

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/130**

# **Churchyard Extension, St Mary's Church Polstead PLS 038**

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** B/08/01734/FUL

**Date of Fieldwork:** 15th June 2009 to 25th June 2009

**Grid Reference:** TL 9889 3803

**Funding Body:** Polstead Parish Council

**Curatorial Officer:** Robert Carr

**Project Officer:** Liz Muldowney

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Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
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## Summary

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An archaeological excavation was carried out on land to the south-west of the current boundary to St. Mary's Church, Polstead between the 15th and the 25th of June 2009. The work was undertaken in advance of the extension of the burial ground associated with the church. An area measuring 46m by 14m was investigated within the proposed development area. The south-east portion of the development area (measuring 15m by 14m) was not investigated as this part of the site will be used for the interment of cremated remains which would have no impact on any underlying archaeology.

The excavation provided evidence for part of a late Iron Age settlement sited on the hill top. The settlement and its associated features extended in all directions from the excavation area including to the north-east below the present graveyard. Few finds were retrieved from the excavated features, although this is not unusual on sites of this nature of this date. The investigated area was not sited over the core of the settlement, however, the presence of well constructed postholes and the pit that contained two deliberately interred pottery vessels with smaller vessels placed within them suggests that there was occupation and possibly structures in the immediate vicinity.

A single sherd of Romano-British pottery recovered from the site might indicate some Romano-British presence in the area, but not within the scope of the development area. Two probably intrusive sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered.



# **1. Introduction**

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An archaeological excavation was carried out on land to the south-west of St. Mary's Church, Polstead between the 15th and the 25th June 2009. The work was carried out in accordance with a Method Statement (Appendix 1) provided by David Gill (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Excavation Team) following discussion with Robert Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team). The work was undertaken in advance of the extension of the current graveyard (B/08/10734/FUL), following an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area in May 2007 (Gill 2007). The excavation represents the archaeological mitigation required as the archaeological condition attached to the planning application. Funding was provided by Polstead Parish Council.

This report provides a quantification of the results and considers the importance of the site data, its potential for analysis and the scope to answer specific research questions. It makes recommendations for further work and the ultimate dissemination of the significant results and includes an outline of costs to bring the project to a conclusion and is consistent with the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (MAP2), notably Appendices 4 and 5 (English Heritage, 1991). The principal aims of this document are as follows:

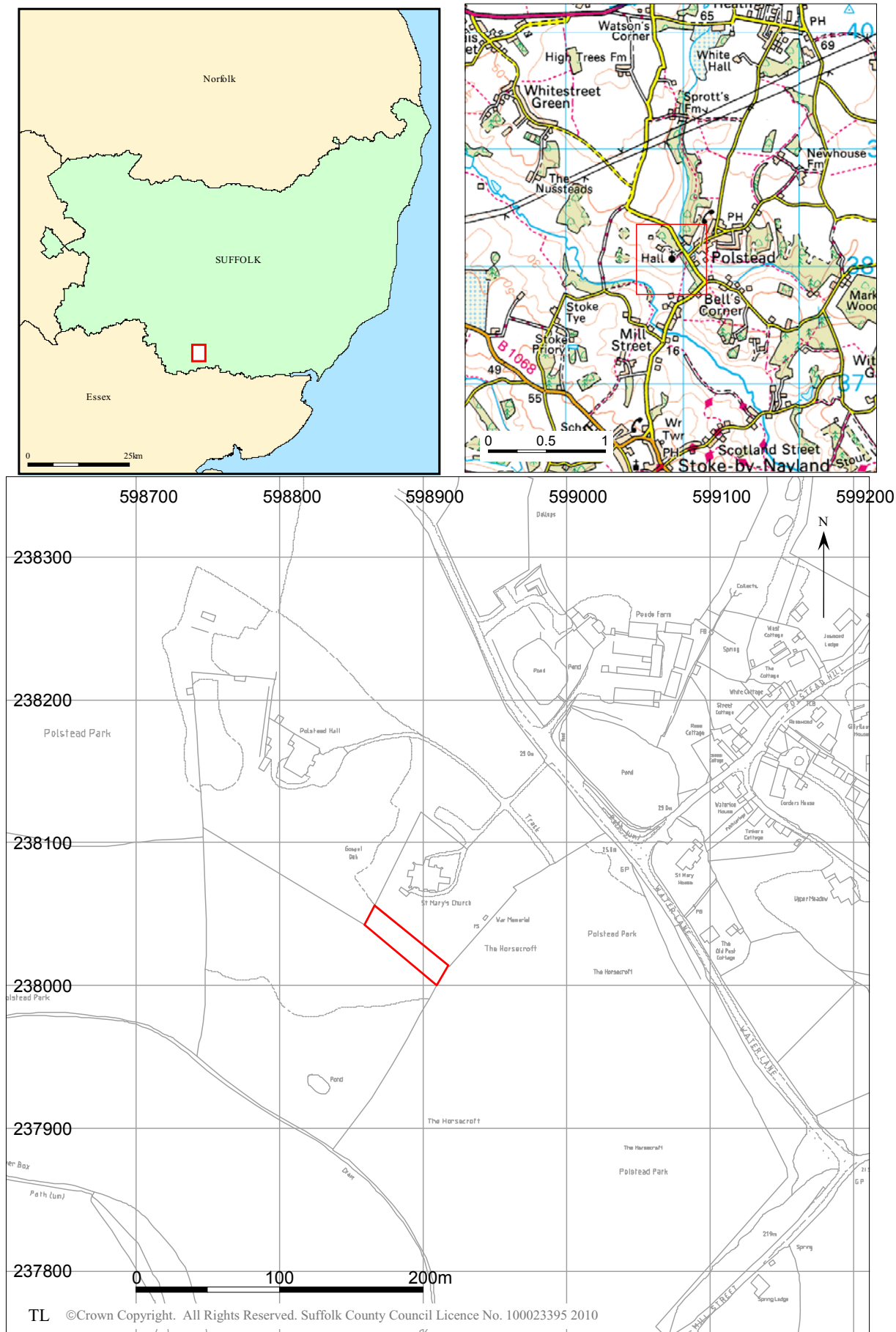
- To report on the results of the archaeological fieldwork
- To assess the significance of the data in relation to the relevant Regional Research Framework (Brown & Glazebrook, 1997; Glazebrook, 2000)
- To assess the potential of the site archive to answer specific research aims defined in this report.
- To make recommendations for further analysis and publication of any significant results of the fieldwork.

## **2. The excavation**

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### **2.1 Site location**

The site lies at TL 9889 3803 immediately to the south-west of the current graveyard boundary (Fig. 1). The development area was rectangular in plan measuring 65m by 15m; an excavation area measuring 46m by 14m was investigated within this (Fig. 3).



## **2.2 Geology and topography**

The excavation area was within part of the Horsecroft field which at the time of excavation was under pasture and used for grazing for sheep. The site is positioned on the promontory of a hill overlooking the valleys associated with the River Box and its tributaries. The modern ground surface around the church extending into the field is a relatively flat plateau, then the land drops sharply with a more natural slope continuing down to the south and east. This plateau was shown to be artificial during the evaluation. Once the overlying layers had been removed during excavation the original topography suggested a gradual slope down from the higher ground at the north-west to the south-east. This gradual slope was the continuation of the natural slope seen in Horsecroft field beyond the artificial scarp. At the north-west end of the excavated area the modern ground surface was at approximately 38.1 m OD, and at the south-east it was at c. 36m OD. The natural horizon was between 37.6m and 35m OD across the slope. The geological horizon was mid yellowy orange silty clay with patches of sandy gravel present, predominantly to the north-west.

## **2.3 Archaeological and historical background**

St. Mary's Church (PLS 015) is sited outside of the village of Polstead which is located to the north-east. The earliest part of the church dates to the 12th century with later medieval and post-medieval alterations. Polstead Hall (PLS 019) is located 100 metres to the north-west of the church within the remains of a deer park, and Horsecroft field formed part of this park land. The hall was constructed in the 16th century but substantially rebuilt in the late 18th century. It is likely that at least part of the village of Polstead was originally within the area of the park and that this was cleared to enclose the land and tidy up the view. The remains of a tree adjacent to the churchyard is known as the Gospel Oak and is said to be the site where St. Cedd preached in the 7th century AD. The 2007 evaluation (PLS 038) of the current development area and monitoring of a water pipe trench (PLS 031) are the only recorded archaeological interventions within the parish. Evidence from cropmarks and finds spots indicate that there is likely to have been occupation in the vicinity during the prehistoric as well as the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. A brief summary of the Historic Environment Record (HER) identified on Figure 2 is included in Table 1 below.

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
PLS 005	Find spot	Pottery	Unknown	An urn (date not provided) dug out of the field near Polstead Bridge
PLS 009	Find spot	Metalwork	Anglo Saxon	Small late Saxon (11th century) coin hoard and decorated strap end
PLS 012	Cropmark	Ring ditch	Unknown	20m diameter ring ditch possibly associated with enclosures and field system PLS 013. Likely to be Prehistoric. 650m from Church
PLS 013	Cropmark	Enclosures and field system	Unknown	Rectilinear field system with associated trackways and two rectilinear enclosures. Possible evidence for ring ditches within enclosures. Likely to be Prehistoric.
PLS 014	Cropmark	Boundaries	Unknown	Possible boundary ditches c. 420m from Church
PLS 015	Building	Church	Medieval	St Mary's Church, 12th century origins with later medieval and post-medieval alterations
PLS 019	Building	Manor house	Post-medieval	Polstead Hall, 16th century mansion largely rebuilt in the late 18th century
PLS 020	Structure	Bridge	Post-medieval	Homey Bridge, Construction date unknown but recorded on 18th century maps
PLS 021	Structure	Bridge	Post-medieval	Polstead Bridge, construction date unknown
PLS 031	Monitoring	Pot scatter	Medieval	Medieval pottery found during the monitoring of a water pipe trench. SCCAS Report number 98/50
PLS 034	Find spot	Metal find	Medieval	Papal bull seal of Pope Gregory IX

Table 1. Selected HER references

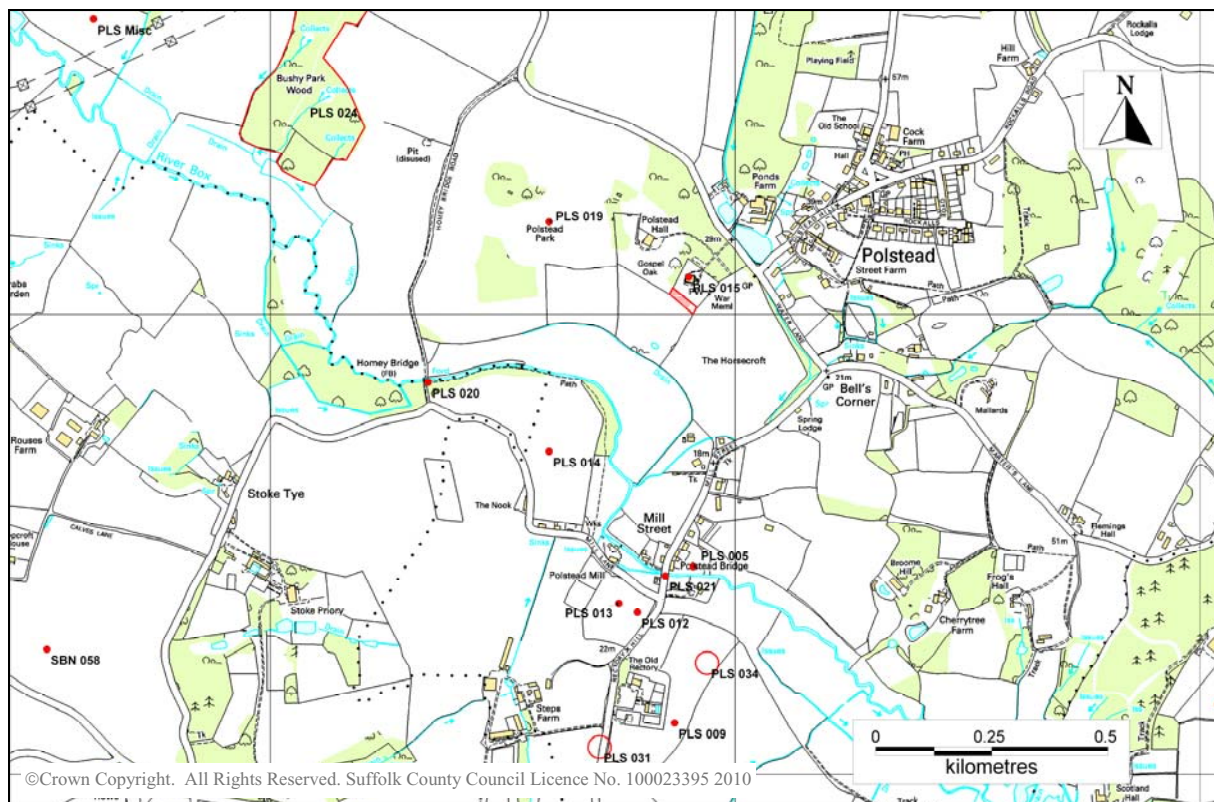


Figure 2. Selected HER references close to the development area

### 3. Methodology

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The excavation was carried out in accordance with the method statement provided by David Gill and followed the standard Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team specifications for open area excavation.

