

**Windsor Circle (ERL 213) and
Halifax Street (ERL 217)
RAF Lakenheath**

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

SCCAS Report No. 2013.066

Client: Mansells Construction Ltd

Author: Andy Beverton

05/2013

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Windsor Circle (ERL 213) and Halifax Street (ERL 217) RAF Lakenheath

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Report Date: May/2013

HER Information

Site Codes: Windsor Circle : ERL 213
Halifax Street: ERL 217

Report Number: 2013/066

Planning Application No: Overall planning application: F/2004/0092/GOV

Dates of Fieldwork: ERL 213: 23/03/11 – 17/10/11
ERL 217: 19/10/11 – 29/11/11

Grid Reference: ERL 213: TL 7301 8006
ERL 217: TL 7277 8010

Oasis Reference: suffolkc1-104349

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Client Body: Mansells Construction Ltd for MoD, Defence
Infrastructure International (DIO)

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Contents

Summary

Drawing Conventions

1.	Background	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Site location	1
1.3	The scope of the project	1
1.3	Circumstances and dates of fieldwork	2
1.4	Excavation Methodology	3
	Situation specific excavation strategy for ERL 213 Strip and Map	4
	Situation specific excavation strategy for ERL 217 Area 1	4
	Situation specific strategy for Archaeological monitoring at north-west end of ERL 217 Area 1	5
2	Geological, topographic and archaeological background	6
2.1	Geology, topography and recent land use	6
2.2	Archaeological background	6
3	ERL 213, Original research aims	11
4	ERL 213, Site sequence: results of the fieldwork	12
4.1	Introduction	12
4.2	Description by phase	12
	Phase 1a - Early Neolithic	12
	Phase 1b - Neolithic to Iron Age	13
	Phase 2a - later Iron Age	13
	Phase 2b - later Iron Age	20
	Phase 2c - later Iron Age	20
	Phase 3 - later Iron Age	21
	Phase 4 - later Iron Age	23
	Phase 5a - Undated	24
	Phase 5b	25

5	ERL 213, Quantification and assessment	26
5.1	Post-excavation review	26
5.2	Quantification of the stratigraphic archive	27
5.3	Quantification and assessment of the bulk finds archive	28
	Introduction	28
	Pottery	28
	Fired clay	32
	Mortar	33
	Struck flint	33
	Heat-altered stone	36
	Iron nail	37
5.4	Quantification and assessment of the small finds archive	38
	Prehistoric	38
5.5	Quantification and assessment of the environmental evidence	38
	Human cremated remains	38
	Animal bone	41
	Plant macrofossils and other remains	42
6	ERL 213, Potential of the data for further work	46
6.1	Realisation of the Original Research Aims	46
6.2	General discussion of potential	47
6.3	Potential of the stratigraphic archive and recommendations for further work	48
	Further work	48
6.4	Potential of the bulk finds data and recommendations for further work	49
	Introduction	49
	Pottery	50
	Fired clay	51
	Struck flint	51
	Heat-altered stone	53
6.5	The potential of the small finds	53
6.6	The potential of the environmental evidence and recommendations for further work	54
	Cremated human skeletal remains	54
	Animal bone	54
	Plant macrofossils and other remains	54

7	ERL 217, Original research aims	56
8	ERL 217, Site sequence: results of the fieldwork	57
8.1	Introduction	57
8.2	Description by phase	60
	Phase 1a: Undated features with early stratigraphic relationships	60
	Phase 1b: Undated features with later stratigraphic relationships	60
	Phase 1c: Undated features with latest stratigraphic relationships	60
	Phase 2: Prehistoric	61
	Phase 3: Late Iron Age to early Roman (1st century AD)	61
	Phase 4: Roman (AD 43-410)	66
9	ERL 217 Quantification and assessment	69
9.1	Post-excavation review	69
9.2	Quantification of the stratigraphic archive	69
9.3	Quantification and assessment of the bulk finds archive	70
	Introduction	70
	Pottery	70
	Fired clay	74
	Struck flint	75
	Heat-altered stone	78
9.4	Quantification and assessment of the small finds archive	79
	Date, range and context	79
	Condition	79
	Methodology	79
	Small finds by period	79
	Discussion	82
9.5	Quantification and assessment of the environmental evidence	82
	Human skeletal remains	82
	Animal bone	84
	Plant macrofossils and other remains	87
10	ERL 217 Potential of Data for further work	91
10.1	Realisation of the Original Research Aims	91
10.2	General discussion of potential	93
10.3	The potential of the stratigraphic data	93
10.4	The potential of the finds data and recommendations for further work	94

	Potential of the Prehistoric finds	94
	Potential of the Roman finds	95
	General recommendations for further work	97
	Pottery	97
	Fired clay	98
	Struck flint	98
	Heat-altered stone	98
10.5	The potential of the small finds	98
10.6	The potential of the environmental evidence	99
	Human skeletal remains	99
	Animal bone	99
	Plant macrofossils and other remains	99
11	Significance of the Results	100
12	Updated Project Design	102
12.1	Revised research aims	102
	RRA1: Site specific questions	102
	RRA2: Bronze Age Funerary practice	102
	RRA3: Iron Age settlement types	102
	RRA4: Landscape use, division and enclosures	103
	RRA5: The agrarian economy	103
	RRA6: Flintworking and heat-altered stone	104
	RRA7: Roman settlement	104
12.2	Recommendations for analysis and publication	104
12.3	Analytical report synopsis	105
13	Publication proposal	105
14	Resources and programming	107
14.1	Staff for analysis and publication	107
14.2	ERL 213 - Task sequence and method statements for analysis and publication	107
	Initial preparation	107
	Stratigraphic analysis	107
	Bulk finds	107
	Small finds	108
	Biological and environmental evidence	108
	Illustrations	108

14.3	ERL 217 - Task sequence and method statement for analysis and publication	108
	Initial preparation	108
	Stratigraphic analysis	108
	Bulk finds	109
	Small finds	109
	Environmental evidence	109
	Illustrations	109
14.4	Task sequence for report production, publication and archiving	109
	Production of analytical report	109
	Publication	109
	Project management	109
	Final archive deposition	110
14.5	Programming	110
15.	Current archive deposition	110
15.1	ERL 213	110
15.2	ERL 217	110
16	Acknowledgements	110
17	Bibliography	112

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Windsor Circle and Halifax Street development areas with HER sites listed in text	8
Figure 2.	Windsor Circle development area with defined excavation areas and previous evaluation results	9
Figure 3.	Halifax Street development area with defined excavation areas and previous evaluation results	10
Figure 4.	Windsor Circle overall excavation plan	14
Figure 5a.	Windsor Circle North Area, West side.	15
Figure 5b.	Windsor Circle North Area, East side.	16
Figure 6.	Windsor Circle East Area	17
Figure 7.	Windsor Circle Central Area	18
Figure 8.	Windsor Circle South Area	19
Figure 9.	Halifax Street Area 1.	58
Figure 10.	Halifax Street Area 2	59
Figure 11.	ERL 217, Area 1 selected sections	67
Figure 12.	ERL 217, Area 2 selected sections	68

List of Tables

Table 1. Quantification of stratigraphic archive for ERL 213	27
Table 2. Finds quantities from all phases of work at Windsor Circle	28
Table 3. Pottery by period	28
Table 4. Prehistoric pottery quantities by period	29
Table 5. Fired clay quantities by feature type	32
Table 6. Fired clay quantities by type	32
Table 7. Summary of the flint	34
Table 8. Flint by feature type	35
Table 9. Table of worked flint suitable for illustration	36
Table 10. Heat-altered flint distribution by feature type	37
Table 11. Percentages of identified fragments out of total identified to area of skeleton	39
Table 12. Animal bone distribution by feature type.	41
Table 13. Quantification of the stratigraphic archive	69
Table 14. Bulk finds quantities	70
Table 15. Prehistoric pottery by fabric	70
Table 16. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric	72
Table 17. Fired clay by fabric	75
Table 18. Summary of the flint	76
Table 19. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by weight, feature and fill type.	85
Table 20. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species count (NISP) and feature type	86
Table 21. Preliminary publication synopsis	106
Table 22. Staff list required for project completion	107

List of Plates

Plate 1. ERL 213; North Area. G1005 pre-excavation. 2m scale, facing west.
Plate 2. ERL 213; North Area. Section across southern half of G1010 showing multiple re-cuts. 2m scale facing south-east.
Plate 3. ERL 217 Area 1 G0699. 1m scales facing west.
Plate 4. ERL 213 Area 1 Phase 4 structure. 2m scales facing south-west
Plate 6. ERL 217 Area 1 burial 0103. 2m scale facing north.
Plate 7. ERL 217 Area 2 possible drip gully G0705
Plate 8. Radiate. Minted by Carausius for Maximianus at the C mint AD 286-293 (5cm scale)
Plate 9. Monitored pipe trench section looking west, 1m scale.

List of Appendices on CD

- Appendix 1. ERL 213 Plates
- Appendix 2. ERL 213 South Area Brief and specification
- Appendix 3. ERL 213 Context List
- Appendix 4. ERL 213 South Area context list
- Appendix 5. ERL 213 Catalogue of bulk finds
- Appendix 6. ERL 213 Catalogue of pottery
- Appendix 7. ERL 213 Catalogue of fired clay
- Appendix 8. ERL 213 Catalogue of struck flint
- Appendix 9. ERL 213 Catalogue of heat altered stone
- Appendix 10. ERL 213 Plant macrofossils and other remains
- Appendix 11. ERL 213 Plates
- Appendix 12. ERL 217 Brief and Specification
- Appendix 13. ERL 217 Context list
- Appendix 14. ERL 217 Catalogue of bulk finds
- Appendix 15. ERL 217 Catalogue of small finds
- Appendix 16. ERL 217 Catalogue of pottery
- Appendix 17. ERL 217 Catalogue of ceramic building material
- Appendix 18. ERL 217 Catalogue of worked flint
- Appendix 19. ERL 217 Catalogue of human skeletal remains (HSR)
- Appendix 20. ERL 217 Catalogue of faunal remains
- Appendix 21. ERL 217 Catalogue of environmental evidence (A)
- Appendix 22. ERL 217 Catalogue of environmental evidence (B)
- Appendix 23. OASIS form

Summary

This assessment contains the results of an archaeological excavations carried out at Windsor Circle and Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath, Eriswell. The report quantifies each site archive and assesses their potential and significance, as applied to specific research questions drawn from both regional and local research agendas. The further work required for adequate dissemination of the excavation results is laid out with an estimated timeframe and costing.

The excavations were located with a rich archaeological landscape known to contain prehistoric, Roman-British, Saxon and Medieval activity. Particularly prevalent with the immediate vicinity of the proposed development areas are numerous late Iron Age and Early Roman sites. The natural geology of the area is a deep chalk with overlying striations of glacially deposited fine sands. The natural topography of the area has largely been removed during the areas utilisation as an airfield but still retains a shallow north-west facing slope that forms part of a shallow valley leading westwards to the fen edge.

The five excavation areas investigated on Windsor Circle (ERL 213) identified an archaeological landscape containing a single Early Bronze Age cremation and at least two later prehistoric field systems. Bulk finds evidence was sparse although the recovered pottery assemblage bears similarities to those recovered from nearby sites and is likely to be evidence of contemporary activity.

The archaeological horizon identified at Windsor Circle is dominated by a roughly east-west aligned boundary system (Phase 3) that appears to have influenced the later evolution of the landscape. The ditches present within this phase contained later Iron Age pottery and several members displayed numerous recuts, suggesting their importance to the overall system arrangement. An undated but stratigraphically earlier ditch system was also recorded and comprised north-south aligned ditches that had very shallow surviving profiles

The two areas defined for excavation in the Halifax Street site (ERL 217) each identified a moderately concentrated surviving archaeological horizon that was predominantly populated by Late Iron Age to early Roman evidence. Included within the archaeology

were several enclosure systems (early Roman), at least one structure (Roman), a crouched burial (likely to be prehistoric) and various discreet features and ditch systems. The pottery and environmental evidence points to a fairly low status site with a dependence on cattle for trade and a level of cereal processing suggesting subsistence rather than trade.











Although low status the excavation identified several phases of archaeology all placed with a relatively short period. The changing ditch system arrangements and the later introduction of structural features indicates the increasing importance of the area and associated need for clear boundaries/land distribution.

The recorded activity on both sites falls within a period when the large drove way system to the south is known to have been in use. It seems probable that the enclosure systems and associated faunal evidence within the Halifax Street development area are directly related to the drove way and infers some idea of the local populations reliance on the drove way for trade and general subsistence.




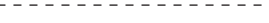







Both these sites have the potential to contribute to the ongoing overall studies of RAF Lakenheath. Of particular significance is the later Iron Age enclosure and field system at site ERL 213, which appears to be contemporary with the extensive pit group found at ERL 147 in 2005, and offers the opportunity to help interpret the function of the pits and put them into the context of a wider Iron Age landscape. The eight post structure found at ERL 217 is a typical Roman building style, but the first of its type (and one of very few of Roman date found at RAF Lakenheath despite the otherwise extensive evidence for Roman settlement) to be found at RAF Lakenheath. The activity in this areas appears to stop in the early 2nd century AD, and the evidence for the structure and enclosures from ERL 217, when examined alongside that of the neighbouring sites, ERL 089, 111, 129 and 211 has significant potential for contributing to an understanding of what this activity represents and why it stopped, when we know that Roman settlement at Caudle head continued, and indeed flourished, until the end of the Roman period in the early 5th century.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Background

1.1 Introduction

Archaeological excavations were undertaken at two sites at Windsor Circle and Halifax Street at RAF Lakenheath in 2011. Both sites were in advance of demolition of existing housing, with a view to future re-development and both had been subject to archaeological evaluation in 2010 and 2011. This report does not re-examine the features (for example Bronze Age cremation ERL 213, 0043) found during the evaluation which are included in reports Craven 2011a and Craven 2011b, but in some cases the finds are included in the finds reports within this document.

1.2 Site location

Both sites were located within the perimeter of RAF Lakenheath, Eriswell. RAF Lakenheath is located between the eastern fen edge and the western fringes of Breckland, and covers an area of c.760 ha. The limits of the airbase extend across Eriswell, Lakenheath and Wangford parishes and contains a densely occupied multi-period archaeological landscape (Fig. 1).

Windsor circle (ERL 213) is located towards the central-eastern portion of RAF Lakenheath and covers a total area of 7.4ha. Following the results of a previous evaluation five areas (North, East, South, West and Central), covering a total 9564m², were defined for further investigation (Fig. 2).

The Halifax street excavation (ERL 217) consisted of two areas (Area 1 and Area 2) which covered 974m² and 813m² respectively and were situated at the east and west sides of Halifax Street, towards the west side of the airbase. The archaeological monitoring of a small portion of pipe trench approximately 50m west of the development area was also incorporated into the project.

1.3 The scope of the project

This document forms an assessment of the potential for analysis and publication of the results from the combined archaeological fieldwork projects at Windsor Circle and Halifax Street, consistent with the requirements of the English Heritage document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2 1991). It summarises the field and post-excavation work already carried out, the potential of the sites in relation to the

Research Agenda and Strategy for the East of England Regional Research Framework (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Brown and Medlycott 2008), and details the further work that will be necessary to integrate the final results into overall Liberty Village publication.

The assessment was commissioned by Mansells Construction Ltd on behalf of MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and produced by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team. It has been prepared in accordance with verbal (in the case of ERL 213) and written briefs, for ERL 213 South Area (App. 2) and ERL 217 (App. 12), supplied by Jude Plouviez (SCCAS, Curatorial Team) and has followed Written Schemes of Investigation prepared by SCCAS (ERL 213: Craven 2011a, ERL 217: Craven 2011b). The report is consistent with the principles of management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE). The principle aims of the report are as follows:

- To summarise the results of the archaeological fieldwork
- To quantify the site archives and review the post-excavation work that has been undertaken to date
- To assess the potential of the site archives to answer the research aims defined in the Brief and Specifications
- To assess the significance of the data in relation to the current regional research framework (Medleycott, 2011).
- To make recommendations for further analysis and dissemination of the fieldwork results

1.3 Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

During 2011 a program of redevelopment at Windsor Circle and Halifax Street, RAF Lakenheath, commenced with the demolition of the two separate housing estates. Evaluations previously carried out across both areas (SCCAS Reports: 2011/001 and 2011/130) identified several portions of surviving archaeological horizons containing prehistoric and Roman activity. The evaluations determined that open area excavation was required on both sites to mitigate the loss of the archaeology through groundworks relating to the demolition of existing housing estates and future, as yet undefined, development. Briefs detailing the level of required investigation were subsequently issued by Jude Plouviez (SCCAS, Conservation Team) and can be found as Appendices 2 and 6 of this report.

The excavations were carried out between the 23/03/11-17/10/11 (ERL 213) and between 19/10/11–29/11/11 (ERL 217) as conditions for overall planning application covering Liberty Village (F/2004/0092/GOV). The project was sponsored by Mansell Construction Ltd on behalf of MoD DIO who have funded all stages of fieldwork to date, this assessment and will fund the full analysis and publication integration.

Evaluation at Windsor circle (ERL 213) consisted of forty-nine trial trenches excavated between the 8th and 23rd November 2010. An archaeological horizon was identified across the north-eastern half of the proposed development area with notable concentrations towards the east and north-east (Fig. 2). Elements of a rectilinear field system were identified across many of the trenches.

Dating evidence from the evaluation was predominantly prehistoric and included Bronze Age, early-middle and later Iron Age (although not pre-Roman Iron Age). A single unstratified sherd of Saxon pottery, dated to AD650-AD850 was also recovered.

Archaeological evaluation at Halifax Street was carried out at the beginning of August 2011 (Craven 2011) and consisted of thirty-seven trial trenches excavated across the development area (Fig. 3). This identified two areas of archaeology consisting of sixteen features concentrated towards the north-east and central-northern portions of the development area. A small quantity of datable pottery was recovered which contained Late Iron Age/Early Roman, mid 1st century and Anglo-Saxon pottery.

In October 2011 two areas, encompassing the majority of the archaeological potential identified during the evaluation, were opened for further investigation. Both areas were found to contain higher concentrations of archaeology than suggested by the results of the original evaluation (Fig. 3).

1.4 Excavation Methodology

All excavation areas were mechanically stripped to the top of the archaeological horizon with a 360° machine mounted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket under the constant supervision of an SCC archaeologist. Archaeological features were excavated by hand to a minimum of 50% for discreet features and 10% of ditch fills.

Unique context numbers assigned to cut features, fills and deposits and recorded on SCCAS/FT *pro forma* context sheets. Sections of cut features and baulks containing archaeological layers were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 depending on complexity and size. All features were planned by hand at scales of 1:20 or 1:50 depending on feature density and complexity. The site grids were located using an RTK Leica System 1200 GPS with a maximum 3D error tolerance of 0.05m. A digital photographic record was made of all feature sections and areas of dense archaeology, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images.

All pre-modern finds were collected and returned to the SCCAS Bury office for processing. Metal detector searches were taken at all stages of the project and small finds given a site unique small find number and their location recorded three dimensionally.

Situation specific excavation strategy for ERL 213 Strip and Map

The site stripping and recording methodology for the Strip and Map at Windsor Circle was similar to that for excavation, but the main focus was on generating a plan of the line of the ditches. Single sections were excavated occasionally along linear features to establish their line and record any change in profile. The central part of the West Area was not stripped to natural as the depth of overlying deposits was such that the archaeological horizons were adequately protected.

Situation specific excavation strategy for ERL 217 Area 1

Excavation commenced at the north-west corner of the area and removed a combined depth of 0.3m of modern topsoil and subsoil before hitting a localised buried soil (0700). The top of the buried soil was severely disturbed by animal burrows and modern activity relating to the housing estate with the result that a small area at the extreme north-east corner was removed before it was identified as an archaeological deposit (Fig. 9). The remaining buried soil was machined at gradated levels in-order to maintain as much of the soil as possible whilst removing as much of the modern disturbance as possible.

A sondage was mechanically excavated through a large silt-filled natural channel towards the north east corner of the site (Fig. 9).

The area of buried soil (0700) was excavated in 0.05m 'spits' and was recorded in plan at each stage, these intermediate plans were amalgamated to form the final plan seen in figure 3. Cut features appeared very diffusely within the soil and prompted the assignment of unique context numbers for pottery find-spots. Subsequent investigation then allowed resolution of the find-spots into either a continuation of the buried soils or belonging to an intrusive feature.

Situation specific strategy for Archaeological monitoring at north-west end of ERL 217 Area 1

The monitored pipe trench excavations were located 50m west of the main development area (Fig. 3) and were carried out with a mini-digger fitted with a 700mm toothed bucket. The monitoring identified three postholes, a small pit and possible post-pad in the trench baulk. A layer of buried soil was also recorded and is suspected to be the same layer (0700) identified in Area 1. The features and deposits were recorded in the same manner as those encountered by the excavation.

The primary (paper) archive for both phases of fieldwork is located currently at the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds office. The finds are stored at the Bury St Edmunds office.

2 Geological, topographic and archaeological background

2.1 Geology, topography and recent land use

Both sites sit on the south side of a small, shallow valley that runs north-east to south-west into the fen edge. The airbase sits on a plateau of Holywell nodular and new pit formation chalk with overlying deposits of fine pale yellow sand that appeared to vary in depth depending on the local topography.

The position of the Halifax Street development area on the edge of the shallow valley is reflected in the level of the natural geology across Area 1 (Fig. 9). The undisturbed natural was recorded to increase from 9m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the north end of the area to 10.55m AOD at the south end forming a north-west facing slope with fine natural sand deposits at the bottom of the slope and chalk with gravel patches emerging towards the top of the slope. A large natural channel (0507) filled with sandy-silts was located at the north-eastern corner of Area 1 (Fig. 9) and is likely to be a spur of the main north-east to south-west aligned valley.

The Windsor circle estate is positioned slightly higher up the north-west facing slope ranging between c.10m AOD towards the north-west corner (North Area) and 14m AOD in the East Area (Fig. 4). The chalk geology was identified across all areas with the superficial deposits of fine sand occurring less frequently towards the South Area.

2.2 Archaeological background

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) contains numerous entries in close proximity to the proposed development areas, the majority of which are prehistoric in date (Fig. 1). Many of these sites have been excavated by SCCAS over the last 20 years, and the most notable of those lying close to ERL 213 and ERL 217 are summarised below:

- Two Bronze-Age barrows, approximately 140m south-east of Halifax Street have been investigated at ERL 148 and 203.
- Dense clusters of circular pits dating to the later Iron Age have been recorded at ERL 147, c.140m south of Halifax Street and ERL 222 600m south-west of ERL 217.

- Late Iron Age-Early Roman activity has been recorded to the south and west of the development areas at ERL 089, 120, 147 and 222 and includes rectilinear field systems emanating from a large east-west driveway.
- Excavations immediately to the west of ERL 217, at Nato place (ERL 212), Kennedy Street (ERL 112) and Thunderbird way (ERL 111, 211) found further evidence of early Roman occupation. Excavations on the north of the shallow valley described in section 2.1 revealed a sub circular structure (ERL 214) that appears to have been constructed during the Late Iron Age and subsequently maintained and incorporated into the local boundary system during the early Roman period.
- The focus of the Roman settlement, active throughout the Roman period, is located 600m to the north of the excavations at the natural spring, Caudle Head (ERL 023, LKH 114, 146, 191 et al).
- Three large Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries (ERL 046, 104 and 114) lie **m to the north-east of Windsor Circle and Early Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence has been found to the south of these at ERL 154, and to the north of them at ERL 101, LKH 207 et al. Middle Saxon occupation is identified north-east of ERL 213 and to the south of it at ERL 203 where several inhumations, dated to the 7th-8th centuries AD were cut into the Bronze Age monument.
- Medieval occupation for Eriswell is focused around the church of St Peter (ERL 011) to the north-west of the development area, and most of the area of the Base and a large portion of the parishes of Eriswell, Lakenheath and Wangford were enclosed as rabbit Warrens from the mid 13th century.

