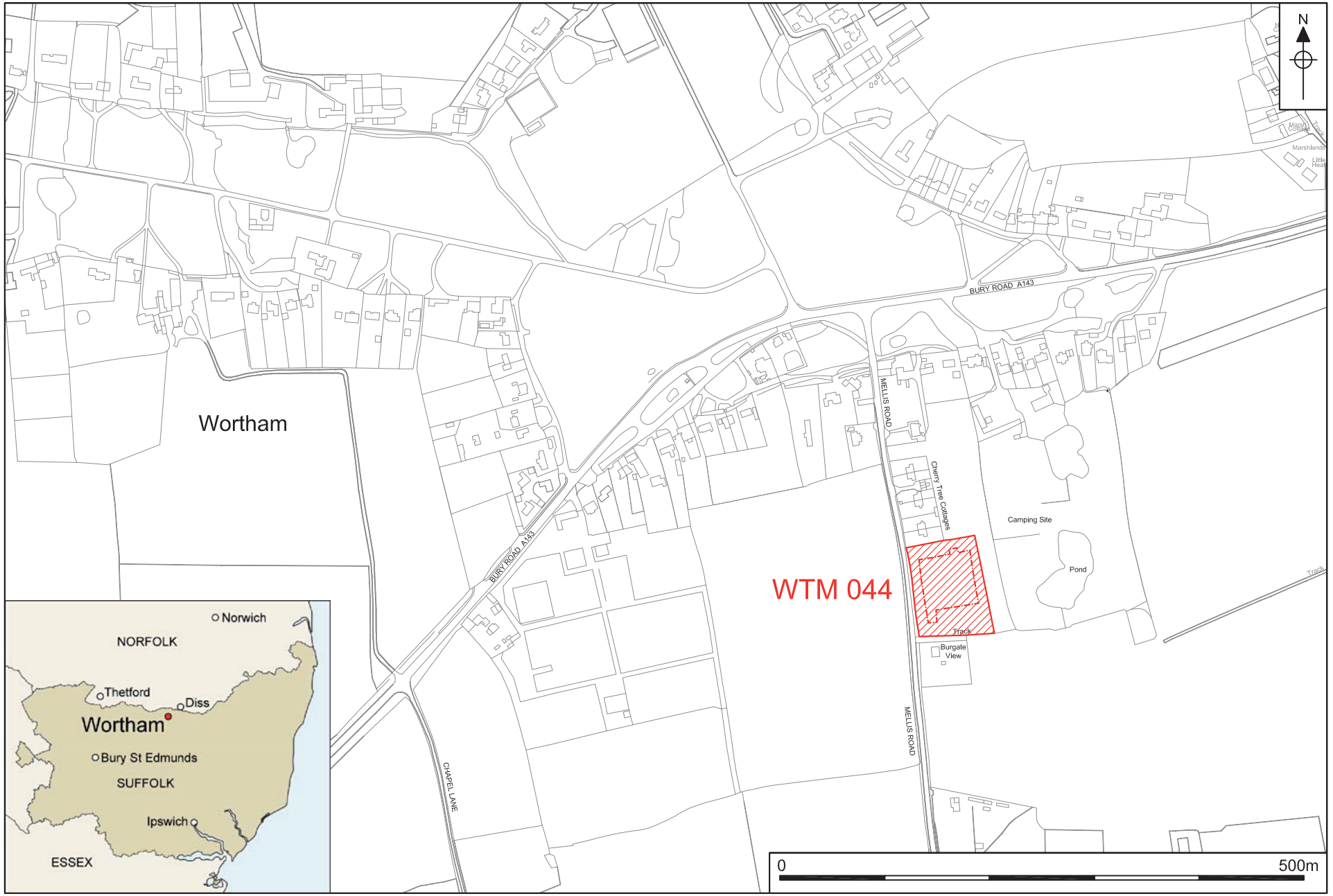

Figure 1. Site location, scale 1:5000

The site archive is to be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is situated on chalk overlain by clay loams derived from chalky till and lies at 55m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The topography slopes south towards a shallow valley/watershed at 40m OD at Seethings Wood and rises in the north-west to 60m OD at Spears Hill. Two river sources converge north of Gallows Hill in Redgrave, *c.*5.5km to the north-west, with the Little River Ouse discharging west and the River Waveney discharging east.

The parish of Wortham is located in Hartismere Hundred and is bordered by Palgrave to the east, Redgrave to the west, Botesdale to the south-west, Burgate to the south and is bounded by the River Waveney to the north. The excavation site was located on the eastern side of Mellis Road, approximately 220m south of the junction between Mellis Road and the A143.

The topography of the site was a gentle slope from a high point at the north-eastern corner of the excavation area towards the south, the south-west and the west. The topsoil varied in thickness, but was slightly thicker to the north-eastern corner of site where it was about 0.7m deep. The topsoil appears to have been thinnest around the central and western portions of the site, where it was only about 0.2m deep. It is possible that this area had seen more truncation than the rest of the site, which may account for the limited presence of archaeological remains in this area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Basil Brown, the eminent Suffolk archaeologist, was active in this area and many of the records and finds summarised below were due to his enthusiastic and pioneering investigations in this part of the county.

This summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site and its surroundings has been compiled from a variety of sources including the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) and reports of previous archaeological works in the area. The site is located within a landscape of high archaeological potential, with remains dating from the prehistoric period through to the present recorded within close proximity. Only the prehistoric and Roman sites will be considered in any detail here to provide a context for the excavation results. Sites recorded in the SHER will be identified by their unique identifying number, for example PAL 012, WTM 008 and BUR 003.

The SHER contains many records of the prehistoric period from the Wortham area. Many of these are records of artefacts recovered during previous archaeological fieldwork or as chance finds, such as a spread of Iron Age pottery (SHER PAL 012) recovered from the grounds of Park House, *c.*1.5km to the east of the site. Iron Age pottery was also recovered from a possible occupation site (WTM 010) in a field east of Beans Lane, approximately 500m to the east. This site, recorded during pipe laying works in 1955, consisted of two huts, one Iron Age and the other possibly of Saxon date.

An Iron Age pottery making 'floor or kiln' was also recorded during the pipe laying in 1955 (BUR 003), roughly 1km to the south of the excavation area, on the western side of Mellis Road, This was investigated, and revealed clay lagging sherds and shell-tempered pottery in the floor area, which was surrounded by a trench filled with black earth. Also found at this site was a Bronze Age flint barbed and tanged arrowhead, and other flint finds, which implies earlier activity in the area.

An undated earthwork (BUR 013), located 1.5km to the south-east of the site, close to a medieval moated site (BUR 012) was recorded on historic maps of the area. This has tentatively been identified as a barrow, although it is close to a curvilinear ditch connected to the moated site, and may also be associated with that.

Further prehistoric evidence was recorded to the east of the site, just within the parish of Palgrave (PAL 002), where Basil Brown recorded a site found under the Old Bury Road (A143), as a 'Prehistoric hut site or ditch with cut deer antlers and flint flakes in a peaty deposit'.

The pipe laying of 1955 also uncovered a possible Roman occupation site a short distance, *c*.300m, to south alongside Mellis Road (WTM 007). This site consisted of three possible huts with hearths, three further huts a short distance away and a large spread of pottery.

A Roman coin of Nero (54–68 AD) was found in the garden of Jessamine Cottage (WTM 015) and another coin, this time of Tetricus II (270–275 AD) was found near to the village hall, on Long Green (WTM 016). Both these coins were recovered from the core of the present village alongside the A143, just to the north of the excavation site.

A further Roman coin, of Antoninus Pius (138–161 AD) was found in the garden of Brook Bungalow (BUR 006), c.400m to the south alongside Mellis Road, in 1955. Roman coins were also recovered a short distance to the south-west of the excavation area (BUR 011 and BUR 015), by Basil Brown. The coins are of Tetricus II (as above) and Commodus (180–192 AD), respectively, and were, according to Brown, found on or near to the line of an east-west Roman road.

A scatter of Roman pottery was found near to the parish border with Palgrave (WTM 019), and comprised mainly of grey wares of 2nd- to 4th-century date. During excavations near to St. John's House Hospital (PAL 024), to the east of the excavation area, a Roman ditch, a possible palisade or fence line and a 'substantial' rubbish pit were recorded. The excavations recovered finds such as pottery, animal bone, a ring and a coin.

The distribution of late prehistoric and Roman sites in this area places the excavation site within an area of Iron Age and Roman settlement and activity. It is interesting to note that many of the sites and artefacts recorded are alongside, or very close to the lines of the A143 and Mellis Road, suggesting that perhaps these were existing routes during the Iron Age.

The name 'Wortham' probably means 'enclosed homestead' (Ekwall 1960, 536) and during the late Saxon period the area where the village is now situated comprised two parishes, Southmoor and Eastgate, each with its own church. These two parishes, each of which had their own manor, were retained after the

Norman Conquest. In 1769 the two parishes were merged and the church at Southmoor disappeared.

In 1066 the two manors now encompassed by the single parish of Wortham, were listed as a 'manor of 80 acres held by Godiva under patronage of St. Edmunds' and the Wortham Hall estate as a 'manor of 1½ carucates held by Modgeva under patronage of St. Edmunds'. In 1086 the Domesday Book records that the manors were then held by Ralph of Beaufour (Morris 1986)

Hodskinson's Map of 1783 shows the area where the site is situated as an empty space. However, Mellis Road, immediately to the west of the site, is depicted on this map, as is a building to the south-east of the junction which this road makes with the Bury St Edmunds road to the north of the site. It is thought that this building is a now ruined clay-lump house which was located *c.*180m to the north-west of the site. This map also shows Wortham Hall and the church to the north, and Wortham green is also depicted.

The 1886 Ordnance Survey map shows the site as open with a wooded area to the north. The village of Wortham itself appears to be a classic example of a common-edge settlement. Commons in clay lands, such as the area in which Wortham is situated, often originated as woodlands and may have contained pollards, suggesting that a certain amount of land management was taking place (Williamson 2006).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The excavation covered 50m² and was laid out to cover the area of Iron Age features recorded during the earlier evaluation of the site by SCCAS.

The area was stripped using a 14-tonne hydraulic 360˚ excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and an open bucket dumper, under constant archaeological supervision.

The arising soils were placed to the east and south of the excavation and later reinstated after the spoil had been inspected and metal-detected and all finds retained for later inspection. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Twelve environmental samples were taken, these were from various contexts, and are analysed below.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits as appropriate.

The edge of excavation and planning grid points were located using a Trimble 3605DR total station theodolite and a temporary surveying station placed within the excavation area. The temporary surveying stations were linked to the Ordnance Survey national grid with a value 55.41m OD.

Stripped areas were planned using a total station theodolite in conjunction with hand-drawn plans recorded at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50; sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20.