The area was stripped to the natural geological horizon using a 14 tonne Hyundai 360 degree excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. A berm measuring between 2 and 3m in width was maintained between the excavation area and the north-west and north-east fenced boundaries to the Churchyard and the grounds of Polstead Hall to maintain safe access to the intervention and to avoid undermining the fences. Topsoil and subsoil were kept in separate bunds to the south-west of the excavation area to avoid soil contamination during backfilling. A temporary fence was erected around the development area, encompassing the spoil heaps, to secure the area and to protect the livestock in Horsecroft field.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with SCCAS guidelines. All archaeological features were recorded using a single context continuous numbering system starting at 0021, in order to avoid duplication of context numbers assigned during the evaluation. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro-forma* sheets. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales, monochrome photographs and digital images were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Levels were taken on all sections using a dumpy level. Quantification of the archive is included in Appendix 2.

The site grid was set out by tape using an arbitrary origin (100m E/ 200m N) and oriented with the excavation area. All directions on site were recorded in relation to magnetic north not to grid north. The location of the excavated area and the grid was established using differential GPS (Leica 1200). Two temporary survey stations were also set out using the GPS which provided temporary bench marks for the site levels. These stations were removed at the end of the project.

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

Eight environmental samples of between 15 and 30 litres were taken from relevant contexts to investigate possible survival of micro and macro-botanical remains.

Weather conditions were generally favourable for the excavation and the site itself was on relatively free draining geology. Although the surface dried out quickly in the hot weather this did not adversely affect the work.

## 4. Results

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### 4.1 Introduction

Archaeology was encountered across the whole excavation area, increasing in density at the south-east end of the area (Fig.3). The features encountered included pits, postholes and ditches. The full quantification of feature types is listed below in Table 2. Activity within the subject area was reasonably dense but not well stratified. The investigated area was narrow at only 14m in width and as such interpreting form and significance is difficult in such a small slice through what is clearly a much more extensive occupied area.

Excavated feature	Number	Notes
Ditch (excavated slot)	20	Part of 8 ditches
Finds number	1	Pottery recovered from surface of a ditch
Gully	2	Part of 2 narrow ditches
Layer	3	
Pit	21	
Pit/posthole	1	
Posthole	10	
Uncertain feature	1	

Table 2. Feature type quantification

### 4.2 Phasing

Two periods of activity have been identified and features have been assigned to them, but a number of features were undated and could not be phased.

Period 1: Late Iron Age (1st century BC)

Period 2: Late medieval/post-medieval (14th to 19th century AD)

Unphased: All features that could not be assigned to a period



There was little differentiation in the small Iron Age pottery assemblage and stratification was limited, therefore no phasing within this period has been attempted. Some undated features have been included in Period 1 based upon stratification, spatial relationships and groupings based on feature types.

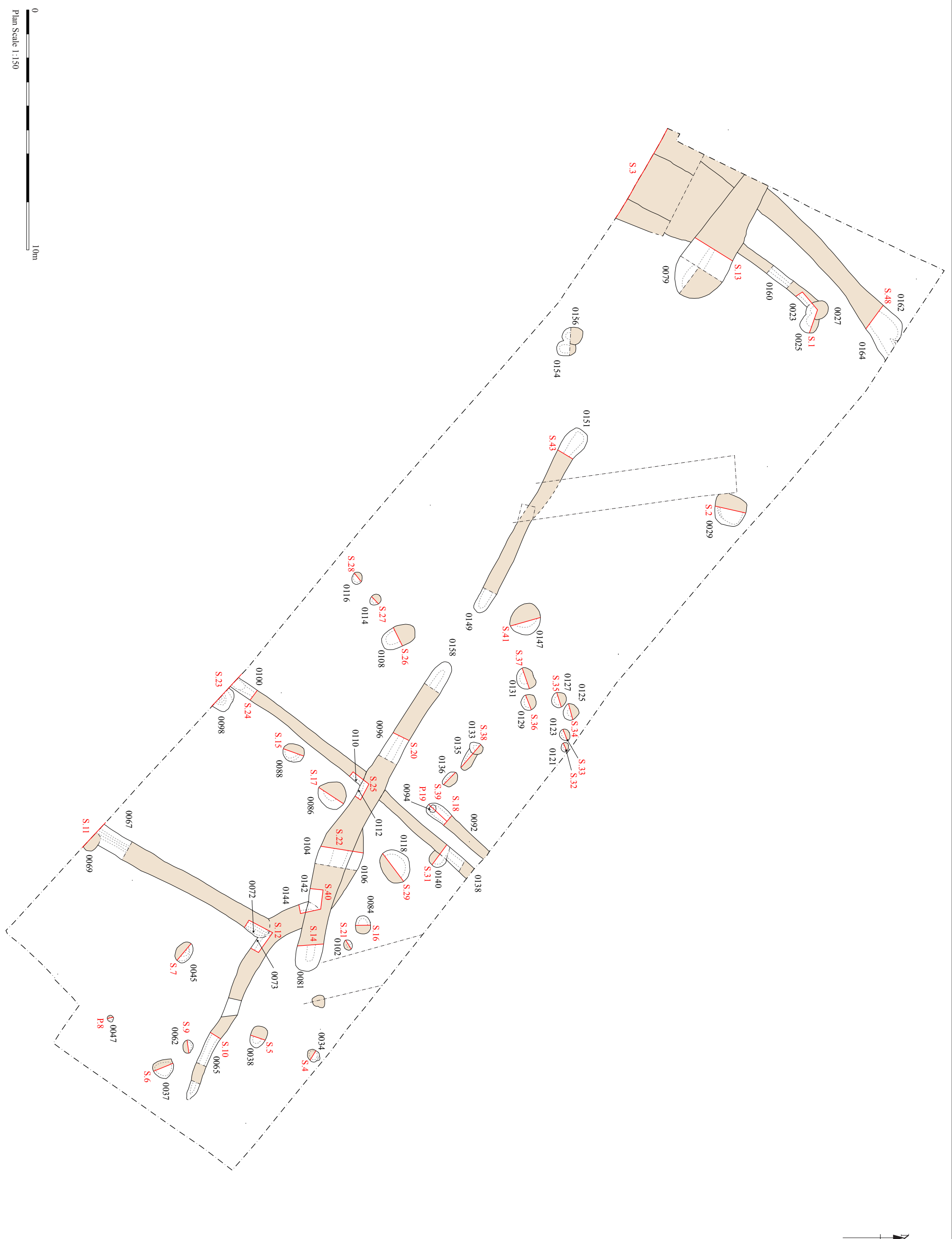
The results will be presented below by Period. The features will be described in the following order: ditches, pits, postholes and other features. Detailed fill descriptions will only be included in the text where appropriate as full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 3. All features cut the natural geological horizon and were sealed by the buried soil horizon 0071 unless otherwise stated. This soil layer appears to be the remnant of the post-Iron Age plough soil sealed by post-medieval activity across the majority of the area.

### **4.3 Period 1 Iron Age (Fig. 4)**

This period forms the main period of use on the site (Fig. 4). The pottery assemblage indicates a 1st century BC date for the occupation. The form and nature of the features encountered suggest it represents more than short lived transitory occupation, but the exact duration of the activity is unknown. The activity on the site comprises the construction of overlapping boundary ditches/enclosures as well as pits and postholes. However, as the excavation area was relatively small there were no full enclosure plans nor were any buildings or occupation areas identified.

#### **4.3.1 Ditches**

Ditch 0065 (also recorded as 0073, 0106 and 0144) was an irregular linear feature oriented north-west to south-east that measured 13.8m in length. Its north-west end was truncated by ditch 0081 where it presumably terminated, at its south-east end it became shallow and petered out 1m from the baulk (Figs. 5 and 6 Sections 10, 12 and 22). It measured 0.55m in width where a full section was excavated (0065), and between 0.20m and 0.55m in depth. It had a wide u-shaped profile with gradual sides and a flattish base, becoming deeper and steeper towards the north-west end where it was truncated by ditch 0081. Within the four excavated segments between one and two fills were present (Lower fill 0077 and 0146, upper fill 0066, 0078, 0107 and 0145). Two sherds of Iron Age pottery were retrieved from fill 0066 and a single sherd of residual late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery was retrieved from fill 0078. This



**Figure 3. Excavation plan**

feature was identified in the evaluation in Trench 2 and recorded as ditch 0012 (Gill, 2007).

Ditch 0100 (also recorded as 0110 and 0138) was a linear feature oriented north-north-east to south-south-west. It ran across the full width of the excavation area, measuring 0.46m at its widest excavated point (Fig. 6, Section 23) and had an average depth of 0.17m. It had a u-shaped profile with generally steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a slightly concave base. No artefacts were recovered from the single fill (0101, 0111 and 0139). The ditch truncated small pit 0140 close to the north-east limit of excavation (Fig. 6, Section 30) and was itself truncated by Iron Age ditch 0081 (Fig. 6, Section 25). Ditch 0065 apparently terminated 1.2m from its south-east side.

Ditch 0092 was located at the north-eastern side of the area 0.5m to the north-west of and parallel with ditch 0100. It was linear in plan and extended for 3.2m from the north-east baulk before terminating. It measured 0.5m in width and 0.13m in depth, with a wide u-shaped profile and the sides were gradual with an imperceptible break of slope to a flattish base (Fig. 6, Section 18). The single fill 0093 contained no artefacts. A small pit/posthole 0094 was sited in the terminal of the ditch, but the relationship between the two was uncertain; either the pit was a contemporary feature or it post-dated the ditch. The fill of the pit was distinct from the fill of the ditch but was not recognised on the surface. (Fig. 6, Profile 19).

Ditch/gully 0023 (also recorded as 0160) was located close to the north-west end of the area. It was linear in plan and oriented north-north-east to south-south-west, measuring 5m in length. It was 0.45m in width, 0.17m in depth and was u-shaped with very steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base (Fig. 7, Section 46). The single fill 0024 (also recorded as 0161) contained a flint flake. It was truncated to the north-north-east by pit 0027 (Fig. 5, Section 1). It presumably terminated here as it did not continue beyond the pit. To the south-south-west it was truncated by the late medieval/post-medieval ditch 0079 and its line was lost.