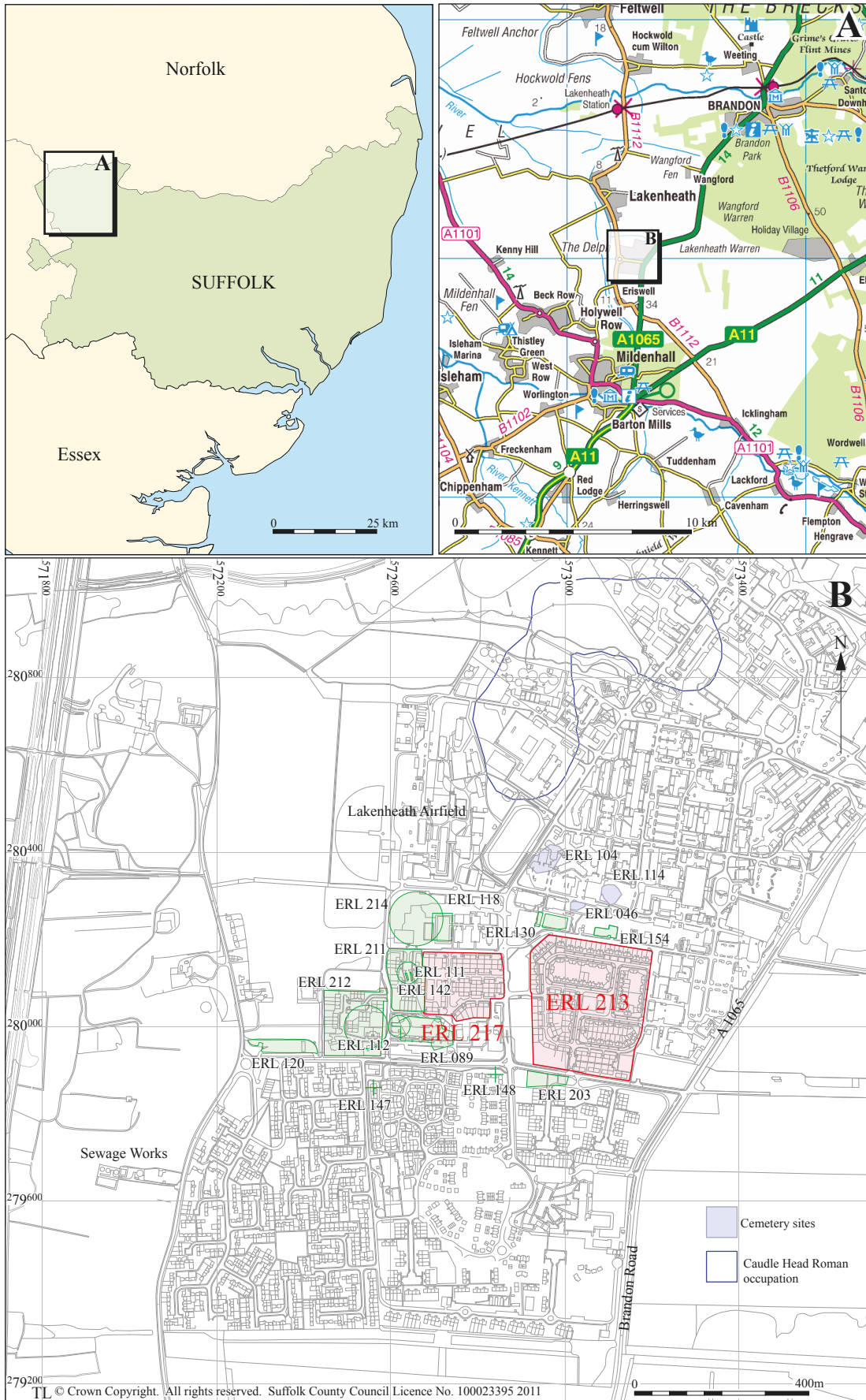


Figure 1. Windsor Circle and Halifax Street development areas with HER sites listed in text.



Figure 2. Windsor Circle development area with defined excavation areas and previous evaluation results

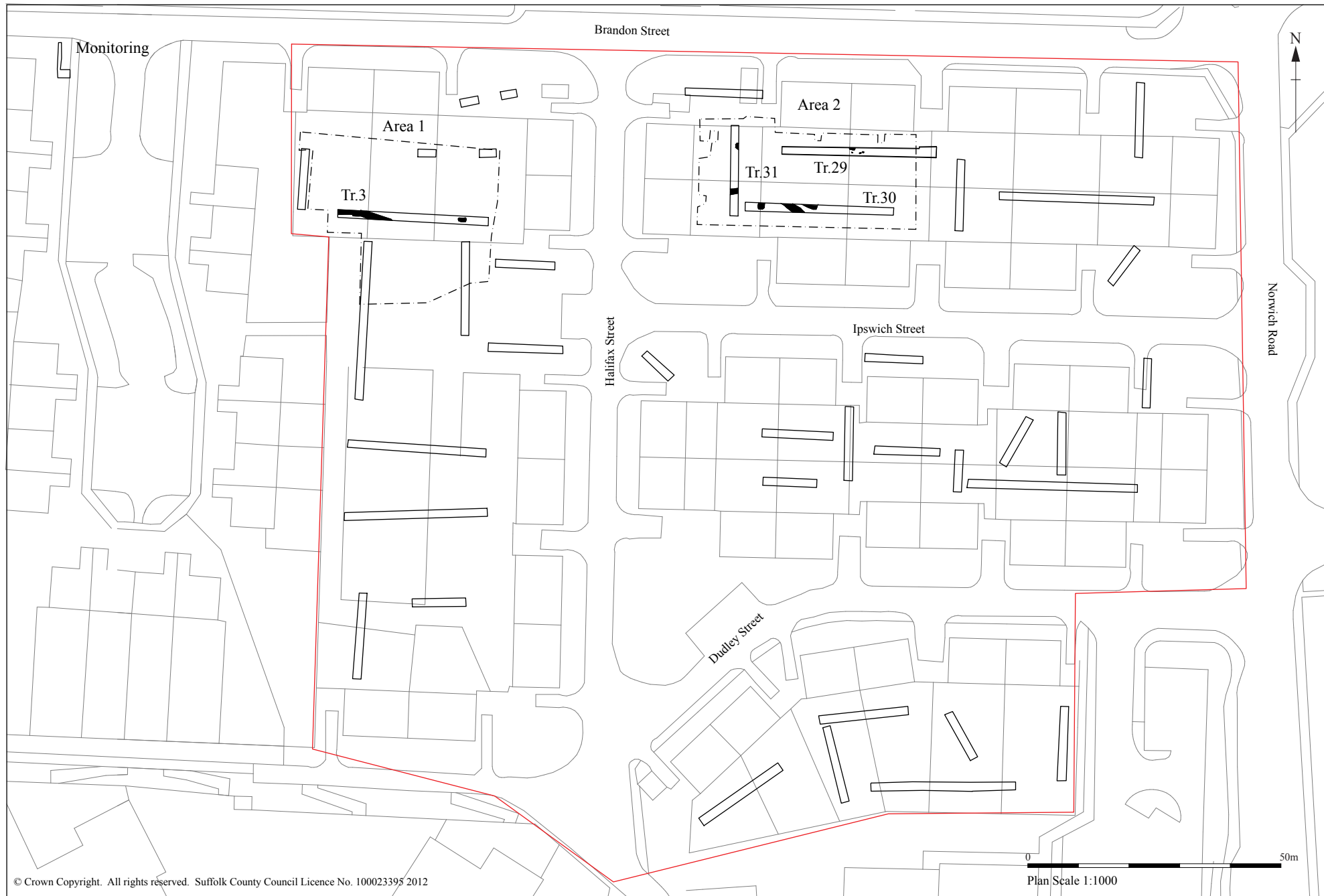


Figure 3. Halifax Street development area with defined excavation areas and previous evaluation results.

ERL 213, Windsor Circle

3 ERL 213, Original research aims

Evaluation of the site in 2011 (Craven 2011b) identified surviving archaeological horizons containing a single Bronze Age cremation, Iron Age and Saxon evidence as well as an undated rectilinear field system. The original research aims for the excavation and strip and map stage of work were derived from the results of the evaluation combined with regional research aims identified in the regional research agenda for the eastern counties (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000).

ORA 1: Define the extent of the surviving archaeological horizons towards the northern, southern and eastern portions of the development area through full excavation

ORA 2: Define the extent of the surviving archaeological horizons towards the central and western areas of the development area through archaeological strip and map.

ORA 3: Assess any further Early Bronze Age cremations/burials within the development area in order to aid the understanding of funerary practices and their evolution during the prehistoric period.

ORA 4: Identify possible relationships between settlement, field systems and burial monuments (barrows, ring ditches etc) during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and later periods.

ORA 5: Assess the extent and scale of Late Iron Age boundary systems across the development area in regards to a growing agrarian economy. Particularly with reference to analysis of the palynological sequences and preserved macrofossils present within archaeological deposits.

ORA 6: Investigate the surviving archaeological horizon for evidence of economic and social change during the Late Iron Age and Iron Age-Roman transition.

4 ERL 213, Site sequence: results of the fieldwork

4.1 Introduction

The combination of the excavation and strip and map identified several field systems within the northern (Fig. 5), eastern (Fig. 6) and central (Fig. 7) areas. The systems appear to be iterative additions, recuts and modifications to a roughly east-west arranged system.

Bulk finds were recovered predominantly from pit features and occasionally from the ditches. The evidence ranges from the later Iron Age to Late Iron Age-Early Roman period with the majority dated to the later Iron Age period. Some sherds of early Neolithic and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery were found but coincided with later pottery in all but one case (ditch 0416, North Area).

The close range of dates and the numerous recuts of many of the boundary ditches has resulted in an initial phasing based mainly upon spatial arrangement with some guidance from distinct pottery groups (prehistoric, Late Iron Age-Early Roman etc.).

4.2 Description by phase

Phase 1 covers the features that appear to predate the main Iron Age occupation, either through stratigraphic, spatial or ceramic dating evidence. Phases 2-4 are all dated to the later Iron Age, with small quantities of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery in the fills of the latest features.

Phase 1a - Early Neolithic

The earliest phase consists of a single ditch (G1009) at the north-east corner of the North Area (Fig. 5). The ditch produced a single sherd of early Neolithic pottery from segment 0416. The ditch is on the same north-west to south-east alignment as many of the ditches included in Phase 4.

The early Neolithic date stands out as an anomaly when compared to the later Iron Age date of the majority of features recorded during the excavation. Other early prehistoric finds were recovered from ditches towards the northern edge of the North Area but coincided with the presence of later finds, indicating their residual nature. It is likely that

further analysis of feature morphology and spatial arrangement will add ditch G1009 to Phase 3.

However two pits found in the evaluation also contained earlier Neolithic pottery which attests to activity of that period on the site, whether or not ditch G1009 is finally phased to it.

Phase 1b - Neolithic to Iron Age

This phase contains two undated pits (0304 and 0397) that were recorded as having early stratigraphic relationships with Phase 2b and 2c features. Both pits were located in the North Area (Fig. 5).

Pit 0304 was recorded towards the western end of the area. The pit is undated and cut by ditch G1001 (Phase 2c) which contained later Iron Age pottery evidence.

Pit 0397 was recorded towards the southern end of G1011 (North Area). The pit was stratigraphically early than G1011, which contained later Iron Age pottery.

Phase 2a - later Iron Age

The features included in this phase are undated and cut by the large scale boundary system established in Phase 3. Other features are included through similar spatial arrangements or an early stratigraphic relationship with later Iron Age dated features.

East Area

A portion of a rectangular enclosure and associated features (G1012, G 1013 and G1014 on a rough north-south alignment was recorded towards the southern end of the East Area (Fig. 6). The features are undated but were identified as stratigraphically earlier than the ditch system from Phase 4. The enclosure has a similar narrow profile to the north-south ditches in the central and northern areas.

North Area

A small, curvilinear gully(G1005, Pl.1) is included in this phase as although it is undated, it is cut by Phase 3 ditches. It was fairly shallow with ephemeral edges, and the possibility of it being a drip gully is raised by the excavator.

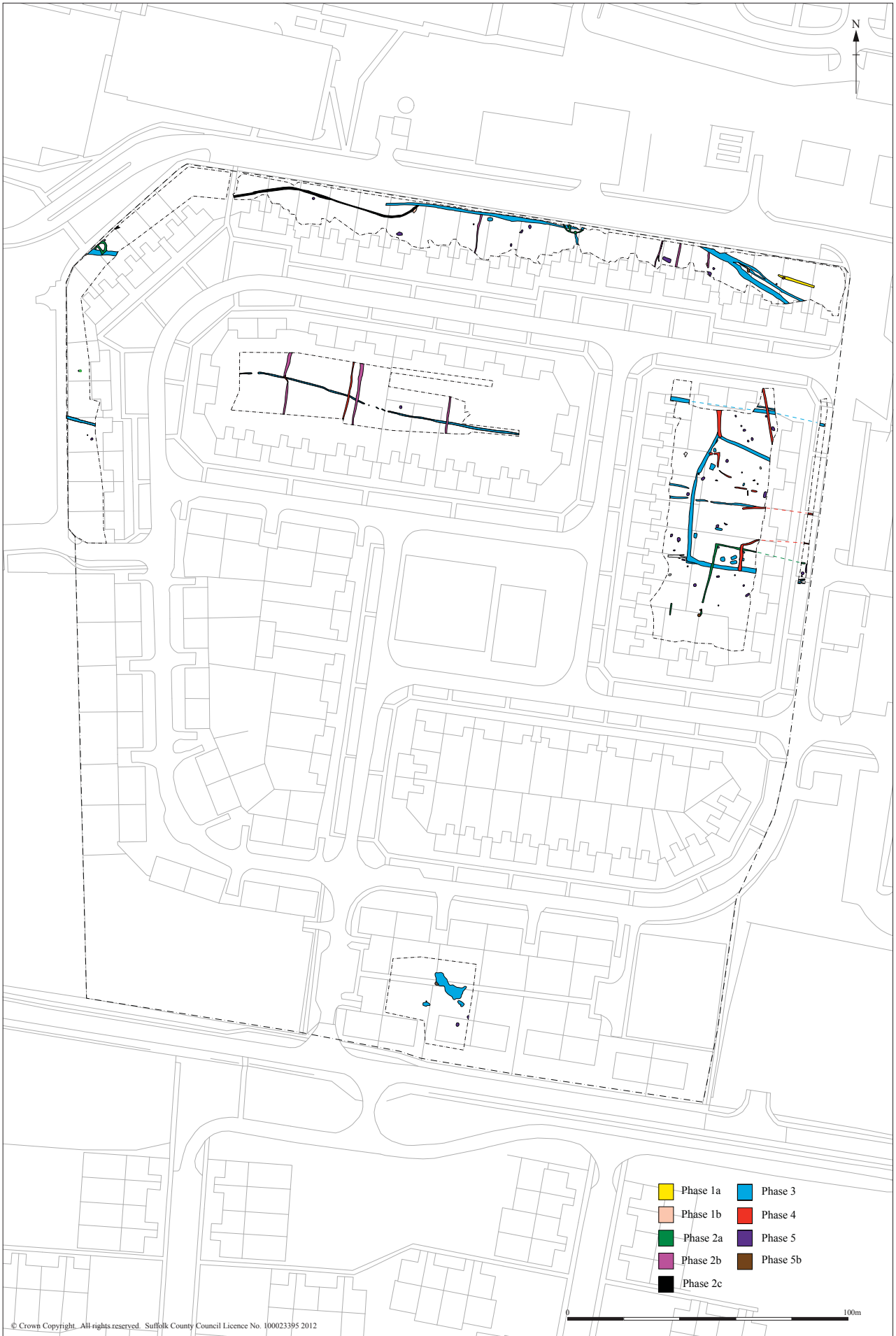


Figure 4. Windsor Circle overall excavation plan.

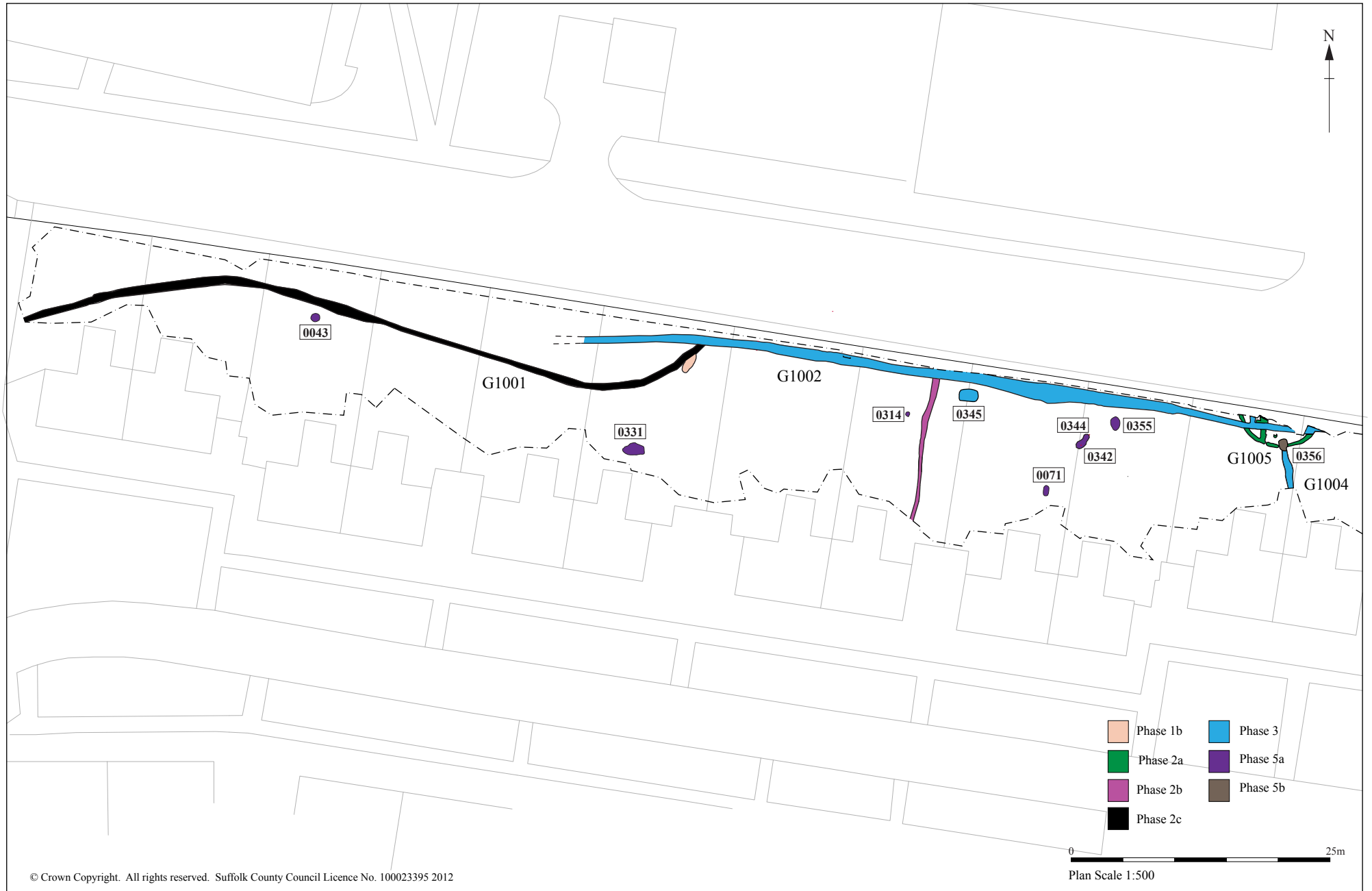


Figure 5a. Windsor Circle North Area, West side.

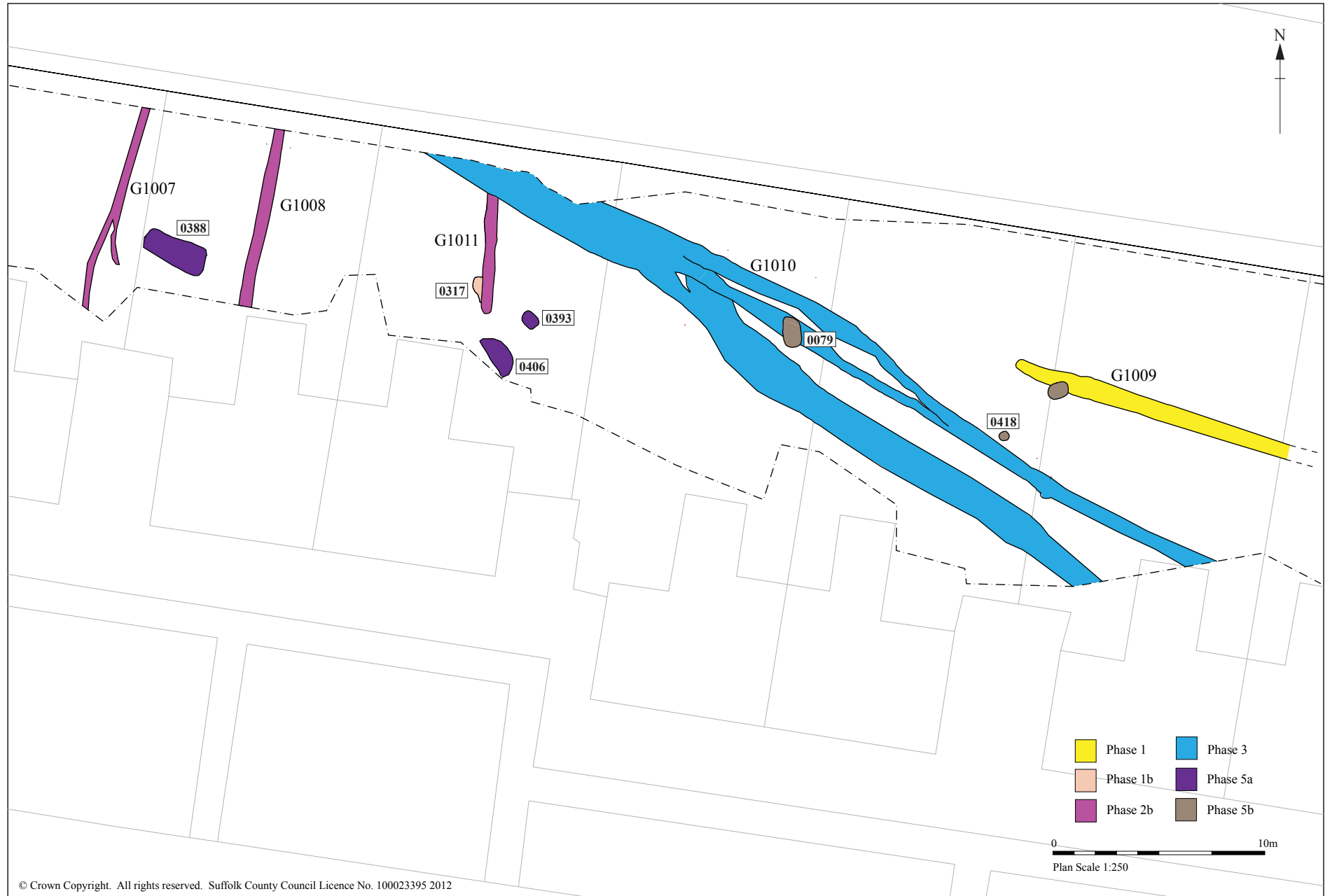


Figure 5b. Windsor Circle North Area, East side.



Figure 6. Windsor Circle East Area.