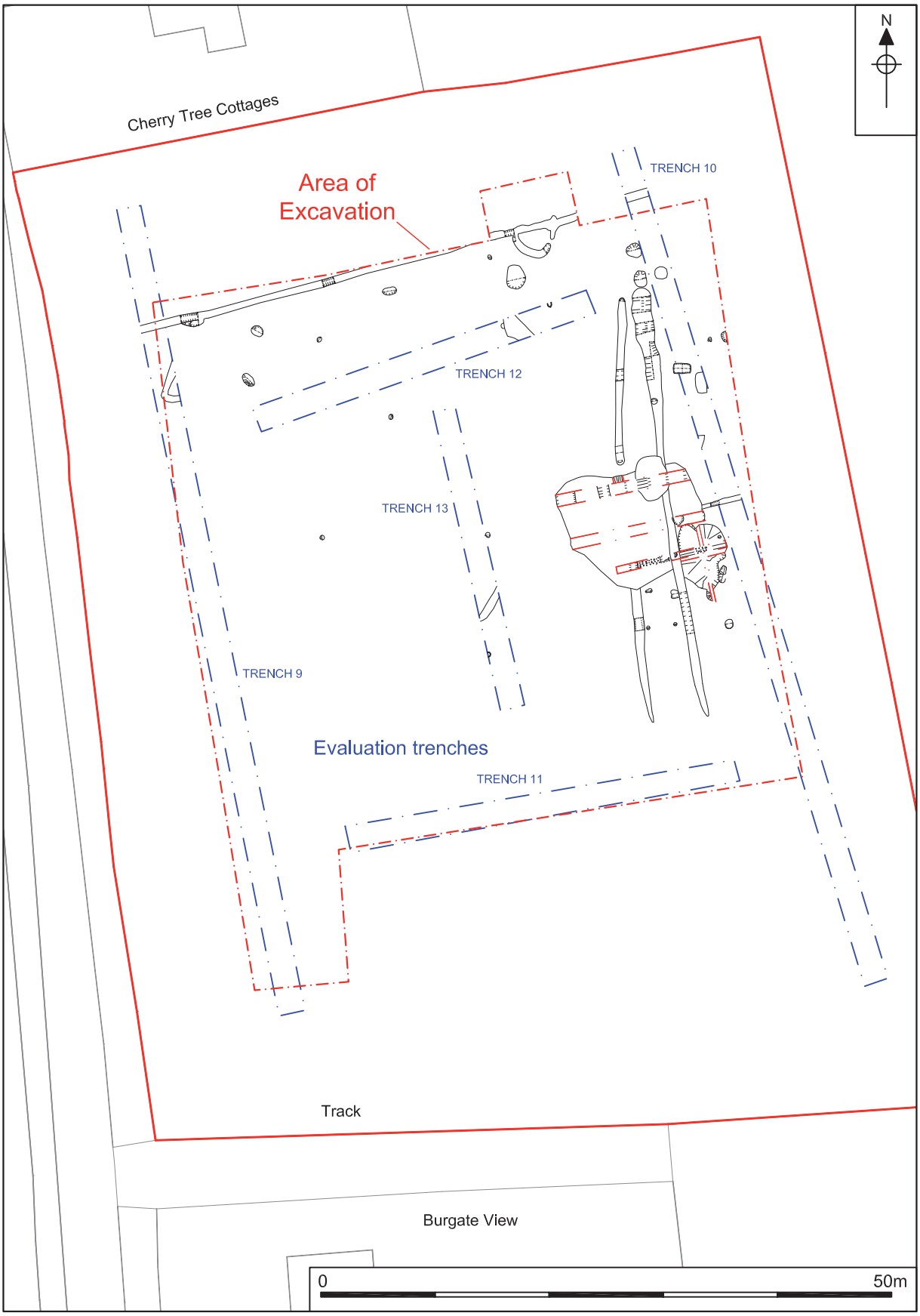

Figure 2. Plan of all features. Scale 1:500

The site conditions were very good with clear access in and around the excavation areas during the mechanical excavations and manual excavations. Weather remained favourable during the machining stage, however, inclement weather made manual excavation and soil reinstatement very difficult because of poor drainage in the impermeable clays.

5.0 THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

The excavation was located (Fig. 2) to investigate an area of Iron Age activity recorded by SCCAS during the earlier evaluation (Everett 2008, 1).

The excavation results presented below are discussed by feature type and location. The features that could be dated were of Iron Age date, although some pottery of differing dates was recovered from a number of features.

It should be noted that the phasing presented in the Assessment report (Ames and Morgan 2010) has subsequently been revised following further analysis of the ceramics from the site with the result that Phase 2 (Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman 10th-11th centuries) has been deleted.

5.1.1 Possible Post-hole Structure

Five post-holes ([230], [232], [234], [238] and [265]) formed a rough square measuring approximately 3m by 2.2m were recorded just east of centre of the site and may represent the remains of a post-built structure (Fig. 3 and 7; Plate 1).

Plate 1. Post-hole [232], part of structure, looking north

The two most southerly post-holes, [230] and [232] were of very similar form and profile. Post-hole [230] measured 0.33m by 0.29m, with a depth of 0.18m, the fill, [231], was pale orange-grey slightly sandy-silt with flint inclusions. Fill [231] contained a single sherd of early Iron Age pottery.

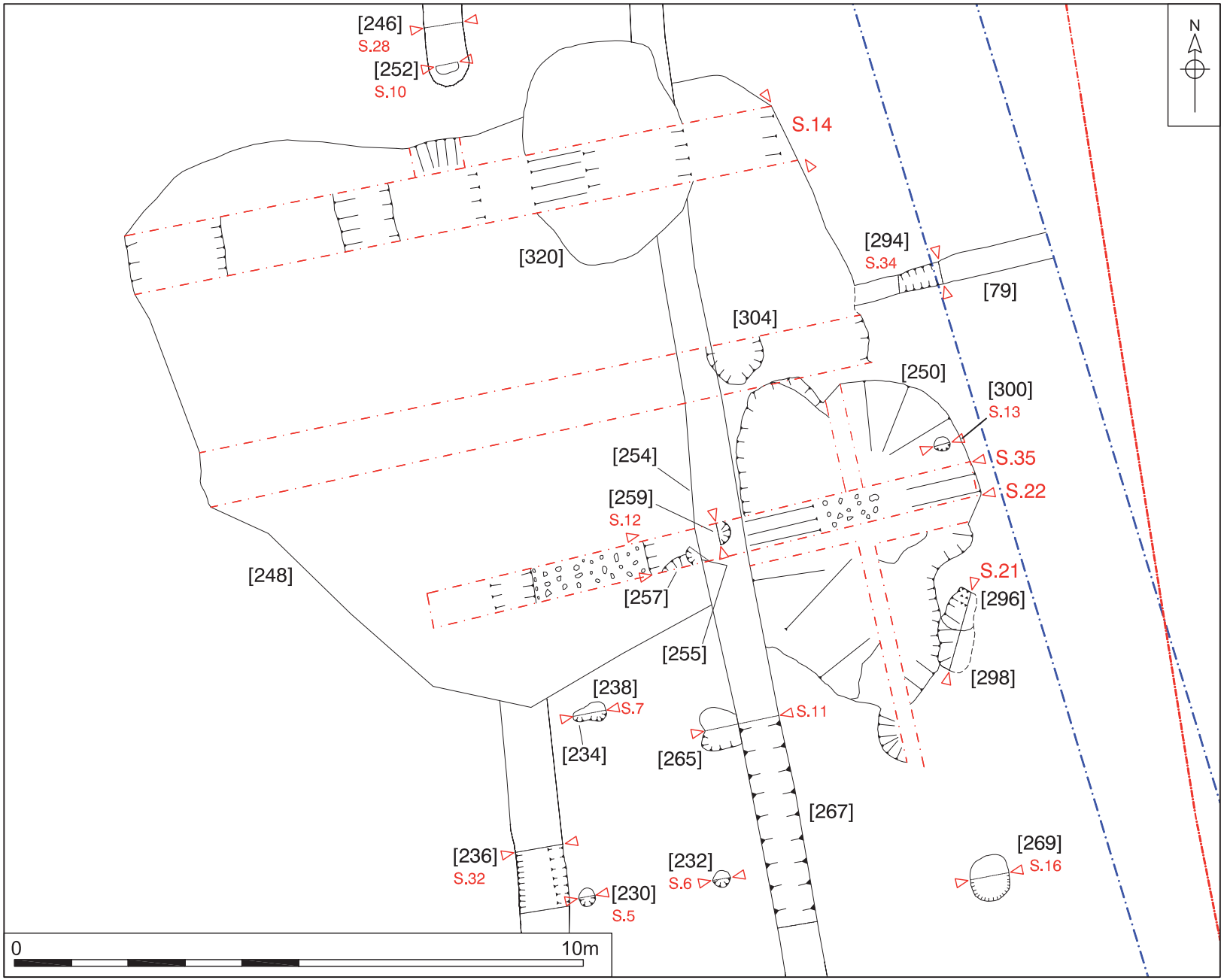

Figure 3: Plan of central area. Scale 1:100

Post-hole [232] measured 0.34m by 0.25m with a depth of 0.3m, and the fill [233] was mid grey sandy-clay-silt. Fill [233] contained five sherds of early Iron Age pottery. Environmental samples <8> and <9> respectively were taken from the fills of these features and both contained cereal grains, charcoal and sample <8>, from the fill of posthole [230] also contained 'a black porous cokey material' and a 'black tarry material', indicative of burning at a high temperature.

The three other post- holes were slightly larger, with [265], a sub-circular shape measuring 0.75m by 0.7m, with a depth of 0.35m. The fill [266] was a light brown-grey silty-clay with frequent iron staining. This posthole was cut by ditch [267]. The final two post-holes, were intercutting, [234] being the earliest, with [238] cutting it. Post-hole [234] was sub-circular and measured 0.24m by 0.22m with a depth of 0.13m, the fill [235] was a pale brown-grey slightly sandy-silt with occasional flint. Post-hole [238] was sub-oval measuring 0.4m by 0.35m, with a depth of 0.15m.

Together the five postholes appear to represent a small sub-square structure, which had its north-west post [234] replaced at some point. The usual interpretation for this type of post built structure is that they were raised granaries or other storage facilities, but a definitive interpretation is not possible.

5.1.2 Hollow or Pit [250]

A large pit, or hollow [250] (Figs 2, 3 and 8) was recorded just to the north-east of the possible post built structure. Pit/hollow [250] was oval in plan, measured 7m by 4.5m and was 0.3m deep. The fill (251) was dark grey-brown, nearly black in places, sandy-clay and it contained a significant artefact assemblage, which included an assemblage of 53 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. The sherds were larger than others found on the site and some of the vessels showed evidence of burning.

The number of fired clay fragments (58) recovered from the fill was also significant and some had wattle impressions, indicating that they had derived from a former structure. It is suggested below (Percival, 6.2 Fired Clay) that the pieces were possibly part of an oven or other structure which comprised a baked clay lining over a wattle framework. Flints recovered from this deposit were predominately of Iron Age date, with some presumably residual Neolithic material, and also some burnt fragments. A sample (<5>) taken from the fill did not provide any significant information that might assist in interpreting its purpose.

Fill (251) was described as a midden in the Assessment Report (Ames and Morgan 2010, 11), although the lack of domestic refuse material in any quantity makes this unlikely. Furthermore, the environmental evidence (sample <5>) did not contain any plant material that might be expected to be present in a midden deposit. It is more likely that this feature was a large hollow or pit which as it was infilling was used to dispose of fairly small amounts of pottery and fired clay. Small fragments of charcoal that were present in the environmental sample (<5>) are likely to have been blown in from the surrounding area and may not represent activity within, or close to, the pit/hollow itself.

Removal of the fill revealed part of a layer of flint [264], which may have been an area of hard standing. This layer extended beyond the limits of pit/hollow [250] and was also recorded in the large hollow [248] immediately to the west and north-west (see below).

A small post-hole [300] was cut through the base of [250] in its north-east quadrant (Figs 2, 3 and7). The posthole measured 0.35m in diameter with a depth of 0.2m. The fill (301) was dark grey-brown sandy-silty-clay with occasional flint and charcoal inclusions.