Ditch 0081 (also recorded as 0096, 0104, 0112, 0142 and 0158) was located towards the southern end of the area. It was an irregular linear feature in plan oriented west-north-west to east-south-east. It was 14.1m in length and had clearly defined rounded

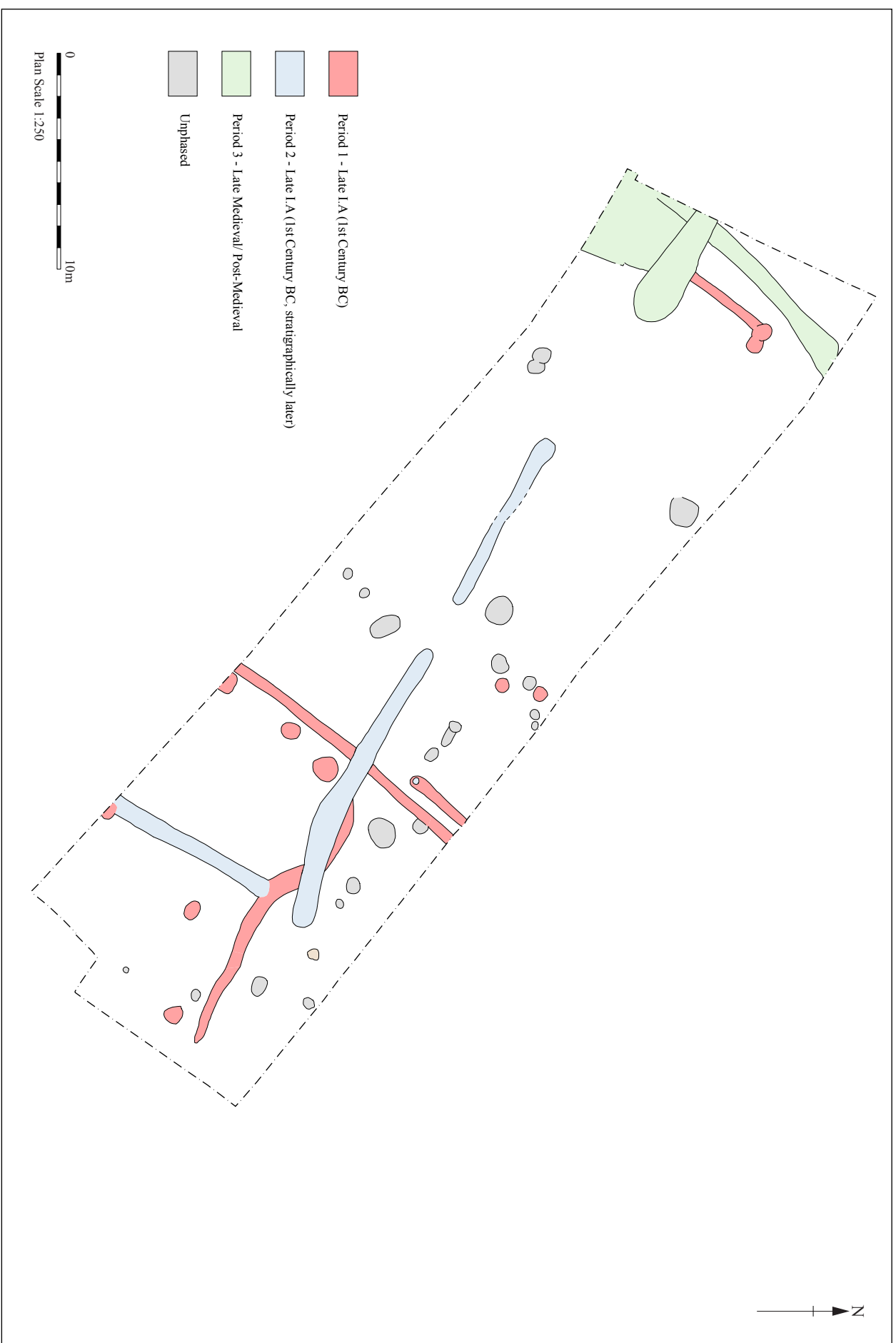


Figure 4. Phase plan

terminals. The east-south-east terminal had been identified in Trench 2 in the evaluation but had not been investigated (Gill, 2007). It measured on average 0.98m in width and 0.44m in depth. It was v-shaped in profile with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to the flat base (Fig. 6, Sections 14 and Fig. 7, Section 45). Two fills were present in the east-south-east terminal 0081, recorded as lower fill 0083 and upper fill 0082, although elsewhere along its line only one fill was recorded 0097, 0105, 0113, 0143 and 0159. Four small sherds of pottery were retrieved from the ditch, three of which were found in the east-south-east terminal with a fragment of burnt flint (0082). The assemblage comprises two sherds of late 12th to 14th century medieval coarse ware as well as two sherds of flint-tempered Iron Age pottery. This ditch was stratigraphically later than ditch 0100, which it crossed at right angles (Fig. 6, Section 25 shows 0112 truncating ditch 0110), and ditch 0065 that ran on a broadly similar alignment (Fig. 6, Section 22 shows ditch 0104 truncating ditch 0106 and Fig. 7, Section 40 shows ditch 0142 truncating ditch 0144). It formed part of a segmented ditched boundary or enclosure with ditch 0149 which was recorded on the same alignment 2.3m from its north-west terminal.

Ditch 0149 (also recorded as 0151) was located in the centre of the site, 2.3m to the north-north-west of ditch 0081. It was linear in plan and also oriented west-north-west to east-south-east matching the alignment of ditch 0081. It was 8.6m in length and both rounded terminals were well defined. This ditch was identified in Trench 1 during the evaluation where it was recorded as ditch 0005 (Gill, 2007). It measured between 0.78 and 0.9m in width and between 0.16m and 0.20m in depth. In profile the ditch was u-shaped with relatively steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base (Fig. 7, Sections 42 and 43). No artefacts were retrieved from the fill however a sherd of abraded Iron Age pottery was recovered from the surface of the ditch (assigned to context 0153).

Ditch 0067 (also recorded as 0072) was located towards the south-east end of the area. It was linear in form measuring 8.4m in length and oriented north-north-east to south-south-west. It truncated ditch 0065 at its north-north-east end and may have terminated here (Fig. 5, Section 12), whilst to the south-south-west it truncated pit 0069 and extended into the baulk (Fig. 5, Section 11). It measured 0.6m in width where fully excavated and 0.52m at its deepest. It was v-shaped in section with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a concave base. One fill was recorded in 0067

(0068) which contained one fragment of animal bone, one shattered flint fragment and five very small fragments of daub. At the north-north-east end three fills were recorded. Basal fill 0074 contained two sherds of abraded Iron Age pottery, middle fill 0075 contained a small piece of daub, upper fill 0076 contained no artefacts and merged with the upper fill of ditch 0065.

#### **4.3.2 Pits**

Pit 0025 (Fig. 5, Section 1) was located in the northern part of the site, and its west side was truncated by pit 0027 but it appears to have been sub-circular in plan. It measured 0.9m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.34m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with a gradual south-east side an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0026 contained no artefacts.

Pit 0027 (Fig. 5, Section 1) truncated both pit 0025 and ditch/gully 0023. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.8m in length and 0.66m in depth. It was u-shaped in profile with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a slightly concave base. The single fill 0028 contained one animal bone fragment and a shattered flint fragment.

Pit 0037 (Fig. 5, Section 6) was located at the south-east end of the area 1.2m from the baulk. It was sub-oval in plan with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. It measured 0.9m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.35m in depth. The pit contained three fills. Basal fill 0043 was a light greyish brown silty clay and contained abundant quantities of ash and charcoal, probably derived from raking out some form of oven or kiln, and produced eleven sherds of Iron Age pottery and a flint flake. Fill 0042 was deposited above this against the northern side of the pit. It was a mid-brown red clay and was clearly heat affected, although it was not derived from *in situ* burning. Two complete Iron Age pottery vessels (SF 1000 and 1001) had been placed on this clay layer side by side and upside down (Plate 1). It was subsequently discovered that a smaller pot was inside each of these vessels (SF1002 within SF 1001, SF 1003 within SF 1000, Plates 2 to 5). The pit had then been backfilled with deposit 0041, a dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. This deposit also contained fourteen further pottery sherds, two worked flints and two pieces of daub.

Pit 0086 (Fig. 6, Section 17) was located in the southern part of the site, immediately to the south of ditch 0081 where it crossed earlier ditch 0100. It was oval in plan measuring 1.25m in length, 1.10m in width and 0.39m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with gradual sides and an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. Its single fill 0087 contained a flint core fragment. It was similar in form to pit 0118 lying to the north of ditch 0081.

Pit 0088 (Fig. 6, Section 15) was located in the southern part of the site, 1.3m to the south-west of pit 0086. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.97m in length, 0.88m in width and 0.52m in depth. In profile it was an irregular u-shape, the south-south-west side was vertical, the north-north-east side was steep then stepped in before becoming near vertical and there was a sharp break of slope to the flat base. It contained three fills; basal fill 0089 was a firm dark greyish brown silty clay 0.04m in depth, containing no artefacts. This lowest deposit had a higher organic content than the two upper fills. Middle fill 0090 was a mid orangey brown clay sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones and it produced two small sherds of abraded Iron Age pottery. Undated upper fill 0091 was similar in composition to fill 0090 but greyer in hue. The form, profile and fill sequence within this pit was very similar to undated pit 0029 located 20m to the north-west.

Pit 0098 (Fig. 6, Section 23) was located in the southern part of the site, immediately to the south-east of ditch 0100 and was partly obscured by the south-west baulk. It was oval/sub-rectangular in plan measuring 1m in length, 0.6m+ in width and 0.38m in depth. In profile it was an irregular u-shape. The south-east side was gradual, the north-west side was steep then stepped in before dropping steeply again, and there was a gradual break of slope to the concave base. The single fill 0099 contained four worked flints.

Pit 0125 (Fig. 7, Section 34) was located towards the centre of the site, close to the north-east baulk. It was circular in plan measuring 0.66m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped, with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The single fill 0126 contained one sherd of pottery decorated with incised horizontal lines that has been identified as of Romano-British date. This was the only sherd of pottery identified as Romano-British on the site and it is thought likely to have been intrusive. This pit was adjacent and similar to undated pit 0127.

Pit 0129 (Fig. 7, Section 36) was located towards the centre of the site, close to the north-east baulk. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.72m in length, 0.69m in width and 0.38m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped, with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The single fill 0130 contained one sherd of abraded Iron Age pottery. This pit was adjacent and similar to undated pit 0131.

#### **4.3.3 Postholes**

Posthole 0045 (Fig. 5, Section 7) was a discrete feature located in the southern part of the site. Oval in plan, it measured 0.8m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.39m in depth. In profile it was irregular with steep sides, stepped on the south-east side, and with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The posthole contained two fills; basal fill 0046 was a firmly compacted mid orangey brown slightly sandy clay. Upper fill 0044 was a less compact light to mid orangey brown sandy silt with some clay content and it included rare small to medium sub-rounded flint pebbles and it contained a cortical flint flake.

Posthole 0069 was located in the southern part of the site partly obscured by the south-west baulk. It was truncated on the north-west side by ditch 0067 (Fig. 5, Section 11). It was sub-square in plan, measuring 0.72+m in length, 0.4+m in width and 0.4m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with a near vertical south-east side and a sharp break of slope to an uneven flat base. The single fill 0070 contained no artefacts.

### **4.4 Period 2 Late medieval/post-medieval (Fig. 4)**

#### **4.4.1 Ditches**

Ditch 0051 was a linear feature oriented north-east to south-west (Fig. 5, Section 3). It was partially obscured by the baulk at the point it was recorded, and measured 0.54m+ in width and 0.44m in depth. Its south-east side was steep with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. No artefacts were recovered from the single fill 0059. The ditch truncated large pit 0049 and was sealed by topsoil 0021 in the section. To the north-east the line of the ditch was clearly visible in plan cutting across the pit 0049 before it was in turn truncated by ditch 0079. The line of the ditch continued beyond 0079 as ditch 0162 and its re-cut 0164, however it was not possible to determine whether ditch 0051 was the primary feature or the later replacement.