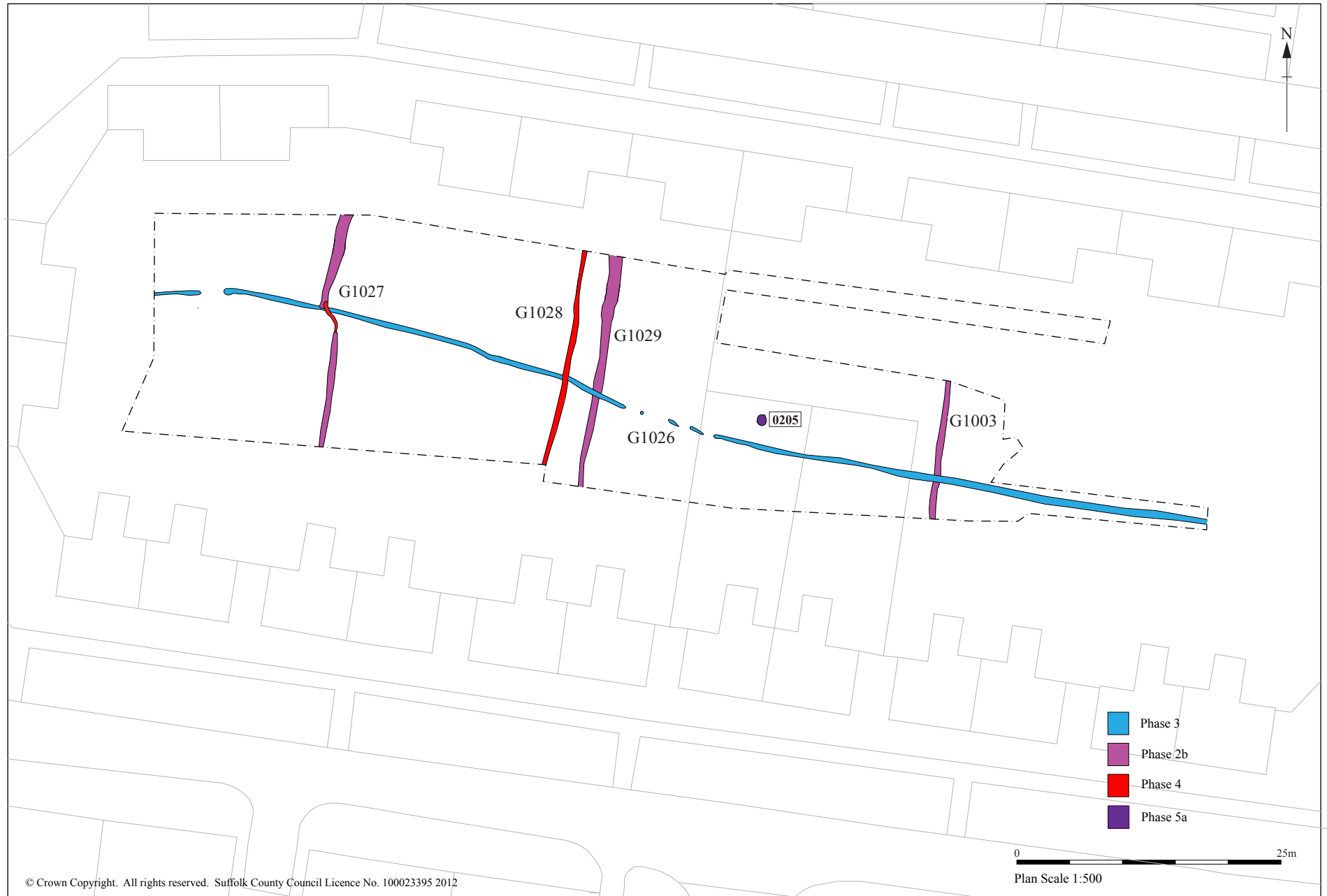


Figure 7. Windsor Circle Central Area.



Figure 8. Windsor Circle South Area.

West Area

The curvilinear ditch (G1030) recorded towards the northern end of the west area (Fig.4) was cut by a ditch G1031 (Phase 3). The feature is undated and possessed a confusing and ephemeral morphology. It is likely that this is due to some later disturbance.

Phase 2b - later Iron Age

The north-south ditches forming this phase signify an earlier division of the landscape, possibly for the droving of livestock. The ditches are all fairly narrow and shallowly surviving with no evidence of re-cuts or alteration. It is very likely that this land arrangement was replaced by the system identified in Phase 3 relatively soon after it was excavated. This interpretation is supported by the evidence recovered from G1011 (North Area) which places both this and Phase 3 within the later Iron Age period.

North Area

Phase 2b is represented by a series of roughly north-south aligned narrow ditches (G1003, G1007, G1008 and G1011) The ditches are mostly undated but were cut by ditches from Phase 3 (Fig. 5). G1011 contained two sherds of later Iron Age pottery.

Central Area

The Central Area (Fig. 7) contained three ditches (G1003, G1027 and G1029) with the north-south alignment found in Phase 2 that was also cut by a member of Phase 4 (G1026). As with the other members of the phase the ditches are undated and display no re-cuts.

G1027 consisted of two ditches that were slightly offset (Fig.8). The northern ditch is cut by Phase 4 ditch G1027 although is very shallow. It is likely that G1027 was still open and an active boundary when G1027 was excavated across its terminus in order to delineate several distinct areas.

Phase 2c - later Iron Age

This includes the sinuously planned ditch (G1001) excavated towards the western end of the North Area (Fig.5) and northern end of the West Area (Fig. 4). The ditch

contained pottery dated to the later Iron Age but displayed an earlier stratigraphic relationship with ditch G1002 (Phase 3).

The unusual shape of the ditch in plan suggests that the feature may have been excavated in order to link to pre-existing features or divide the immediate landscape into an area more suitable for the activities carried out onsite. The ditch is evidence of a different, or amended, boundary system occurring between those associated with Phases 2b and 3.

Phase 3 - later Iron Age

Phase 3 is characterised by the establishment of a larger boundary system arranged along north-west to south-east aligned ditches that contained later Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery. Many of the ditches, for example G1010 in the North Area (Pl. 2), have multiple re-cuts along the same alignment. The maintenance of these ditches highlights them as of notable significance in the landscape during the later Iron Age period.

This phase also includes a large, slightly irregular, enclosure (G1015, G1017 and G1023) that contained a large assemblage of later Iron Age pottery.

Several undated ditches are included in this phase either through possessing the same alignment or appearing to spatially respect the enclosure.

Discrete pits from the north and East Areas are included with this phase due to the presence of later, and, occasionally, latest and Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery.

East Area

The majority of features in the East Area (Fig. 6) are assigned to this phase. The ditches (G1015, G1017 and G1023) form an irregular rectangular enclosure and have at least one re-cut across their entire length. Finds recovered from G1015 and G1017 are dated to the later Iron Age. The enclosure is cut by several members of Phase 4.

Three ditches (G1019, G1020 and G1032) run across the centre of the area along an east-west alignment. The ditches are undated but all have termini that respect the

enclosure ditch (Fig. 6) suggesting that they are contemporary. Ditch G1032 is cut by ditch G1018.

Two ditches (G1024 and G1033) run roughly east-west across the north end of this area. The ditches are undated but follow the same alignment exhibited by G1019, G1020 and G1032 to the south. Both ditches are cut by members of Phase 4 which contained latest and Late Iron Age pottery.

Eleven pits (0544, 0549, 0586, 0589, 0595, 0598, 0613, 0633, 0669, 0781 and 0794) containing later Iron Age and occasionally Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery were recorded inside the enclosure ditch. A small assemblage of early prehistoric evidence was recovered from pits 0595 and 0781 in conjunction with the later pottery.

North Area

The ditches running across the North Area along a rough east west (G1002) and north-west to south-east (G1010) are assigned to this phase through the presence of later Iron Age pottery and sharing an alignment with other Phase 4 features in the East Area. G1010 has been re-cut at least three times (Pl. 2) along the same alignment suggesting that it represents a dominant feature in the later Iron Age landscape worthy of maintaining.

A small early prehistoric assemblage was recovered from ditch G1002 in the same fills as the later Iron Age pottery. It seems likely that the prehistoric pottery is residual and represents some degree of prehistoric activity present within the area that has since been lost.

A discrete pit (0345) was excavated to the south of G1002 (Fig.6). The pit contained later Iron Age pottery evidence.

Ditch G1004 contained later Iron Age pottery and has an unclear relationship with pit 0356 from G1005.

West Area

A small portion of a ditch (G1034) was recorded running across the West Area. The ditch is undated but follows the north-west to south-east alignments associated with Phase 4.

Central Area

G1026 runs north-east to south-west across the Central Area and consists of three ditches and three smaller discrete elongated pits forming a segmented entrance. The group is undated but possesses stratigraphic relationships with north-south ditches associated with Phases 2 (earlier) and 4 (later).

South Area

Two discrete pits (0923 and 0928/0930) within the South Area (Fig. 8) are assigned to this phase. The pits both produced small quantities of Iron Age pottery.

Phase 4 - later Iron Age

This phase focuses on the expansion and modifications to the Phase 3 enclosure identified in the East Area (Fig. 6).

East Area

Five ditches (G1016, G1018, G1021, G1022 and G1025) represent Phase 4 in the East Area. The ditches all cut members of Phase 3 although G1016 and G1021 contained contemporary later Iron Age pottery evidence.

G1021 and G1016 appear to have been excavated as additions to the main enclosure from Phase 3 in order to create smaller internal areas. Similarly, G1025 cuts the north-west corner of the enclosure and is likely to be a later extension to the enclosure. A complete later Iron Age pot was recovered from the terminus of ditch G1016 (0642).

Ditches G1018 and G1022 both cut members of Phase 3 and run parallel to ditches G1016 and G1025 respectively. It is possible that they were originally excavated to create driveways or entrances of some kind.

Three undated linear features (0653, 0657 and 0685) were excavated between G1021 and G1018 and may be evidence of internal partitions either between the two ditches or inside the main enclosure.

Central Area

Two undated ditches (0196 and G1028) were recorded cutting Phase 3 features in the Central Area. 0196 is notable as it appears to cut G1026 and have been excavated to join the two portions of G1027 (Fig. 7). The shallow nature of all the ditches suggests

that G1026 and G1027 were open at the same time but were partially filled, 0196 was subsequently excavated in order to completely divide the area.

Phase 5a - Undated

This phase consists of all of the undated, discrete pits excavated across all areas. Further analysis of the stratigraphic matrix and spatial relationships may determine which phases the pits belong to.

East Area

Twenty-eight undated, discrete pits were excavated across the East Area. The majority of the pits were inside the areas enclosed by the ditches from Phases 2a, 3 and suggesting that they may represent contemporary activity.

Some of the pits are clearly excavated along set alignments, for example;

- Pits 0742, 0744, 0749 and 0776 form a north-west to south-east alignment across the north end of the area.
- Pits 0134, 0647, 0716, 0719, 0721, 0723 (and 0781 from Phase 3) form another north-west to south-east alignment.

0679 and 0689 are located towards the south-west corner of the Phase 3 enclosure. It is possible that these pits were originally excavated as markers for the initial excavation of that enclosure.

North Area

Eleven undated, discrete pits (0043, 0071, 0314, 0331, 0342, 0344, 0355, 0388, 0393, 0418 and 0486) were recorded across the northern area. The pits do not form a discernable arrangement and may belong to any of the earlier phases.

West Area

Three pits (0122, 0164 and 0167) were recorded towards the northern end of the West Area (Fig. 4).

Central Area

Pit 0205 was present towards the middle of the Central Area (Fig. 7). The pit was in close proximity to and may be related to the segmented entrance formed by G1026.

South Area

This phase is represented by the undated, discrete pits 0908 and 0911.

Phase 5b

Six undated pits in the east (0515 and 0517) and north (0079, 0356 and 0426) and south (0921) areas form this phase due to later stratigraphic relationships with features assigned to Phases 2a and 3. The pits have the potential to be included in earlier phases through further investigation of the stratigraphic archive.

5 ERL 213, Quantification and assessment

5.1 Post-excavation review

The following post-excavation tasks have been completed for the stratigraphic, finds and environmental archive:

Task 01: Checking of primary paper archive

Task 02: Assessment of bulk finds

Task 03: Assessment of environmental samples

Task 04: Cataloguing of bulk finds entered onto Microsoft Access Database

Task 05: Entry of environmental sample assessment in Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets

Task 06: Assignment of group numbers to assist initial phasing and interpretation

Task 07: Group descriptions recorded as text documents

Task 08: Drawn record digitally scanned

Task 09: Completion of overall plans from individual (hand drawn), area (hand drawn and TST) and evaluation results

Task 10: Harris matrices completed for all areas.

Task 11: Initial phasing of features based on distinct pottery groups, spatial and stratigraphic relationships.

5.2 Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

Archive	Excavation: East Area	Excavation: North Area	Strip and Map areas	Excavation: South Area	Monitoring: HV cable trench	Monitoring: Trench through car park and Norwich road	Total	Format
Context register sheets	6	3	1	1	--	--	11	A4 paper
Context sheets	329 (Numbered 0501-0829)	152 (Numbered 0300-0451)	56 (numbered 0150-0211)	25 (Numbered 0907-0931)	--	--	562	A4 paper
Plan register sheet	1	2	1	--	--	--	4	A4 paper
Section drawing register sheets	2	2	--	1	1	--	6	A4 paper
Sample register sheers	2	1	--	1	--	--	4	A4 paper
Small finds register sheet	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	A4 paper
Digital photo register sheets	2	2	1	1	--	--	6	A4 paper
Black and white film register sheets	5	1	--	1	--	--	7	A4 paper
Plan drawing sheets (1:50)	13 (numbered: 8-10, 16-25)	--	6 (numbered: P1-P6)	4 (numbered: 1-4)	--	--	23	A3 drawing film
Section drawing sheets (1:20)	3 (numbered: 12,13,15)	--	2 (numbered: S1, S2)	1 (numbered: 1)	1	1	6	A3 drawing film
Plan and section drawing sheets (various scales)	4 (numbered: 6,7,11,14)	5 (numbered 1-5)	--	--	--	--	9	A3 drawing film
Trench sheet	--	--	--	--	1	2	1	A4 paper
Sample processing request form	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	A4 paper
Digital photographs	177	33	28	27	20	--	285	JPEG

Table 1. Quantification of stratigraphic archive for ERL 213

5.3 Quantification and assessment of the bulk finds archive

Compiled and edited by Cathy Tester

Introduction

Table 2 shows the quantities of finds collected during the evaluation (2010), excavation and two further phases of evaluation. A full quantification by context is included as Appendix 5.

Phase of work	Evaluation 2010		Excavation 2011		Evaluation Phase 3		South Area Evaluation		Total	
	No.	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g
Pottery	55	282	418	2960	2	36	17	92	492	3370
Fired clay (inc LW)	1	1	159	1293					160	1294
Mortar/plaster	-	-	1	1					1	1
Flint	80	457	69	924	11	16	14	74	174	1471
Burnt flint	87	179	324	865			39	122	450	1126
Burnt stone	1	250	23	7174					24	7424
Iron	-	-	1	1					1	1
HSR	-	486							-	486
Animal bone	102	298	350	827					452	1125

Table 2. Finds quantities from all phases of work at Windsor Circle

Pottery

In total, 492 sherds of pottery weighing 3370 were collected from the excavation and evaluation phases of work. It ranges in date from prehistoric to Middle Anglo-Saxon but the majority of it is prehistoric. The quantities by broad ceramic period are shown in Table 3 below and the full catalogue by context is in Appendix 6.

Ceramic period	No	Wt
Prehistoric	470	3173
Roman	21	166
Saxon	1	31
Total	492	3370

Table 3. Pottery by period

Prehistoric pottery

Sarah Percival

Introduction

A total of 455 sherds weighing 3088g was collected from thirty-eight excavated contexts excluding fifteen sherds from the southern area. Pottery of a range of prehistoric dates was found, from earlier Neolithic to later Iron Age (Table 4). The pottery is mostly highly fragmentary and abraded with the exception of a single complete later Iron Age jar

which is very well preserved. A little over 4% of the pottery was recovered from samples (124g). One sherd, weighing 1g is probably prehistoric but is too small to be identified with certainty.

Pot date	No	% No	Wt (g)	% wt
Earlier Neolithic	30	6.7	134	3.4
Later Neolithic early Bronze Age	12	2.78	31	0.8
Later Iron Age	389	85.5	2796	90.5
Latest Iron Age	23	5.1	126	3.2
Not closely datable	1	0.2	1	0.0
Total	455	100.0	3088	100.0

Table 4. Prehistoric pottery quantities by period

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group guidelines for analysis and publication (PCRG 1997). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue 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 inclusion type: F representing flint, G representing grog and Q representing quartz. Vessel form was recorded: R representing rim sherds, B representing base sherds, D representing decorated sherds and U representing undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted (not including the Southern area evaluation).

Earlier Neolithic

A small assemblage of thirty earlier Neolithic sherds weighing 134g was collected from four features. The sherds are all flint-tempered in fine to medium/coarse fabrics with dense, angular, burnt-flint inclusions. The majority of the sherds came from the fills of two pits. Pit 0035, Trench 20 contained twenty-five sherds weighing 89g and included the rims from two plain bowls. Pit 0905 contained a rim and body sherd, also from an undecorated bowl. Single undecorated body sherds were found in the fills of ditches 0337 and 0781. The pottery belongs to a group of undecorated, round based bowls with elaborated rims dating to sometime around or just after 3650BC (Gibson 2002, 72).

Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age

The small later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age assemblage comprised twelve sherds of Beaker weighing 31g. The assemblage is extremely scrappy and poorly preserved but includes sherds from a stepped base found in pit 0043, a decorated body sherd with

incised chevrons from ditch 0361 and an undecorated body sherd from pit 0598. The sherds are in two fabrics, one with grog and flint inclusions and the second with sand, grog and sparse flint. The sherds compare well with those from previous archaeological investigations at Liberty Village which fall typologically towards the mid- to late Beaker period (2600–1800 BC) and are almost certainly of domestic origin.

Later Iron Age

The later Iron Age assemblage comprised 389 sherds weighing 2796g. The pottery is comparable to and broadly contemporary with a significant assemblage of 2733 sherds found during previous excavations at Liberty Village at the adjacent site of ERL147 (Percival 2012), and again suggests significant occupation at the site during the 4th–1st centuries BC. A minimum of thirteen vessels were represented within the assemblage including a complete burnished jar. Seven fabrics were identified. All are sandy with various additional inclusions including flint, large rounded quartz grains, elongated voids and mica. A range of vessel forms are present, principally medium jars with rounded rims, concave necks and high rounded shoulders. Slack-shouldered jars with short upright or slightly everted rounded or pointed rims were also found. No decorated sherds were present, but the pottery is well-finished with burnished or highly smoothed surfaces.

In contrast to the pottery from ERL147 (Percival 2012), deposition of the later Iron Age pottery at ERL213 is predominantly in ditches which produced 59% of the pottery (1637g) including the complete vessel placed in the terminus of ditch 0642. The remainder of the sherds were found in the fills of fifteen pits. With the exception of the complete vessel, the pottery is fragmentary and no sherds join to make complete profiles. The nature of the assemblage suggests that the pottery was not deposited straight after it had been broken, but was more likely to have been stored for some time before deposition, causing the admixing and fragmentation of the sherds which has been observed. The presence of the complete vessel is highly unusual, particularly within a ditch fill, and is unprecedented within contemporary pottery from Liberty Village assemblages (Percival 2012).

Latest Iron Age

A total of twenty-three sherds weighing 126g are of fine, sandy-micaceous fabrics typical of the latest Iron Age, the 2nd to 1st centuries BC. The sherds are hand-made and include a rim from a single vessel, a jar with beaded rim, concave neck and sinuous

profile retrieved from ditch terminus 0583. The pottery almost certainly represents a continuation of the later Iron Age occupation of the site.

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Twenty-one sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery weighing 166g and with an Estimated vessel equivalent (Eve) of 0.36 based on three measurable rims were collected from three East Area pits, a North Area ditch and from one South Area hollow.

The LIA -ROM pottery was quantified by count, weight and Eve. Fabric, form and form element were recorded and decoration and surface treatment were also noted. Fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk Roman fabric series. Wheel-made Late Iron Age and Roman wares were classified using the Pakenham type series (unpublished) which is standard for all SCC excavations but is supplemented by Hawkes and Hull's (1947) *Camulodunum* typology when necessary. SCCAS pottery recording forms were used and the data was input onto an Access database table. The full catalogue entries by context are included in the pottery Appendix 6.

Three local and regional coarseware fabrics were recorded, Grog-tempered wares (GROG), Black-surfaced wares (BSW) and Sandy grey wares (GX). All of them could be classified as early – from the first half of the 1st century AD. Fabric BSW and GX have 'Romanising' fabrics that contain grog and burnt organic material and some pieces appear to be hand-made and wheel-finished. They are thought to represent a stage in the transition from the hand-made potting traditions of the late pre-Roman Iron Age and may be contemporary with the very latest hand-made Late Iron Age pottery.

Diagnostic sherds are from carinated cordoned vessels. One in the grog-tempered fabric which appears to be hand-made and wheel-finished was found in association with later Iron Age pottery and triangular loomweight fragments in pit 0791 (0792).

The wheel-made assemblage has a very narrow date range, and some of it appears to overlap the hand-made latest Iron Age pottery assemblage. In some pit contexts sherds from hand-made and wheel-made vessels appear to be contemporary in use and deposition implying a possibly continuous sequence of occupation of this site from the later Iron Age to the first half of the 1st century AD.

The assemblage is similar in its narrow date range to other nearby sites at ERL 089 and the recent excavation at ERL 217.

Post-Roman pottery

A single stamped bodysherd of Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery (SIPS) was unstratified (0001) in Evaluation Trench 02. The stamp motif has a circular field with lines criss-crossing at right angles.

Fired clay

Cathy Tester

Introduction and methodology

A total of 160 fragments of fired clay weighing 1294g were collected from twelve contexts in ten features. There were no concentrations in any feature. The fired clay was quantified by count and weight by context, fabric and type. The presence and form of surface fragments and impressions were recorded. General fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk Fired Clay fabric series which is based on the coarseness of the matrix and the main inclusions present. Data was input into an Access database and the catalogue by context is in Appendix 7. The quantities by feature type are summarised in Table 5 and the functional types in Table 6 below.

Type	No	Wt
Cremation	1	6
Curvilinear	24	519
Ditch	32	386
Pit	103	383
Total	160	1294

Table 5. Fired clay quantities by feature type

Type	No	Wt
?Structural	27	352
Structural	20	330
Loomweight & poss. object	18	386
Uncertain	95	226
Total	160	1294

Table 6. Fired clay quantities by type

Functional types were recorded and more than half of the total weight was classified as structural or 'possibly' structural. A further 17% was uncertain being small and abraded with no diagnostic features. The average non-loomweight fragment weighs 6.3g.

Of particular note are three fired clay objects, loomweights, which accounted for almost a third (30%) of the assemblage weight. Fragments of two Iron Age triangular loomweights and another possible loomweight were recovered from two contexts, curvilinear feature 0728 (0727) and pit 0791 (0792) which were also found to contain later Iron Age pottery.

Mortar

Ten fragments (45g) of modern concrete with angular flint inclusions were recovered from the non-floating residues of environmental Sample 20 which was taken from ditch 0337 (0339). A small fragment of mortar (1g) was from the upper fill of square pit 0586 (0587). Both are modern contaminants.

Struck flint

Sarah Bates

Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context in an Access database table. The material was classified by *category* and *type* (see archive) and quantified by count. Numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge-fractured pieces were recorded as well as the condition of the flint. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary. The assemblage is listed by context in Appendix 8.

The assemblage

149 struck flints were recovered during the evaluation and excavation of the site. The flint is summarised in Table 7 and listed by context in Appendix 1. The flint is mostly mid to dark grey and cortex, where present, is often rough textured and dirty greyish white in colour. Some patinated surfaces or cortex show that weathered flint was used as a raw material. A few pieces are patinated pale grey or white but compared to material from some of the other Eriswell sites (e.g. ERL 148 and ERL 203) the material is mostly unpatinated.

Type	No
Core fragment	1
Discoidal core	2
Single platform blade core	1
Single platform flake core	2
Tested piece	1
Struck fragment	1
Shatter	18
Flake	56
Blade-like flake	2
Blade	6
Spall	41
Chip	8
Scraper	1
Side scraper	1
Piercer	2
Serrated flake	1
Retouched fragment	1
Utilised blade	3
Utilised flake	1
Total	149

Table 7. Summary of the flint

Two irregular single platform flake cores are present; a small squat fragment has long flakes from one edge 0668 and a fairly thin fragment, with cortex covering one face, has had flakes struck from its other side (0792). A long pointed cortical fragment has had blade type removals from one side (0535) and a quite small discoidal core, with one face more steeply flaked from its edges, is patinated (0755). There is also a core fragment which is patinated a slightly glossy light grey and is probably from a quite regular flake core (0655), and a chunky cortical fragment which has been 'tested' as a core (0444). Eighteen shattered fragments were found. A few of these might be unrelated to flint-working (e.g. thermally fractured) but most of them are probably debris from knapping.

Fifty-eight unmodified flakes, two of them small blade-like pieces, were found. The flakes are mostly quite small and they are predominantly irregular hard hammer struck pieces although several appear to have come from regular multi platform cores. Many flakes are squat or broad in shape. Sixty-nine percent of the flakes have cortex. There is no evidence for the careful preparation of core platforms and twelve flakes have cortex on their platforms. Most of the flakes are sharp or quite sharp although edge damage is present on some flakes. Three flakes from one context (0546) refit to each other.

Forty-one spalls and eight small chips are also present; they include some very tiny fragments that were recovered from soil samples.

A quite neat and small D-shaped/ovate flake has cortical 'backing of its straight right side and is retouched to a scraper around its left side (0101). A slightly larger D-shaped fragment has a steeply retouched convex side with possible edge utilisation and a long blade-like removal (possible trimming) from along its reverse of this edge. A jagged point at one end may also have been utilised (0511*). The piece has been classified as a combination tool. It was probably used as a scraper but may have functioned as a point and, possibly, the opposite side might have been used as a knife although it is rather irregular.