A small post-hole [296] (Figs 2, 3 and 8) which was 0.4m in diameter and 0.23m deep was also located on the east side of feature [250]. Its fill (297) was a dark grey-brown sandy-clay with occasional flint inclusions. The two post-holes ([296] and [300]) could be a part of a structure which was possibly associated with pit/hollow [250].

5.1.3 Large hollow [248]

A second, and much larger, irregular hollow [248] (Figs 2, 3 and 8) was recorded just to the west of hollow [250]. Hollow [248] measured 11m east-west by 10m north-south and was approximately 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill of mid brown, slightly silty clayey sand (249), which included occasional small flints, which were natural nodules that showed no signs of having been worked. The sides of the hollow were gently sloping and generally uneven, which suggested that they had not been cut.

A layer of flint ((264) – Figs 2 and 3) pressed into the natural clay, which formed the base of the hollow, was present in the south-east corner of [248]. This was a continuation of the layer recorded across part of the base of hollow [250] just to the east. The flint layer was intermittent and was confined to the south-east corner of hollow [248] and the west side of hollow [250]. It is possible that the flints were laid to form an area of hardstanding or stable surface, although nothing was recovered from above or on the surface of (264) to suggest that it was a working or processing area.

The fact that flint layer (264) extended below the edge of hollow [250] and into hollow [248] suggests that [250] had been dug into hollow [248] after it had infilled, which appeared to have been the result of natural processes rather than deliberate backfillling. The lack of any material from the fill (249) of hollow [248] makes it difficult to interpret beyond the fact that it had infilled and the possible hardstanding (264) gone out of use before hollow [250] was dug.

A number of north-to-south-aligned features were recorded within the sample slot dug through the fill of hollow [248] and interpreted at the time of excavation as ditches ([306], [308], [310], [312], [314], [316] and [318], not illustrated) . Further consideration of their nature has led to the view they may actually represent fills of many intercutting pits or even interleaved deposits. They all share the same characteristics, contained a large amount of flint gravel (which may be associated with the flint ‘hard-standing’) and were discernible in section only. A multi-platform flint core, probably reused as a hammerstone, and three flint flakes were recovered from ‘feature’ [308]

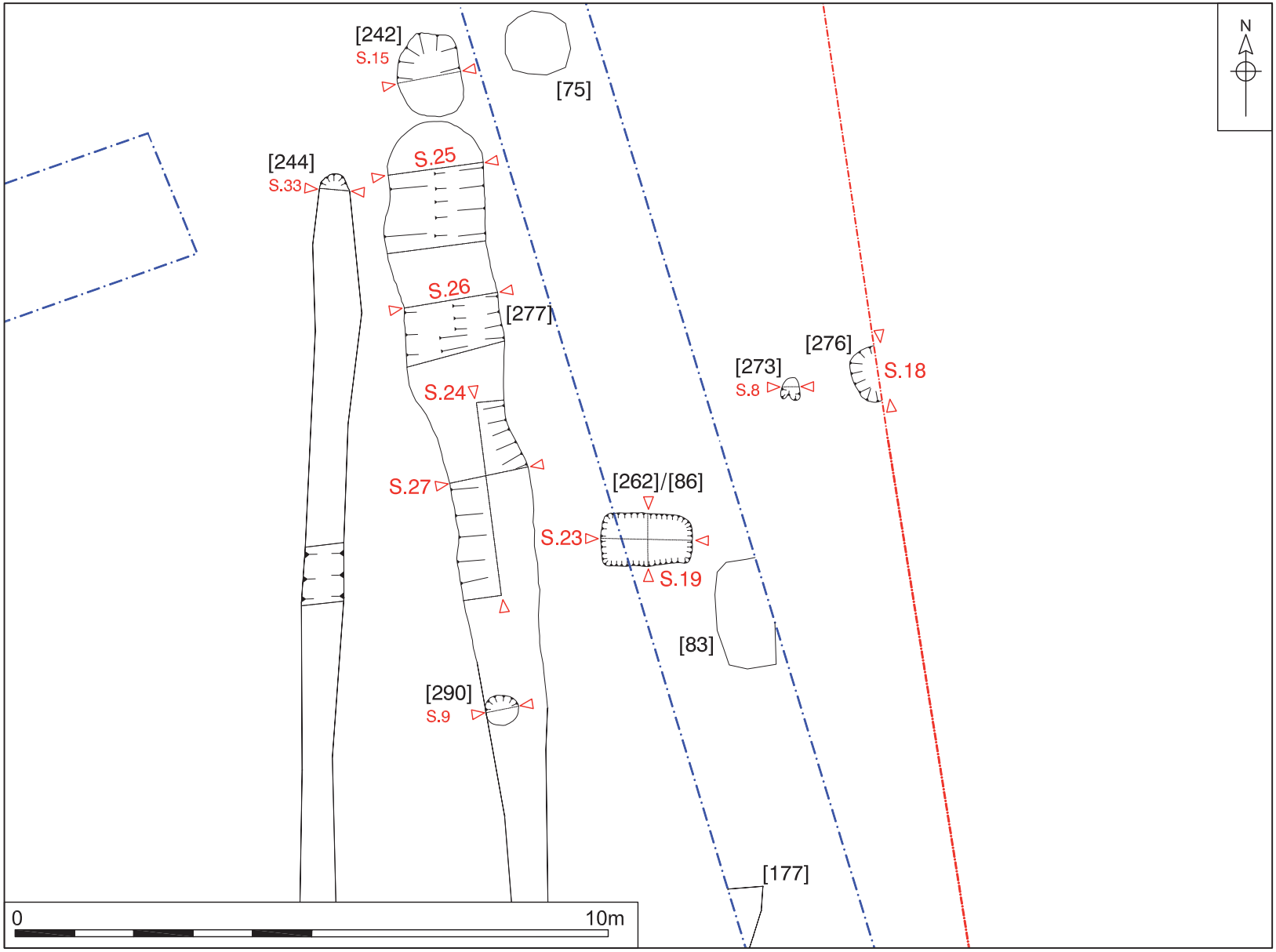

Figure 4: Plan of sub-rectangular pits. Scale 1:100

5.1.4 Pits

5.1.4.1 Sub-Rectangular Pits

Three large pits ([262]/[86], [83] and [276]) with broadly similar morphology were located in reasonably close proximity to each other on the east side of the site (Figs 2, 4 and 8).

Sub-rectangular pit [262]/[86] (Plate 2) measured 1.7m by 0.9m and was 0.28m deep. It was aligned east-west and had rounded corners with an almost flat base; the sides were fairly steep and straight. The fill (263) was a dark grey fine clay silt with light brown clay lenses and a small number of fired clay and charcoal inclusions. The only artefacts recovered from the pit were fired clay fragments similar to those found nearby and burnt flint. An environmental sample (Sample <2>) taken from the fill of the pit contains a high density of cereal grains along with many fragments of black porous material and a large number of pellets of burnt or fired clay suggestive of domestic hearth waste. This pit was partially explored during the evaluation phase of work.

Plate 2. Pit [262]/ [86], looking west

Pit [83] was wholly excavated during the evaluation phase of work. It was of a similar size and shape to pit [262]/[86], was situated close to it and was aligned perpendicularly. It contained two fills, a primary fill (85) of mixed pale yellow-brown

silty-sand with charcoal and fired clay inclusions and a secondary fill (84) of dark grey-brown sandy-silt with dense charcoal and fired clay. The environmental sample taken of deposit (84) during the evaluation stage revealed similar results to the sample from pit [262] i.e. the presence of cereals, pulses, peas, charcoal and fired clay which implied refuse from a domestic hearth, crop processing or storage. Finds of burnt flint and pottery of Iron Age or date were also recovered.

Only part of sub-rectangular pit [276] (Plate 3) was visible within the excavated area however it was clear from what could be seen that the feature was very similar to pits [262]/[86] and [83]. It to had rounded corners and a flat base with steep sides; it was 1.00m wide and 0.55m deep. The fill (275) was a dark black silty-clay with frequent charcoal inclusions, and a moderate number of fired clay, charcoal, and chalk lumps. The artefacts recovered from this deposit include two sherds of Late Saxon pottery, fired clay, struck flint and animal bone. The environmental sample from this deposit (Sample <1>) contains both cereal grains and a number of larger weed seeds which may be indicative of material derived from the final stage of processing of a batch of grain, where larger impurities not previously removed by winnowing were picked out by hand immediately prior to utilisation or consumption.

Plate 3. Pit [276], looking east

5.1.4.2 Rounded and Oval Pits

All of the pits were located on the east side of the site apart from pit [213] which was more to the north-west (Figs 2-6 and 8). Two of the pits ([320] and [304] were located over hollow [248].

The largest pit on site was feature [320] (Fig. 3) which is situated on the northern side of pit [248]. It measured 3.9m by 2.8m with a depth of 1.7m and contained three deposits (321), (322) and (323). The primary fill (323) was a mixed grey silt