Ditch 0079 was located at the north-west side of the area. It was linear in plan and extended for 5.6m from the north-west baulk before widening and terminating. It ranged in width from 1m at the baulk to 2m close to the terminus and was 0.68m in depth. It had a wide u-shaped profile and the sides were gradual with a gradual break of slope to a narrow concave base (Fig. 6, Section 13). The single fill 0080 contained four animal bone fragments, one residual worked flint and eight tile fragments, three of which have been identified as being of either late medieval or post-medieval date. The ditch was stratigraphically later than the ditch re-cut 0164 and ditch/gully 0023, and truncated the northern end of pit 0049 and overlying ditch 0051.

Ditch 0162 (Fig. 7, Section 48) was located at the north-west side of the area. It was linear in plan oriented north-east to south-west and 1.35m in excavated length. It seemed to terminate at the point where it met the north-east baulk and was truncated by ditch 0164. It measured 0.44m in width and was 0.28m in depth. It had a v-shaped profile and the sides were steep with a sharp break of slope to a narrow concave base. The single fill 0163 contained no artefacts. This ditch was re-cut by ditch 0164 on the same alignment. Either this ditch or its replacement 0164 was the continuation of ditch 0051 recorded truncating the post-medieval pit 0049.

Ditch 0164 (Fig. 7, Section 48) was the re-cut of ditch 0162. It was linear in plan, oriented north-east to south-west and 8.1m in length. It extended beyond the north-east baulk and to south-west was truncated by post-medieval ditch 0079. It measured 0.62m in width and was 0.32m in depth, with a u-shaped profile. The sides were steep with a sharp break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0165 contained no artefacts. Either this ditch or the earlier version 0162 was the continuation of ditch 0051 recorded truncating the post-medieval pit 0049.

#### **4.4.2 Pits**

Pit 0049 (Fig. 5, Section 3) was a large feature located in the south-west corner of the excavated area, which was excavated by machine. Its full plan was not recovered but it may have been sub-rectangular and it measured 3.95m in length, 3.2m+ in width and 0.92m in depth. In profile it was a broad u-shape with gradual eroded sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The pit contained seven fills 0059, 0058, 0054, 0055, 0056, 0053 and 0052. Basal fill 0059 appeared to be primary in-washed

sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions. This material accumulated on the south-east, down slope side of the feature and might represent slippage of up-cast material. Fills 0058, 0054, 0055, 0056 and 0053 were jumbled in appearance consisting of chalky patches and mixed sandy clay deposits which may represent rapid backfilling. A small fragment of abraded brick or tile was retrieved from fill 0053 during machining, however, this artefact does not appear in the finds record. Upper fill 0052 was an homogenous deposit of orange sandy clay distinct from the mixed deposits below measuring 0.58m in depth. This pit truncated feature 0050 which was mostly obscured by the baulk and it was below gravelly layer 0022, which was patchy at the north-west end of the area, and was truncated by ditch 0051.

Feature 0050 (Fig. 5, Section 3) was recorded at the south-west limit of excavation. Its full form and profile could not be recorded as the majority of the feature was obscured by the baulk. Two fills were recorded in the portion of the feature visible in section, 0060 a light brown chalky clay similar to fills 0054 and 0055 in pit 0049, and 0061 a mixed mid orange clay sand with mid grey sandy clay, similar in appearance to fills 0057 and 0058 within pit 0049. No artefacts were retrieved from either fill. The feature was truncated by pit 0049, however their similar fills suggest that they may have been broadly contemporary, and of similar function.

#### **4.4.3 Other features**

Layer 0022 was recorded over the majority of the excavated area. At the north-west end it was patchy and shallow at approximately 0.15m in depth, but to the south-east it was deeper at 0.32m. It was a mid brownish yellow clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions and moderate to frequent late medieval/post-medieval tile fragments. This deposit was removed by machine with the buried plough soil 0071 beneath it.

### **4.5 Unphased Features**

Twenty-four features and layers were undated and isolated and are described below.

#### **4.5.1 Pits**

Pit 0029 was located close to the north-east limit of excavation. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.34m in length, 1.28m in width and 0.56m in depth. It was u-shaped in section with a pronounced step on the south side; otherwise the sides were near vertical with a sharp break of slope to flat base (Fig. 5, Section 2). The pit contained

four undated fills, the lower overlapping fills 0030 and 0031 were both firmly compacted with a high clay content and both appeared to have washed in gradually. Upper fills 0032 and 0033 had an increasing silt content. The pit was similar in form and profile, although slightly smaller than Iron Age pit 0088 located 20m to the south-east.

Pit 0038 (Fig. 5, Section 5) was a discrete feature located in the southern part of the site. Oval in plan, it measured 0.94m in length, 0.54m in width and 0.19m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with gradual sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The pit contained two undated fills, lower fill 0039 was a firmly compacted light brown yellow slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Upper fill 0040 was a friable dark brownish grey clay silt including occasional small sub-angular flint fragments as well as charcoal flecks.

Pit 0062 (Fig. 5, Section 9) was located in the southern part of the site, 0.6m to the north-west of Iron Age pit 0037. It was oval in plan measuring 0.5m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.2m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a concave base. It contained two fills, basal fill 0064 was a brown orange slightly silty clay with charcoal, upper fill 0063 was similar in colour but had a significantly higher silt content within the clay. Neither contained any artefacts.

Pit 0084 (Fig. 6, Section 16) was located in the southern part of the site, 1m to the north of Iron Age ditch 0081. It was circular in plan measuring 0.9m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. In profile it was a wide u-shape with gradual sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its single fill 0085 contained no artefacts.

Pit 0094 (Fig. 6, Profile 19) was located in the southern part of the site, cutting into the base of ditch 0092. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.45m in length, 0.38m in width and 0.15m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flattish base. The single fill 0095 was undated. The relationship to Iron Age ditch 0092 was uncertain, it was either contemporary with the ditch marking its terminal or it post dated it and its position was coincidental. Its position suggests that it might have been associated with two other pits on the same north-west to south-east alignment (pits 0133 and 0136).

Pit 0108 (Fig. 6, Section 26) was located towards the centre of the site, 2m to the south-west of the north-west terminal of ditch 0081. It was oval in plan measuring 1.62m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.23m in depth. In profile it was a wide u-shape with gradual sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its single relatively unmodified fill 0109 contained no artefacts.

Pit 0118 (Fig. 6, Section 29) was located towards the centre of the site, 1m to the north of ditch 0081. It was oval in plan measuring 1.5m in length, 1.4m in width and 0.4m in depth. In profile it was a wide u-shape with steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a flattish base. It contained two undated fills 0119 and 0120. This pit was similar in form and profile to Iron Age pit 0086 located to the south of ditch 0081.

Pit 0127 (Fig. 7, Section 35) was located towards the centre of the site, close to the north-east baulk. It was circular in plan measuring 0.69m in diameter and 0.32m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped, with steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0128 contained no dated artefacts. This pit was adjacent and similar to Iron Age pit 0125.

Pit 0131 (Fig. 7, Section 37) was located towards the centre of the site. It was circular in plan measuring 0.84m in diameter and 0.34m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped, with steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a flat base. The single fill 0132 contained no artefacts. This pit was adjacent and similar to Iron Age pit 0129, although it had a more eroded profile.

Pit 0136 (Fig. 7, Section 39) was located towards the centre of the site, 1m to the north-west of the terminal of ditch 0092. It was sub-oval in plan measuring 0.76m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.34m in depth. It had an irregular u-shaped profile, with a steep side to the south-east, but a more gradual eroded appearance to the north-west and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0137 contained no artefacts.

Pit 0140 (Fig. 6, Section 30) was located in the southern part of the site truncated by the Iron Age ditch 0100. It was oval in plan measuring 0.65m in length, 0.4m+ in width and 0.32m in depth. Its surviving south-east side was steep with a sharp break of

slope to an uneven flattish base. Its single fill 0141 contained no artefacts. Its stratigraphic position suggests that it was of Iron Age or earlier prehistoric date.

Pit 0147 (Fig. 7, Section 41) was located towards the centre of the site, 1m to the north-east of the south-east terminal of ditch 0149. It was circular in plan measuring 1.25m in diameter and 0.44m in depth. It was u-shaped in profile, with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The single fill 0148 contained no artefacts.

Pit 0154 (Fig. 7, Section 44) was located towards the northern end of the site, close to the south-west baulk. It was oval in plan, although partially truncated by similar pit 0156. It measured 0.88m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.16m in depth. The surviving east side of the pit was steep with a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0155 contained no artefacts.

Pit 0156 (Fig. 7, Section 44) was stratigraphically later than similar pit 0154. It was oval in plan measuring 0.89m in length, 0.58m in width and 0.20m in depth. It was u-shaped in profile, with steep sides and an imperceptible break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0157 contained no artefacts.

#### **4.5.2 Postholes**

Posthole 0034 was located adjacent to the north-east baulk 1.6m to the north-east of posthole 0008 recorded in Trench 2 (Gill, 2007). It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.52m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.33m in depth. It was u-shaped in section with a near vertical west side, whilst the east side had an eroded upper edge becoming steep and a sharp break of slope to a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 4). The post had been set against the north-west side of the posthole and undated lower fill 0035 had been packed around the upright to hold it in place. It had a high clay content which was probably derived from the up-cast from the construction of the posthole, rapidly packed back in and relatively unmodified. The upper fill 0036 had a higher silt content than the lower fill and this material had slumped into the socket left by the post. There was no evidence for the post being removed and it was likely to have rotted *in situ*.

Posthole 0047 (Fig. 5, Profile 8) was a discrete feature located in the southern part of the site. Sub-rectangular in plan, it measured 0.28m in length, 0.24m in width and

0.12m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with near vertical sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The posthole contained a single undated fill 0048.

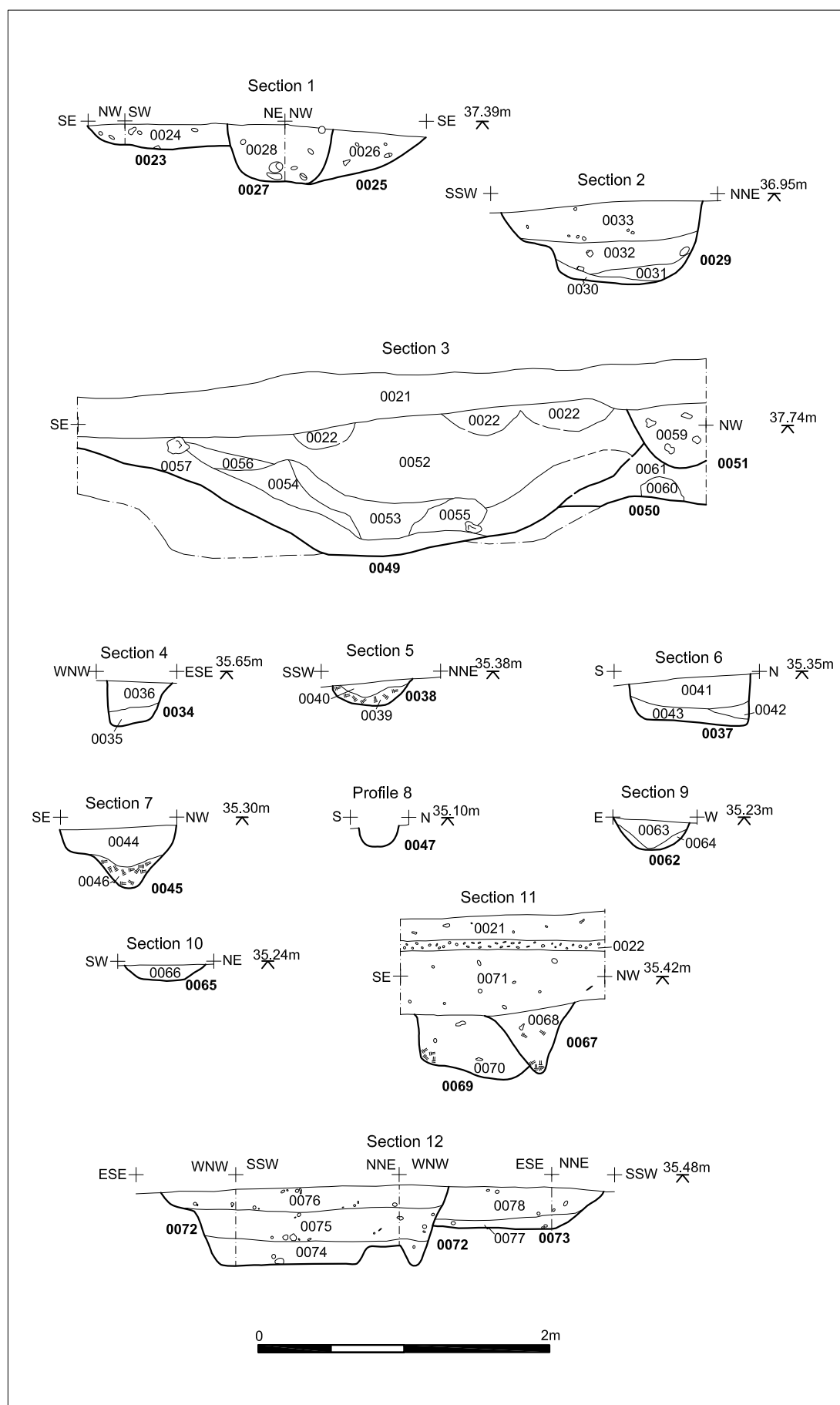
Posthole 0102 (Fig. 6, Section 21) was a discrete feature located in the southern part of the site, 0.4m to the south-east of pit 0084. Sub-circular in plan, it measured 0.38m in diameter and 0.46m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with near vertical sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It contained a single undated fill 0103.