Two piercers were found at this site. A small long triangular piece has cortex on its quite wide platform and slight retouch or use of its distal point (0034), and a small flake with a relatively thin flat proximal part has a very narrow protruding distal end which has been used as a blunt point (0668*).

A thin blade-like flake is retouched to a serrated edge along its right side (0034*).

A small thin fragment from a regular thin flake has neat semi abrupt retouch around its surviving edge and must be a broken tool of some kind, possibly a knife (0668). It is on smooth flint which is patinated very pale grey with a concentric darker grey area and stripe at one end. Three utilised blades and a utilised fake are also present. Two of the blades and the flake are neat pieces.

Distribution

Eighty flints were found during the evaluation of the site and the remaining sixty-nine pieces were recovered during its further excavation. Most of the flint was recovered from the fills of pits (Table 8). Material was also found in linear features, a post-hole, a probable tree hole and an unstratified context.

Feature type	No of flints
Pit	110
Ditch	32
Gully	2
Post-hole	2
Curvilinear feature	1
?Tree hole	1
Unstratified	1

Table 8. Flint by feature type

Discussion

The flint from ERL 213 consists predominantly of fairly irregular hard hammer struck debitage. There are only a small number of retouched tools and these are not particularly diagnostic or datable. The irregular nature of much of the flint suggests, however, that much of it is of later Neolithic or later date. A few pieces which are more regular and/or blade-like in form may be of earlier date. Some of these were found with earlier Neolithic pottery in one pit and it is noted that pottery and flint which was likely to be of this same date came from another pit 0905 which was excavated during final monitoring at ERL 213 and that a small number of earlier type flints were found residually at both ERL 148 and ERL 203. A range of ceramic dates, from earlier Neolithic to Iron Age is provided at assessment for the material found during the main evaluation and excavation at ERL 213 with most of the pottery being of later Iron Age date. It is possible that lithic material of a similar date range is present. Much of the flint is quite sharp and refitting pieces were identified in one context suggesting its contemporaneity with the Iron Age pottery recovered from the excavated feature. Most of the flint is unpatinated and this is in common with material from one or two of the other Liberty Village sites although, at the present site, a few patinated flints also occur.

Three pieces have been highlighted (*) in the text and are provisionally selected for illustration:

Struck flint	Context Number
Combination tool	0511
Piercer	0668
Serrated flake	0034

Table 9. Table of worked flint suitable for illustration

Heat-altered stone

Cathy Tester

In total 474 fragments of heat-altered flint and other stone weighing 8550g were collected. The material was quantified by count and weight by context. Flint and other stone were recorded separately and brief notes were made of the stone types, the degree of heat alteration and possible function of the material. A catalogue of the heat-altered stone is included in Appendix 9.

A total of 450 fragments of heat-altered flint weighing 1126g was collected from thirty-six evaluation and excavation contexts and includes material from the non-floating residues recovered during environmental sample processing. Most of the burnt flint can be described as 'pot-boiler' debris, grey-white and fire cracked, often regarded as an indication of prehistoric activity but there were no concentrations and it was dispersed amongst thirty-two features which include ditches and gullies, pits and postholes. The distribution by feature type is shown in Table 8.

Type	Number	Weight (g)
Ditch	297	759
Gully	27	18
Pit	80	252
Posthole	46	97
Total	450	1126

Table 10. Heat-altered flint distribution by feature type

Twenty-four fragments of other fire-altered stone weighing 7424g were collected from ten contexts, all pits in the East Area. The stone was identified as sandstone and quartzite pebbles or fragments of pebbles. The majority of the pieces are fire-reddened and cracked. It may have the same functions as the flint pot-boilers but quartzite has better thermal qualities and higher resistance to fracture and sometimes there is an element of selection for those qualities. Again, as with the flint there are no particular concentrations, the largest group (six complete pebbles weighing 3823g) were collected from pit 0633 (0635).

Iron nail

An iron nail fragment (1g) found with modern mortar and probably modern as well was recovered from ditch 0337 (0339).

5.4 Quantification and assessment of the small finds archive

Only a single artefact from the Windsor Circle development area was assigned a small find number.

Prehistoric

Sue Anderson

A calcined fragment of a pierced bone pin (SF1001) was recovered from amongst the cremated bone in Cremation 0043 (0046) in Evaluation Trench 24. It comprises part of the joint (proximal) end of a small mammal or bird bone which had been pierced close to the broad end with a hole c.2mm in diameter. The joint end is broken through the hole, but would have been c.14mm wide, and the shaft tapers to 7mm wide at the broken end (the surviving length is 33mm). The bone appears to have been split longitudinally and the rear edges have been polished, resulting in a shallow convex section to the shaft.

5.5 Quantification and assessment of the environmental evidence

Human cremated remains

Sue Anderson

Introduction

This report examines the cremated bone collected from a cremation burial of probable Bronze Age date. Bone was recovered from the lowest fill, 0046, of a cremation pit 0043 in Evaluation Trench 24 which contained fragments of Bronze Age Collared Urn.

Methodology

Bone was collected as a bulk sample 4 and hand sieved, the entire residue being retained as a single group. The bone was sorted into six categories: skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb, unidentified long bone, and unidentified. Where larger fragments could be identified and fitted together, these have been counted and weighed by bone type. All fragment groups were weighed to the nearest tenth of a gram. Measurements of maximum skull and long bone fragment sizes were also recorded. Observations were made, where possible, concerning bone colour, age, sex, dental remains and pathology.

Identifiable fragments were noted. Methods used follow the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA 1980) and McKinley (1994 and 2004).

The cremated bone

Table 11 shows the bone weights and percentages of identified bone from the burial, and the proportions of bone identified from the four areas of the skeleton (skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb). Expected proportions are provided based on McKinley (1994, 6).

Area	Total no.	Total wt/g	% identified	% expected
Skull	119	112.0	28.5	18.2
Axial	72	30.5	7.8	20.6
Upper limb	37	53.4	13.6	23.1
Lower limb	113	196.7	50.1	38.1
Total identified	341	392.6	82.4	-
Unidentified limb	41	17.0		
Unidentified	-	66.6		
Total	-	476.2		-

Table 11. Percentages of identified fragments out of total identified to area of skeleton

This shows that leg and skull fragments are considerably over-represented amongst the identifiable material, and that other areas of the skeleton are under-represented. It has been suggested that 'it should be possible to recognise any bias in the collection of certain areas of the body after cremation' (McKinley 1994, 6). However, there is also some bias inherent in the identification of elements, as fragments of skull, femur and tibia are often more readily identifiable than other limb bones. These figures therefore can only provide a rough guide to what was originally collected. However, in this case a very high proportion (82.4%) of the bone is identifiable, and it is likely that much of the central area of the torso and parts of the upper arms are missing. Also, fragments of toe and finger bones often survive intact in better preserved burials such as this one, and these are not present here, nor are there any fragments of tooth roots. This may indicate poor collection of the remains following cremation, rather than loss of material after burial, although the possibility that the remains were lost through truncation also has to be considered.

Identifiable pieces in this group include cranial vault including a large part of the occipital and adjoining fragments of temporal/parietal, part of the left zygoma, the left frontal supra-orbital, pieces of cervical vertebrae including the posterior arch of the atlas, ribs, ilium, fragments of all major long bones and a few fragments of metatarsals.

There is no evidence to suggest that the bone from this burial represents more than one individual.

No joint surfaces have survived so it is not possible to determine the stage of epiphyseal fusion, but the bones are adult-sized. There is some evidence of osteophyte formation on the few fragments of cervical vertebral body, probably suggesting that the individual was a mature or older adult. Fragments of the occipital and frontal indicate that the skull was not particularly robust, and it is suggested that the individual was possibly female.

The total weight is low for a well preserved cremation burial. Mays (1998, Table 11.2) notes that the combusted weight of an adult skeleton has a mean of around 1500g for females and 2300g for males. The quantity of bone in this assemblage therefore represents only about a third of the combusted weight of an average adult female skeleton.

The degree of fragmentation is not high, as reflected in the identification rate of 82.4%. The largest fragment of skull is 50mm across, although three joining pieces measured 70mm across. The largest individual piece of long bone is a fragment of anterior tibia, 68mm long, although joining fragments of fibula measure 110mm in length and joining fragments of femur and tibia also produced higher lengths of 82mm and 105mm respectively. Much of the unidentified fraction is less than 20mm in length.

The majority of bone in this group is fully oxidised and cream to white in colour, although some pieces of skull and a few unidentified fragments of cancellous bone are blue-grey in colour. The presence of a high proportion of white bone indicates firing temperatures in excess of c.600°C (McKinley 2004, 11). Mays (1999, 159) noted that the uniformity of colour in the surviving bone at Ardleigh in Essex may be due to poor survival of less well cremated bone, and this may also be true in the sandy subsoil of Eriswell.

Summary and discussion

The burial contained the remains of one individual, a mature or older adult female. The total weight of bone indicates that the skeleton was incomplete. This may be due to poor collection following the cremation ritual, poor preservation of incompletely

cremated material following burial, a token collection of remains for burial, or severe truncation. The latter is a possibility given that the remains of the Collared Urn presumably associated with this burial were recovered only from the upper fill of the pit, suggesting that the urn was inverted and some of its contents may have fallen into the lowest fill of the pit, whilst the remainder were removed with the rest of the urn at a later date.

Radiocarbon dating

A femur fragment (0046) produced a radiocarbon age of 3395 ± 35 BP. [Sample code SUERC 36384]. This produced calibrated age ranges of 1741-1663 calBC (60.9% probability) and 1775-1608 calBC (95.4% probability).

Animal bone

Julie Curl

The assemblage

In total, 452 pieces of animal bone weighing 1125g were recovered from twenty-nine contexts from twelve pits, ten ditches, a gully, a posthole and a cremation. The bone is in poor condition and in quite a fragmentary state, which may be due largely to the age of the material and poor soil conditions. It is very deteriorated and was found in contexts with associated later Iron Age and early Roman finds dates. The bone was quantified by count and weight by context and the quantities are included in Appendix 5. The quantities by feature type are summarised in Table 12 below.

Feature type	Number	Weight (g)
Cremation	5	21
Ditch & gullies	170	696
Pits	276	383
Posthole	1	25
Total	452	1125

Table 12. Animal bone distribution by feature type.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Plant macrofossils from the excavation

Introduction and method statement

An evaluation of the samples from an initial phase of evaluation at Windsor Circle (Fosberry 2011) showed that a low density of plant macrofossils were present within the features, although most were very poorly preserved. A further nineteen samples (see below) were taken from pits, ditches and other discrete features which were recorded during the main phase of excavations at Windsor Circle. Few of the contexts were closely dated, but most were probably of later Iron Age date, although some Bronze Age and Roman activity is also recorded in the near vicinity.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS staff with the flots being collected in a 300 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 in Appendix 10 (Table 1). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants, including fibrous and woody root and stem fragments, seeds, arthropod remains and fungal sclerotia, were present throughout, forming a major component of a number of the assemblages studied.

Results

Cereal grains and/or seeds of common weeds and grassland herbs were recorded in all but three of the samples, although frequently as single specimens within an assemblage. Preservation was generally very poor, with a large number of the grains and some seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. In addition, the high density of modern contaminants within many of the assemblages almost certainly indicated that most, if not all contexts had suffered some degree of bioturbation.

Barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring marginally more frequently than barley. Individual spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases were present within two assemblages (Samples 2 (pit 0586) and 4 (pit [0595]) and Sample 2 also contained small fragments of oat (*Avena sp.*) awn. The

majority of grains were either too fragmentary or too poorly preserved for close identification.

Weed seeds occurred infrequently, although the assemblages from Samples 2, 5 (pit 0613) and 13 (pit 0794) did contain slightly higher densities of material. The taxa noted were all of common segetal weeds and grassland herbs including brome (*Bromus sp.*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and dock (*Rumex sp.*). A single possible sedge (*Carex sp.*) nutlet, recorded within the assemblage from Sample 12 (pit 0781) was the only wetland plant macrofossil recorded. Small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell were noted within two samples. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout along with fragments of charred root or stem, some of which were clearly identifiable as heather (*Ericaceae*) stem.

Black porous and tarry fragments were also present throughout. Whilst some were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures, other pieces were very hard and brittle, possibly indicating that they were byproducts of the combustion of coal, fragments of which were also recorded within all but one assemblage. It is assumed that the coal was largely derived from the use of steam implements on the land in recent times. Bone fragments, many of which were burnt or calcined, were also recorded within eleven assemblages along with small pieces of burnt or fired clay.

Discussion

Because of the paucity of the assemblages and the unknown degree of bioturbation, it has proved difficult to interpret this material with any degree of certainty. However, four samples (2, 5, 12 and 13) do stand out as containing higher densities of material, which may be indicative of specific on-site activities, although even here, the taphonomy of the assemblages is potentially complex. The following factors are the main points of interest:

Cereals are present in all four samples, and although in all instances the assemblages are grain dominant (possibly suggesting the presence of cereals derived from batches of prime grain) it should be noted that the extreme temperatures at which the materials

were clearly burnt would have destroyed many, if not all of the more delicate chaff elements present within the original assemblages.

That a small number of chaff elements (i.e. the spelt glume bases and oat awn fragments) do survive may be testimony to the presence of a low density of cereal processing waste. This hypothesis is almost certainly supported by the presence of seeds of segetal weeds, which are another common component of batches of processing waste.

However, it is unclear whether these assemblages represent material in a primary context, i.e. burnt waste from on site processing, or whether they may be derived from waste material which was used as fuel in either a domestic or funerary context. Contemporary parallels exist for both practises, and in both instances, the material would have been burnt at a high temperature (possibly on repeated occasions in the domestic context), thereby explaining the poor condition of the remains.

All four assemblages also contain seeds of grassland herbs and (in all but Sample 13) pieces of heather stem, all of which could either be derived from burnt flooring or bedding materials or from dried herbage used as kindling or fuel.

Bone fragments, including some burnt pieces, are also a common component of the assemblages, although even here, it is impossible to discern whether they are derived from a domestic or funerary context.

Despite these complexities, when compared to the sparse assemblage from the one possible cremation which was identified during excavation (Sample 6 from pit 0619), these four assemblages are far more diverse, possibly indicating that they are derived from multiple sources and not just from one specific activity.

The remaining assemblages contain an insufficient density of material for any close interpretation of function, although in most instances it is assumed that some scattered or wind-dispersed refuse is present, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

Conclusions

In summary, it is all but impossible to interpret the majority of the recovered assemblages as plant remains are scarce, those which survive are poorly preserved and many, if not all of the contexts have been disturbed since deposition occurred. However, it would appear most likely that small quantities of cereal processing waste are recorded within at least four of the assemblages, although in all four instances this material has been mixed with remains from other sources.

Plant macrofossils from Evaluation Phase 3 (0906) are in the report (Craven 2011).

Plant macrofossils and other remains from the Southern Area

Introduction and method statement

The excavation at the Southern Area of Windsor Circle recorded a limited number of features of probable prehistoric date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and five from context range 0916-0929 were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS staff and the flots were collected in a 300 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 in Appendix 10 (Table 2). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern seeds and fibrous/woody roots were also present within all five assemblages.

Results

Although small, (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and extremely limited in composition, the five assemblages are of note, largely because of their similarities. The samples from pits 0923, 0921, 0911, 0928 and 0930 (Samples 21 to 25 respectively) all contain moderate to high densities of charcoal/charred wood, much of which is either very comminuted or extremely flaked. A large number of fragments are also fringed with tarry droplets and both these, and the overall condition of the material, are suggestive of very high temperatures of combustion. In addition, the assemblages also contain varying densities of tarry 'dribbles' and concretions, which again are almost certainly derived from the extremely high temperature combustion of wood or other organic remains.

Other materials are very scarce; very poorly preserved cereal grains, including a single specimen of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) are present within all but Sample 23, and although bone fragments are recorded, their condition indicates that they may be intrusive within the pit fills.

6 ERL 213, Potential of the data for further work

6.1 Realisation of the Original Research Aims

ORA 1: Define the extent of the surviving archaeological horizons towards the northern, eastern and southern portions of the development area through full excavation

Realisation: The extent of the archaeological horizon existing within the northern, eastern and southern portions of the development area has been fully defined and investigated through excavation methodologies according to the brief and specification.

ORA 2: Define the extent of the surviving archaeological horizons towards the central and western areas of the development area through archaeological strip and map methodology.

Realisation: The extent of the archaeological horizon existing within the central and western areas existing strip and map methodologies according to the brief and specification.

ORA 3: Assess any further Early Bronze Age cremations/burials within the development area in order to aid the understanding of funerary practices and their evolution during the prehistoric period.

Realisation: A single cremation, not placed in a vessel, was identified in the northern area. No further prehistoric funerary evidence was identified although Bronze Age cremations are commonly found either singularly or sparsely arranged across large areas.

ORA 4: Identify possible relationships between settlement, field systems and burial monuments (barrows, ring ditches etc) during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and later periods.

Realisation: The lack of early prehistoric features across all areas, beyond the cremation, prevents discerning a reliable relationship between funerary, settlement and field systems during this period. Occasional pieces of residual early prehistoric pottery

were recovered in conjunction with later Iron Age sherds from ditch G1002 suggesting that some degree of activity was taking place onsite during both periods.

ORA 5: Assess the extent and scale of later Iron Age boundary systems across the development area in regards to a growing agrarian economy. Particularly with reference to analysis of the palynological sequences and preserved macrofossils present within archaeological deposits.

Realisation: The excavation identified three boundary systems across the defined areas of excavation. The nature of the boundaries suggest an initial north-south aligned system of narrow, shallow ditches that is superseded by a larger scale system based upon a north-west to south-east alignment. Elements of this second system exhibit multiple recuts indicating that efforts were undertaken to maintain the system. The final system clearly iterates on the preceding boundaries with evidence of adaptation and segregation to the existing ditches.

Further analysis of the palynological and macrofossil evidence may help discern the changes in the local economy through the existence of each boundary system.

ORA 6: Investigate the surviving archaeological horizon for evidence of economic and social change during the Late Iron Age and Iron Age-Roman transition.

Realisation: The evolution of the boundary systems forming a large portion of the identified archaeological horizon possibly reflect an agrarian economy that required an initial, simple boundary arrangement that subsequently increased in scale until a more substantial, organised boundary system was required. Further economic growth or diversification may also have instigated the later amendments.

6.2 General discussion of potential

The identification of a network of later Iron Age ditches and a Bronze Age cremation has considerable research potential to contribute to the ongoing study of the archaeology of RAF Lakenheath, in particular contributing to:

- Examining the Bronze Age funerary landscape
- Plotting the known field systems, and interpreting the changes in land divisions across different archaeological periods.
- Establishing the extent of both early and later prehistoric horizons identified in nearby sites.

- Studies of the later Iron Age pottery
- Examining evidence for the agrarian economy in the later Iron Age period

There is good potential for interpreting the later Iron Age activity on the site and examining it alongside the later Iron Age pit group at ERL 147. Together these will enhance the regional study of later Iron Age occupation sites.

6.3 Potential of the stratigraphic archive and recommendations for further work

The combination of the evaluation and excavation results with additional analysis of sites adjacent to the Windsor Circle development area has good potential of tracking several boundary systems known to have previously enclosed large areas across the airbase and influence the evolution of the landscape throughout the late Iron Age. Undated ditches have the potential to be more accurately phased through comparison with previous excavations in the area that contain a continuation of these linear systems.

Numerous undated features are present (both discrete and with later/earlier stratigraphic relationships) on the site but with further examination, many can be phased through their morphology, spatial arrangement or alignments.

The spatial arrangement of the features forming the recorded horizon combined with the stratigraphical evidence provides good potential for identifying more detailed phases of activity across the site which may reflect larger changes across the landscape as a whole. For example the dominance of an east-west aligned ditch system in Phase 3 with apparent amendments and alterations occurring in Phase 4.

Further work

Detailed analysis of the stratigraphic record with reference to nearby sites forms the primary aspect of the further work required. Currently the recorded archaeological horizon has been divided into five phases and four sub phases. Closer analysis of current groups and phases will be integral to creating a clear overview of the sites and its relevance to the local landscape. A more accurate site sequence will also be created

through this analysis, allowing a better understanding of the site both as a single project and as part of the ongoing work across RAF Lakenheath.

Once the site sequence and phasing is finalised the finds and environmental data require integration into the report and comparison with local parallels to aid interpretation of the function of individual features and the function of the site as a whole. The comparisons should focus on land division and utilisation across Lakenheath and Eriswell during the later prehistoric period and will reference the study of field systems currently being carried out as part of the RAF publication program.

6.4 Potential of the bulk finds data and recommendations for further work

Introduction

The evaluation and excavation phases of work at Windsor Circle produced a modest assemblage of finds in a limited range of materials that are mainly prehistoric and mostly belong to the later Iron Age, although earlier Bronze Age and Neolithic material is also present.

All of the finds have been quantified by count and weight by contexts and more detailed catalogues have been made for the pottery by period, the fired clay, struck flint, heat-altered stone, human bone and environmental samples. These finds have the potential to contribute to the overall studies of the various finds classes being undertaken as part of the overall publication project, and to address research aims relevant to the nature of Iron Age settlement, artefact studies and the basis for the rural economy.

All classes of finds should be summarised in a full archive report which can later be edited for any future publication requirements. All finds types should be considered by their spatial and temporal distribution once context and phasing is finalised and plans are available. They should also be considered in terms of their broader context and in relation to other associated finds material from nearby sites.

Detailed recommendations by finds categories are shown under the relevant headings below.

Pottery

Prehistoric pottery

Introduction

The prehistoric pottery from ERL 213 Windsor Circle includes material from all of the major prehistoric periods from the earlier Neolithic through until the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA). The earlier prehistoric pottery is comparable to that found at nearby ERL143, 147 and 148 and forms a useful addition to that assemblage. Of particular interest is the later prehistoric pottery with the unusual complete Iron Age vessel. The deposition of the later Iron Age pottery within ditch fills and in particular, in ditch *termini* contrasts with deposition patterns observed within broadly contemporary occupation of other areas of Liberty Village. A full investigation of the deposition of the Iron Age pottery is therefore required.

Earlier Neolithic

A full description of the fabrics and forms is required along with a discussion of local and regional parallels incorporating any refined phasing or absolute dating. No Earlier Neolithic sherds require illustration.

Later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age (LNEBA)

A full description of the fabrics and forms is required along with a discussion of local and regional parallels incorporating any refined phasing or absolute dating. No later Neolithic/earlier Bronze Age sherds require illustration.

Later Iron Age

A full description of the fabrics and forms is required, along with a discussion of local and regional parallels. The assemblage should be compared with the large pit assemblage from ERL147 with which it is broadly contemporary or perhaps just a little later. Within Suffolk, the assemblage is also comparable to that from West Stow, dated by Edward Martin to the 3rd–1st centuries BC (Martin 1989, 68) and with the slightly later pottery from Burgh, (Martin 1988). Twelve sherds are suggested for illustration and a full illustrated sherd catalogue is required.

Latest Iron Age

A full description of the fabrics and forms is required along with a discussion of local and regional parallels incorporating any refined phasing or absolute dating. Two latest Iron Age sherds are suggested for illustration and a full illustrated sherd catalogue is required.

Late Iron Age-Roman pottery

A small amount of wheel-made or hand-made and wheel-finished LIA-Roman pottery recovered from three pits, a ditch and a hollow has been fully recorded and quantified by fabric form and EVE.

This assemblage has a very narrow date range, and some of it appears to overlap the latest hand-made Iron Age pottery assemblage. In some pit contexts (0587 and 0792), sherds from hand-made and wheel-made vessels appear to have been contemporary in use and deposition implying a possibly continuous sequence of occupation of this site from the later Iron Age through to the first half of the 1st century AD and the earliest Roman period.

The pottery can be placed in context with other groups within 200m of ERL 213 (ERL 089, ERL 147 ERL 217), all of which have a similar narrow date range.

Post-Roman pottery

A single unstratified sherd of stamped Middle Anglo-Saxon Ipswich ware has been recorded by fabric and the stamp motif described. Other fragments of Ipswich ware have been found in the vicinity and an overview of the distribution of this material at the analysis stage would be beneficial.

Fired clay

Only a small amount of fired clay was recovered from ERL 213. The assemblage has been quantified by count, weight, fabric and type and includes three loomweights. These require fuller examination and description together with a consideration of the dating evidence provided by the pottery. They should be included in a discussion of all the Iron Age loomweights from the other Liberty Village sites and other sites within the scope of the publication project. None of the fragments require illustration.