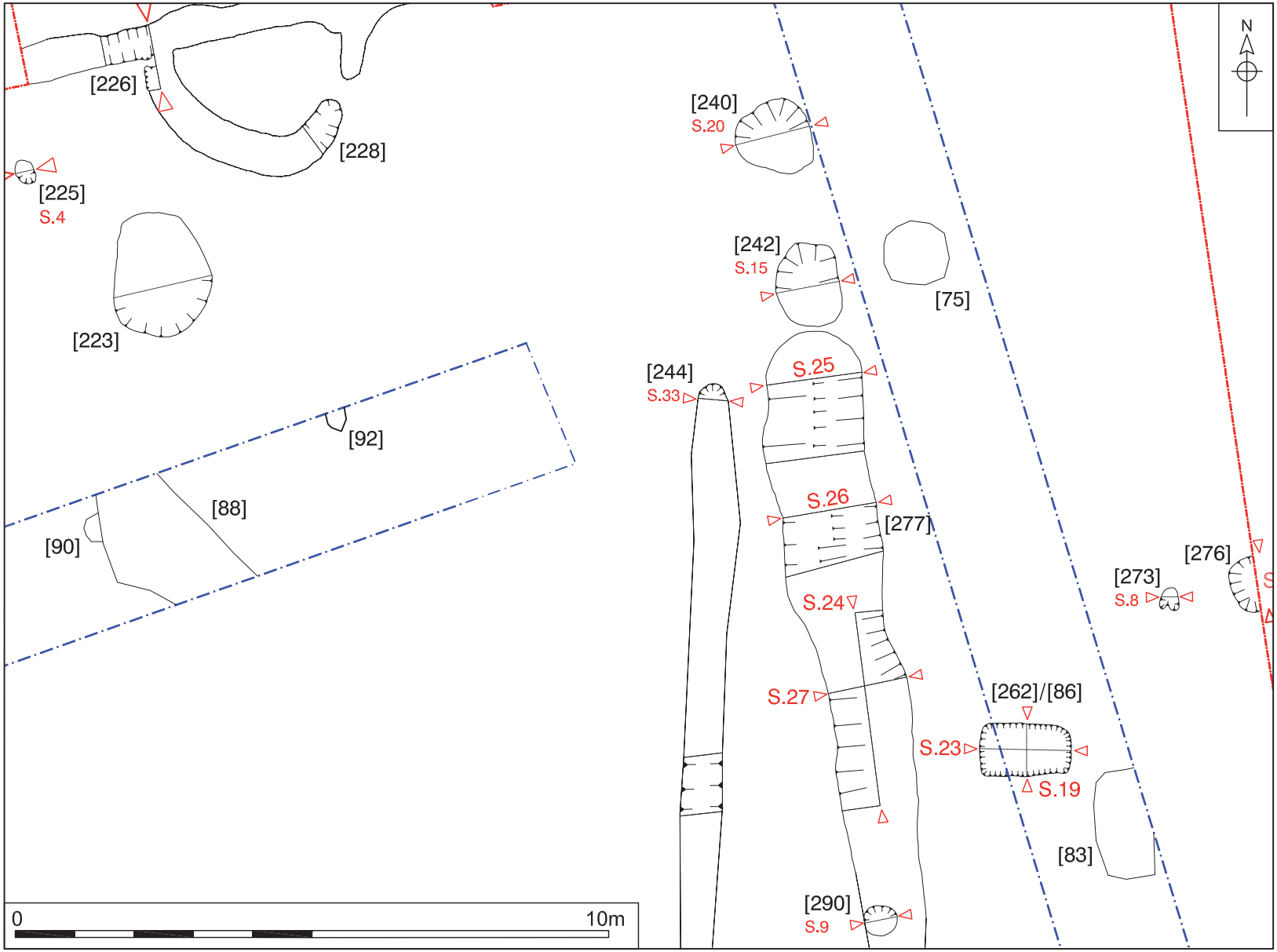

Figure 5: Plan of group of oval pits. Scale 1:100

and chalky till, with occasional chalk upcast and contained small amounts of cereal grain, herbs and charcoal (Sample <12>). The secondary deposit (322) was a dark grey sandy silt and clay with frequent flint inclusions. This deposit was also sampled (Sample <11>) and also contained a small amount of cereal grain along with charcoal and fired clay fragments. The upper fill (321) was a mixed pale grey sandy silt and dull orange clay with frequent flint inclusions. Samples from this deposit (Sample <10>) held a small amount of cereal grains along with herbs and tree or shrub remains. It also contained the most charcoal of the three fills as well as fired clay and burnt stone fragments. The environmental evidence suggests that burning did not taking place within the feature and that detritus from elsewhere had been incorporated into the fill.

Pit [304] was visible only within a trench dug to test deposits across feature [248] and could not be observed in plan. Its length was at least 0.7m with a width of 1m and a depth of only 0.2m and the fill (305) was a mid-brown sandy silt with a few gravelly flint inclusions.

Pit [298] (Figs 3 and 8) cut the south-eastern edge of pit [250] and measured 1m by 0.6m, with a depth of 0.25m and the fill [299] is mid grey slightly sandy-silty-clay with occasional flint inclusions. Its relationship with post-hole [296] is difficult to determine.

Pit [75] (Fig. 4) was located in Evaluation Trench 10; its fill (76) contained pottery, probably of Iron Age date, fired clay and animal bone.

Pit [242] (Figs 4, 5 and 8) was sub-oval in shape, with a concave base, aligned east-west. It measured 1.4m by 1.1m, with a depth of 0.2m. The single fill (243) was light brown fine clay silt with flint and fired clay inclusions. This pit contained fragments of fired clay with wattle impressions on them. This pit lies in close proximity to pit [75] and pit [240].

Pit [240] (Figs 5 and 8) was also sub-oval in shape with a concave base; it measured 1.3m by 1.25m, with a depth of 0.21m. The fill (241) was light brown-grey fine clay silt with flint inclusions. This feature contained no finds and was located just to the north of pits [75] and [242].

Pit [213] (Figs 2, 6 and 9) was sub-oval in shape with a flat base and steep sides, and was aligned north-west to south-east. This pit measured 1.09m by 0.88m, with a depth of 0.48m. The primary fill (215) was mid grey-brown sand-clay-silt, with flint and charcoal inclusions. This deposit contained the largest assemblage of early Iron Age pottery from a single feature, with 80 sherds being recovered, along with fired clay fragments and struck flint. The upper fill (214) of the pit was mid grey-brown sand clay silt with flint and charcoal inclusions. The environmental sample for this deposit (Sample <6>) shows a small quantity of cereal grains and herbs, and a larger amount of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the upper fill.

5.1.5 Isolated Post-Holes

Individual post-holes were encountered and although several of them contained useful dating evidence in the form of sherds of Iron Age pottery, they were scattered across the site and isolated.

Post-hole [269] (Figs 2, 3 and 9) was located near to north-south gully [267], and was sub-circular with a flat base and near vertical sides. This post-hole measured

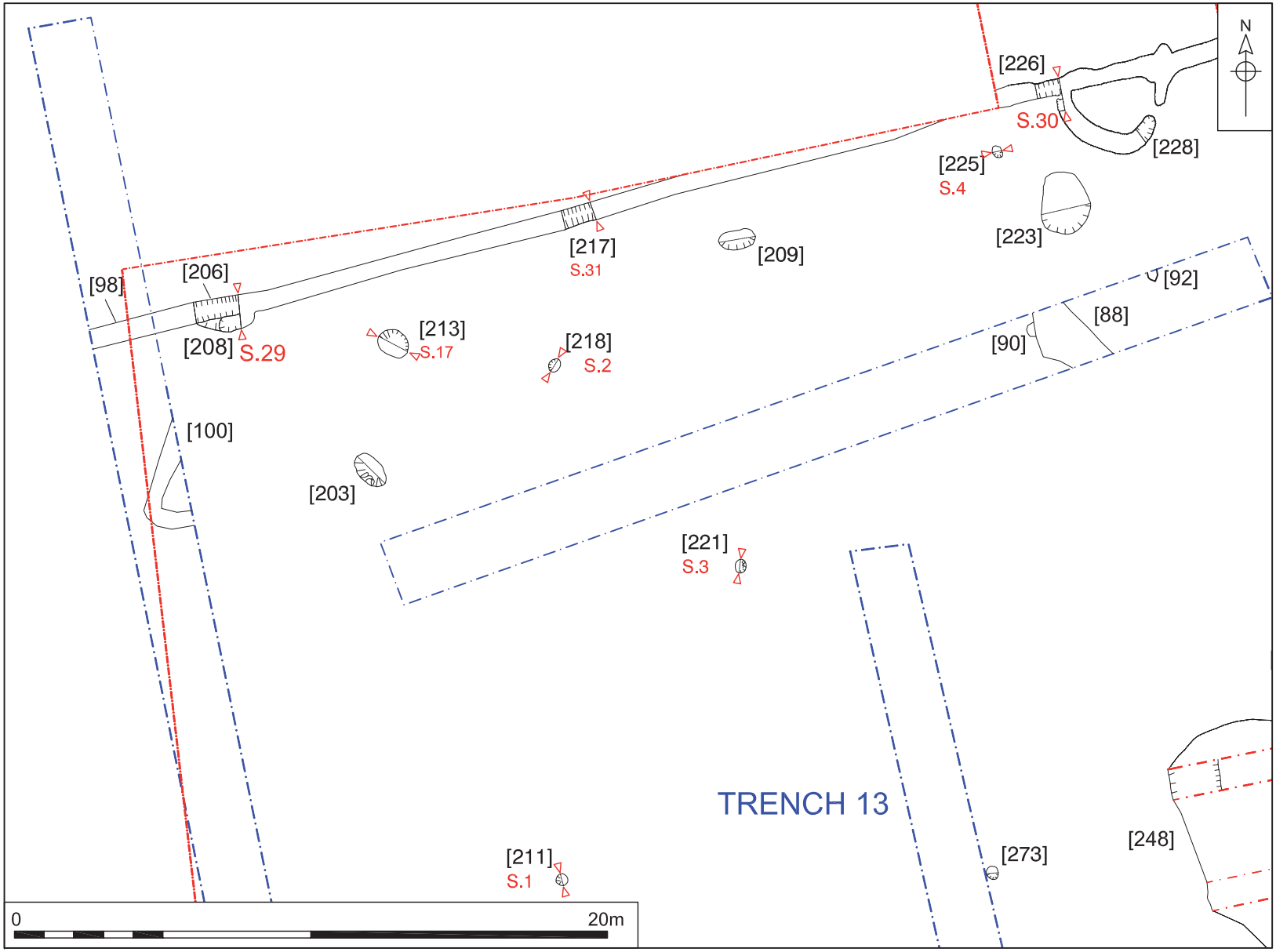

Figure 6: Plan of north-western area of excavation. Scale1: 200

0.8m by 0.7m, with a depth of 0.2m. The single fill (270), was mid brown-grey clay silt, with frequent gritty orange sand lenses. This pit contained a single sherd of early Bronze Age pottery, the earliest find recovered from the site.

Post-hole [273] (Figs. 4, 5 and 7) was circular, with a diameter of 0.4m, a depth of 0.15m and a flat base. The fill (272) was mid orange-grey silty-clay, and contained no artefacts.

Post-hole [92] (Fig. 5) was located within Evaluation Trench 12, and was circular with steep sides and a rounded base. The fill (93) was pale grey-brown silty clay sand with charcoal flecks throughout. Recovered from this post-hole were ten sherds of early Iron Age pottery and a single worked flint, also probably of Iron Age date.

Post-hole [90] (Fig. 5) was also found within Evaluation Trench 12 and is cut by possible ditch [88]. The post-hole did not contain any artefacts, but the ditch which post dates it contained early Iron Age pottery.

Post-hole [225] (Figs 5, 6 and 7) was circular, measuring 0.4m by 0.3m, with a depth of 0.2m. The base of the feature was concave with near vertical sides, and it contained a single fill, (224). This silty clay fill was partly pale greenish-grey and partly mid blue-black in colour with moderate charcoal flecks throughout. Two sherds of early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the feature.

Post-hole [218] (Figs 6 and 7) was sub-oval in shape, aligned north-east to south-west and had a concave base with very steep sides. The fill (219), was mid grey-brown fine clay-silt with flint inclusions. Eight sherds of early Iron Age pottery were recovered from this post-hole, along with a single fragment of fired clay. This post-hole, along with two others, [273] and [221], may form a fenceline, although the posts are rather widely spaced. They may also relate to [96] and [211], and form some kind of structure.

Post-hole [221] (Figs 6 and 7) was circular with a concave base, and measured 0.4m in diameter, with a depth of 0.2m. This feature has probably been disturbed by roots. The fill of this feature (220), was mid brown-grey silty-clay, and did not contain any dating evidence.

Post-hole [273] was circular with a flat base and fairly steep sides, it measured 0.4m in diameter, with a depth of 0.15m. The fill (272) was a mid orange-grey silty clay, and contained no artefacts.

Post-hole [96] within Evaluation Trench 13 did not contain any dating material.

Post-hole [208] (Fig. 6) was oval in shape, with a concave and slightly irregular base, measuring 0.7m by 0.4m, with a depth of 0.1m. The fill (207) was mixed mid brown-grey silty-clay, mid brown-orange clay and black clay with charcoal.

Post-hole [211] (Figs 6 and 7) was circular with a concave base and gradually sloping sides. It measured 0.5m by 0.4m, with a depth of 0.11m. The fill (212) was mid grey with a light to mid brown mixed fine clay silt containing flint inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this post-hole.