Posthole 0114 (Fig. 6, Section 27) was a discrete feature located towards the centre of the site, 1m to the south-west of pit 0108. Sub-circular in plan, it measured 0.53m in length, 0.49m in width and 0.13m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. The single fill 0115 contained no artefacts. This posthole was similar to posthole 0116 lying 0.6m to the south-west.

Posthole 0116 (Fig. 6, Section 28) was a discrete feature located towards the centre of the site, 2m to the south-west of pit 0104. Sub-circular in plan, it measured 0.47m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.19m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a flattish base. The single fill 0117 contained no artefacts. This posthole was similar to posthole 0114 lying 0.6m to the north-east.

Posthole 0121 (Fig. 6, Section 32) was a discrete feature located towards the centre of the site, close to the north-east baulk. Circular in plan, it measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. In profile it was u-shaped with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a flattish base. The single fill 0122 contained no artefacts. This posthole was similar to adjacent posthole 0123 and may have been associated with it.

Posthole 0123 (Fig. 7, Section 33) was a discrete feature located towards the centre of the site, close to the north-east baulk. Circular in plan, it measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. In profile it was broadly u-shaped with a near vertical north-east side but a much more gradual south-west side and a gradual break of slope to a slightly concave base. The single fill 0124 contained no artefacts. This posthole was similar to adjacent posthole 0121 and may have been associated with it.



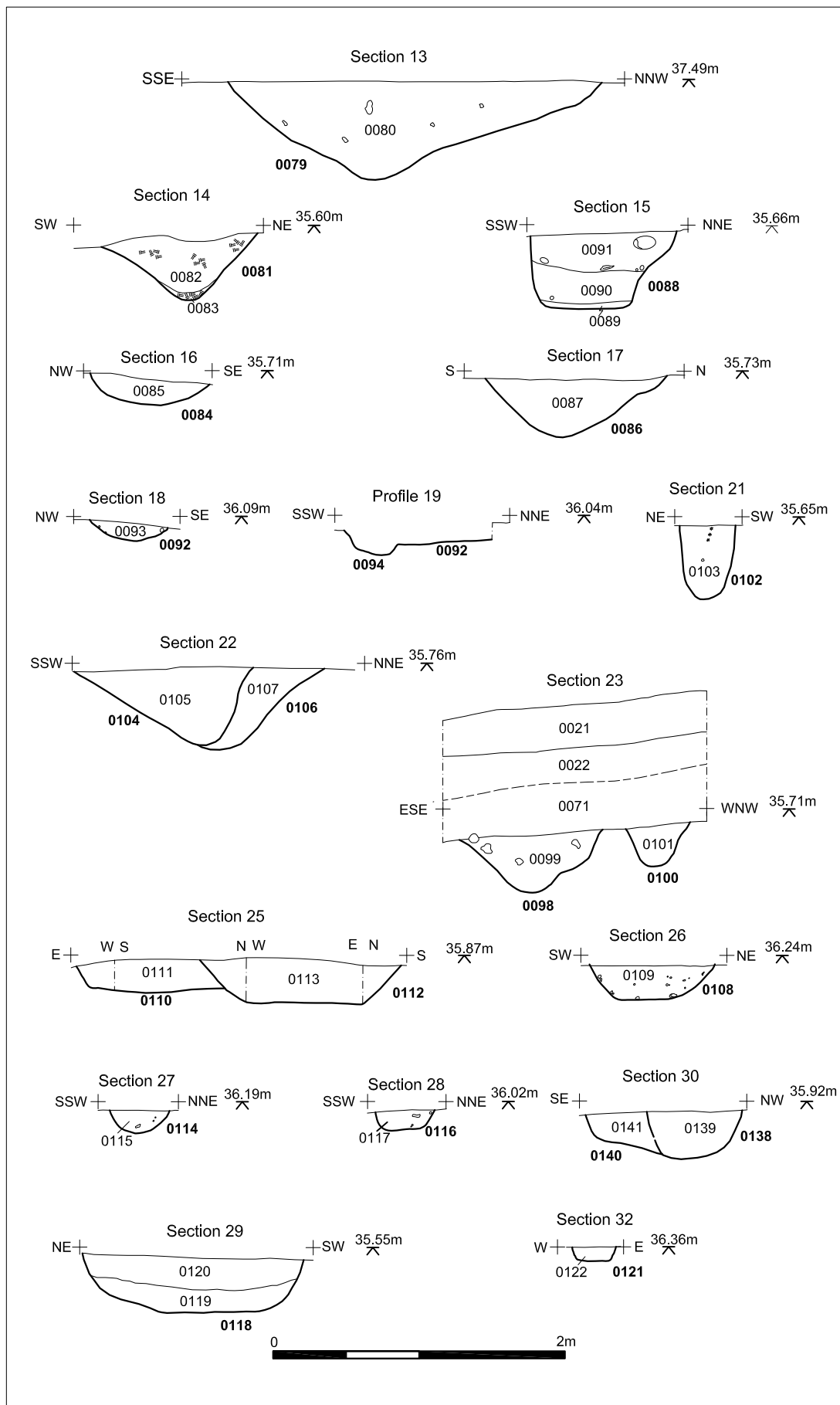


Figure 6. Sections 13 to 19, 21 to 23, 25 to 30 and 32



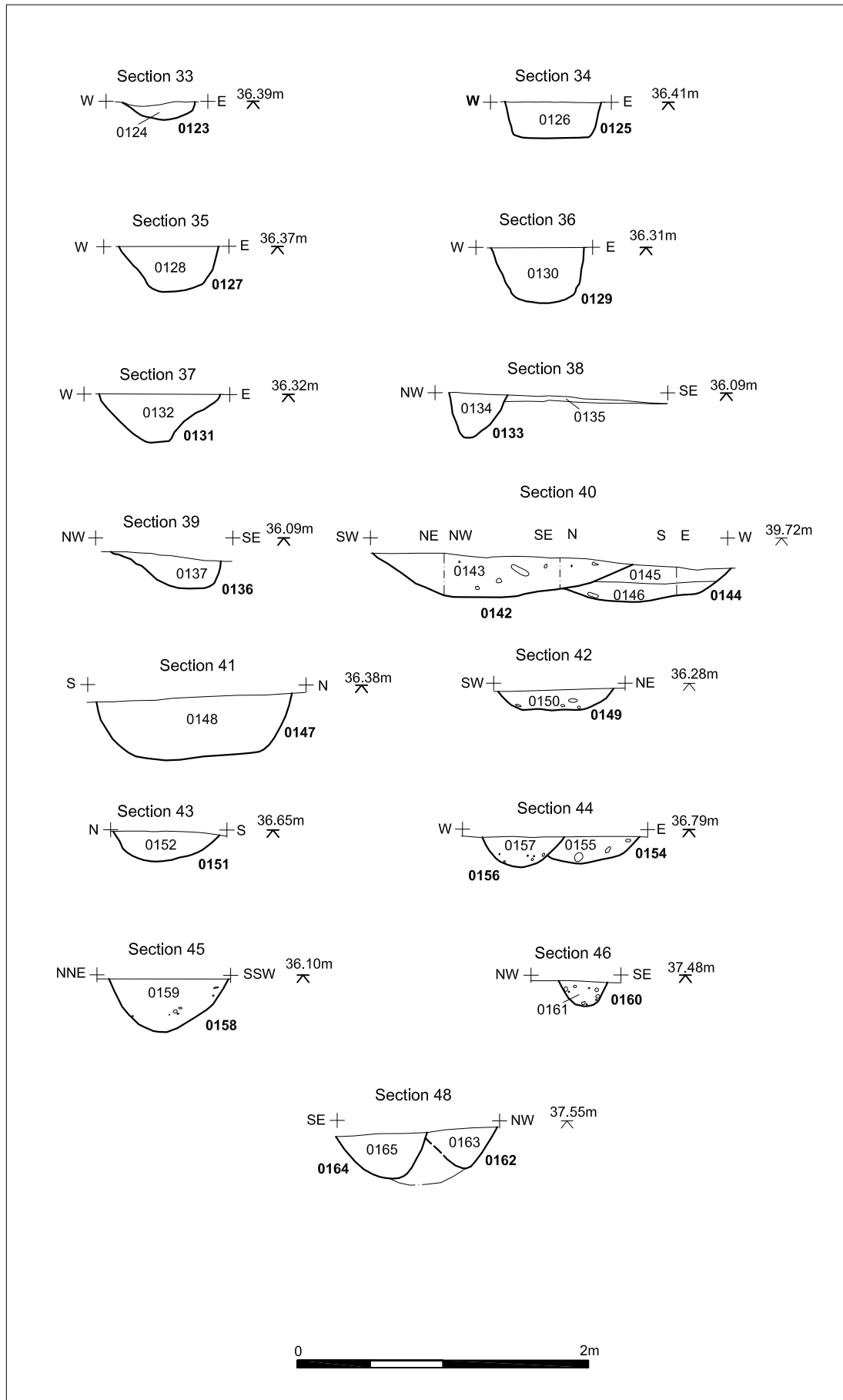


Figure 7. Sections 33 to 47 and 48

Posthole 0133 (Fig. 7, Section 38) was located towards the centre of the site, 2m to the north-east of ditch 0081. Circular in plan, it measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.32m in depth. In profile it was v-shaped with steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a slightly concave base. The single fill 0134 contained no artefacts. This posthole merged with deposit 0135 in an oval hollow on the south-east side. This deposit may have accumulated during activity associated with the construction of the posthole and therefore may be contemporary with it.

#### **4.5.3 Other features**

Layer 0071 was recorded over the majority of the area with the exception of the extreme north-west part of the site. It was a mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay with rare medium sub-rounded flint pebbles. This layer was a buried plough soil sealing the majority of the archaeology and overlain by post-medieval levelling layer 0022. Although undated it is likely to have accumulated from the Roman period onwards and is most likely to have been of medieval to early post-medieval date.

Spread 0135 was located in an oval hollow immediately to the south-east of posthole 0133 towards the centre of the site (Fig. 7, Section 38). Its form and appearance suggest that the hollow was formed by activity associated with the construction of the posthole. The light grey brown silty clay within it was identical to the fill of the posthole 0134 and may have resulted from trample during construction.