Struck flint

The potential of the flint from ERL 213, like that from the four Liberty Village assemblages (ERL 143, 147, 148 and 203) lies partly in its more detailed analysis by context and in further consideration of the ceramic dating evidence. Analysis of the context assemblages could result in similar groups of material being identified which might represent different phases or types of activity across the whole of the study area. Recognition of any refitting flakes, some of which have been noted in the assemblage, would help in the identification of contemporary groups of *in situ* flint.

The recognition of likely earlier Neolithic flint in small amounts from several of the sites adds to the ceramic evidence for small scale activity in the area during that period.

Analysis of the flint from the Iron Age pits and other contexts at ERL 213 has potential to identify contemporary, Iron Age, flint-working.

A closer examination of flake types in terms of size and amount of cortex has the potential to inform on type and curation of raw material. The condition of material may suggest residuality, and analysis of the make up of the assemblage in terms of cores, debitage and retouched or utilised pieces might indicate or support other evidence for different types of activity at this site.

Comparison of the different degrees and types of patina in this assemblage with that from the various nearby sites might be worthwhile as it is thought likely that the very white colouration of much or most of the flint at some of the nearby sites is due to local soil conditions. It would be of interest to ascertain whether or not this bears any relation to the date of the material.

The flint from this site must be placed within the broader context of the Liberty Village sites and other sites recently excavated in the vicinity where evidence for activity from the Mesolithic period to the Iron Age has been recorded.

Breakdown of further work:

- Add flint from the Southern Area evaluation (14 pieces) to catalogue and update tables and appendices

- Analysis of the flint by context and distribution across the site to see if different types of material came from any particular deposits or groups of features.
- Analysis of the flint in the light of other dating evidence; considering the issue of residuality and re-deposition of material.
- Look at the composition of the assemblages and types of debitage from the Liberty Village sites and possibly others in the near vicinity.
- Closer examination of the flint from the Iron Age pits and other contexts at ERL 213 and comparison with possible Iron Age pits and other contexts at ERL 147 and 143
 - Is this material likely to be *in situ*? Does similar material come from different pits? Is there any likelihood of refits occurring within or between the pits.
 - Possible consideration of selected pit and ditch assemblages for the likelihood of any refitting pieces.
 - Comparison of the assemblage with those from sites previously known from the vicinity or of similar date.
 - Writing of report for publication.
 - Final selection of pieces for illustration. provisionally 3 max

Heat-altered stone

The heat-altered stone was quantified by count and weight by context and much of it consists of fragments of flint pot-boiler debris and fire-altered sandstone and quartzite pebbles. A record was made of the type of stone (flint, quartzite, sandstone), the size (gravel, pebble, cobble) or shape and the degree of heat-alteration.

Although it is not datable itself, heat-altered stone is often an indicator of prehistoric activity. A brief examination of the spatial distribution of this material on site would therefore be beneficial as it has the potential to highlight areas of prehistoric activity.

6.5 The potential of the small finds

The calcined bone pin (SF1001) is a rare artefact which was recovered from the Bronze Age cremation 0043 in Evaluation Trench 24. It requires a full description, discussion, and illustration. An identification of the species of the animal bone used for the pin would also be useful.

6.6 The potential of the environmental evidence and recommendations for further work

Cremated human skeletal remains

All of the HSR has been fully catalogued and discussed but a small amount of further work will be required now that C14 radiocarbon dating has been carried out as the group needs to be placed in context with contemporary populations in the vicinity and in the region.

Animal bone

The animal bone assemblage is very small (452 pieces weighing 1125g) and due to poor preservation, probably represents a fraction of the bone discarded on this site. In spite of these limitations, the bone has the potential to contribute to the wider study of the animal bone recovered from RAF Lakenheath, and to the interpretation of the farming of livestock and relative value to the local economy of the animals being kept. It should be examined to determine the range of species and elements present. If possible, a record should be made of ages, evidence of butchery or modification and any other relevant information such as pathologies. The material should then be considered within the overall discussion of the remains from the Liberty village sites (ERL 143, ERL 147, ERL 148 and ERL 203) and possibly others in the near vicinity which should be considered as a whole.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

Although the recovered assemblages are limited and further complicated by later disturbance and bioturbation, there is evidence for both nearby agricultural production and the exploitation of local habitats, most particularly the heath/Breckland area. These sites offer a rare opportunity to comprehensively study the prehistoric settlement and exploitation of a large area of north-west Suffolk, moreover an area in which agricultural innovations, including the early cultivation of spelt wheat, have already been recorded (West Row Fen).

The plant macrofossils from the Southern Area of the site include material from within the five assemblages which appears to have been subjected to extremely intense temperatures during combustion, resulting in the formation of a high density of tarry residues. Whether this occurred accidentally, or as a result of a deliberate process is

not known, but it is potentially of interest to the interpretation of the site and its component features.

No further analyses of the assemblages are recommended, but a brief overview of the plant macrofossils from the Windsor Circle site should be provided, in the context of other sites in the vicinity. |

Halifax Street, ERL 217

7 ERL 217, Original research aims

The archaeological evaluation (Craven 2011) identified two surviving areas of an Iron Age and early Roman dated landscape which were subsequently the subject of the open area excavation. The original research aims for the excavation stage of the project were derived from the results of the earlier evaluation combined with regional research aims identified in the regional research agenda for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000).

ORA 1: Define the extent of the two areas of archaeological activity identified during the evaluation stage of the project

ORA 2: Mitigate the destruction of the archaeological horizon through sufficient, as detailed in the brief (App. 6), examination of the defined areas of archaeological activity

ORA 3: Establish the date and forms of the archaeological horizons present within the excavation areas

ORA 4: Evaluate the impact of previous ground works carried out within the development area

ORA 5: Assess the archaeological horizons in regards to economic and social change and development during the Late Iron Age and Iron Age-Roman transition

ORA 6: Investigate the sites potential to increase our understanding of the development of the agrarian economy alongside changes in the landscape and land use through out all periods represented within the identified archaeological horizons through the analysis of stratigraphic evidence, palynological sequences and preserved macrofossils.

8 ERL 217, Site sequence: results of the fieldwork

8.1 Introduction

Both excavation areas identified a moderately dense archaeological horizon, made up predominantly of ditches forming boundaries and rectilinear enclosures of Late Iron Age and Roman date. A structure formed of eight paired postholes was found in Area 1 on the western side of the development area and a possible structure indicated by a curvilinear gully in Area 2.

Preliminary interpretation of the results of the fieldwork has been carried out in order to summarise the site sequence. Group numbers have been assigned during post-excavation in order to easily describe the recognised phases of activity. The groups are largely formed through stratigraphic and spatial relationships with dates extrapolated from individual features and assigned to their associated group as a whole. The finds assemblages recovered from both areas were relatively small considering the quantity of archaeological deposits identified. The date range of the assemblages is fairly tight and largely falls within the range of the Late Iron Age to early Roman period with a few exceptions dated to the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon periods. This has resulted in the assignment of several sub-phases, particularly in Area 2. Features identified during the monitoring of pipe trench excavations have been placed in Phase 1 due to their stratigraphic relationship with a buried soil, suspected to be a continuation of that found in Area 1 (0700).

A full catalogue of excavation contexts and descriptions is included as Appendix 3 whilst significant groups are discussed below. Features identified during the evaluation that fall within the excavation areas are also discussed.

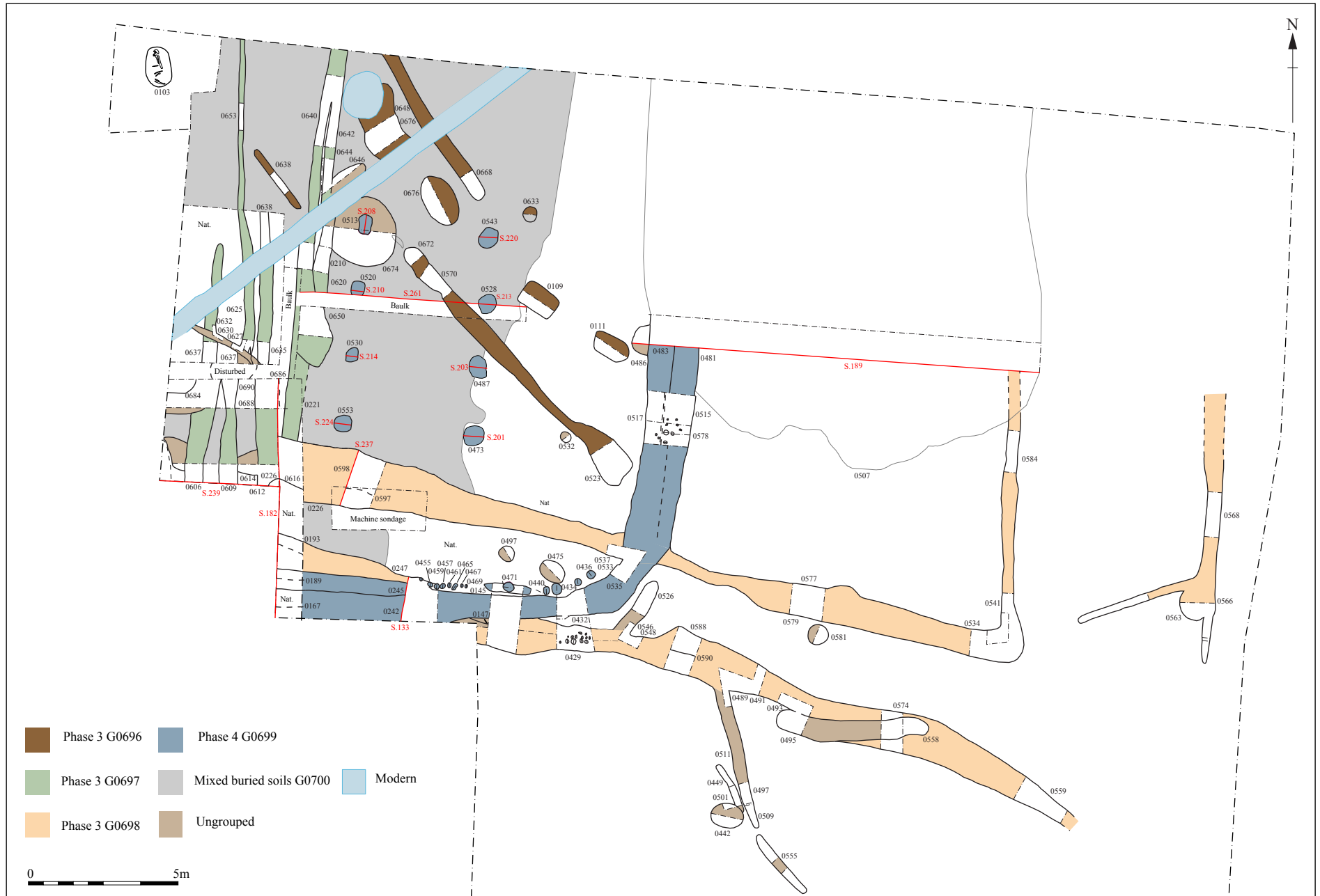


Figure 9. Halifax Street Area 1.



Figure 10. Halifax Street Area 2

8.2 Description by phase

Phase 1a: Undated features with early stratigraphic relationships

Area 2

North-south aligned ditches (G0702)

Four narrow and shallowly surviving ditches (0327, 0268, 0141 and 0303) have been stratigraphically identified as the earliest features in this area. The ditches are undated and roughly follow a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment (Fig. 10).

Monitored pipe trench

Postholes 0710, 0712, 0714 and pit 0716

Three small postholes, one of which was only identified in the baulk, were recorded running in a roughly east-west irregular alignment across the 0.7m wide pipe trench. The postholes had similar morphology and all contained pale grey-brown silty-sands with chalk inclusions (Pl. 9). All features were sealed by a pale grey buried soil layer (0801) that may be the same buried soil (0700) identified towards the north-western corner of Area 1. However it is also possible that this layer, 0801 is re-deposited by ground works related to the adjacent road.

Phase 1b: Undated features with later stratigraphic relationships

Area 2

North-east to south west aligned curvilinear ditch (G0703)

A single, undated ditch (0363) with a shallowly curvilinear plan ran north-east to south-west across the central portion of the area. The ditch roughly follows the same alignment of the features identified as Phase 1 although it has been recorded cutting 0327 at its northern extent (Fig. 10).

Phase 1c: Undated features with latest stratigraphic relationships

Area 2

North-south aligned ditches (G0704)

Two narrow ditches (0255 and 0401) with irregular north-south alignments were identified towards the western limit of the identified archaeological horizon (Fig. 10). The ditches are undated but appear to form a boundary with entrance. The southern extent of G0704 was cut by a member of G0705 suggesting that the later group (G0705) is expanding/incorporating the early boundaries into a large overall system.

Phase 2: Prehistoric

Area 1

Burial 0103

A single burial (0103) was identified at the far north corner of the area (Fig. 9). The burial was identified as stratigraphically under the buried soils (0700) which contained a pottery assemblage that ranged in date from the Late Iron Age through to the 1st Century. No grave goods were recovered from the grave but the skeleton (0102) had been placed in crouched position often indicative of prehistoric burials (Cunliffe, 2005). The skeleton has been identified as a middle aged male and is in a poor state of preservation (Pl. 6).

A portion of another burial was previously recorded at ERL 212 to the south west of the site. The skeleton is suggested to have been placed in a crouched arrangement although radiocarbon dating provided a date range of 1430 to 1630 AD.

Phase 3: Late Iron Age to early Roman (1st century AD)

Area 1

Buried Soil G0700

The buried soil (G0700) localised at the north-western corner of the site is cut by all phases of activity barring the possible prehistoric burial 0103 (Fig. 9). The group consists of eight deposits (0104, 0105, 0107, 0108, 0113, 0115, 0595 and 0596) of brownish-grey silty-sand of varying tones. The pottery assemblage recovered from the buried soils contains sherds dated to the Late Iron Age, early/mid 1st century, mid 1st century, 1st century and the Roman period although it is possible that some of this assemblage was recovered from discrete features whose extents were to diffuse to be discerned.

Natural channel 0507

The natural geology across Area 1 declined northwards towards Halifax Street. At the north-east corner of the area the decline noticeably increased and formed a channel (0507, Fig. 9). The two enclosure groups (G0698 and G0699) both turned to intersect and exploit the channels eastern and western sides respectively. The channel was filled with a series of homogenous sandy-silt deposits which contained sparse quantities of Roman and early/mid 1st century pottery in the upper layers. The diffuse nature of these sandy-silts prevented the identification of enclosures (G0698 and G0699) until machine passed the southern extent of the channel.

Phase 3a: North-west to south-east aligned features G0696

Three narrow ditches (0638, 0668 and 0672) and four pits (0111, 0109, 0648 and 0676) are assigned to G0696 through their shared north-west to south-east alignment. Ditches 0668 and 0672 produced pottery dated to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period whilst pit 0648 contained mid 1st century pottery.

The group appears to form a segmented boundary that feeds off the southern edge of the large natural channel (0507). It seems probable that the group is exploiting the channel as a natural boundary.

The features included in G0696 did not possess stratigraphic relationships, other than cutting 0700, with any other phases of activity and may be later than G0697, G0698 or G0699. This seems unlikely given the general progression from segmented, smaller enclosures to larger, squared enclosures common to the early Roman period and it seems more convincing that the group represents the early stages of enclosing the landscape utilising dominant natural features in the landscape.

Another pit (0006), similar in morphology to 0109 and 0111, was recorded towards the east end of evaluations trench 3. The pit contained no finds but may be aligned with this group.

Phase 3b: North-south ditches G0697

At least five ditches (0606, 0609, 0688, 0640 and 0642) cutting through the buried soils at the western end of Area 1 (Fig. 9) are assigned to G0697. The ditches were all fairly narrow and followed a north-south alignment.

The grouping of these ditches is tentative at this stage as members of the group (0221 and 0688) have been recorded as both stratigraphically earlier and later than G0698 whilst ditches 0640 and 0642 also have a direct stratigraphic relationship.

A severe degree of animal disturbance was noted towards the intersection of G0698 and G0697, which may account for the seemingly contradictory physical relationships. Further animal disturbance was recorded between 0688 and 0637 which has removed *termini* or a sharp change in alignment. Dating evidence from the ditches consists of a small quantity of pottery dated to the Late iron Age, early/mid 1st century and early Roman as well as a single sherd of late Neolithic to Bronze Age pottery that is assumed to be residual.

Phase 3c: Enclosure system G0698

An enclosure system consisting of a right-angled ditch (0584) with two ditches (0568 and 0559) running parallel to the north-south and west-north-west to east-south-east sides respectively crossed the northern portion of Area 1 (Fig. 9). This group represents the earliest substantial enclosure within the development area.

The right-angled enclosure ditch (0584) ran southwards from the eastern extent of the natural channel (0507) before turning a little over 90 degrees to head west-north-west contained a number of re-cuts, predominantly along its southern edge, most notably at section 237 (Fig. 13) which recorded three re-cuts. At several locations the profile of this ditch has a steep sided concave base suggesting the presence of posts set within the ditch base. The pottery assemblage from this ditch and its re-cuts consists of Late Iron Age, early/mid 1st century.

Ditch 0559 ran parallel and between 2m and 3m south of the southern edge of 0584. A single re-cut of the ditch was recorded at several points along the ditch's length. Pottery recovered from the feature consisted of Late Iron Age (early 1st century), early/mid 1st century, mid 1st century and early Roman pottery. A ditch cut through the eastern end of 0559 contained a single sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery that is assumed to be residual.

Ditch 0568 lay approximately 6.2m east of the enclosure ditch (0584) along a parallel north-south alignment. The ditch was void of artefactual evidence but is doubtless part of this enclosure system through its parallel alignment and the longitudinal coincidence of its *terminus* and the turn of the enclosure ditch. A narrow ditch (0550) branches from 0568 towards the enclosure ditches corner narrowing the 'entrance' to less than 2m and suggests a pen or corral of some kind.

The enclosure ditch was indentified in Trench 3 of the evaluation (Craven 2011) and recorded as ditch 0008 with a re-cut (0004) although no finds were recovered at this stage of work.

Area 2

Phase 3b: Possible structural curvilinear ditch and localised discreet features (G0705)

A semi-circular planned ditch (0153, Pl. 7) was identified towards the central/northern portion of Area 2. Of the eight segments excavated across the ditch half contained small quantities of pottery that has been spot-dated to the 1st century, mid/late 1st century and early Roman period. Six discrete pits (0279, 0266, 0184, 0139, 0137 and 0174) were recorded along the curvilinear ditch's southern edge and may form an alignment with pit 0040, identified towards the northern end of evaluation trench 31.

Six postholes (0126, 0128, 0131, 0133, 0135 and 0185) were recorded adjacent to the eastern *terminus* of the curvilinear ditch and in close proximity to three postholes (0025, 0027 and 0029) and a pit (0022) identified in Trench 29 of the evaluation. Pit 0184 and posthole 0128 contained early/mid 1st century and Late Iron Age and mid 1st century pottery respectively.

It is noted that the ditch systems, which form the majority of archaeological evidence in the area, do not encroach the area defined by the semi-circular ditch. The area to the north-east of the semi-circular ditch contains the majority of discreet features identified across the area and suggests that structures may have been present.

Phase 3c: Series of north-west to south-east ditches (G0706)

Eight ditches (0269, 0271, 0273, 0275, 0277, 0278, 0293 and 0311) were identified across the central portion of the area on a north-west to south-east alignment (Pl. 5).

Many of the ditches displayed diffuse stratigraphic relationships with one another and have been grouped due to shared alignments and localised nature rather than signifying a single utilisation of an area. A single member of the group (0269) continues across the full extent of the area and was previously recorded in evaluation Trenches 30 and 31 as ditch cut (0032 and 0034) with a single fill (0033 and 0035) that produced two small sherds of pottery dated to the mid 1st Century. The remaining ditches either terminate within the bounds of Area 2 or have been cut by 0269 and have lost their full extent.

Pottery evidence was recovered from five members of the group and is dated to the Late Iron Age, early/mid 1st century, mid 1st century and the early Roman period. The range of dates suggests that this alignment has been of nearly continuous importance during the period archaeological activity in this area. Further detailed phasing of this group is required to fully understand its place in the landscape and the reasons for the maintenance of the north-west south-east aligned boundary.

Evaluation Trench 3 identified a portion of ditch 0269 as a single shallow cut (0034) that contained fragments of animal bone, but no dating evidence.

Phase 4: Roman (AD 43-410)

Area 1

Enclosure G0699 and Structure S0701

A portion of a sub-rectangular enclosure was recorded emerging south from the western extent of the natural channel 0507 (Fig. 9). The ditch turned 90 degrees to head west out of the development area. The feature was recorded cutting G0698 and contained a single re-cut across its entire length.

A small assemblage of pottery recovered from three segments across the ditch consists of Late Iron Age, early/mid 1st century, mid 1st century pottery.

G0699 included a line of postholes situated along the interior edge of the enclosure corner (PI. 3) suggests this second enclosure was palisaded along its southern extent. These postholes varied in dimension but were generally larger towards the eastern end of the line.

Eight postholes (0473, 0487, 0513, 0520, 0528, 0530, 0553 and 0543), arranged in two lines of four (Pl. 4), were recorded within the bounds of the enclosure cutting into the buried soils (0700). The postholes formed a structure lying on a north-south alignment and measured 7.3m by 4.9m. No internal features were identified within the structure although this may be due to the general poor visibility of features cut into 0700. The structure is aligned with, and maintains a uniform distance from, the enclosure ditch suggesting they are contemporary.

Pottery recovered from three of the postholes is dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Area 2

Phase 4a: Later north-east-south-west ditches (G0707)

Two narrow ditches (0360 and 0182) were recorded towards the central/eastern portion of the area. The ditches were parallel and spaced approximately 2m apart. Both ditches were recorded cutting members of G0705 and G0706 and clearly represent a change in the arrangement of the landscape. Dating evidence was recovered from the eastern ditch and consisted of Late Iron Age, early/mid 1st century and early Roman pottery.

Phase 4b: Sub rectangular pits (G0708)

Three large sub-rectangular planned pits (0280, 0375 and 0334) were excavated within the Central Area of archaeology (Fig. 8). The pits all lay on a north-west to south-east alignment and were recorded as cutting features from G0703 and G0706. Pit 0280 produced a small amount of pottery dated to the early Roman period. Pit 0334 was recorded as 0030 in evaluation trench 30 and produce pottery dated to the prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Phase 4c: North-south boundary ditches (G0709)

A ditch (0234) with two re-cuts (0230 and 0236, Sec.134; Fig.13) and the surviving portion of a small pit (0238) were recorded towards the eastern end of the area (Fig. 10). The ditches bound the eastern extent of the archaeological horizon and produced a small assemblage of pottery that includes Iron Age, early/mid 1st century and early Roman pottery. The pit contained Iron Age pottery.