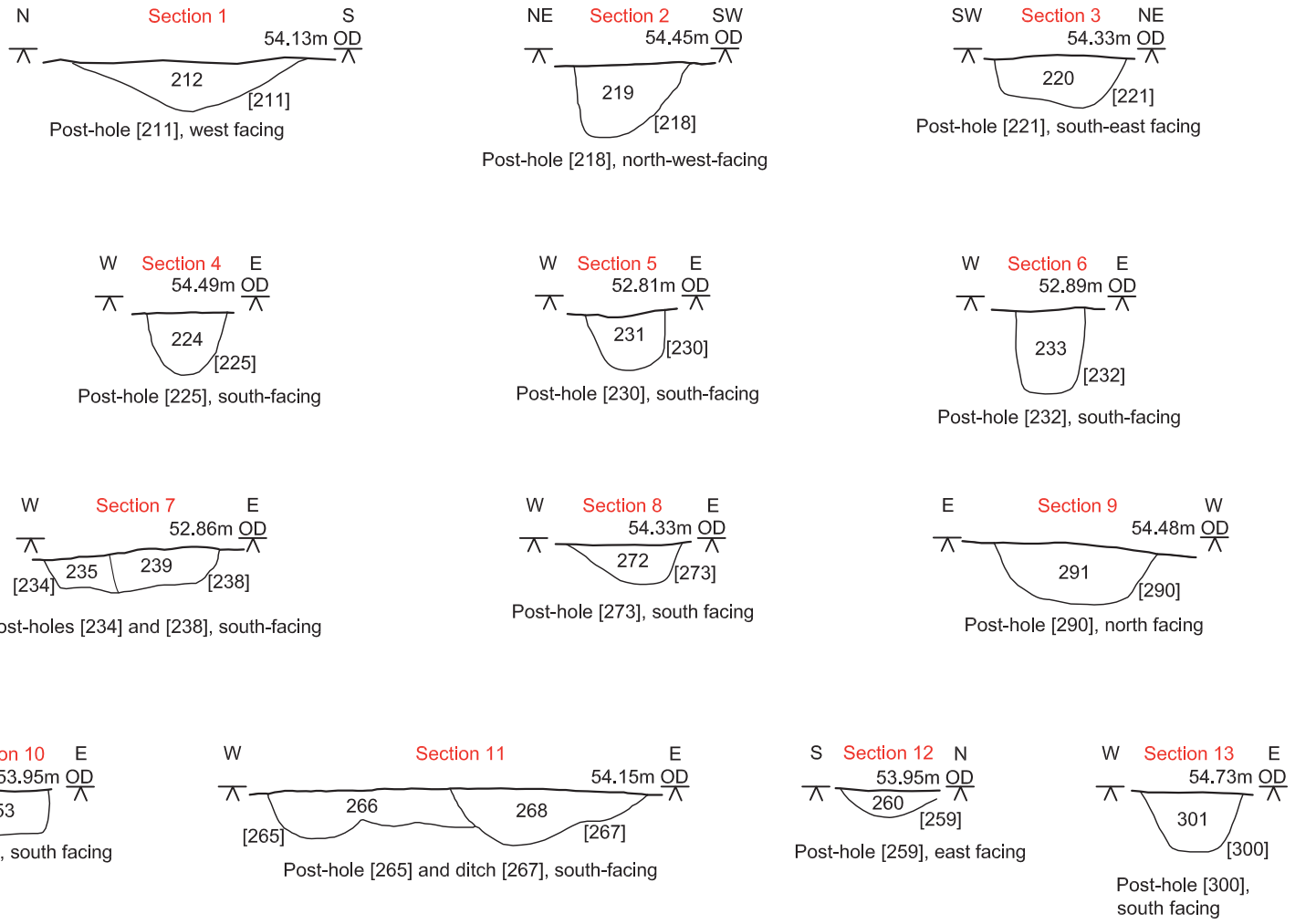

Figure 7: Post-hole sections. Scale 1:25

5.1.6 Ditches and Gullies

North-south aligned parallel ditches/gullies were observed in the eastern half of the site and west-east aligned features to the north and centre of the site. All of the ditches and gullies were difficult to assign a date to and most are entirely undated. Two linear features observed in Trenches 12 and 13 respectively (Fig. 2) were not visible during the excavation stage, suggesting that they were of natural origin, interpreted as features during the evaluation stage.

The most northerly ditch or gully ran along the northern boundary of the edge of excavation on a rough east-west alignment (Fig. 2). Three slots were excavated through the ditch, at intervals, and each slot was given a different context number ([206], [217] and [226]) (Figs 6 and 9). This feature was also seen within two of the evaluation trenches (recorded as [73] and [98]). It was widest at its western end (being 0.75m wide at this point), narrowing to 0.6m, then 0.52m. The fills (205), (216) and (227) respectively were all fairly similar, being a mid brown-grey and pale brown silty clay or clayey sand. One excavator noted the leached appearance of the fill, and the presence of manganese flecks, which could indicate natural infilling processes. The only finds recovered from the entire length of the feature were three pieces of worked flint, and a single sherd of 15th– to 16th-century pottery

Parallel, slightly convergant, north-south aligned ditches or gullies were recorded on the eastern side of the site formed of two discrete features ([244]/[246] and [236]) alongside long feature ([254]/[267]/[277]).

Plate 4. Ditch terminus [246] and post-hole [252], looking north

Gully ([244]/[246] measured 14.5m and had two terminal ends (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 9; Plate 4). Its northern terminus [244] was 0.55m wide, with a depth of 0.09m, a concave base and sloping sides. The fill (245) at this point was light brown fine clay silt with flint inclusions. Excavation of the southern terminus [246] showed the feature to be 0.6m wide, with a depth of 0.17m, and had an almost flat base with well sloping concave sides. Here the fill (247) was mid orange-brown clay silt sand with occasional flint inclusions. No artefacts were recovered.

A sub-circular post-hole ([252]) was revealed in the base of the southern terminus (Figs 3 and 7; Plate 4). It had a flat base, measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.18m deep. The fill (253) was grey-brown sandy clay with rare flint inclusions and no finds.

Ditch [236] appears to be a southern continuation of the line of gully [244]/[246] although its northern limit is obscured within hollow [248] (Fig. 2). A 14m length was visible with its northern end obscured. Two slots were excavated across the feature which demonstrated that it was 0.82m wide and 0.22m deep and contained a pale grey-brown sandy silt (237) with occasional flint inclusions. No finds were recovered.

The second of the parallel ditches ([254]/[267]/[277]) was almost 38m long with several slots excavated through it (Figs 2, 3 4 and 9). At its southern end slot [267]

demonstrated a feature that was 0.65m wide and 0.4m deep with a wide concave base with concave sides and a single fill (Fig. 7). It contained a single fill (268) of mid brown-grey silty-clay with occasional iron staining, and a single piece of flint.

The ditch is seen to cut feature [250] and measured 1m wide by 0.25m deep at this point. Here the fill (261) was a mid brown silty-sand with rare flint inclusions with no artefacts. Post-hole [259] cut the base of the ditch (Fig 7) measured 0.35m in diameter with a depth of 0.1m, and was circular in shape. The single fill (260), was a very dark brown silt, with very occasional flint inclusions. Near to this post-hole, to the west, there are two more intercutting post-holes (Figs 2, 3 and 8).

The latest in the sequence, [255], was sub-circular in shape, with an uneven flattish base and vertical sides. The post-hole measured 0.3m in diameter, with a depth 0.4m. The single fill (256) was very dark brown sandy-clay-silt, with rare flint inclusions and charcoal flecks. This post-hole cuts the fill of post-hole [257], which is sub-circular in shape, with a flat base and moderate well sloping sides. It measured 0.6m in diameter, with a depth of 0.3m. The single fill (258) was very dark brown clay-silt, with rare occurrences of flint inclusions and charcoal flecks. Further to the north a post-hole [290] (Figs 4 and 7) is seen cutting into the fill of the north-south ditch, and was circular in shape, measuring 0.6m by 0.55m with a depth of 0.22m. The base was slightly concave, and the sides were fairly steep and straight. The post-hole contained a single fill (291), which was dark black fine clay-silt with moderate charcoal inclusions.

Several slots were dug across the ditch in order to investigate what looked to be an area of fired clay and burning (Figs 4 and 9). These slots maintained the cut number [277] for the ditch, but utilised several different deposit numbers to differentiate any finds. The ditch measured 1.7m wide here with a depth of 0.38m and had a concave base with moderately sloping sides steeper on its eastern edge. Several distinct layers were seen within the ditch. The primary fill in several of the slots was a light or mid brown silty clay with chalk, clay and flint inclusions

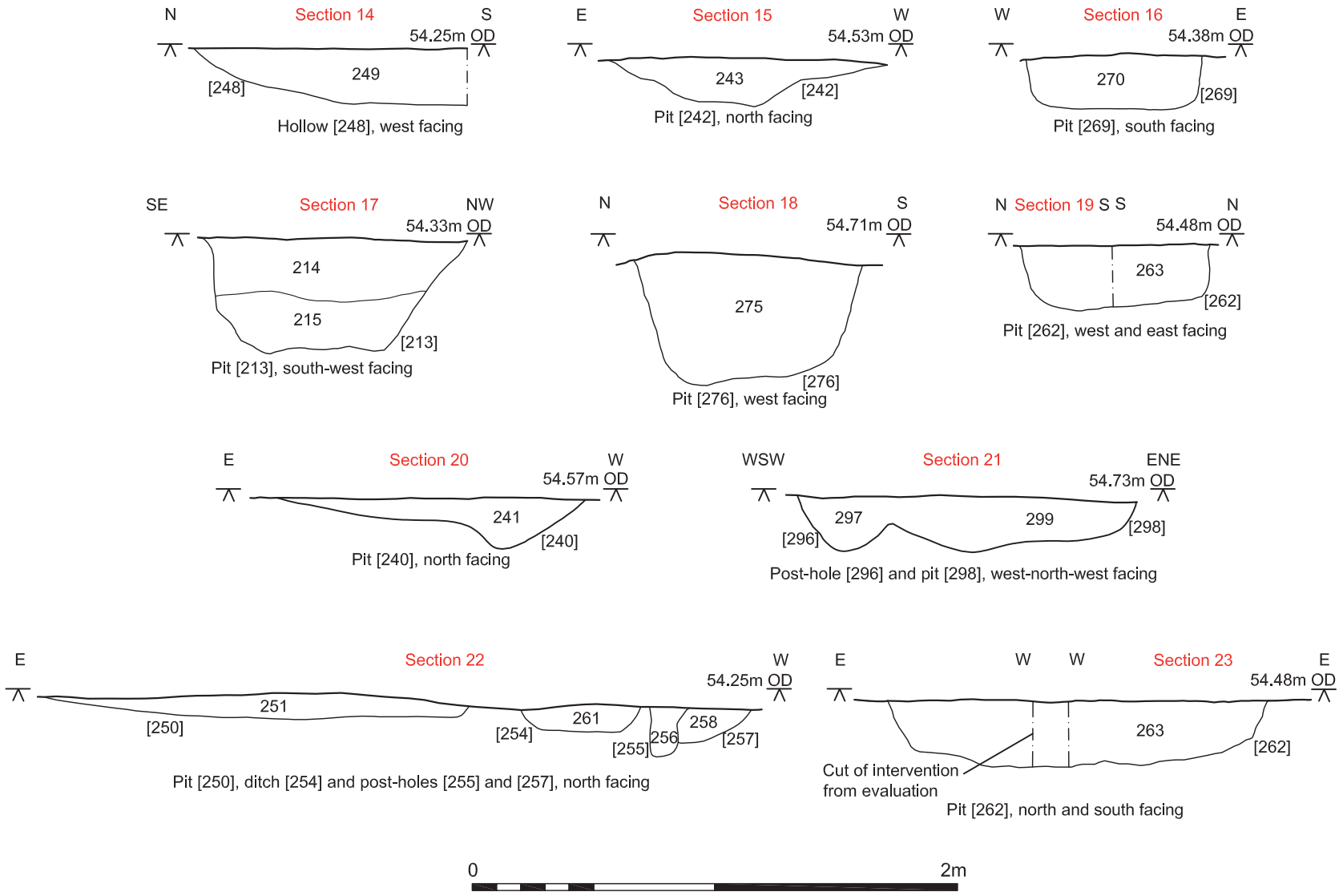

Figure 8: Pit sections. Scale 1:25

(deposits (278), (281), (284) and (287)). The secondary fill ((274) and (279)) in two of the slots was a cream-yellow-red mix of clay and fired clay, with inclusions of flint and chalk fragments; deposit (279) also contained pieces of fired clay. An environmental sample (Sample <4>) was taken of deposit (274) and contained a small amount of cereal grains and charcoal. The secondary fill (282) in another of the slots consisted of a light brown fine clay with inclusions of charcoal and fired clay. The upper fill ((280), (283), (285) and (286)) of the ditch was similar in most sections, being a mid grey-brown fine clay-silt with flint, fired clay, charcoal and chalk inclusions. Environmental Sample <3> from deposit (285) contained cereal grains and herbs, charcoal and fired clay. Three of the fills were only seen in plan; layer (271) was a cream-yellow-red mix of clay and fired clay, with flint inclusions, deposit (288) was a yellow-red mix of clay and fired clay, with flint inclusions and deposit (289) was mid grey-brown fine silty clay with flint inclusions.