Plate 1. Late Iron Age jars SF 1000 and 1001 in pit 0037 looking north-east (board shows incorrect site code), 1m scale



Plate 2. Jar SF 1002 inside jar SF 1001 (scale 10 cm)



Plate 3. Jar SF 1002 removed from jar SF 1001 (scale 10 cm)



Plate 4. Jar SF 1003 in jar SF 1000 (scale 10 cm)



Plate 5. Jar SF 1003 after removal from jar SF 1000 (scale 10 cm)

## 5. Finds and environmental assessment by Cathy Tester

### 5.1 Finds Introduction

The finds collected during the excavation will be reported on by individual category below. The significance of the assemblage and recommendations for further work will be considered at the end of the finds section. Table 3 shows the quantities of finds collected during the excavation.

Ctxt	Pottery		Fired clay		Flint		Animal bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0022									CBM 5-226g	LMed/PMed
0024					1	12				
0028					1	23	1	11		
0041	14	2802	2	16	2	11			Ch 1 <1g	IA
0043	11	72			1	3				IA
0044					1	8				
0066	2	7								
0068			5	5	1	11	1	1		
0074	2	2								IA
0075			1	1						
0078	1	2								IA LNEBA
0080					1	13	4	46	CBM 8-454	LMed/PMed
0082	3	21							B flint 1-31g	Med, IA
0087					1	17				
0090	2	3								IA
0099					4	25				
0126	1	19								Rom+
0130	1	31								Preh
0143	1	16								L12-14th c
0153	1	1								Preh
0166	1	17			1	40				Preh
0167	1	661								IA
0168	1	706								IA
Total	42	4360	8	22	14	163	6	58		

Table 3. Finds quantities

### 5.2 Pottery

A total of 42 sherds of pottery weighing 4360g was recovered and with the exception of three sherds which are later, the assemblage is entirely of prehistoric date.

#### 5.2.1 Prehistoric Pottery by Sarah Percival

|

#### 5.2.2 Introduction and methodology

The assemblage contained 4313g of later Iron Age pottery including four complete vessels recovered from a single pit. The complete vessels had been nested together in two groups each comprising a vessel in well-finished sandy fabric and a slightly coarser flint- and sand-tempered vessel. A single sherd of later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age pottery was also recovered. The

quantities by period are summarised in Table 4 and the full catalogue by context is in Appendix 4.

Pottery date	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt/g
Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age	1	2.6	2	0.1
Iron Age	38	97.4	4313	99.9
Total	39	100.0	4315	100.0

Table 4. Prehistoric pottery quantities by period.

The assemblage was analysed using the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 1992; 1997). The sherds were quantified by count and weight. The fabrics were examined with a x10 binocular microscope and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter representing the main inclusion type: F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz. Vessel form and form element were recorded and decoration and abrasion were also noted.

### 5.2.3 *Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age*

A single sherd of later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age pottery weighing 2g was found in the fill of ditch 0065 (0078), which also contained later Iron Age pottery, suggesting that the Bronze Age sherd is most likely to be residual. The sherd is grog-tempered (G1) with common sub-rounded grog and moderate medium rounded quartz sand. The use of grog temper suggests that the sherd may be from a Beaker or perhaps a Grooved Ware vessel, however it cannot be dated more precisely.

### 5.2.4 *Later Iron Age*

The later Iron Age assemblage comprised thirty-four sherds weighing 363g and four complete vessels (3952g). Fabric descriptions and quantities are shown below.

Fabric	Description	No.	Wt /g
F1	Common small white angular flint sparse quartz sand	13	111
F2	Common small to medium white angular flint sparse quartz sand	1	1275
Q1	Fine sandy Common quartz sand; moderate medium organic voids; occasional mica	14	158
Q3	Coarse sandy Common quartz sand; sparse medium organic voids; occasional mic sparse medium to large sub-rounded flint	1	63
Q4	Medium sandy with flint. Common quartz sand; moderate medium organic voids; oc mica shreds; sparse rounded quartz; sparse medium angular flint	4	1978
Q5	Fine sandy with flint. Common fine quartz sand; common rounded quartz; comm angular flint moderate occasional organic voids; occasional mica shreds;	5	728
Total		38	4313

Table 5. Later Iron Age pottery by fabric quantities.



A range of fabrics were present in two fabric groups, one flint-tempered and the other sandy. A little under 33% of the assemblage is flint-tempered, including one of the complete vessels (SF1000). The remaining two-thirds of the assemblage, including three complete vessels, are made of sandy fabrics. The fabrics descriptions and quantities are shown below.

Parallels for the vessel forms found at Polstead include examples from Burgh (Martin 1988), West Stow (Martin 1990) and Brandon, Suffolk (S. Anderson, pers. comm.). The fabric and form of the pots are also similar to the later Iron Age pottery from Little Waltham, Essex (Drury 1978). The tall, high-shouldered jar SF1000 in flint- and sand-tempered fabric is perhaps similar to some of the coarse jars found during excavations at Burgh (Martin 1988, fig. 19, 18) dated to the 1st century BC (Martin 1988, 34) and from Phase II at West Stow (Martin 1990, fig. 47, 111). The large, high-shouldered vessel with upright rim SF1001 is more unusual, but comparable to some Period IV (late 1st century BC) forms from Little Waltham (Drury 1978, fig. 53, 317). The small coarse jar SF1002 is the most common form present and is ubiquitous within later Iron Age assemblages from the region (Martin 1990, fig. 47, 101). The remaining closed jar, which has a finely finished surface, also finds parallel with vessels from Phase II at West Stow (Martin 1990, fig. 47, 117).

The remaining sherds are all from comparable vessels and are almost certainly contemporary. All the sherds are undecorated. The small quantity of flint-tempered fabrics may be of slightly earlier Iron Age date, however flint tempering seems to form a minor component of many later Iron Age assemblages, such as Burgh (Martin 1988, 34), perhaps indicating that a small number of flint-tempered vessels continued to be made into the 1st century BC.

The majority of the pottery came from pits, including the four complete vessels. The small quantity of pottery found in the ditches is almost certainly of the same date as the pottery in the pits, all being domestic pottery of the 1st century BC. The fabric quantities by feature are shown in Table 6.



The assemblage is unusual in that it includes complete vessels, a phenomenon rarely noted amongst later Iron Age pottery from East Anglia. The pottery appears to date to the 1st century BC and contains forms commonly found in contemporary domestic assemblages although the presence of the complete vessels may suggest a more complex activity.

The complete vessels appear to have been deposited together in a manner similar to a large assemblage of complete vessels found at Middleton, Norfolk, where several groups containing up to five vessels of varying sizes, sometimes nested together, were found in a series of pits (T. Lane, pers. comm.) The presence of complete vessels offers the opportunity to measure vessel size and volume. Vessel capacity is an important tool for understanding vessel function and Woodward has suggested that sets of vessels, of the kind represented here, functioned in the earlier Neolithic and later Bronze Age as 'feasting sets' associated with 'communal and ritually charged events' (Woodward 1999, 7). At both Middleton and Polstead, groups of pots of various sizes had been nested together perhaps as personal or family sets of vessels representing 'feasting sets'. Recent work on 1st century AD pottery from East Anglia has suggested that feasting was widespread during the later Iron Age and was used to 'maintain, alter or establish relationships within society' (Ralph 2006, 110).

Feature type	Feature	Fabric	No.	Wt/g
Ditch	0065	F1	1	5
		Q4	1	2
	0067	F1	1	1
		Q5	1	1
	0081	F1	2	11
	0149	Q5	1	1
Pit	0037	F1	6	60
		F2	1	1275
		Q1	14	158
		Q3	1	63
		Q4	3	1976
		Q5	2	709
	0088	F1	2	3
	0129	F1	1	31
Unstratified	0166	Q5	1	17
Total			38	4313

Table 6. Later Iron Age pottery by feature

### **5.2.5 *Post-prehistoric pottery***

One Roman and two medieval sherds were also found. A coarse sandy greyware (GX) bodysherd (19g) of possible Roman date, decorated with incised horizontal grooves was a single find from pit 0125 (0126). Medieval coarsewares (MCW) consist of a bodysherd (10g) from ditch 0081 (0082) and a sagging base (16g) with sooted exterior from ditch 0142 (0143.)

## **5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired clay**

### **5.3.1 *CBM***

Thirteen fragments of ceramic building material weighing 680g were recovered from two features.

Four roof tiles (98g) and one late brick (128g) were collected from layer 0022. The roof tiles include one that is late medieval, made in a fine sandy fabric with clay pellets and ferrous inclusions (14mm thick). The other three are late medieval/post-medieval, 11-12mm thick and made in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions.

Eight roof tile fragments weighing 454g were collected from ditch 0079 (0080). They include three late medieval/post-medieval pieces made in a medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions and five post-medieval pieces, all in medium sandy fabrics with ferrous inclusions, three of them 14mm thick and two 11mm thick.

### **5.3.2 *Fired clay***

Eight small non-diagnostic fragments (22g) of fired clay were collected from three contexts. They include two abraded fragments (16g) in an orange-buff medium sandy fabric with sparse flint collected from the upper fill of pit 0037 (0041). Even smaller and more abraded fragments (average weight 1g) were recovered from ditches 0067 (0068) and 0072 (0075).

## **5.4 Flint (identified by Colin Pendleton)**

Fourteen pieces of worked flint and shatter pieces (163g) were recovered from seven contexts. The flint is mainly mid to dark grey and cortex when

present is cream-coloured to orangish-brown. Some pieces are struck from already patinated or weathered raw material. Details by context are shown in Table 7 below.

#### 5.4.1 Worked flint

Ctxt	Type	No	Notes
u/s	flake	1	Largish irregular natural flake w several large flakes removed from dorsal face and limited crude edge retouch on both faces
0024	flake	1	Natural pot-lid fracture with limited area of possible retouch
0028	shatter	1	Shatter piece w three small unpat flakes removed & limited edge retouch
0041	flake	1	Irregular flake w 1 edge and distal end cortical
	flake	1	Squat flake w obtuse striking angle
0043	flake	1	Long flake w limited edge retouch/use-wear on 1 edge- opposite edge is cortical
0045	flake	1	Primary flake. Cortical.
0068	shatter	1	Small shatter piece
0080	flake	1	Irreg thin flake w parallel flake scars on dorsal face steep edge retouch along concave distal end. Possibly a shallow notched piece or concave scraper
0086	core	1	Natural flint w some small flake scars around edges. Possibly used as a core
0099	flake/blade	1	Snapped long flake or blade. Limited crude edge retouch along one edge
	flake	1	Lghtly patinated Quite thick w limited crude edge retouch/use-wear. retouch is unpat.
	shatter	1	Small fragment of shattered flint
	long flake	1	Long flake, sub-triangular cross-section, parallel flake scars on dorsal face. Limited crude edge retouch

Table 7. Flint by context

The majority of the material is of similar crude workmanship which is consistent in nature to later prehistoric flint working and would not be out of place in the Iron Age. Some pieces of slightly better workmanship such as the scraper from ditch 0079 (0080) or the long flakes/blades from pit 0098 (0099) could be earlier.

#### 5.4.2 Burnt flint

One fragment of burnt flint (31g) was collected from the fill of ditch 0081 (0082).

### 5.5 Animal bone

Animal bone preservation is poor. Six fragments weighing 58g were collected from three contexts. Fragments of a cattle axis vertebrae were found in ditch 0079 (0080) which also contained post-medieval roof tile. Fragments too small to identify were recovered from pit 0027 (0028) (1-11g) and ditch 0067 (0068) (1-1g) which had no datable material.