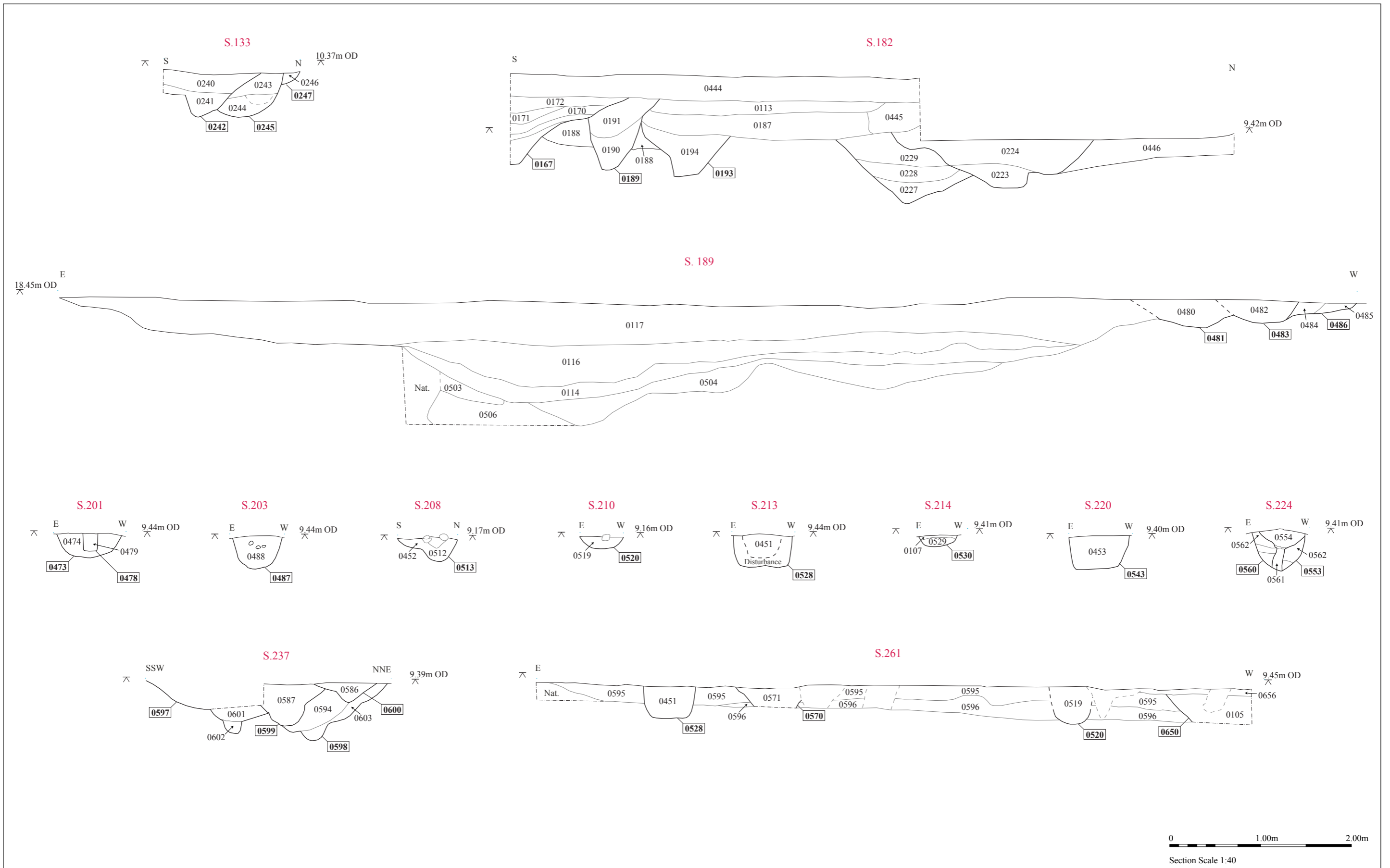


Figure 11. ERL 217, Area 1 selected sections

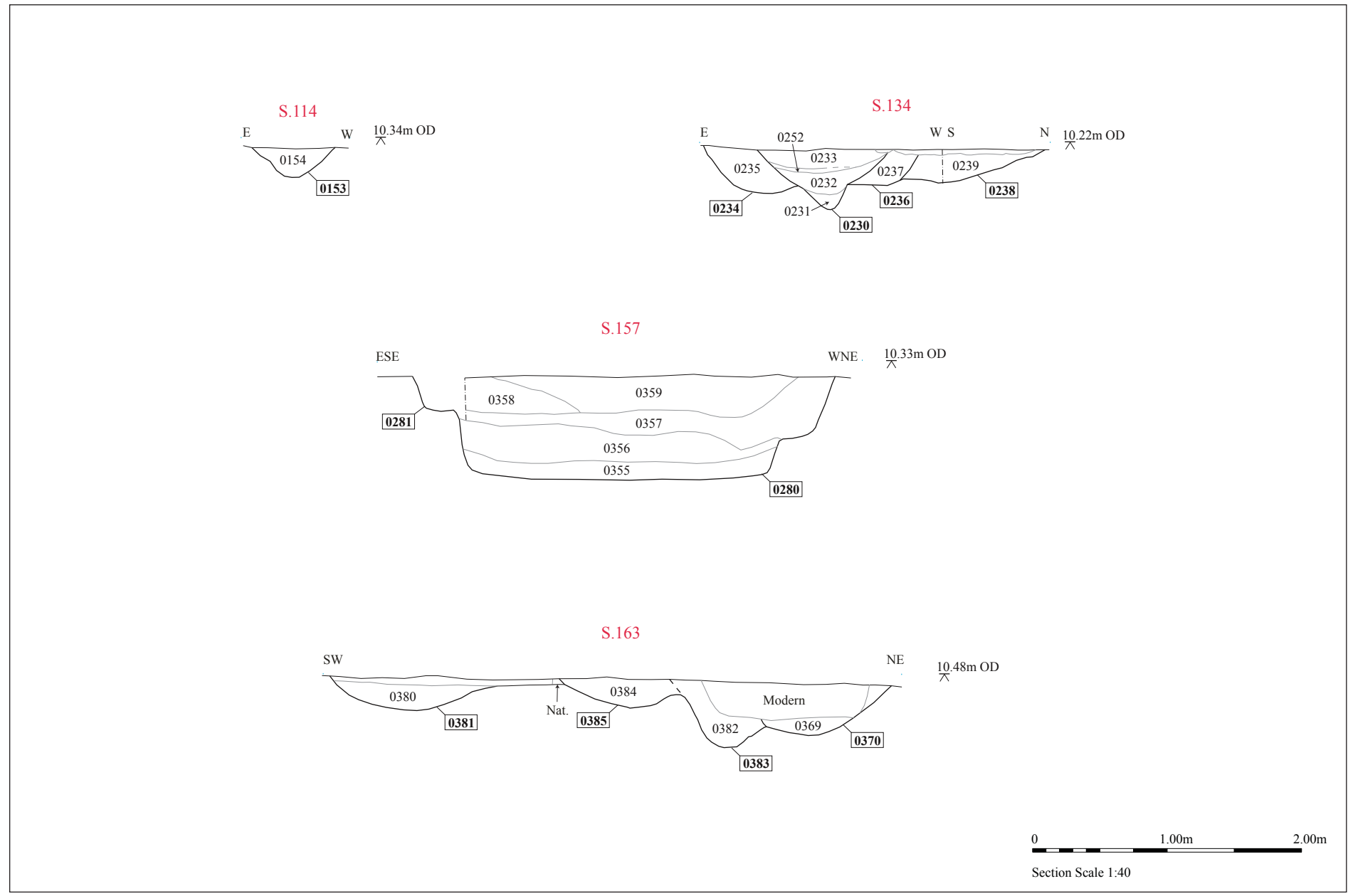


Figure 12. ERL 217, Area 2 selected sections

9 ERL 217 Quantification and assessment

9.1 Post-excavation review

The following post-excavation tasks have been completed for the stratigraphic, finds and environmental archives:

Task 01: Completion and checking of primary paper archive

Task 02: Microsoft Access database of the stratigraphic archive

Task 03: Assessment of bulk finds

Task 04: Assessment of environmental samples

Task 05: Microsoft Access database of bulk finds archive

Task 06: Microsoft excel spreadsheets of environmental archive

Task 07: Catalogue and archiving of raster images

Task 08: Majority of cut features assigned to preliminary groupings

Task 09: Group description recorded as text document

Task 10: Scanning of drawn records

Task 11: Compilation of overall area plans from individual plans

9.2 Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

The stratigraphic archive for the excavation phase of fieldwork is quantified in Table 13.

Type	Quantity	Format
Context register sheets	11	A4 paper
Context sheets (numbered 0101-0709)	573	A4 paper, in two lever arch folders
Section sheet register	1	A4 paper
Section register	4	A4 paper
Plan register	2	A4 paper
Digital photo register	5	A4 paper
Film photo register	2	A4 paper
Small finds register	1	A4 paper
Sample register	2	A4 paper
Plan drawing sheets	52	290mm x 320mm drawing film
Section drawing sheets	12	290mm x 320mm drawing film
Stratigraphic matrix	2	2 x A3 sheets per matrix
Digital images	531	JPEG file format

Table 13. Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

9.3 Quantification and assessment of the bulk finds archive

Compiled and edited by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The quantities of bulk finds types recovered during the excavation are listed in Table 1. A full quantification of the finds by context is included as Appendix 14. In addition to the bulk finds categories there are a number of individually numbered small finds (SF) listed in Appendix 15. There are also skeletal remains from two inhumation burials (0102 & 0270).

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	595	5786
Fired clay	58	186
Struck flint	58	1185
Heat-affected stone	27	445
HSR	-	391
Animal bone	743	2448

Table 14. Bulk finds quantities

Pottery

Stephen Benfield

Introduction

All of the pottery was recorded by Cathy Tester. This report includes the pottery from the evaluation and from the excavation.

Prehistoric pottery

Introduction

In total seventy-six sherds of prehistoric pottery with a combined weight of 517g were recovered from the evaluation and excavation. The average sherd weight is 6.8g. All of the pottery is handmade and tempered with flint, grog, sand or sand with organic material (Table 15). The pottery is listed by context in Appendix 16.

Fabric name	Fabric	No	Wt/g
Hand made flint-tempered	HMF(F1-3)	32	136
Hand made grog-tempered	HMG	1	2
Hand made sand-tempered	HMS(QS1)	32	282
Hand made sand & organic-tempered	HMSO	11	97
Total		76	517

Table 15. Prehistoric pottery by fabric

Discussion

The earliest of the prehistoric pottery is a single sherd (3g) from a Beaker of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date from the ditch 0688 (0687). The sherd is in a sand-tempered fabric (HMS) and is decorated with three lines of comb impressions. A pottery sherd of Late Iron Age or early Roman date was recovered from the same context.

Hand made flint-tempered and sand-tempered prehistoric pottery was recovered from sixteen contexts. Much of this is residual from contexts with pottery of Roman date. Small quantities of exclusively handmade pottery are associated with seven contexts (0118, 0235, 0239, 0250, 0488, 0525 & 0557). Apart from a small group of nine sherds from one vessel (0118), there are no more than a few sherds from any of these contexts.

Because of the lack of diagnostic pieces (rims, bases, decorated sherds), with just one rim sherd from the ditch 0559 (0118), the dating of the prehistoric pottery is heavily reliant on the fabrics. A significant part of the assemblage, about 42% by count and 28% by weight, is flint-tempered, but the majority of the pottery, 56% by count and 73% by weight, is sand-tempered (Fabric HMS), sometimes with the addition of organic matter (Fabric HMSO). Some of the pottery is also burnished or smoothed. In Suffolk, although flint-tempered pottery is used throughout the Iron Age, sand temper becomes dominant from the Middle Iron Age (Martin 1999, 80).

Although close dating is difficult the majority of the hand-made flint and sand-tempered pottery can be broadly dated to the Middle/Late Iron Age based on its sand-tempered fabric and some burnishing of surfaces.

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Introduction

A total of 518 sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery with a combined weight of 5250g was recovered from the evaluation and excavation. The total EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) is 4.3 vessels and the average sherd weight is 10.1g. The pottery is listed by fabric in Table 16 and by context in Appendix 16.

The pottery fabrics were quantified using the Suffolk Roman pottery fabric series. The vessel forms were recorded using the Colchester, Camulodunum (Cam) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hull 1963) and the Suffolk (Pakenham) form type series (unpublished). All of the sherds were divided between fabric categories and the vessel forms recorded. The number of sherds, weight and EVE was recorded for each fabric type. The vessel rim diameters were also recorded.

Fabric name	Fabric	No	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt	Eve
Local and regional fine wares:						
Miscellaneous red fine wares	RF	2	0.4	6	0.1	
Local and regional coarse wares:						
Black-surfaced wares	BSW	68	13.1	1011	19.2	0.95
Grey micaceous wares (black-surfaced)	GMB	312	60.2	2267	43.2	2.70
Grey micaceous wares	GMG	19	3.6	104	1.2	
Grog-tempered wares (Belgic)	GROG	43	8.3	824	15.6	0.07
Horningsea	HOG	9	1.7	323	6.1	0.22
Miscellaneous buff wares	BUF	1	0.2	6	0.1	
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	40	7.7	204	3.8	0.10
Miscellaneous sandy red coarse wares	RX	1	0.2	5	0.1	0.07
Storage jar fabrics	STOR	23	4.4	500	9.5	0.19
Total		518	99.8	5250	98.9	4.30

Table 16. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric

Discussion

The closely dated pottery is of Late Iron Age and early Roman/Roman date. The assemblage is made up of Late Iron Age (grog-tempered) wares, Romanising fabrics and Roman wares. Almost all of the pottery is coarsewares. There are just two 'fineware' sherds in a burnished, oxidised fabric (Fabric RF) from one context (0414).

Grog-tempered wares of Late Iron Age type or native background (Fabric GROG) make up about 8% by count and 15% by weight of the assemblage. These grog-tempered fabrics also continue in use into the early post-conquest period.

Grog-tempered pottery alone was recovered in small quantities from eleven contexts at between one-three sherds from each (0116, 0124, 0144, 0183, 0308, 0314, 0316, 0336, 0423, 0552 & 0579). Given the small quantities associated with these features, it is not clear that these contexts are necessarily Late Iron Age in date.

The dominant fabric among the assemblage is grey micaceous, black surfaced wares (Fabric GMB) which includes sherds in 'Romanising' fabrics. This fabric makes up 60% by count and 40% by weight of all the pottery. While some 'Romanising' sherds might be pre-conquest, 'Romanising' fabrics are generally considered to be a post-conquest

continuation of the native grog-tempered wares. Fabric GMB is commonly a post-conquest fabric type where recorded on other sites. This, together with the presence of small quantities of Roman fabrics which can be dated to the post-conquest period, suggests that most of the pottery, apart from the grog-tempered wares, can be dated to the post-conquest period.

The only sherds which could be identified as particular numbered form type(s) are from carinated, cordoned bowls, recorded as Cam 211-212 (0152, 0154, 0179, 0270 & 0282). This combines two Camulodunum (Cam) forms, the tazza/bowl form Cam 210-211 and the small bowl form Cam 212-216/217 which are not easily distinguished, especially based on body sherds, but which appear to have chronological significance. These bowls are predominantly a Late Iron Age type, but persist into the early Roman, Neronian-early Flavian period and possibly later. At Hacheston they are broadly dated as 1st century (Arthur 2004, Type 19). The fabric of the examples here (Fabric GMB) indicates an early Roman date.

One other vessel form type could be identified. These are jars with rilled shoulders which can be compared with the Hertfordshire form commonly referred to as 'Braughing Jars' (0013 & 0035), which are present in Fabric GMB. The form originates in the earlier 1st century AD but continues, with some evolution in the form, through the Roman period. In Suffolk, this form is largely confined to the west of the county.

Most of the Roman pottery fabrics are current in the early-mid Roman period (mid 1st-3rd century). There are no finewares, either imports or from regional producers, which would allow closer dating than much of the coarse ware. Products of large regional industries dating to the 2nd century or later also appear to be absent, although a Buff Ware sherd (Fabric BUF) might possibly originate from Colchester. There are a small number of sherds from the Horningsea pottery (Fabric HOG), which are distributed locally in the 1st century AD, but only more widely from the 2nd century AD.

In terms of dating the assemblage as a whole, the pottery suggests a Late Iron Age/early Roman and early Roman date although close dating with a range of 1st century-early/mid 2nd century AD is difficult. The grog-tempered wares indicate a Late Iron Age background and probably can be dated to the first half of the 1st century AD (Martin 1999, 81). The most closely dated vessel forms are of Iron Age types (Cam

211-212) in Romanising or Roman fabrics which probably date to the Claudio-Neronian or early Flavian period and are probably not current beyond the end of the 1st century. The only pottery present which could be dated to the second century or later is Horningsea (Fabric HOG). However, there are only a few sherds of this fabric. Given the relative proximity to its production site (located approximately eighteen miles to the southwest) they might represent products from the earliest phase of the Roman industry there, beginning in the 1st century (Evans 1991, 37), rather than after its 2nd century market expansion.

The absence of specialist vessels, either as imports or local products suggests a conservative tradition of pottery use typical of rural assemblages from this part of the county dating to the Late Iron Age. However, the grog-tempered wares are more a feature of sites in the south of the county (Martin 1999, 81) and some of the vessel forms also reflect types in use at that time in the south of the county and in Hertfordshire. Their presence indicates a relationship in the Late Iron Age with sites further to the south and southwest falling within the influence of the Trinovantian/Catuvellaunian tribal areas in a tribal boundary zone.

Post-Roman pottery

No pottery of post-Roman date was recovered during the excavation; although a single sherd of hand made Early Anglo-Saxon pottery in a grass/chaff-tempered fabric (Fabric ESO1) was recovered during the evaluation (Tester 2011a, 24) which can be broadly dated to the period of the 5th-7th century.

Fired clay

Stephen Benfield

Introduction

In total there are fifty-eight fragments of fired clay from the excavation which have a combined weight of 186g. The assemblage was recovered as small quantities from sixteen contexts; one context contained eighteen small fragments, otherwise there are not more than five pieces from any one context. The fired clay was recorded by count and weight for each fabric type by context. Nine fabric types were identified based on rapid visual inspection. The quantity of fired clay by fabric type is listed in Table 17 and all of this fired clay is listed and described by context in Appendix 17. In addition there

are three pieces of fired clay from an object and which were recorded as a small find (SF 1011). These are listed with the other small finds below.

Fabric	Fabric name	No.	Wt (g)
fs	Fine sand	8	66
fsch	Fine sand with chalk fragments	7	50
fscp	Fine sand with clay pellets	1	2
fsfe	Fine sand with red ferrous sand	1	2
fso	Fine sand with organic matter	1	5
fspc	Fine sand with pale clay	7	25
ms	Medium sand	26	16
ms	Medium sand with red ferrous sand	1	2
ms	Medium sand with pale clay	6	18
Total		58	186

Table 17. Fired clay by fabric

Discussion

The fired clay consists of small quantities of mostly abraded pieces which, as such, are probably residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. Where closely dated other finds were recovered these are of Iron Age date (0235), Late Iron Age/Roman date (0655), and Roman date (0104, 0116, 0154, 0232, 0300, 0554, 0586, 0587, 0594 & 0651).

Several pieces might be part of two fired clay objects, but could not be certainly identified as such. Both are from the same context (0195). One possible object consists of three joining pieces in a pale yellow-brown fabric (fsch) which have a flat surface (possibly the base) and part of a rounded edge adjoining this which has a slightly dished, shallow depression. The other possible object consists of two pieces which are in the same grey/yellow-brown fabric (fs). One preserves part of a circular void indicating an original diameter of about 20-25mm and a smoothed, undulating surface. This might be part of a loomweight; although it may also be structural. A piece of fired clay in a similar fabric from a context with Roman pottery (0116) may be part of this same object/structure.

Slightly larger quantities of fired clay, both structural and probably part of an object were recovered from two contexts during the evaluation one of which is possibly of prehistoric date (Tester 2011b).

Struck flint

Sarah Bates

Introduction

Fifty-eight struck flints were recovered from twenty-nine contexts. Much of it is dark grey but a few pieces are patinated a mottled slightly bluish pale grey/white. Cortex, where present is mostly cream or off-white and many pieces have thick cortex with inner white 'rind'. Sometimes this smooth inner layer has been exposed by weathering or the cortex is abraded; both types indicating the use of surface-collected flint as a raw material. Much of the flint is quite sharp. The flint is summarised in Table 18 and listed by context (including the flint from the evaluation) in Appendix 18. All of the flint from the site, including the flint from the evaluation, is included in the discussion.

Type	Number
single platform flake core	4
struck fragment	4
shatter	4
flake	31
blade-like flake	2
spall	8
scraper	1
retouched flake	4
Total	58

Table 18. Summary of the flint

The assemblage

Four single platform flake cores are irregular battered lumps, often having incipient percussion cones on surfaces where they have been unsuccessfully struck. At least two have some patinated/abraded white cortex.

Four irregular fragments have been struck; two of them appear to be from repeatedly struck lumps – possibly from irregular cores or representing the initial breaking of flint lumps. There are also four angular shatter pieces.

Thirty-one unmodified flakes are present. Most of these are small and irregular. Some are broad in shape and almost all show evidence for having been struck by hard hammer. Ten flakes have cortex on their platforms (sometimes abrade/patinated) and many have originated from squat cortical lumps or cores. There are two small blade-like flakes and eight spalls. Most of the debitage is quite sharp. Two pieces have hinged distal terminations. Three or four small flakes have a mottled grey patina. Two flakes are atypically large and fresh in appearance are present and also have attributes characteristic of having been hard hammer struck.

An irregular flake is quite neatly retouched around its distal end and has been classified as a scraper 0104. Notably, it has a slightly glossy light grey patina unlike most of the flint. Four miscellaneous retouched flakes were also found.

Distribution

Three flints were found in features spotdated at assessment to the Iron Age. These are a small struck fragment from pit 0251, a cortical flake and a spall from post-hole 0487. All three are undiagnostic and unremarkable.

A small flake and a spall were found in undated ditch 0182 and a small retouched flake and a spall came from undated ditch 0221.

Four small quite similar patinated flakes and a flake core, repeatedly, and not very successfully, struck and with patinated cortical surfaces, were found in a natural channel 0507.

All the remaining flint was recovered from contexts which also included Roman pottery.

Discussion

The flint recovered from the site during this phase of work consists almost entirely of irregular hard hammer struck fragments and debitage with a very small number of irregular retouched pieces. It is clear that irregular weathered fragments have been utilised as a raw material, that little in the way of core preparation has occurred and that knapping has been fairly haphazard or unskilled. These factors all concur with a later prehistoric date for the material (Humphrey 2007) and it seems likely that much of the struck flint could be contemporary with pottery spot-dated to the Iron Age found at the site. There is however, little potential for further work on the flint. Most of it was found in small amounts in deposits that were probably of Roman date and retouched or utilised pieces are few.

A scraper and some small flakes (the scraper and one flake found with Roman pottery and the other flakes found in a 'natural' channel) are patinated and might be residual earlier pieces.

It is worth noting that the flint found during the earlier evaluation of the site differed somewhat from that discussed above (Bates 2011). Although the raw material was the

same, with thick cortex and some patinated surfaces present, the material included many quite similar small flakes (including tertiary pieces) which were recovered (almost entirely) from a single pit 0043 (0042) and were interpreted as representing a contemporary knapping episode. Many of the small flakes look as though they might have come from the same core (although a cursory attempt has identified no refitting flakes). The small size, similarity and relative 'neatness' of some of the flakes from the pit excavated during the evaluation seem atypical of the more casual use of flint and less skilful working and resulting irregular cortical flakes generally considered more likely to have occurred during the Iron Age (and with which the present assemblage is more consistent). It might indicate a degree of 'premeditation' in the use of flint during the period (Butler 2005, 189).

Heat-altered stone

Stephen Benfield

Introduction

This report includes the material from both the evaluation and the excavation. In total there are twenty-seven pieces of heat-altered stone with a total weight of 445g. This consists of twenty-eight pieces of burnt flint (208g) recovered from eleven contexts and three pieces of sandstone/quartzite (670g) from three contexts. All of the heat-altered stone is listed by context in Appendix 14.

Discussion

Heat-affected stones were recovered from two contexts which also contained finds of prehistoric worked flints (0117, 0225), two contexts which also contained fired clay (0039, 0041) and contexts where it is associated with Late Iron Age or Roman pottery (0104, 0107, 0190, 0191, 0330, 0371, 0451).

Heated stones are commonly associated with prehistoric occupation where they are presumed to have been 'pot-boilers', used to heat water primarily for cooking. The two types of heated affected stone recovered, flint and sandstone/quartzite, have different thermal properties, the sandstone/quartzite being better at absorbing thermal shock. Sandstone/quartzite is generally much rarer than flint among the gravel derived stones naturally available in East Anglia and deliberate selection favouring the use of

sandstone/quartzite has been demonstrated at Stanway in Essex (Crummy et al 2007, 18-21).

The quantity of stone here is too small for detailed interpretation. At least some appears to be of prehistoric date, although some may also have become accidentally heated in association with fires in later periods. The presence of two pieces of sandstone/quartzite among the assemblage is not significant in terms of suggesting any deliberate selection of stone for heating. However, there is an association between heat affected stones and the presence of residual worked flints in many of the later dated contexts (0104, 0190, 0330, 0371, 0451) and it seems likely that much, possibly all of the heated stone probably derives from prehistoric occupation on the site.

9.4 Quantification and assessment of the small finds archive

Stephen Benfield

Identifications by Ruth Beveridge, Andrew Brown and Sam Moorhead

Date, range and context

A total of eleven finds were given individual small find numbers. Four of these are coins which can be dated to the Late Iron Age and Roman period. All of the small finds are listed and described in Appendix 15. No finds were individually numbered as small finds from the evaluation.

Condition

The condition of the small finds is generally fair-good with the coins in very good condition and closely identifiable without cleaning.

Methodology

The small finds were individually recorded and identified where possible. Each was recorded by type, material, weight and relevant dimensions on a separate recording sheet and a sketch illustration made. The written details were then entered onto a computerised small finds database for the site.