A narrow west-east aligned ditch [294] (same as ditch [79] observed during the evaluation stage) disappeared into hollow [248]. No continuation eastwards beyond the evaluation trench could be discerned (Figs 2, 3 and 9), however the feature appears to be on a broadly similar alignment to ditch [206]/[217]/[226].

5.1.7 Natural Features

A probable natural feature [223] to the south of the most northerly east-west ditch (Figs 2, 5 and 6) was oval in shape with an irregular base measuring 2.1m in length, 1.6m wide and 0.12m deep. This feature had a very irregular base with rooting throughout the fill, and with large lumps of redeposited natural clay in the fill (222), which was mid grey-brown silty-clay.

A probable area of rooting, [209] (Figs 2 and 6), was sub-oval in shape, with a concave base, measuring 1.25m by 0.65m, with a depth of 0.17m. The fill (210) was light grey-brown fine sandy-clay-silt, with occasional flint inclusions. The excavator noted that the fill was similar to the subsoil.

Another natural feature [203] (Figs 2 and 6) was sub-oval in shape, measuring 1.35m by 0.8m, with a depth of 0.1m. The base was irregular, and the sides were irregular and uneven. The fill (204) was light brown fine clay-silt with occasional flint inclusions, and also lenses of manganese.

A probable animal burrow [228] (Figs 2 and 5) which was curvilinear in shape, and ran off east-west ditch [226], was seen in the north of the site. It measured 3m in length with a width of 0.7m and a depth of 0.23m, the fill (229) was pale brown clay-sand which was very sterile.

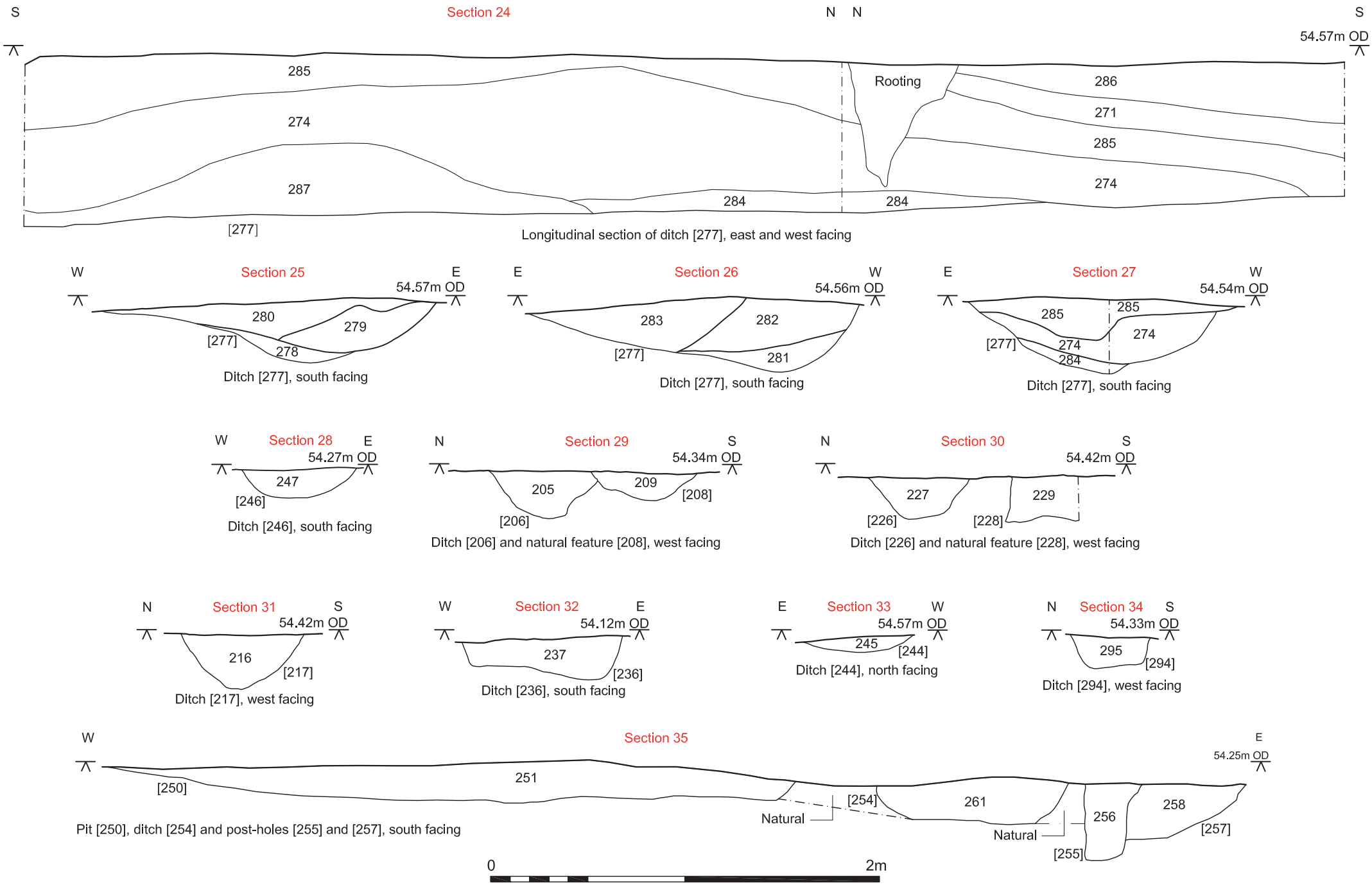

Figure 9: Ditch sections. Scale 1:25

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery

Sarah Percival

6.1.1 Prehistoric Pottery

Introduction

In total 129 sherds weighing 750g were recovered from seven excavated contexts and from unstratified surface collection. The pottery is almost all of earlier Iron Age date with the exception of a grog-tempered sherd which may be earlier Bronze Age and a highly abraded sherd which is prehistoric but is not closely datable. The pottery is fragmentary and mostly in poor condition.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1992; 1997). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusions present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

Earlier Bronze Age

A single sherd of grog-tempered pottery, almost certainly of earlier Bronze Age date was recovered from the fill of pit [269]. The undecorated body sherd is highly abraded and is probably residual.

Earlier Iron Age

A small assemblage of 127 sherds of earlier Iron Age pottery weighing 857g was recovered from seven excavated contexts and from unstratified surface cleaning. The assemblage is mostly poorly preserved and includes several heavily burnt sherds. Rims from four vessels were present though the actual vessel count would probably have been higher.

Three fabric groups were identified. Sherds in flint-tempered fabrics are most numerous making up over 90% of the assemblage (98%, 731g). Small quantities of sherds in sandy fabrics were also found along with two sherds containing rounded chalk pieces. The predominance of flint-tempered fabrics is in keeping with other contemporary assemblages from Suffolk such as Barham (Martin 1993, 38). The chalk-tempered fabric is more unusual but is found in small quantities within assemblages from Cambridgeshire and perhaps represents an import to the Suffolk site.

The number of vessels represented is small but includes examples of the main earlier Iron Age forms described in Barrett's type series for the earlier Iron Age namely coarse and fine jar/bowl forms and at least one fine cup (Barrett 1980).

Two sherds are decorated with fingertip impressed decoration along the shoulder (cf. Martin 1993, fig.22, 59) and one finely made bowl has a triple band of incised decoration running around the neck.

The pottery was found in a series of post-holes and two pits (Table 1). All bar one of the vessel rims were found within the pit (previously described as a midden) deposit (251) and the sherds from this context are slightly larger than average (Table 1). It is possible that the sherds from this pit represent former surface deposits perhaps preserved from subsequent ploughing by the presence of a natural hollow or similar. The sherds from the cut features are mostly small, fragmentary and abraded.

Context type	Cut	Quantity	Weight (g)	MSW
Pit	213	53	318	6g
	250	53	341	6.4g
Post-hole	218	7	12	1.7g
	225	2	19	9.5g
	230	1	6	6g
	232	5	19	3.8g
Unstratified Finds	u/s	6	33	5.5
Total		127	748	5.8g

Table 1. Quantity and weight of earlier Iron Age pottery by feature.

The poor and mixed condition of the assemblage which includes burnt and highly abraded sherds is typical of earlier Iron Age assemblages which often comprise a highly fragmentary mix of domestic vessels which appear to have been gathered together and stored for sometime between use and eventual deposition in pit or other feature. No patterning of the deposits and the assemblage appears to comprise a scoop of preserved midden like material including pottery which has been used to backfill the pit and other features perhaps during clearance or closure of part of the site.

Dating of the pottery is almost certainly around the 5th century BC contemporary with a recently excavated assemblage from a fen edge site at Fordham, Cambridgeshire which produced radiocarbon determinations of 520–350 BC at 95.4% probability (SUERC-14240 GU-15345) and 600–390 BC at 95.4% (SUERC-14235 GU-15339) (Richard Mortimer, pers. comm.).

Other Pottery

Two sherds of Thetford Ware in smooth fabric (THET1; Rogerson and Dallas 1984, 118) were found in pit fill (275). The sherds include a rim from a spouted pitcher (Rogerson and Dallas 1984, 119, fig. 158, 164) of 10th–11th-century date. A single undecorated body sherd of LMT of 15–16th-century date was found in gully fill (205).

6.2 Fired Clay

Sarah Percival

The assemblage comprises 126 pieces of fired clay weighing 2,879g. Three fabrics were identified (Table 2) of which sandy fabrics are the most numerous with slightly smaller quantities of chalk tempered pieces also present.

Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
C1	Poorly mixed sandy clay with numerous medium to large rounded chalk inclusions	48	1157
Q1	Sandy fabric with sparse angular flint	62	1545
Q2	Sandy fabric with occasional voids poorly mixed	16	177
Total		126	2879

Table 2. Quantity and weight of fired clay by fabric.

The fired clay appears to be structural, and was perhaps from an oven or other structure which comprised a baked clay lining over a wattle framework. Six of the pieces show rod impressions which have a diameter of between 10mm and 24mm and several have flattened or smoothed outer surfaces.

6.3 Faunal Remains

Julie Curl

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine range of species, elements present and modifications. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context examined.

Two contexts produced bone. A single burnt fragment was recovered from pit (previously midden) deposit (251), which was associated with pieces of Iron-Age pottery. The fragment from (251) had no diagnostic surfaces and could only be identified as ‘large mammal’; this bone had been burnt at a high temperature for a time, resulting in bone with a whitish colouration. It is not possible with this single small fragment to determine if this is part of a cremation or animal bone waste from a fire.