## 5.6 Plant macrofossils and other remains by Val Fryer

### 5.6.1 Introduction and method statement

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit, ditch and post-hole fills, and eight were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 8. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were present throughout. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

### 5.6.2 Results

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Context No.	0036	0041	0043	0068	0082	0103	0044	0163
Feature No.	0034	0037	0037	0067	0081	0102	0045	0162
Feature type	ph	pit	pit	ditch	ditch	ph	ph	ditch
<b>Cereals</b>								
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)				x	xcf		xcf	
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grain)						xcf		
Cereal indet. (grains)	xfg	x		x	x	xfg		
<b>Herbs</b>								
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.					x	x		
<i>Bromus</i> sp.				xcf				
Caryophyllaceae indet.							x	
Small Fabaceae indet.				x	x	x		
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L. (silique frag.)					xcf			
<b>Tree/shrub macrofossils</b>								
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.			x					
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>								
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	x
Charcoal >2mm	x	xxx	xxx	x	x	xx	x	x
Charred root/stem		x						
Indet.seed			x					
Indet.tuber							x	
<b>Other remains</b>								
Black porous 'cokey' material	x							
Black tarry material		x						
Bone					x xb			
Burnt stone		x						
Mineralised soil concretions		xx						
Vitrified material					xx	xx		
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss	20ss
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
<b>% flot sorted</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 8. Plant macrofossils and other remains

Key: x = 1-10 specimens, xx = 11-50 specimens, xxx = 51-100 specimens. cf = compare, fg = fragment. ss = sub-sample

Cereal grains and/or seeds were present at a very low density within all but one of the assemblages studied. Preservation was generally quite poor, with most of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. A number of the macrofossils were also heavily coated in fine silt particles, although this did not preclude the identification of the material.

Possible oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) grains were recorded, although most cereals were too severely puffed for close identification. Weed seeds occurred in only four of the samples, with taxa noted including corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), small legumes (Fabaceae) and possibly brome (*Bromus* sp.) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*). A single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was present within the assemblage from sample 3 (pit 0037). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, although mostly at a low to moderate density. An indeterminate tuber fragment was recovered from Sample 7 (ditch 0081).

Other remains were exceedingly scarce. A small number of burnt bone fragments were noted within the assemblage from Sample 5 (ditch 0081), which also, along with Sample 6 (post-hole 0102), contained a moderate density of vitreous globules, the latter possibly being derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains.

### **5.6.3 Conclusions**

In summary, although the assemblages are all very small in size (0.1 litres or less in volume), it would appear most likely that at least four (Samples 4, 5, 6 and 7) are derived from a very low density of either scattered or wind-blown cereal processing detritus.

## **5.7 Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence and recommendations for further work**

The excavation produced a small assemblage of finds which are mainly prehistoric, including Late Iron Age pottery and worked flints. The most notable of the finds recovered were the four complete Late Iron Age pots. The discovery of whole Iron Age vessels is rare, and, although the forms themselves are commonly found in contemporary domestic assemblages, the

manner of their deposition adds to the significance of the pottery and of the pit in which they were discovered. The pots had been clearly been carefully and deliberately placed which implies that a more complex level of activity or ceremony was being exhibited here. It has not been possible within the limits of this assessment to further investigate this but the potential for further analysis of the vessels exists which may help to understand this depositional practice.

The vessels may offer an opportunity for lipid analysis to compare any difference in function of the various vessel forms found (Haselgrove et al. 2001, 21). Scientific analysis of preserved residues within the fabric of the vessels would be of great interest and analysis, such as that of absorbed lipids, might reveal if different sized pots had been used for specific foods. A recent programme of analysis of prehistoric pottery by extracting residues from sherds showed that it was possible to distinguish between dairy and carcass fat residues. The study indicated that dairy fat was more likely to be found in the smaller pots while carcass fats occurred in the larger ones (Copely et al. 2005). The method of analysis is of particular use for studying agricultural economies in situations where, as at Polstead, the pottery survives well but animal bone does not. This analysis is however destructive and would require a small (c.2g) sample from each of the vessel to be sacrificed.

In addition, the absolute dating for ceramic assemblages is an important research area identified for British Iron Age studies both nationally (Haselgrove 2001, 31) and regionally (Bryant 2000). The later Iron Age date suggested for the pottery should post-date the Iron Age radiocarbon plateau. The pit fills below and surrounding the pots produced enough charcoal for the purpose of dating, and these fills were closed contexts which are securely dated and are considered as being contemporary with burial the pots.

It is therefore recommended that a full analysis and recording of the four complete vessels is carried out and the results published within the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* or similarly appropriate journal. Recommendations for further work on the pottery should include:

- A full publication report that incorporates a full description of the assemblage, full descriptions of the forms, fabric, regional parallels for the complete vessels and a discussion of depositional practice at the site.
- The four complete vessels should be illustrated and an illustrated sherd catalogue produced.
- Submission of suitable associated material for radiocarbon dating.
- Lipid analysis of any perceived residues within the fabric of the pots.

Apart from the four complete vessels, all other classes of finds have been fully quantified and catalogued and require no further work but a summary of the finds and environmental assemblages from the site should be included in any publication or archive report.

## **6. General site discussion**

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### **6.1 Introduction**

The parish of Polstead has seen few previous archaeological interventions, therefore this excavation, albeit on a small scale, has increased the understanding of the archaeological resource. Whilst it has not been possible to draw firm conclusions as to the character of the occupation of the site, prior to the founding of the church, the discovery of the 'set' of Iron Age pots is highly significant, and the opportunity to subject them to modern scientific analysis has the potential to contribute to studies of the ritual deposition practices of the period.

### **6.2 Dating evidence and phasing**

It has not been possible to phase the site beyond the broadest time periods because there was little vertical stratification and only fourteen of the forty-four features contained artefacts; and with the exception of pit 0037 these were generally small in number. However, two periods of activity have been identified within the assemblage. Five features have been assigned to the late medieval/post-medieval period, whilst the remainder are all likely to be Late Iron Age in date. Stratigraphically, the features from these periods are separated by a buried soil horizon, 0071, which was probably reworked during the medieval period and sealed the prehistoric features. The five features at the extreme north-west end of the area all cut this deposit and were also dated by finds as medieval or early post-medieval.

The form and spatial arrangement of the pre-medieval/post-medieval features suggests that they are likely to be broadly from the same period. The undated (unphased) features are likely to be of Late Iron Age origin on this basis, but this could not be proven. The spatial distribution of both the prehistoric ditches and discrete features suggests a general repeated pattern of north-north-east to south-south-west and west-south-west to east-north-east oriented activity.

The single sherd of pottery identified as Romano-British within pit 0125 has been interpreted as being either intrusive and indicative of a Romano-British presence of unknown scale and significance beyond the limits of the development area, or possibly an indication that the Late Iron Age settlement continued into the Roman period. It was not believed to represent a separate activity phase.

### **6.3 The Iron Age period**

The majority of the features identified as likely to be Iron Age had leached fills that were derived from relatively unmodified natural clays/silts. The small scale of the excavation meant that it is difficult to draw anything but the broadest conclusions about the nature of the Iron Age occupation of the site. Nevertheless, the features displayed characteristics which support the interpretation that this was a well-structured settlement whose commanding location overlooking this part of the Box River would have been attractive for its strategic advantage. The features comprised; aligned and paired postholes, indicative of earth-fast timber-built structures, ditches, which represent either enclosures or trackways, and pits. The alignments of postholes have a common orientation with the enclosure ditches which suggests an ordered layout, but no complete ground plans or circuits occurred within the sample area. The increasing density of features to the south-east might indicate that a focus within the settlement was close to this part of the site and overlapping Iron Age features demonstrate that the settlement endured long enough for it to evolve and change.

The environmental samples produced small quantities of cereal grains and weed seeds from pits, postholes and ditches as well as low densities of charcoal. The results of the environmental assessment suggests that the material was the remnants of wind blown cereal processing debris



The most significant feature on the site was pit 0037. This contained a distinctive upper fill with a higher organic content over a sequence of two deliberately deposited fills of ashy rake out material and heat affected clay derived from an oven or kiln elsewhere. The two Late Iron Age pots (SFs 1000 and 1001) with pots (SFs 1002 and 1003) inside them, had been carefully positioned upside down on the heat affected clay before the charcoal rich backfill was deposited. This pit had a significantly higher sherd count from the lower and upper fills (0039 and 0041 respectively) excluding the complete vessels than all the other features on site. The feature appears to have been an anomaly within the context of the site. Although the four jars are common types found within domestic contexts in sites of this period within the region, finding complete examples is rare. It is not clear why these vessels were deliberately deposited here in this manner, but similar groups of vessels have been interpreted as feasting sets and their burial, where they have been brought together with the fabric and fuel ash of an oven, invites the suggestion that this act represents the close of some ceremony.

#### **6.4 The medieval/post-medieval period**

The medieval/post-medieval features are equally hard to interpret because of the lack of complete plans for the pit and ditches. The large pit 0049 and the similarly filled feature 0050 might have been rapidly backfilled extraction pits exploiting the sands, gravels and clays present in this part of the site. The stratigraphically later ditches presumably related to boundaries within the parkland associated with Polstead Hall or an earlier late medieval/post-medieval manor on the same site.

Layer 0022 seems to have been deposited to level the area around the manor house and church creating an artificial plateau on the otherwise gently sloping hillside. It included a substantial number of late medieval/post-medieval tile fragments as well as flints within its composition and may have been deposited either when the hall was constructed in the 16th century or more probably when the hall was remodelled in the late 18th century.

### **7. Conclusions and updated research aims**

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The excavation provided evidence for two periods of activity on the site; prehistoric settlement (Late Iron Age) and late medieval-early post-medieval extraction pits and

boundary ditches as well as evidence for some remodelling of the hill side. The excavation sample was beyond the core of the putative Iron Age settlement, which may have been on the highest point on the hill, an area occupied by the church of St. Mary and its graveyard.

The general absence of archaeological interventions in the parish prior to this work has resulted in an unclear picture of its archaeological potential. This excavation shows that there was significant occupation on the hillside in the Late Iron Age and that the archaeology generally survives well. It is likely that any future developments on similar sites within the parish may produce similar results.

Below is a summary of those research aims identified as research priorities for the Iron Age period in the East Anglian region (Bryant, 2000) which are relevant to the site, with an assessment of the excavation results' potential to address them.

## **7.1 Research topics for the Iron Age**

### **7.1.1 Settlement pattern and settlement on the clay uplands**

All of the dated prehistoric features have been assigned to the Late Iron Age (1st century BC), and it is thought likely that the majority of the undated and unphased features are of the same date. However as both the area investigated and the finds and environmental assemblages were small, the site is unlikely to address issues of settlement form and development. The discovery of such a site on the heavy clay soils has added to the picture of settlement distribution beyond the fenland and lower lying gravel sites more readily recorded from aerial photographic surveys (Bryant, 2000). Any future development within the vicinity is likely to produce further evidence of settlement of this date and could significantly contribute to its understanding.

### **7.1.2 Pottery forms, chronology and ritually structured deposition**

The prehistoric pottery assemblage is generally quite small, although the presence of the four complete vessels is unusual and does provide an opportunity for further analysis into vessel volume and form, and the relationship between vessel size and function by the analysis of contents residues.

The absolute dating for ceramic assemblages is an important research area identified for British Iron Age studies both nationally and regionally. Charcoal in sufficient quantity for dating was found in association with the complete pots and the later Iron Age date suggested by the vessel forms should post-date the Iron Age radiocarbon plateau.

The nature of ritual and religion during the Iron Age is a study priority and evidence of ritual abandonment or closing deposits within settlements has been highlighted. The whole pots and the manner of their deposition show evidence of deliberate placement and they were buried in association with material brought in from an oven feature; one that may have been associated with their final use. The context was well preserved and provided good environmental, cultural and stratigraphic data for a comparative study.

## 8 Final report resources

It is proposed that a short article is published within the Proceeding of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology. This will concentrate specifically on the results of the finds work as detailed in the specialist recommendations in Section 5.7 and a comparative study of similar ritual deposits. It is proposed that no further stratigraphic analysis would be required to produce the final report. A task list is included in Table 9 and a list of individuals involved in Table 10.