Small finds by period

Prehistoric

Stone

A single piece of pale-grey coarse sandstone is probably part of a saddle quern (SF 1012). The stone which weighs 918g was recovered from the ditch 0242 (0240) which also produced a sherd of Roman pottery.

The quern fragment, which is between 60-45mm thick, has broken edges all round. The base is flat, although slightly rough and pitted. The upper surface is relatively smooth, presumably from use wear and is at an angle to the base indicating a sloping or dished grinding surface rather than a flat quern. This smooth upper surface extends to all of the broken edges indicating that it is part of a larger, broken, quern stone. There is a very faint ridge running across the sloping face following the long axis of the surface. This might indicate a wear pattern from repeated rubbing in that direction.

The use of both saddle querns and flat querns, where a smaller stone (grain rubber) is pushed backwards and forwards over a larger, lower stone to grind grain, is known from the Neolithic period. They appear to have continued to be used into the Late Iron Age (Buckley 1988, 73) after which they were generally replaced by rotary querns. It can be noted that in Ireland they continued to be used as late as the 19th and early 20th century. Other closely dated finds from the site suggest the saddle quern here is most probably of Iron Age date.

The stone is probably a naturally occurring erratic, as in other parts of the region most querns of this type are in sarsen, sandstone or other stones which can be found as erratics within the boulder clay. However, a number of saddle querns in Essex from sites close to the coast have been identified as Greensand from specific sources in Kent (from the Folkestone Beds) which must have been imported into the area (Major 1995, 36).

Fired clay

Four pieces of fired clay which were found together and are clearly part of the same object were given a small find number (SF 1011). The fragments are made in a fine sandy fabric (fabric fs) with a pale orange-brown surface and dark grey/black inner fabric colour. They were recovered from the ditch 0684 (0683).

The object of which they are part is difficult to identify. The largest piece preserves part of two surfaces which are at right-angles to each other. The minimum dimensions of these sides are about 50 mm, indicating a relatively thick object, suggesting that they are part of a clay brick or possibly more likely a loomweight, although there are no traces of perforations for suspension which would help to confirm any specific identification. Of itself this object is not closely dated and there are no other finds from this context. As a fired clay object which is possibly a loomweight an Iron Age or very early Roman date appears likely, given the other finds from the site.

Late Iron Age

Coins

Two Late Iron Age coins were recovered. These are Iceni silver units of pattern/horse type dated to the period AD 1-43. Both are unstratified finds.

SF 1002 Iceni silver coin. Pattern/horse (AD 1-43)
SF 1003 Iceni silver coin. Pattern/horse, small version (AD 1-43)

Roman

There are two Roman copper alloy coins, one of which is unusual as it is a previously unrecognised type issued by Carausius. Four other objects (SFs 1006-1010) are not of themselves closely dated but come from contexts which also contained Roman finds. One is a piece of copper alloy strip binding (SF 1007). The other three are all of iron, of which two are provisionally identified as corroded brooches (SF 1006, SF 1010).

Coins

Two coins both date to the late Roman period, one to the late 3rd century and the other to the early-mid 4th century. One coin (SF 1005) has a context number (0114) but is from the surface or top of the feature and not necessarily closely associated with it. The other (SF 1004) is a find which was recovered from surface or spoil.

SF 1004 Copper alloy nummus (AD 330-335)

SF 1005 Copper alloy radiate. Minted by Carausius for Maximianus at the C mint (AD 286-293)
Obv.: IMP C MAXIMIANVS P AVG, radiate and cuirassed bust (from behind)
Rev.: PROVI-D AVGGG, Provedentia standing left holding globe and baton/sceptre
Mint: S P//C

This radiate coin is of particular significance because of its rarity. Digital images of it have been examined by Sam Moorhead of the British Museum who has provided the description and following comments. The coin will be added to the new RIC volume.

The radiate was struck at the C mint for Maximian by Carausius which can be closely dated to the reign (usurpation in Britain and North Gaul) of Carausius in AD 286-293 (Pl. 8). This coin is a new type for Maximian and is similar to Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC) 25 which is a coin struck at the C mint for Diocletian by Carausius.

Discussion

The small finds assemblage includes two stratified objects which are likely to date to the Iron Age or the early part of the Roman period. The majority of the other small finds are metal detected or stray finds. Where closely datable, these are also Iron Age and Roman, although the two coins are both of late Roman date. .

9.5 Quantification and assessment of the environmental evidence

Human skeletal remains

Sue Anderson

Introduction

Partial remains of two individuals, 0102 and 0270, were recovered from two graves. One skeleton (0102) appeared to be crouched, based on the size of the grave cut, and is thought to be prehistoric. The bones were in very poor condition and the skeleton was incomplete. The other skeleton was found in a ditch fill in association with early Roman pottery and was in fair condition, but was again incomplete. The HSR are fully catalogued in Appendix 19.

Skeleton 0102

The remains comprise fragments of cranial vault (of which pieces of the frontal, right zygoma, right maxilla, right parietal, right temporal and left petrous temporal are identifiable; the right side is more complete than the left), and bags of tiny fragments from the spine, arms and legs, none of which is identifiable to a specific bone.

The skull is relatively robust with very large brow ridges, although the surviving tooth crowns appear small. The cranial sutures are closed but still patent. Tooth wear is

moderate to heavy. The limited evidence suggests that the individual was male and middle-aged or older at the time of death.

It was not possible to record any measurements, but non-metric traits were recorded systematically for the skull (see Appendix 19). No traits were recorded as present in the observable areas.

The dentition is partially preserved but the teeth are largely represented by the crowns with only small fragments of root present. Maxillary bone is only present in the right second incisor to second molar area. No mandibular bone has survived. Fragments of eleven crowns are present and identifiable with wear scores between 4+ and 5+. The surviving maxillary bone provides evidence for the loss of one tooth before death, probably the upper right second premolar although it may have been the first molar. An abscess had formed periapically in the adjacent socket (first or second molar?) and another possible abscess was present above the second incisor (or canine), although the bone is broken at this point. No caries is present in the surviving crowns.

The only pathological condition which could be observed was the presence of very slight pitting, or cribra orbitalia, in the remains of the right orbit (eye socket). This condition may be linked to iron deficiency anaemia.

In summary, the bones are those of a mature adult male with some evidence of dental disease. The skeleton is too incomplete to allow any further observation or interpretation.

Skeleton 0207

Fragments of skull (including the occipital and left petrous temporal), right scapula, ribs, right arm, lower left arm, right leg and fragments of left leg are all that survives of this individual. The long bones are incomplete but estimated lengths of the humerus (c.62mm), femur (c.65mm) and tibia (c.63mm) suggest that the individual was pre- or peri-natal at death. One fragment of long bone shaft, either a radius or a fibula, has unusually thick cortical bone with almost no medullary cavity, possibly indicating an infection or deficiency disease, but the remains are too fragmentary to be certain of the diagnosis. It seems likely that the child was either a still birth or was a victim of

infanticide, the latter perhaps more likely given the discovery of the bones within a Roman ditch.

Radiocarbon dating

The quantity and condition of the bone in the adult burial is not sufficient to recommend radiocarbon dating. Individual bones from the infant burial are not of sufficient weight for this to be dated either.

Animal bone

Julie Curl

Methodology

All of the bone studied in this assemblage was hand-collected. The bone from the excavation is fully catalogued in Appendix 20. The mammal bones were recorded using a modified version described in Davis (1992). Measurements, listed in the appendix, were taken (where appropriate) generally following Von Den Dreisch (1976). Humerus BT and HTC and metapodial “a” and “b” are recorded as suggested Davis (1992). Tooth wear was recorded following Hillson (1986).

Any butchering was recorded, noting the type of butchering, such as cut, chopped or sawn and location of butchering. A note was also made of any burnt bone. Pathologies were also recorded with the type of injury or disease, the element affected and the location on the bone. Other modifications were also recorded, such as any possible working, working waste or animal gnawing.

Weights and total number of pieces counts were also taken for each context, along with the number of pieces for each individual species present (NISP) and these appear in the appendix. All information was recorded directly into an Excel database for analysis. A catalogue is provided in the appendix giving a summary of all of the faunal remains by context with all other quantifications and measurements. The full faunal data record is available in the digital archive and has additional counts for species groups and element counts.

This report includes both bone from the evaluation and from the excavation.

The assemblage – provenance and preservation

A total of 2,566g of faunal remains, consisting of 656 pieces, was recovered from evaluation and excavation deposits. Bone was produced from fifty-seven contexts, which included fills of ditches, pits and a natural channel, with the majority of finds associated with ceramics of a Roman date. Table 19 shows the quantification of the faunal assemblage by weight in grammes, feature and fill type.

Feature	Fill type							Feature Total
	Base fill	Buried soil	Burnt deposit	Deposit	Fill	Terminal fill	Upper fill	
Ditch	35		5		1543	64	190	1837
Layer		164	9					173
Natural channel				40	22			62
Pit					71		4	75
Post-hole					20			20
Uncertain					399			399
Total	35	164	14	40	1656	64	194	2566

Table 19. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by weight, feature and fill type.

The assemblage is, overall, fragmented, with a good deal of the remains eroded and in poor condition due to the acidic soil conditions. There is better survival of some of the more robust elements such as the upper limb bones and teeth. Undoubtedly, such poor preservation would result in some butchering evidence being destroyed. Preservation varied, with some pit and ditch fills yielding better preserved remains, perhaps as a result of a greater organic content in these fills.

Burnt remains were found within five fills, with twenty-four fragments of burnt bone in the natural channel deposits (0114) and (0504). Single fragments of burnt bone were found in the ditch fill (0191) and (0362), and two fragments in the pit fill (0159). Most of the burnt bone was blackened, with a few fully oxidised fragments.

Canid gnawing was noted on only one sheep/goat humerus from the ditch fill (0232). Some gnawing activity may have been lost as some bone is fully consumed and the poor soil conditions may have eroded some of the evidence.

There appears to be a greater abundance of upper limb bones and teeth in this assemblage, which reflects the soil preservation rather than animal use as these are commonly better preserved in poorer soils.

Species and modifications

At least eight species were identified. The assemblage is dominated by the main food mammals – cattle and sheep/goat, but also includes remains of equid, pig/boar, two species of bird, cat and Water Vole. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by NISP and feature can be seen in Table 20.

Feature	Species							Feature Total	
	Bird (Goose)	Bird (Fowl)	Cattle	Equid	Mammal	Pig /boar	Sheep /goat		Small mammal (cat & vole)
Ditch	2		70	6	396	2	15		491
Layer			53						53
Natural channel			3		31				34
Pit		1	4		16		8		27
Post-hole			5		2		1	3	11
Uncertain			10		22	4	4		40
Total	2	1	145	6	467	6	26	3	656

Table 20. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species count (NISP) and feature type

The cattle remains were seen in twenty-nine contexts and largely consist of the bones of adult animals, with juvenile elements in two features. Eleven of the contexts have poor preservation, resulting in the survival only of fragments of bovid teeth. The remaining cattle bone show a higher number of the main meat-bearing bones (such as upper limb bones), many of these show chops from dismemberment and carcass preparation and finer cuts from meat removal. A talus from context (0036) show fine knife cuts at the distal end from the skinning process. One pathology was seen with the cattle remains in the form of a small lesion on the proximal articular end of a metacarpal from (0016), which would suggest an animal under some form of physical stress during the juvenile growth period and often is indicative of a traction animal.

Sheep/goat were produced from eighteen fills. As with the cattle and equid, the ovicaprids are sometimes only represented by the teeth. The bones recovered show a higher number of limb bones and only one foot bone, which, as with the rest of the assemblage, may be due to a preservation recovery bias. Most bones are from adults, but juveniles were seen in three fills, including a neonatal metapodial in the ditch fill (0362). Butchering in the form of chops and cuts from processing and meat removal was seen throughout the sheep/goat remains, one cut on a proximal phalange would have occurred at the skinning stage.

Pig/boar was recorded from two contexts, with neonatal teeth in (0016) and a juvenile mandible with little wear on the molars in the ditch fill (0190). Equid bones were seen in

two ditch fills and are represented only by a single molar in (0336) and fragments of a mandible in (0361). No canid bones were seen in this assemblage, but their presence was recorded with gnawing on bone in the ditch fill (0232).

Two fragments of a small species of goose were seen in the ditch fill (0336) and a single bone from a fowl was seen in the pit fill (0355). None of the bird remains show any butchering, but as birds are often cooked whole, little butchering is required to remove the cooked meat.

The small mammal remains consist of two fragments of a cat pelvis in the posthole fill (0453) and a mandible from a Water Vole was produced from the posthole fill (0554).

Conclusions and comparisons with other sites

Overall, this assemblage has been quite poorly preserved due to adverse soil conditions. Surviving evidence shows a range of bone waste from the initial skinning and dismemberment of the carcass through to cuts from meat removal, suggesting the animals were processed on or close to the site.

The dominance of cattle and sheep/goat is common in assemblages of a Roman date, where these animals provided the bulk of the meat as well as both providing milk and a range of other by-products. The presence of neonatal ovicaprid and porcine bones would suggest on-site breeding of these animals. Both goose and fowl would have been kept on site for a supply of eggs, meat and, with the goose, feathers for fletching.

The assemblage is broadly similar to other remains in the area, such as those from Eriswell (Curl, 2011) and Lakenheath, Liberty Village excavations (Curl, 2012), with a dominance of cattle, although the ratios of other species vary and suggest while cattle were of constant importance, the use of other species might have varied in the area.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

The excavations are part of an ongoing series of works at RAF Lakenheath. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the

excavated area from pits, ditches and other discrete features of largely Late Iron Age and Roman date and twenty-one were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS and the flots were collected in a 300 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 in two appendices (Appendices 21 and 22). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded within all assemblages studied.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff, seeds of common weeds and wetland plants, and tree/shrub macrofossils were present at varying densities within all twenty one assemblages. Preservation was mostly quite poor, with a high proportion of the grains and some seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena sp.*), barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring most frequently. The wheat grains were predominantly of an elongated 'drop' form typical of emmer (*T. dicoccum*) or spelt (*T. spelta*), although a small number of possible rounded, hexaploid type forms were also noted. Wheat chaff, including both emmer and spelt glume bases, was present within most assemblages.

Seeds of common segetal weeds were recorded within all but four samples, although rarely at a high density. The taxa noted most frequently included brome (*Bromus sp.*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), grasses (*Poaceae*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), dock (*Rumex sp.*) and campion (*Silene sp.*). Seeds/fruits of wetland plants, namely sedge (*Carex sp.*), saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis sp.*) and blinks (*Montia fontana*), were scarce, occurring within only seven assemblages. Small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell were recorded within Samples 0102 (pit 0161), 0114 (layer 0545) and 0123 (pit 0473). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout. Other plant macrofossils occurred infrequently but did include pieces of charred root or stem, including fragments of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem.

The fragments of black porous and tarry material, which were present within all twenty one assemblages, were all probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Fragments of bone, some of which were burnt or calcined, were present within most assemblages, but other remains were scarce. A single burnt shell of the open country snail *Pupilla muscorum* was noted within the assemblage from Sample 0111 (ditch 0352).

Discussion

For the purposes of this discussion the samples have, where possible, been ordered by date.

Prehistoric

A single sample (0117) from the fill of pit 0564 is of possible prehistoric date. The assemblage is extremely small, containing little other than charcoal/charred wood, although a single barley grain is recorded along with fragments of heather stem. Such a low density of material is almost certainly derived from a low-density scatter of refuse, which was accidentally incorporated within the pit fill.

Late Iron Age-Early Roman

Nine assemblages are from features recorded as being of probable Late Iron Age to early Roman date. Of these, three are of particular note. Although small, Sample 0103, from a fill within ditch 0189, is almost entirely composed of wheat chaff, including a very high density of spelt glume bases. Some grains are also present, although most are too badly preserved for close identification, and a small number of weed seeds are also recorded. It would appear most likely that this assemblage is derived from a small quantity of charred cereal processing waste, which was deliberately deposited within the ditch fill. Whether this material is indicative of on-site processing is not clear, as such waste is known to have been used and traded as kindling or fuel. However, contemporary evidence from other sites within eastern England does suggest that small batches of grain were frequently processed on an *ad hoc* basis to meet the everyday requirements of a site's inhabitants.

Similar material may also be present within the assemblages from Samples 0102 (pit 0161) and 0119 (ditch 0600), although some differences are apparent. Sample 0119 includes a slightly higher density of larger weed seeds of a similar size to the grains, possibly indicating that this is from an advanced stage of processing. Such

contaminants, which were not removed during winnowing, would have persisted within batches of grain until they were removed by hand immediately prior to consumption. In addition to chaff and weed seeds, Sample 0102 also contains a moderately high density of heather stem fragments. Such assemblages are often associated with deposits of oven waste, as heather was favoured as a fuel for a range of domestic and light 'industrial' purposes.

The remaining assemblages of Late Iron Age to early Roman date contain occasional cereals, chaff elements and seeds, but the low density of material probably indicates that they are all accidental inclusions within the feature fills.

Roman

The assemblages of Roman date are all essentially similar to the earlier material (see above), with all four containing moderate densities of cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds. Although it is quite likely that these remains are indicative of some on-site cereal processing, Samples 0107 (ditch 0202) and 0114 (layer 0545) also contain fragments of burnt bone, possibly suggesting that hearth waste is also present within the assemblages. This would appear to reinforce the hypothesis that processing waste may also have been utilised as kindling or fuel within a domestic context. In addition, Sample 0107 also contains a moderate density of heather, which, as mentioned above, was commonly used to fuel ovens and kilns.

Undated features

Seven assemblages are from features which are not intrinsically datable. However, the assemblage from Sample 0104 (ditch 0167) is almost identical to that from Sample 0103 (see above Late Iron Age-early Roman), possibly suggesting that they are both derived from a common, contemporary source. The assemblages from Samples 0106 (pit 0189) and 0109 (pit 0334) both contain grains, chaff and weed seeds, again suggesting that they are derived from processing residues of Late Iron Age or Roman date. The remaining assemblages contain little other than charcoal/charred wood fragments, the origin and date of which remain uncertain.

Conclusions

In summary, although some assemblages would appear to be derived from small, deliberate deposits of processing detritus or hearth waste of Late Iron Age to Roman date, other remains are more likely to be derived from scattered refuse, some or all of

which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. The production/processing of cereals, and most particularly wheat, would appear to have been of some importance to the local economy, although large scale processing is not indicated. Instead, and following a pattern which has now been noted at contemporary sites within Cambridgeshire, it would appear that the needs of the occupants were met by the small-scale processing of grain on a day-to-day basis, with at least some of the processing 'dross' being used as kindling or fuel. Additional fuel was also being gathered from the nearby areas of heathland.

10 ERL 217 Potential of Data for further work

10.1 Realisation of the Original Research Aims

ORA 1: Define the extent of the two areas of archaeological activity identified during the evaluation stage of the project

Realisation: The extent, as existing within the development area, of the archaeological deposits identified during the evaluation were defined including a previously unidentified area of concentrated archaeology located at the north-east corner of Area 1.

ORA 2: Mitigate the destruction of the archaeological horizon through sufficient, as detailed in the brief, examination of the defined areas of archaeological activity.

Realisation: All archaeological deposits and cut features were investigated to at least the level specified in the associated brief.

ORA 3: Establish the date, form and function of the archaeological horizons present within the excavation areas

Realisation: Spot dates and early theories of function have been assigned to the deposits and cut features that produced adequate bulk finds and morphological evidence. The range of spot dates provides a narrow date range generally falling within the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period. Cut features are present in the form of a single burial, pits, structural postholes, field system ditches and enclosure ditches whilst deposits have been recognised as buried soils both predating and contemporary with the intrusive features.

ORA 4: Evaluate the impact of previous ground works carried out within the development area.

Realisation: The impact of ground works related to the sites former status as a housing estate were recorded across the site, most notably towards the north east corner of Area 1, and reached a maximum recorded depth of 1m below the current ground level. Evidence of truncation of the archaeological horizon was identified through the shallow surviving depth on many of the discreet features; this was most notable across Area 2 and the southern end of Area 1.

ORA 5: Assess the archaeological horizons in regards to economic and social change and development during the Late Iron Age and Iron Age-Roman transition

Realisation: The archaeological horizons identified during the excavation display several ditch systems, including two enclosures, being introduced between the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. The adoption of these changes to the landscape over a relatively short timeframe reflects the developing culture and economy of the era. The landscape exploitation evolves from early segmented boundaries utilising natural features as a locus, through narrow, undulating, off-angled ditches (likely to have been used for transit of livestock to and from the drove way), to a final uniform, larger scaled system incorporating a probable barn structure (Pl. 4) that may have been used for keeping larger numbers of livestock on-site – an interpretation which infers a growing local population. The potential for the results of the excavations to contribute to further study has been assessed.

ORA 6: Investigate the sites potential to increase our understanding of the development of the agrarian economy alongside changes in the landscape and land use through out all periods represented within the identified archaeological horizons through the analysis of stratigraphic evidence, palynological sequences and preserved macrofossils

Realisation: Evidence of the production/processing of cereals, most particularly wheat, is persistent across the environmental samples taken from across both areas. The low volume yet ubiquitous nature of the evidence signifies an importance to the local populous though possibly not economy.

The presence of a probable barn structure, a proliferation of cattle and sheep/goat within the faunal assemblage and the presence of ditch systems reflecting the southern drove ways alignment all point to a local economy heavily oriented to livestock. The potential for further study to address this research aim has been assessed and is presented in this document.

10.2 General discussion of potential

The site lies within an archaeological landscape known to be particularly rich with Iron Age and Roman evidence. This site has the potential to consolidate a portion of this landscape that has previously only been recorded to the north (ERL 214 and 118), south (ERL 089) and west (ERL 111, 112, 211 and 212) of the development area. The narrow date range of recovered finds in combination with multiple phases of land use and enhancement also has the potential to address several research objectives for the region and local area relating to local economy, land use and the Late Iron Age to Roman transition. Of particular notes is the unusually rich assemblages retrieved from the environmental samples which have good potential to both help interpret the environmental conditions during the use of this site, and inform the wider discussion of economy, environment and land-use on the Base during the Iron Age and Roman periods.

10.3 The potential of the stratigraphic data

In order to complete this assessment a preliminary interpretation of the stratigraphic archive has been made based upon grouping of contexts through stratigraphic and spatial relationships. The combination of the interpretation with the finds assessment has allowed the creation of a simple site sequence (see section 6).

Further analysis of the stratigraphic archive in conjunction with the results of the proposed work on the finds and environmental archives and related documentary evidence would allow a greater understanding of the site sequence including local and regional significance.

In particular there is considerable scope for the closer investigation of the currently assigned groups and phases in order to propose a more detailed site sequence directly referencing surrounding sites and RAF Lakenheath and the wider fen-edge as a whole.

The monitored pipe trench has low potential to provide meaningful data beyond the presence of undated archaeology. It is possible that comparison with similar postholes found to the north at ERL 214 may provide a link between the two sites.

10.4 The potential of the finds data and recommendations for further work

Potential of the Prehistoric finds

Prehistoric activity can be demonstrated from the site finds assemblage, but the nature and date of much of this activity is difficult to closely define from the finds alone. There is one inhumation burial of an adult which is presumed to be prehistoric.

Many of the prehistoric finds from the site are residual and therefore the potential for a significant contribution to studies of the prehistoric occupation at RAF Lakenheath is limited, but there were a few contexts to contain only prehistoric finds. The most significant of these is the pit 0043 (0042) which contained an assemblage of flint and Iron Age pottery and was excavated during the evaluation phase. Two other pits from the evaluation phase 0038 (0039) and 0040 (0041) which contained fired clay and heated stone could also be of prehistoric (Iron Age?) date. The fired clay probably represents the remains of clay built hearths or ovens although the quantity of heated stones (possibly resulting from cooking using 'pot-boilers') is very small and may simply be residual or represent accidentally heated pieces.

The earliest closely dated find is a single sherd from a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age Beaker. However, apart from one or two pieces of worked flint which might date prior to the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age there is little indication from the finds assemblage of any significant activity on the site at this early date. Beyond the site, this find can be seen in relation to other finds and features of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date, including burials and settlement, from sites both north (ERL 114) and south (ERL129, ERL 148 and ERL 203) of this site.