Pit fill (275) produced two cattle bones, a distal humerus and mandible condyle, both of which had been butchered and gnawed.

The remains in pit fill (275) are in good condition, although fragmented from butchering and gnawing. The canid gnawing on both of these bones would suggest bone waste was given to dogs or possibly that scavenging may have taken place.

6.4 Lithics

Sarah Bates

Introduction

Seventy-seven struck flints and fourteen fragments of burnt flint, weighing a total of 282g, were found at the site. The flint is summarised in Table 3 and listed by context in Appendix 6.

Discussion

Most of the struck flint (sixty-seven pieces) and all the burnt flint were recovered from a pit (previously midden) deposit (251). Three irregular flake cores or fragments of cores and four shatter pieces came from the deposit but the context assemblage consists largely of medium sized flakes, generally hard hammer struck with wide platforms, squat in shape and quite sharp. The flint is mostly mid- to dark grey in colour and unpatinated. Some pieces are mottled and some have pale grey coarser-grained inclusions. Several types of distinctive cortex occur (for example thick whitish cortex from chalk-derived flint and thin grey cortex from pebble or gravel flint) suggesting that some pieces might be from the same cores. None of the flakes, however, appear to refit to each other. Two small neat blades and four blade-like flakes also came from the deposit; one with an abraded platform. It is notable that most of the blade type pieces have a slightly brownish or gingery hue.

Type	Number
multi platform flake core	3
core fragment	1
flake	39
blade-like flake	4
shatter	4
blade	5
side scraper	1
end scraper	1
scraper	1
denticulate	1
piercer	1
awl	1
retouched flake	6
utilised blade	3
utilised flake	6
Total	**77**
burnt fragment	14

Table 3: Summary of flint by type

A number of retouched or utilised pieces came from the pit fill (251). Three scrapers include a thick longish cortical flake with retouched distal end, a squat flake with retouched distal edge and a small broad thick flake with both sides retouched, one side on its reverse face. A thickish squat flake fragment has irregular retouch forming denticular edges and six miscellaneous retouched flakes,

six utilised flakes and three utilised blades are also present. Some pieces have only very minimal edge modification. A probable awl and a piercer were also found. The awl is on a neat blade-type piece with thicker proximal end and tapering distal point the tip of which is utilised and, unusually, patinated. The whole piece is a mottled gingery grey colour. The piercer is on a slightly irregular pointed blade with utilised distal point. One of the utilised blades is a neat thin piece and is slightly serrated on one side.

Deposit (251) contained earlier Iron Age pottery and the nature of much of the flint is consistent with that proposed elsewhere as characteristic of material considered likely to date to the Iron Age (Martingell 1988, Robins 1996 and Humphrey 2007). It is notable, however, that several quite neat blades and blade-like pieces, with at least one abraded platform indicative of core preparation, are also present. These are unlikely to be of such a late date and, in fact, are usually considered as an indicator of earlier Neolithic or (or earlier, Mesolithic) flint-working (Butler 2005, 121). Other pieces of a likely earlier date include the 'serrated' blade and the awl (Butler 2005, 126–130). These pieces represent residual material in an Iron Age context.

A small number of struck flints were found in other excavated features. A flake fragment and a small neatish blade were found with earlier Iron Age ceramics in pit [213]. Again, the blade seems more than likely to have been residual there.

A fairly neat core, that was probably also used as a hammerstone, and three small flakes came from a spread of soil [303]. Other small undiagnostic pieces of flint were found residually in a medieval pit, in a late medieval ditch and in an undated ditch.

Conclusions

The struck flint represents activity at the site during the prehistoric period and most of the material was found in a pit (previously midden). It consists largely of knapping waste including a few cores and shatter pieces and the presence of different cortex types shows the use of several types of raw material. The irregular nature of the struck flint and the hard hammer struck flakes suggest a later prehistoric date and this material could be contemporary with the earlier Iron Age pottery from same deposit. The retouched and utilised pieces are also, predominantly, of types which could date to the same period; quite irregular squat pieces with a restricted range of tools and miscellaneous slightly retouched or utilised flakes and fragments. The material probably represents the expedient use of flint in a domestic context and its subsequent discard and possible deliberate disposal or accumulation in the pit area. The burnt flint may also originate from domestic activity during the same period.

However, as is often the case with worked flint tentatively dated to this late period, (Robins 1996, 269, Humphrey 2007, 147), some material, here a number of neat blade-like pieces (including a serrated blade and a probable awl) do appear to be of an earlier date and residual in the deposit. This makes it difficult to definitively 'prove' the late date of the material although a distinction between the unpatinated squat material and the brownish tinged blade-like pieces may help accentuate flint from the two different periods. It seems likely that material resulting from activity in the vicinity during the earlier Neolithic became mixed with debris produced and deposited into the pit during the Iron Age.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

Val Fryer

Introduction

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, and eleven 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 7. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots and seeds were present throughout, although rarely at a high density.

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

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common weeds were recorded at a low to moderate density within all but one of the assemblages studied. Preservation was generally poor, with most of the grains and some seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. In addition to this, the macrofossils within Samples <5>, <9> and <10> were heavily coated with silt particles and small grits.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and possibly rye (*Secale cereale*) grains were recorded, although most grains were too severely puffed for accurate identification. Of the identifiable cereals, wheat occurred most frequently. With the exception of a single bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis node and small pieces of oat awn, chaff was entirely absent.

Although grass (Poaceae) fruits were moderately common within sample 1, other weed seeds occurred infrequently, and were recorded mostly as single specimens within only six assemblages. All were of common segetal weeds or grassland herbs including brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A single saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) nutlet from Sample <2> was the sole wetland plant remain, and tree/shrub macrofossils included bramble type (*Rubus* sp.) 'pips' (Sample <1>) and fragments of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) type fruit stone (Sample <10>). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Other plant macrofossils were rare, but did include indeterminate culm nodes, thorns and possible tuber fragments.

Other remains were also relatively scarce. The fragments of black porous and tarry material were both probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures and it was noted that some of the more poorly preserved grains were partially converted into tarry globules. Small, abraded pellets of burnt or fired clay were noted within Samples <1>, <2>, <3>, <10> and <11>; Sample <1> also contained a large piece of a burnt organic concretion which may have been charred faecal material.

Discussion

An initial assessment of nine plant macrofossil assemblages from the Mellis Road site was carried out in May 2008 (Fryer 2008). Although largely from contexts of medieval date, these assemblages were strikingly similar to those from the current area, although the latter are provisionally dated to the early Iron Age. This may be entirely fortuitous, with small deposits of probable hearth waste being deposited within the same area over a considerable period of time. However, it is, perhaps, more likely that the site has been systematically disturbed by the long term digging and re-digging of features within a restricted area, thereby introducing a mixture of both residual and intrusive material into many of the excavated features.

Of the current assemblages, most would appear to be derived from small deposits of scattered or wind-blown refuse, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. However, Sample <1> (from the fill of pit [276]) is possibly of note as it contains both cereal grains and a number of larger weed seeds of a similar size to the cereals. This may be indicative of material derived from the final stage of processing of a batch of grain, where the larger impurities not previously removed by winnowing were picked out by hand immediately prior to utilisation/consumption. Sample <2>, from the fill within pit [262] contains a high density of very poorly preserved cereal grains along with copious fragments of black porous material and a large number of pellets of burnt or fired clay. This may indicate that the material within the assemblage is partly or wholly derived from domestic hearth waste.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

This site at Mellis Road appears to be characterised by features of a similar date which from finds evidence appear to be of the Early Iron Age period. The results lend themselves to an interpretation of cereal processing and possible storage but the evidence is somewhat enigmatic. Focal to this interpretation is the large hollow, the putative post-hole structure and the environmental evidence.

The large hollow can be interpreted as a 'working hollow'; similar features were encountered near Wymondham in Norfolk where it is posited that these hollows provided shelter for agricultural workers whilst they were winnowing or threshing, or were possibly utilised in the process of drying out grain (Ashwin 1996, 276).. The hard-standing layer of chalk and flint nearby also provides tantalising evidence perhaps for the laying out of grain. Such a hard-standing layer would have likely been associated with post- or stake-holes that may have formed a screen of wattle around the area and although there are a few post-holes nearby, supporting evidence is poor.

The presence of a putative post-hole structure, interpreted here as probably a raised storage area adds some weight to a crop-processing hypothesis. Such structures are a familiar feature of Iron Age sites, albeit with a range of interpretations and functions e.g. watchtower, excarnation platform as well as raised granary. This site shares some similarities - the presence of gullies, pits and post-holes and an absence of roundhouses - with a site excavated at Trowse just south of Norwich in the late 20th century (Ashwin and Bates, 2000, 189). The Wortham post-hole structure is unlikely to have any funerary association, but interpretation as a watchtower might be a consideration. The absence of any storage pits within the excavated area leads to an interpretation of the post-hole structure as a raised storage area; an interpretation supported by the environmental evidence. Cereal remains were present in the post-holes forming the raised storage area and evidence of the final stages of grain processing was recovered from a pit in the north-east of the site

Finds of fired clay, daub and domestic hearth waste were focused in the northern half of the site although the structures that these remains may have been associated with (and any evidence in the form of features) were absent within the area investigated. The fired clay most likely represented the remains of an oven or hearth formed over a wattle framework; several of the pieces had rod impressions and/or smoothed surface. It is reasonable to assume that these structures had originally been located relatively close to their findspots which could well have been slightly further to the east`. Truncation and attrition of the site was the most likely cause of the absence of features especially stake-holes and shallow post-holes. The majority of the features have no clear association with other features.

This excavation at Wortham has provided evidence of Early Iron Age crop-processing-related activities. Although no significant occupation evidence or settlement focus was present within the excavated area it is possible that this may lie just to the north-east where Basil Brown observed an Iron Age 'hut site' in 1955.

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The finds were processed and catalogued by Lucy Talbot and Rebecca Sillwood. The pottery and fired clay analysis was undertaken by Sarah Percival, Sarah Bates analysed the flint and Julie Curl reported on the faunal remains. Robert Fryer processed the environmental samples and Val Fryer examined and reported on them.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
200	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil	Modern
201	Deposit	Layer		Subsoil	Modern
202	U/S Finds	Finds		Unstratified finds	Early Iron Age
203	Cut	Natural feature		Natural feature	Unknown
204	Deposit	Natural feature fill	203	Fill of natural feature [203]	Unknown
205	Deposit	Ditch fill	206	Fill of ditch [206]	Early Iron Age
206	Cut	Ditch fill		Ditch	Early Iron Age
207	Deposit	Natural feature fill	208	Fill of natural feature [208]	Unknown
208	Cut	?post-hole		?post-hole	Unknown
209	Cut	?post-hole fill		Fill of ?post-hole [209]	Unknown
210	Deposit	Natural feature fill	209	Fill of natural feature [209]	Unknown
211	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
212	Deposit	Post-hole fill	211	Fill of post-hole [211]	Early Iron Age
213	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Iron Age
214	Deposit	Pit fill	213	Fill of pit [213]	Early Iron Age
215	Deposit	Pit fill	213	Fill of pit [213]	Early Iron Age
216	Deposit	Ditch fill	217	Fill of ditch [217]	Early Iron Age
217	Cut	Ditch fill		Ditch	Early Iron Age
218	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
219	Deposit	Post-hole fill	218	Fill of post-hole [218]	Early Iron Age
220	Deposit	Post-hole fill	221	Fill of post-hole [221]	Early Iron Age
221	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
222	Deposit	Natural feature fill	223	Fill of natural feature [223]	Unknown
223	Cut	Natural feature		Natural feature	Unknown
224	Deposit	Post-hole fill	225	Fill of post-hole [225]	Early Iron Age
225	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
226	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric
227	Deposit	Ditch fill	226	Fill of ditch [226]	Prehistoric
228	Cut	Natural feature		Natural feature	Unknown
229	Deposit	Natural feature fill	228	Fill of natural feature [228]	Unknown
230	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
231	Deposit	Post-hole fill	230	Fill of post-hole [230]	Early Iron Age
232	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
233	Deposit	Post-hole fill	232	Fill of post-hole [232]	Early Iron Age
234	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
235	Deposit	Post-hole fill	234	Fill of post-hole [234]	Early Iron Age

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
236	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
237	Deposit	Ditch fill	236	Fill of ditch [236]	Iron Age
238	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
239	Deposit	Post-hole fill	238	Fill of post-hole [238]	Early Iron Age
240	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Iron Age
241	Deposit	Pit fill	240	Fill of pit [240]	Early Iron Age
242	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Iron Age
243	Deposit	Pit fill	242	Fill of pit [242]	Early Iron Age
244	Cut	Ditch terminus		Ditch terminus	Iron Age
245	Deposit	Ditch fill	244	Fill of ditch terminus [244]	Iron Age
246	Cut	Ditch terminus		Ditch terminus	Iron Age
247	Deposit	Ditch fill	246	Fill of ditch terminus [246]	Iron Age
248	Cut	Hollow		Hollow	Iron Age
249	Deposit	Hollow fill	248	Fill of hollow [248]	Iron Age
250	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Iron Age
251	Deposit	Pit fill	250	Fill of pit [250]	Early Iron Age
252	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
253	Deposit	Post-hole fill	252	Fill of post-hole [252]	Iron Age
254	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
255	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
256	Deposit	Post-hole fill	255	Fill of post-hole [255]	Iron Age
257	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
258	Deposit	Post-hole fill	257	Fill of post-hole [257]	Iron Age
259	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
260	Deposit	Post-hole fill	259	Fill of post-hole [259]	Iron Age
261	Deposit	Ditch fill	254	Fill of ditch [254]	Iron Age
262	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Iron Age
263	Deposit	Pit fill	262	Fill of pit [262]	Early Iron Age
264	Deposit	Layer		Flint/gravel hard standing layer	Iron Age
265	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
266	Deposit	Post-hole fill	265	Fill of post-hole [265]	Iron Age
267	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
268	Deposit	Ditch fill	267	Fill of ditch [267]	Iron Age
269	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Bronze Age
270	Deposit	Pit fill	269	Fill of pit [269]	Early Bronze Age
271	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
272	Deposit	Post-hole fill	273	Fill of post-hole [273]	Early Iron Age
273	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Early Iron Age
274	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
275	Deposit	Pit fill	276	Fill of pit [276]	Early Iron Age

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
276	Cut	Pit		Pit	Early Iron Age
277	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
278	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
279	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
280	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
281	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
282	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
283	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
284	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
285	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
286	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
287	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
288	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
289	Deposit	Ditch fill	277	Fill of ditch [277]	Iron Age
290	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
291	Deposit	Post-hole fill	290	Fill of post-hole [290]	Iron Age
292	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
293	Deposit	Post-hole fill	292	Fill of post-hole [292]	Iron Age
294	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
295	Deposit	Ditch fill	294	Fill of ditch [294]	Iron Age
296	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
297	Deposit	Post-hole fill	296	Fill of post-hole [296]	Iron Age
298	Cut	Pit		Pit	Iron Age
299	Deposit	Pit fill	298	Fill of pit [298]	Iron Age
300	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Iron Age
301	Deposit	Post-hole fill	300	Fill of post-hole [300]	Iron Age
302	Cut	Large spread		Large spread	Prehistoric
303	Deposit	Large spread fill	301	Fill of large spread [301]	Prehistoric
304	Cut	Pit		Pit	Iron Age
305	Deposit	Pit fill	304	Fill of pit [304]	Iron Age
306	Cut	Ditch terminus		Ditch terminus	Iron Age
307	Deposit	Ditch fill	306	Fill of ditch terminus [306]	Iron Age
308	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
309	Deposit	Ditch fill	308	Fill of ditch [308]	Iron Age
310	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
311	Deposit	Ditch fill	310	Fill of ditch [310]	Iron Age
312	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
313	Deposit	Ditch fill	313	Fill of ditch [313]	Iron Age
314	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
315	Deposit	Ditch fill	314	Fill of ditch [314]	Iron Age
316	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
317	Deposit	Ditch fill	316	Fill of ditch [316]	Iron Age

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
318	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
319	Deposit	Ditch fill	318	Fill of ditch [318]	Iron Age
320	Cut	Pit		Pit	Iron Age
321	Deposit	Pit fill	320	Upper fill of pit [320]	Iron Age
322	Deposit	Pit fill	320	Secondary fill of pit [320]	Iron Age
323	Deposit	Pit fill	320	Primary fill of pit [320]	Iron Age
324	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age
325	Deposit	Ditch fill	324	Fill of ditch [324]	Iron Age

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Type	Total
Prehistoric	Large spread	1
Early Bronze Age	Pit	1
Iron Age	Ditch	4
	Pit	3
	Post-hole	9
	Layer	1
	Hollow	1
Early Iron Age	Pit	6
	Post-hole	9
Modern	Layer	2
Unknown	Natural feature	5

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
202	Pottery	7	34g	Early Iron Age
205	Pottery	1	6g	Medieval
205	Flint – Struck	1		Prehistoric
215	Pottery	80	321g	Early Iron Age
215	Fired Clay	4	43g	Unknown
215	Flint – Struck	2		Prehistoric
219	Pottery	8	15g	Early Iron Age
219	Fired Clay	1	5g	Unknown
224	Pottery	2	19g	Early Iron Age
227	Flint – Struck	2		Prehistoric
231	Pottery	1	6g	Early Iron Age
233	Pottery	5	20g	Early Iron Age
243	Fired Clay	20	435g	Unknown
251	Pottery	53	340g	Early Iron Age
251	Fired Clay	58	1,508g	Unknown
251	Flint – Struck	68		Prehistoric

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
251	Flint – Burnt	15	276g	Prehistoric
251	Animal Bone	1	1g	Unknown
263	Fired Clay	20	147g	Unknown
268	Flint – Struck	1		Prehistoric
270	Pottery	1	1g	Early Bronze Age
275	Pottery	2	103g	Late Saxon
275	Fired Clay	10	101g	Unknown
275	Flint – Struck	1		Prehistoric
275	Animal Bone	2	92g	Unknown
279	Fired Clay	12	652g	Unknown
303	Flint – Struck	4		Prehistoric

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	1
	Flint – Struck	7
Early Bronze Age	Pottery	1
Early Iron Age	Pottery	7
Late Saxon	Pottery	1
Medieval	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	2
	Fired Clay	7

Appendix 3: Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Qty	Wt (g)	Date
202	F2	U	6	33	Earlier Iron Age
205	LMT	U	1	5	C15-C16
215	F1	U	13	41	Earlier Iron Age
	F2	B	2	20	Earlier Iron Age
		R	1	8	Earlier Iron Age
		U	37	249	Earlier Iron Age
	Q1	U	1	1	Not closely datable prehistoric
219	F1	U	4	9	Earlier Iron Age
	Q2	U	3	3	Earlier Iron Age
224	F2	U	2	19	Earlier Iron Age
231	F2	D	1	6	Earlier Iron Age
233	F2	D	1	4	Earlier Iron Age
		U	4	15	Earlier Iron Age
251	C1	U	2	14	Earlier Iron Age
	F1	U	5	33	Earlier Iron Age
	F2	R	4	39	Earlier Iron Age
		U	42	255	Earlier Iron Age

Context	Fabric	Form	Qty	Wt (g)	Date
270	G1	U	1	1	Earlier Bronze Age
275	THET1	R	1	101	C10-C11
		U	1	1	

Appendix 4: Fired Clay Catalogue

Feature Type	Cut	Context	Quantity	Weight (g)
Ditch	277	279	13	651
Ditch Terminus	244	243	20	430
	213	215	4	43
	250	251	58	1502
	262	263	20	148
	276	275	10	101
Post-hole	218	219	1	4
Total			126	2879

Appendix 5: Faunal Remains Catalogue

Ctxt	Ttl ctxt wt (g)	Ttl ctxt qty	Spp.	NISP	Comments
251	1	1	mammal	1	Fragment of large mammal bone, burnt white.
275	92	2	cattle	2	Humerus and mandible fragments, butchered and gnawed.

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Appendix 6: Lithics Catalogue

Context	Cat.	Type	Quantity
205	flak	flake	1
215	flak	flake	1
215	blad	blade	1
227	flak	blade-like flake	1
227	unsk	non-struck fragment	0
251	core	multi platform flake core	2
251	core	core fragment	1
251	flak	flake	32
251	unsk	non-struck fragment	0
251	dent	denticulate	1
251	burn	burnt fragment	14
251	blad	blade	4
251	flak	blade-like flake	3
251	retf	retouched flake	6
251	utbl	utilised blade	3
251	utfl	utilised flake	6
251	scpf	scraper	1
251	scpf	end scraper	1
251	scpf	double side	1
251	pecr	piercer	1

Context	Cat.	Type	Quantity
251	pecr	awl	1
251	flak	shatter	4
268	flak	flake	1
275	flak	flake	1
303	flak	flake	3
303	core	multi platform flake core	1

Appendix 7: Environmental Evidence (Plant Macrofossils)

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12
Context No.	**275**	**263**	**285**	**274**	**251**	**214**	**231**	**233**	**321**	**322**	**323**
Feature No.	**276**	**262**	**277**	**277**	**250**	**213**	**230**	**232**	**320**	**320**	**320**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**ph**	**ph**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**
Cereals											
Avena sp. (grains)	x	x									xcf
(awn frags.)	x										
Hordeum sp.(grains)	x	xcf	xcf							x	
Secale cereale L. (grain)			xcf								
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	x	x			x		x		x	
T aestivum/compactum type (rachis node)		x									
Cereal indet.(grains)	xx	xxx	x	x		x	x		x		
Herbs											
Bromus sp.	xcf					x					
Fabaceae indet.	x										x
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia		x							x		
Large Poaceae indet.	xx										
Raphanus raphanistrum L. (siliquae)	x	xfg									
Rumex sp.	x										
Scandix pecten-veneris L.			xcf								
Wetland plants											
Cladium mariscus (L.)Pohl		x									
Tree/shrub macrofossils											
Prunus sp.									x		
Rubus sp.	x										
Other plant macrofossils											
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx	xxx	xx	xx	xxxx	x	xx	xxxx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xxx	xx	x	xx	xxx	x	xx	xxxx		x
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	x		x				x	x	
Charred root/stem	x	x				x			x		
Indet.culm nodes	x										
Indet.seeds	x								x		
Indet.thorns *(Prunus* type)									x		
Indet.tuber		xcf									
Other remains											
Black porous 'cokey' material	xxx	xxx	x				x				x
Black tarry material		x	x		x	x	x		x		
Burnt/fired clay	x	xxx	x						x	x	
Burnt organic concretion	x										
Burnt stone									x		
Mineralised soil concretions					xx			xxx	xxx		

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12
Small coal frags.								x		x	
Sample volume (litres)	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**	**10ss**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.3**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key: x = 1–10 specimens; xx = 11–50 specimens; xxx = 51–100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf. = compare; fg = fragment; ss = sub-sample; ph = post-hole