The nature of the worked flint and the hand-made pottery indicate that most, if not all of the prehistoric finds probably date to the Iron Age. Much of the pottery can be dated to the Middle or Late Iron Age and might overlap with the grog-tempered wares of Late Iron Age date which appear on the site probably in the first half of the 1st century AD. Although few features on this site can be dated to the middle to later Iron Age, the pottery itself has the potential to add to the overall analysis of the pottery in use in this area during the middle-later Iron Age. The worked flint assemblage appears to be

contemporary with the pottery and further brief examination of these assemblages have the potential to contribute to Iron Age artefact studies and the use of flint in that period.

An inhumation burial of an adult on the site had been laid in a crouched position. The burial is not dated by associated finds, but the position suggests that is probably prehistoric. Independent dating of the bone may not be possible as the remains may not be sufficiently well preserved for radiocarbon dating, but in the absence of any other means of dating the burial ought to be attempted, in order to try and place this burials within the context (or not) of the Bronze Age funerary landscape that the site lies within..

Potential of the Roman finds

The Late Iron Age and Roman occupation is dated by pottery and coins. It forms part of a wider area of occupation of this period, to the north, south and west of this site, and the Roman finds have the potential to be studied alongside those of adjacent sites to help define the nature and date of the occupation in this southern part of the base.

The grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery indicates a Late Iron Age phase during the first half of the first century AD. This pottery type is not much found in Central-North Suffolk and Norfolk, the core areas occupied by the Iceni tribe, but is found in the Late Iron Age in the southern and the western areas of Suffolk. Its presence here may reflect the influence of the Trinovantes and Catuvellauni tribes, located to the south and west where grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery is the norm in the Late Iron Age period. Two Late Iron Age coins, both silver units of the Iceni, also date to this period, although coin hoards show that they remain current into the post-conquest period until c. 60 AD. A large hoard of Iceni coins was recovered from a site c.650m SW of ERL 217 in 1972 (ERL 048 - West, 1982) , a detailed coin report may show whether these are the same type of coin. Further examination of this material alongside the larger assemblages of, particularly, ERL 089 to the south of this site, offer the opportunity to both examine the nature of the Late Iron Age and Early Roman occupation in this part of the Base and consider wider topics such as the potential mixture of different tribal influences affecting the people and culture of this area in the Late Iron Age.

Most of the Roman pottery can be dated to the mid-late 1st century or possibly the early 2nd century. The lack of Roman/Gallo-Roman specialist pottery vessels among the

assemblage and the dominance of Late Iron Age inspired forms, often in 'Romanising' fabrics, appear to suggest a level of continuity from the Late Iron Age into the early Roman period. Some of the pottery could date to the mid 2nd century or later, but the amount is very small and consists of just a few sherds from the Horningsea kilns. However, these kilns may be sufficiently close that the pottery might be from the early production at the site rather than part of its later 2nd century expansion.

The only closely dated late Roman finds are two coins dating to the late 3rd century and 4th century, one of which is an unusual issue struck for Maximian by Carausius. In the absence of other finds dated to the late Roman period these appear possibly to be casual losses and the detectable significant activity or occupation on the site appears, based on pottery dating, to have ended in the late 1st or early/mid 2nd century.

A child, either a stillbirth or perhaps more likely a victim of infanticide, had been buried in the fill of one of the Roman ditches, but the burial is not otherwise closely dated. There is some indication that this child may have suffered from an infection or a deficiency disease.

The environmental evidence indicates the site lay within part of a farm or farming community; and that this appears to have been the main occupation of the local inhabitants. The site was close enough to the habitation for local butchery waste and for crop processing debris or fuel waste (some of which can be identified as from spelt wheat) to be disposed of here. There is also some indication of pig breeding and the keeping of geese and fowl. Overall, the faunal assemblage appears to reflect Roman practices and the Roman period occupation with a dominance of cattle and sheep/goat. Although there appears to be continuity from the Late Iron Age in terms of the pottery finds this suggests an intensification of activity in the Roman period. Evidence from ERL 089 to the south, is interpreted as a field system to aid livestock management, including a droveway, paddocks, gates and races. Comparison and integration of these results with those from ERL 089 has good potential to provide a much fuller picture of Late Iron Age and Early Roman farming practices.

Overall the presence of the two Iron Age silver coins (although not properly stratified) may imply some level of status and mobility in order to access these items, a fact attested to by the presence of the hoard of over 300 Iceni and Roman coins from

relatively near the site. However, this contrasts with the general pottery assemblage which does not demonstrate anything other than a relatively low status rural community which, as other finds indicate, was probably primarily concerned with farming. The absence of any ceramic building material also suggests timber buildings with thatched or shingle roofs as the types of structures which would have been located on or close to the site. Comparison of this absence with the results of nearby similarly dated excavations has good potential to build a comprehensive picture of the nature of the activity in this period.

Potential of the Post-Roman finds

There is no indication among the finds of any significant activity following the Roman period. The only closely dated find of post-Roman date is a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery of 5th-7th century date. There is considerable Early Anglo-Saxon evidence from north of this site, this sherd is probably a stray and offers little potential for further work.

General recommendations for further work

All of the finds have been quantified by count and weight by contexts and more detailed catalogues have been made for many of the bulk finds categories. In certain cases, some additional work is required to bring the level of analysis up to the level of work that has already been undertaken on other sites within the broader area of investigation.

All finds types should be considered by their spatial and temporal distribution once context and phasing is finalised and plans are available. They should also be considered in terms of their broader context and in relation to other associated finds material from nearby sites.

Pottery

Prehistoric

The prehistoric pottery consists almost entirely of plain body sherds of probable Iron Age date. Although it has been initially catalogued, it requires further recording in a manner that is consistent with the records made for the prehistoric pottery from the

other sites at Lakenheath, in order to place the assemblage in a broader context and to facilitate any comparative work.

Late Iron Age/Roman

The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery has few identifiable vessel form types. No further work is required on the assemblage itself, but the catalogue should be incorporated into the information available for the rest of RAF Lakenheath, and used to enhance the value of the overall analysis of the Roman occupation.

Post-Roman

No further work is required for the post-Roman pottery, apart from a consideration of the Early Anglo-Saxon sherd from the evaluation in the broader perspective of the other sites in the vicinity.

Fired clay

The assemblage has been quantified by count, weight and fabric. Little information would be obtained from any further analysis of this assemblage and no further work is required, although a brief survey of the spatial distribution of this material would be beneficial.

Struck flint

Little information would be obtained from any further analysis of this assemblage and no further work is recommended. A summary report on the flint should be included in the final site report.

Heat-altered stone

The heat-altered stone was quantified by count and weight. Little information would be obtained from any further analysis of this assemblage and no further work is required, apart from a brief examination of the spatial distribution of this material to determine potential areas of prehistoric activity.

10.5 The potential of the small finds

The majority of the small finds have been fully recorded and no further work is recommended. Following on from radiography, the two iron objects provisionally identified as brooches will require fuller descriptions.

10.6 The potential of the environmental evidence

Human skeletal remains

A full report has been produced. The quantity and condition of the bone suggests that it may not be sufficient for radiocarbon dating. However, as there does not appear to be any other close dating evidence for the adult burial, dated as prehistoric a radiocarbon date attempt should be considered. There would be no charge for this if no date could be obtained.

Animal bone

All of the animal bone from the excavation has been fully catalogued. No further work on the assemblage is recommended by the specialist, but it should be included in the overall ongoing, analysis of the animal bone from RAF Lakenheath.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

Although small, some of the assemblages are unusually rich, and merit further analysis. The following assemblages certainly do contain a sufficient density of material for quantification, and it is suggested that such work may provide useful data about certain aspects of the economy of the site. These results should be considered within the overall study of the environmental and landscape data from the site, and incorporated into the overall synthesis.

Sample 0103 Ditch 0189 - Late Iron Age-Early Roman

Sample 0119 Ditch 0600 - Early Roman

Sample 0101 Pit 0120 - Roman

Sample 0107 Ditch 0202 - ?Roman

Sample 0114 Layer 0545 - ?Roman

Sample 0104 Ditch 0167 - Presently undated

Sample 0106 Ditch 0189 - Presently undated

11 Significance of the Results

These sites form part of an extensively excavated wider archaeological landscape at RAF Lakenheath. Whilst each site has some local significance in its own right determined by its relevance to the 'Revised Framework for the East of England' (Medlycott 2011), both attain regional or national significance once examined in the context of the previous works. Both sites lie within a part of the base that had not previously received much development attention, and this work has filled in a considerable gap, linking the evidence of the Early Roman occupation to the west of ERL 217 to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman droveway evidence of ERL 089 and 129, and providing evidence of alternative activity indicated by the field systems of ERL 213 contemporary with the large pit group at ERL 147. In addition further evidence to complement the single earlier Neolithic cremation at ERL 129 has been identified, thus helping to build up a picture of some of the elusive earliest activity on the Base.

The Iron Age landscape of East Anglia has received an increased degree of attention recently and is recognised as a key period that requires further investigation (Medlycott 2011). The evidence produced by ERL 213 is of particular significance with regard to the division and use of the landscape during the later Iron Age period. At least two different boundary systems, both containing contemporary evidence, have been identified within the development area and clearly suggest a fairly substantial change in the division of the land during that period. These changes could reflect a larger scale of landscape transformation occurring across the airbase throughout the later prehistoric and early Roman period. Examination of the evidence alongside that of ERL 147 will allow comparison of the evidence for possible zoning of activities in the later Iron Age, and to enable investigation of what other activities were being undertaken beyond the area of extensive pit digging which may contribute to interpreting the function of the pits.

The location of ERL 217 between the prehistoric droveway recorded in ERL 089, the Early Roman activity at ERL 111, 112, 118 et al and the core of later Roman occupation at Caudle Head (Fig. 1) places it within an archaeological landscape that was evolving throughout the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods. The changes in population, culture and economy associated with this evolution are reflected within the stratigraphic and bulk finds evidence recovered by this project.

The Iron Age/Roman transition across the region appears to have been a seamless change with areas of existing Iron Age occupation and activity being superseded by Roman evidence commonly with associated changes to land use and arrangement (Medlycott, 2011). This is certainly reflected by the stratigraphic and finds evidence recovered from the project which identifies several ditch arrangements, and therefore land uses occurring across a fairly narrow period encompassing the transition.

The nature of the agrarian economy during the Late Iron Age to early Roman period is also noted to require further study (Caruth, 2005; Medlycott, 2011). Although the recovery of faunal remains was sparse they are dominated by cattle and sheep/goat remains indicating a local populous at least partly dependent on livestock for subsistence and trade. The shared alignment of the boundary/enclosure ditches with those forming the driveway to the south where by livestock could be more easily transported. Evidence of a possible corral or pen is also present towards the eastern side of Area 1.

It is notable that the activity here at the southern part of the Base appears to finish during the 2nd century AD, whereas settlement is still thriving around Caudle Head until the end of the 4th century AD. Why does is this area apparently abandoned, when people are still living so close by?

12 Updated Project Design

12.1 Revised research aims

Following preliminary examination of the results of the two excavations and assessment of the potential for analysis, the research topics that the further work has the potential to address have been revised and are outlined below.

RRA1: Site specific questions

- Can the phasing be enhanced through further analysis of the stratigraphic and bulk finds archives in combination with evidence from previous nearby projects?
- What date are the infant remains at ERL 217? It is likely that they are Roman, but this should be confirmed if possible.
- Can further analysis of the stratigraphic archive provide a greater understanding of the evolution of the archaeological landscape and aid a more detailed phasing of the ditch systems and related discrete features?
- The undated pits assigned to ERL 213 Phases 5a and 5b are predominantly located in the East Area and may possess either set alignments or possible building foot prints. Further analysis of the stratigraphic archive and comparison with nearby sites may provide similar examples and aid interpretation of this project's results.

RRA2: Bronze Age Funerary practice

- What date is the crouched burial recorded towards the north-west corner of ERL 217? Although the bones are in poor condition, an attempt at radiocarbon dating should be made.
- If, as suspected, the inhumation is Bronze Age, how does it, and the ERL 213 cremation, already established as Bronze Age, relate to the nearby Bronze Age burials at ERL 114, 148 and 203.

RRA3: Iron Age settlement types

- The distribution of pottery predominantly within ditches at ERL 213 has been noted as atypical of other sites within Liberty Village, RAF Lakenheath. Can further analysis of this distribution provide evidence of the nature of activity on site?
- How do the later Iron Age ditch systems relate to the pit groups at ERL 147? Do these represent different activities?

- Do either of the curvilinear gullies found in ERL 213 or ERL 217 Area 2 represent buildings, specifically representing the drip gullies of Iron Age roundhouses. Can analysis of the stratigraphic archive and comparison with contemporary sites support this interpretation? If so, how do they relate to the possible enclosures?
- Is there any indication of the zoning of activities in the evidence from the different feature types?
- The deposition of a whole later Iron Age vessel at the southern terminus of ditch 0642 (ERL 213, Phase 4, East Area) is unusual within contemporary assemblages recovered from previous projects in Liberty Village. What might this indicate about the use of this part of the site? Does it lend particular significance to that particular enclosure/ditch system, phase of activity. Are there local parallels?

RRA4: Landscape use, division and enclosures

- Ditch G1010 (ERL 213 Phase 3, North Area) has been recut on at least two occasions suggesting that the boundary was maintained, possibly through several phases of activity, and was regarded as an important feature in the landscape. Evidence of this boundary or those following the same alignment, in previous projects may help place this site in the wider landscape and help identify larger scale changes occurring across Lakenheath and Eriswell during the later prehistoric period.
- The archaeological landscape recorded in ERL 213 is dominated by an east-west aligned boundary system that appears to have been maintained and modified thorough the later Iron Age. Is this system present, or reflected, within nearby contemporary sites?
- Can significant differences in landscape division, alignment or function be identified between the later Iron Age and Early Roman periods?
- How does the evidence from these two sites fit the patterns seen across RAF Lakenheath. Can a level of continuity in landscape use be identified

RRA5: The agrarian economy

- Do the enclosure ditches recorded in ERL 217, Area 1 correspond to ditch systems previously identified in adjacent projects, ERL 089, 111, 211 etc.? How closely do these ditches conform to the alignments recorded in ERL 089? Does this represent a continuation of the livestock management system interpreted at ERL 089?

- The exploited natural channel recorded towards the north side of ERL 217 Area 1 may have been used as a watering hole for animals or general access to standing water. Can modern topographical data (LIDAR) be used to assess the extent of the channel and its possible characteristic as a focus for activity within the immediate vicinity?
- Can the environmental evidence help determine what crops were being grown in this area, and whether these vary between the site periods.
- Is it possible to identify the relative proportions of arable to livestock, or where these different activities were taking place.?
- To what extent do we record changes in the agricultural economy from the later Iron Age to the Roman period?

RRA6: Flintworking and heat-altered stone

- Why is the flint working evidence different between the evaluation and excavation assemblages. How does it compare with that from the nearby later Iron Age assemblages. How does examination of this assemblage shed light on the role of flintworking in the later Iron Age which is currently poorly understood (Medleycott, 2011).
- What is the distribution of the heat-altered stone, is it found in pits and if so does it indicate a particular activity associated with the pits. The frequent presence of this material has been noted (Medleycott, 2011) but there has been little research so far into its meaning.

RRA7: Roman settlement

- Can further interpretation of the structure identified in Area 1 be made through analysis of the stratigraphic archive and comparison of contemporary sites?
- Why does the Roman occupation in this area appear to end in the 2nd century AD.
- How does the Early Roman evidence from this part of the Base, compare with that from around Caudle Head.

12.2 Recommendations for analysis and publication

Following completion of the analyses, these projects should be included in the current publication programme for the archaeological work at RAF Lakenheath. Both sites have the potential to make significant contributions to the overall study for the later iron Age

and Roman periods. The results of ERL 213 will be included in the Prehistoric volume and ERL 217 the Late Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements volume. Preliminary synopses for each are included below.

12.3 Analytical report synopsis

The creation of an analytical report addressing the RRA's by incorporating the existing interpretation and phasing with the results of the further work and tasks set out in sections 12.4 and 16. The report is to be submitted as 'grey-literature' to the OASIS online archaeological database.

The report would include a site sequence governed by phase and period data determined from the finds and environmental evidence. The revised research aims (above) will be addressed and their answers, combined with other aims that may be defined as a result of the further work, used to place the site within the archaeological landscape of Lakenheath. The report would include selected section and plan drawings, associated site photographs and relevant maps and plans of contemporary sites.

The significance of the results may require a further stage of publication, such as the submission of a summary to the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History* or as part of a larger report incorporating results from numerous other excavations across RAF Lakenheath.

13 Publication proposal

Following completion of the analytical reports, the results of both projects should be integrated into the relevant volumes of the proposed RAF Lakenheath, East Anglian Archaeology publication. The results of ERL 213 will be discussed within the prehistoric volume, with inclusions in the Neolithic pottery, Bronze Age funerary and Iron Age occupation sections. The results of ERL 217 will be integrated into both the Prehistoric and the Late iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements volume, with inclusions in the Bronze Age funerary, Iron Age occupation and Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlements sections. Brief site background and locational information will be included throughout the volumes as necessary and is not included in the summary below. A preliminary outline showing expected content and additional pages/figures is included below:

Element	Volume	Section	Description	No. of pages	No. of figures
Early Neolithic pottery	Prehistoric	Neolithic pottery	Included as part of overall assemblage	<0.25	
Bronze Age cremation and inhumation (assuming it is Bronze Age), pottery and small find	Prehistoric	Funerary activity	Included in discussion of funerary rights, phasing of burials, comparisons between inhumation and cremation rites, topographical significance	0.5 page	1 figure - plan of burial
Iron Age ditch system, pits and finds	Prehistoric	Iron Age occupation	Discussion of enclosure phasing, comparison with ERL 147 and the pits, and other Iron Age ditch systems on the Base. Comparison of pottery deposition across the sites, consideration of evidence for Iron Age flint working	4 pages	1 figure, phased site plan, 1 figure Iron Age field system, 1 figure, pottery and flint drawings, 1 figure pottery distribution plot
Late Iron Age and Early Roman settlement/fieldsystem	Settlements	LIA/ERom settlement north of Lord's Walk. LIA/ERom agrarian activity	Full description and discussion of structure, with reference to parallels. Discussion of enclosures in comparison with ERL 089, 129, 111, 211, considering evidence of settlement and use of driveway, evidence for paddocks and other livestock management evidence. Also discussion of pottery evidence and reasons for ending of activity in the 2nd century AD. Will include integration of finds and environmental evidence	3 pages	1 figure, plan and sections of building. 1 figure showing phased field system and enclosures
Finds and environmental specialist work	Both	Specialist chapters	Description of results and comparison with and integration into Base overview	2 pages	2 tables, 1 figure
Total				10 pages	8 figures, 2 tables

Table 21. Preliminary publication synopsis

14 Resources and programming

14.1 Staff for analysis and publication

Name	Organisation	Initials	Role
Jo Caruth	SCCAS	JC	Project Manager,
Andy Beverton	SCCAS	AB	Assistant Project Officer, stratigraphic analysis
Richenda Goffin	SCCAS	RG	Finds Manager
Cathy Tester	SCCAS	CT	Finds Officer
Crane Begg	SCCAS	CB	Graphics Officer
Gemma Adams	SCCAS	GA	Graphics Assistant
Anna West	SCCAS	AW	Environmental Officer
Sarah Percival	Freelance	SP	Prehistoric pottery specialist
Sarah Bates	Freelance	SB	Lithics specialist
Val Fryer	Freelance	VF	Environmental specialist
	Colchester Museums Service	CMS	Metal finds conservation and X-ray
Sue Anderson	Freelance	SA	Human remains specialist
Julie Curl	Freelance	JC	Animal bone
	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre	SUERC	Radiocarbon dating
Sue Holden	Freelance	SH	Illustrator

Table 22. Staff list required for project completion

14.2 ERL 213 - Task sequence and method statements for analysis and publication

Initial preparation

Task 01: Completion of digital archive (AB)

Task 02: Preparation of information for specialists, including plans, updated phasing and datasets, answering queries (AB)

Task 03: Integration of finds and animal bone from the environmental samples and updating database (CT)

Stratigraphic analysis

Task 04: Detailed examination of the identified ditch systems, updating of groups and phasing (including phasing of the Harris matrix) (AB)

Task 05: Discussion text for report

Bulk finds

Task 08: Prehistoric pottery catalogue completion, analysis and report (SP)

Task 09: Roman pottery summary (CT)

Task 10: Summary of undiagnostic fired clay (CT)

Task 12: Completion of worked flint catalogue, analysis and report (SB)

Task 13: Examination of the data for heat-altered stone, incorporating any refined context and phasing information, in terms of its deposition and associated finds materials and summarised in the archive report. (CT)

Task 17: Updating of Microsoft Access finds databases and appendices (CT)

Task 18: Production of finds report for incorporation to the Liberty Village publication (CT)

Small finds

Task 19: Full catalogue entry and discussion of bone pin (SF 1001). (IR)

Task 11: Catalogue and description of three fired clay loom weights (IR)

Biological and environmental evidence

Task 20: Incorporate cremated HSR radiocarbon date into overall finds report (SA)

Task 21: Completion of animal bone catalogue and report (JC)

Task 22: Integration of macrofossil evidence into overview of all areas (VF)

Illustrations

Task 23 Illustration of selected finds (fourteen pottery sherds, 3 pieces of struck flint and the bone object)

Task 24 Completion of digitisation of site drawings (CB)

Task 25 Scanning and pasting up of finds illustration (GA)

14.3 ERL 217 - Task sequence and method statement for analysis and publication

Initial preparation

Task 01: Completion of digital archive (AB)

Task 02: Preparation of information for specialists, including plans, updated phasing and datasets, answering queries (AB)

Task 03: Integration of finds and animal bone from the environmental samples and updating database (CT)

Stratigraphic analysis

Task 01: Further analysis of the stratigraphic archive incorporating finds and environmental evidence, topographical data and contemporary sites in the vicinity of the

development area in order to establish more details phasing and, if possible, distinct periods of activity. Examination of structure and research into parallels

Task 02: Written descriptions defining groupings, function and phasing of ditch systems and discreet features. Discussion text for report.

Bulk finds

Task 03: Inclusion of prehistoric pottery in overall catalogue

Task 03: The completion of a summary report on the flint.

Task 06: Updating of catalogues, databases and appendices.

Task 07: Production of an updated finds report combing current and recommended work.

Small finds

Task 04: Analysis of x-ray results for two Iron objects provisionally identified as Roman brooches.

Environmental evidence

Task 05: Quantification of the charred plant macrofossils and other environmental remains summarised in an environment report.

Illustrations

Task 23 Illustration of selected finds, scanning and pasting up

Task 24 Production of site plans, sections and phase plans (CB)

14.4 Task sequence for report production, publication and archiving

Production of analytical report

Task 15: Collation of specialists reports, production of overall draft text (JC/AB)

Task 16: Copy editing, specialist edits and corrections (RG+).

Publication

Task 26 Production of text for integration into overall publication (JC)

Task 27 Production of publication figures (CB)

Task 19: Proof reading and editing

Project management

Task 18: Overall project management.

Task *: Finds management

Final archive deposition

Task 20: Preparation and deposition of site archive

14.5 Programming

The analysis stage of the works will start on 1st July 2013, with completion by March 2014. Draft publication will follow the timetable set for the overall publication of submission in March 2015. Actual publication dates will be dependent on East Anglian Archaeology timetables.

15. Current archive deposition

15.1 ERL 213

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Eriswell\ERL 213

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HTE 85-99, HTF 1-99, HTG 1-99 and HTH 1-12

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

15.2 ERL 217

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Eriswell\ERL 217 Halifax St Excavation

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Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

16 Acknowledgements

The excavation and post-excavation assessments were commissioned by Mansells Construction Ltd.

Jude Plouviez (SCCAS, Conservation Team) provided the Brief and Specification and monitored the fieldwork. Jo Caruth (SCCAS, Senior Project Officer) managed the project.

Andy Beverton directed the fieldwork and was assisted by Bill Brooks, Rob Brookes, Phil Camps, Tony Fisher, Simon Picard, John Sims and Adam Yates (SCCAS, Field Team).

Finds were processed by Jonathan Van Jennians (SCCAS, Finds Team) and environmental samples were processed by Anna West (SCCAS, Environmental Archaeologist).

The finds assessment reports were compiled and written by Cathy Tester (ERL 213) and Stephen Benfield (ERL 217) with additions by Sue Anderson, Sarah Bates, Ruth Beveridge, Andrew Brown, Julie Curl, Val Fryer, Sam Moorhead and Cathy Tester.

Graphics were created by Gemma Adams (SCCAS, Graphics Team) and Richenda Goffin (SCCAS, Post-excavation Manager) edited the post-excavation assessment.

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