Task ID	Task Description	Individual	SCCAS staff Days	Cost £
1	Final report compilation	JC	2	£438.00
2	Report illustrations	CB	1	£257.00
3	Lipid analysis x 4			£400.00
	Radio carbon date x 1			£310.00
3	Prehistoric pottery report	SP	2	£537.00
4	Finds illustrations	SH	0.5	£140.00
5	Finds management	CT	1	£203.00
6	Editing	RG	0.5	£128.00
7	Report production	JC	0.5	£109.00
8	Publication costs (2 pages with PSIA)			£120.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>6.5</b>	<b>£2,642.00</b>

Table 9. Identified tasks

Name	Initials	Project Role	Establishment
Crane Begg	CB	Graphics manager	SCCAS
Cathy Tester	CT	Finds Specialist	SCCAS
Sue Holden	SH	Illustrator	Freelance
John Craven	JC	Main author	SCCAS
Richenda Goffin	RG	Finds manager	SCCAS
Sarah Percival	SP	Pottery specialist	NAU Archaeology

Table 10. The project team

## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

T:\Arc\ALL\_site\Polstead\PLS 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

## 10. Contributors and acknowledgements

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The excavation was carried out by a number of archaeological staff, (Andy Beverton, Phil Camps, Tony Fisher, Mo Muldowney, Simon Piccard, John Simms and Nick Taylor) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by Liz Muldowney, and managed by David Gill, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Rebbekah Presslar and the production of illustrations was carried out by Crane Begg and Liz Muldowney. The specialist finds report was compiled by Cathy Tester. Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Richenda Goffin and Colin Pendleton. The report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

## 11. Bibliography

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## Appendix 1. Method Statement

### METHOD STATEMENT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

#### Polstead Church extension to the graveyard.

**SITE CODE: PLS 038** (\*same as eval. Eval contexts end at 0020)

**SUFFOLK JOB CODE:** POLSCHU 003    **GRID REF:** TL 9889 3803

#### Contacts

Bill Wigglesworth (Churchwarden) 01787 210590 or 07977 443246

Henry Engleheart (landowner)

Plant Hire: Holmes Plant - Austin Holmes 07860 121 821

#### Project Duration:

**Excavation** 7 days on site full team + 1 day PO supervising machine

**Staffing:** PO + 3 (Andy John and Nick)

**Plant hire** 360 for 7 days – spoil stockpiled on site and reinstated at the end.

#### Post excavation

Task	No of days
Finds processing	2 days washing + 1 day RP
Site inputting/ TST	1 junior staff AB x 0.5
Finds management	1 RG
External find specialist	1
PO report writing	5

#### Site summary

An evaluation was carried out in the area of a proposed extension to Polstead Churchyard. A group of small pits, Early Bronze Age pottery and flintwork suggested a degree of settlement activity on the site and its commanding position overlooking the valley of the River Box would be typical of a prehistoric settlement. A field boundary ditch, thought to be medieval in date was also found.

The archaeological horizon is sealed beneath a deep layer of re-deposited soil; this included small, post medieval tile fragments and had a high flint content; this may be building debris associated with the church and transferred to this location as grave excavation spoil.

#### Arrangements

- Site plan to be provided by Bill. An area at the SW end of the site (approx 50 ft length) will be reserved for cremation burials and will not be part of the excavation. The limit of the excavation at this end will be marked with a post. Bill can be on site to confirm.
- Bill has contacted Dr Alison Collins of Natural England who confirms that she has no concerns about the site and there are no services
- The access for the machine is at the south corner of the Horsecroft, otherwise the site access is off Water Lane and parking on the north side of the church.
- The area of the site is to be fenced with orange barrier fencing to keep the sheep off the site - to protect the sheep. We will provide the fence which needs to be secure; use lots of road irons

- The spoil will be stockpiled in an area alongside the edge of the excavation by kind permission of Henry Engleheart. This is good grazing and is a favour to the church so try to avoid unnecessary damage and reinstate as quickly as possible. Exact area to be discussed with Bill and Darren, pile needs to be as cover small an area as possible and be neat (Darren will sort this out).
- The machine will be stood down at the end of the site strip, but remain on site for the duration.
- Bob Carr has agreed that the over burden (layer 002 eval report) can be machined off, down to subsoil level. Bob is the curator so no B&S – Jess will stand in for advice
- There are toilets in the wooden building in the churchyard we can use; Bill to arrange key.

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### **Project Staff**

Project Officer	Liz Muldowney	07850 928 658
Team	Andy, Nick and John	
Machine Driver	Darren	
Finds Manager	Richenda Goffin	01294 352447
Project Manager	Dave Gill	01284 352446

### **Other Contacts**

Suffolk Fleet Maintenance		01359 270777
Suffolk Press Office		01473 264395
Environment Management System	Jezz Meredith	01473 583288
SCCAS Health and Safety Representative	Stuart Boulter	01473 583290

### **Emergency contacts:**

Local Police:	Sudbury BSE	01473 613500 01473 613500
Location of nearest A&E:	Colchester General Hospital Turner Road, Colchester, CO4 5JL	01206 747474
Local Doctors	Hadleigh Health Centre, Church Street, Boxford, CO10 5DU	01787 210558
Qualified First Aiders	Liz Muldowney/Andy B	



## Appendix 2. Archive Quantification

Type	Number	Format	Notes	Location
<b>Paper Archive</b>				
Context Register Plan	3	A4 sheet (double sided)		SCC Archive Store
Register Section	1	A4 sheet		SCC Archive Store
Register Small Find	2	A4 sheet		SCC Archive Store
Register Sampler	1	A4 sheet		SCC Archive Store
Register Photo Register	3	A4 sheet/ A4 sheet (double sided)	2 x B&W; 1 x digital	SCC Archive Store
Level book sheets	6	A4 sheet	Copies of original survey book	SCC Archive Store
Context Sheets	150	A4 sheet (double sided)		SCC Archive Store
Sample Sheets	8	A4 sheet		SCC Archive Store
<b>Drawn Archive</b>				
Plans	7	A3 permatrace	6 @ 1:50 on individual sheets 1 @ 1:10 on Section sheet 1	SCC Archive Store
Sections	48	A3 permatrace	@ 1:10 and 1:20 on 5 sheets	SCC Archive Store
<b>Physical Archive</b>				
Small finds	4		See finds quantification	SCC Archive Store
Samples Bulk finds	8	Bulk samples	15 to 30 litres See finds quantification	SCCAS SCC Archive Store
B&W Photos	2	Print Films		SCC Archive Store
<b>Digital Archive</b>				
Digital photos	49	Jpeg		T:\Arc\ALL_site\Polstead\POL 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation\Photos
Plans	6	Jpeg	Scanned copies of original permatrace drawings	T:\Arc\ALL_site\Polstead\POL 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation\Scanned Images\Scanned Plans
Sections	5	Jpeg	Scanned copies of original permatrace drawings	T:\Arc\ALL_site\Polstead\POL 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation\Scanned Images\Scanned Sections
Mapinfo tables	Numerous	.tab file	Created for report	T:\Arc\ALL_site\Polstead\POL 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation\Map Info
Survey files	6	Various	GPS download and original DXF	T:\Arc\ALL_site\Polstead\POL 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation\Survey
AutoCAD	1	.dwg	Digitized sections and figure layouts	T:\Arc\ALL_site\Polstead\POL 038 Churchyard Extension\Excavation\ACAD

\* Project folder was misnamed as POL 038



## Appendix 3. Context Information

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0166			unstratified finds		Unstratified.			
1	0025			pit	cut	Circular in plan. Flared U- shape in section. Average BOS coming to a shallow concave side leading to an almost imperceptible break of base and a concave base. See reverse of 0023 for section and plan. Pit cut by later pit 0027	0.9	0.6	0.34
	0026	0025		pit	fill	Light brownish orangey/ grey silty sand. Rare unsorted flint stones 0.01- 0.03m across. Quite loose and friable Fill of 0025.	0.9	0.6	0.34
	0027			pit	cut	Circular in plan. U- shaped section, near vertical BOS (80°) fairly straight sides, slightly angular break of base. Base slightly concave. Pit of unknown function	0.66	0.8	0.4
	0028	0027		pit	fill	Mid greyish brown, silty (slightly coarse) sand. Occasional unsorted flint stones (stones 0.01-0.04m across- 10% of context approx.) Fairly loose and friable. Fill of 0027.	0.66	0.8	0.4
	0037			pit	cut	Cut of irregular oval pit. Sides near vertical. BOB near 90°. Contains fills 0043- basal ashy fill, 0042-burnt clay and 0041 upper dark ashy fill. Two complete iron age pots present. First thought to be in situ burning forming the reddened clay (0042), later found to have layer underneath. Second phase of use for the pit could be a kiln (though I don't know). Pit containing late iron age waste from clamp kiln (?).	0.8	0.9	0.35
	0041	0037		pit	fill	Upper fill of pit 0037. Dark grey/ brown silty clay. Contains lots of charcoal. Occasional small/ medium flint (round and angular) inclusions. Contained two complete pots.			0.22
	0042	0037		pit	fill	Layer of heat altered clay. First believed to be in situ, now unsure. Mid red/ brown clay. Complete pots rest on top of this fill. Deposit within pit confined to northern side, redeposited from burning elsewhere. Probably deliberately deposited.			0.12
	0043	0037		pit	fill	Basal fill of pit. Light grey/ brown silty clay. Occasional small flint inclusions. Contains lots of ash. Ashy burnt deposit- looks like rke out material. Burnt clay placed above it might indicate deliberate deposition derived from some kind of industry close by (pot making? Crop processing?).			0.15
	0044	0045		posthole	fill	Mid/ light orangey brown clay sandy silt (20%-40%-40%). Rare unsorted flint stones (	0.62	0.8	0.2
	0045			pit/ posthole	cut	Oval pit. 'U' shaped section, vertical BOS, north side is convex, south side is stepped fairly angularly. BOB is quite smooth. Base is concave, narrow. Elongate N-S Found towards southern end of site. Probable posthole.	0.62	0.8	0.39
	0046	0045		posthole	fill	Mid orangey brown slightly sandy clay. No inclusions. Very firm compaction, not concreted.	0.42		0.19
	0069			posthole	cut	Feature is partly under baulk. Sub square shaped, with rounded corners. 'U' shaped section, almost vertical BOS, straight sides, angular BOB leading to an uneven/ flat base, inclined SE. Appears aligned NW-SE See 0067 for sketch plan and section. Pit/posthole, suspected to be sturctural.	0.72	0.4	0.4

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0070	0069		posthole	fill	Mid greyish brown sandy (30%) silt (70%). Occasional clay patches (10-15%). Rare charcoal flecks (	0.72	0.4	0.4
	0086			pit	cut	Cut of ovoid pit. Sub circular/ovoid in plan. 45° break of slope from surface to sides, sides regularly sloped, break of slope from sides to base, almost imperceptible. Concave base. Cut of smallish pit. Probably prehistoric in date.	1.25	1.1	0.39
	0087	0086		pit	fill	Mid orange/mid grey mixed sandy clay, occasional charcoal flecks and angular flint cobbles, 0.02-0.1m across. Probable fill of pit.			
	0088			pit	cut	Sub-circular. Irregular U shaped. Sharp break of slope at top to vertical SSW side, NNE slightly stepped becoming vertical, sharpe break of slope to flat base. Well defined pit with charcoally deposit on base, random backfill above. 2x frags of pot retrieved from middle fill close to interface with basal fill. Probably Iron Age.	0.88	0.97	0.52
	0089	0088		pit	fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. No inclusions. Firm compaction. Basal fill of pit 0088, organic looking in comparison to two upper fillls directly on clay base of pit.			0.04
	0090	0088		pit	fill	Mid prangey brown clayey sand (some silt content) Occasional small sub-rounded stones. Friable. Mid fill of pit, contained 2x scraps of prehistoric.			0.24
	0091	0088		pit	fill	Mid orangey grey clayey sand. One rounded large cobble. Occasional small sub-rounded. Flint and quartz fragments. Upper fill of pit.			0.26
	0098			pit	cut	Cut of probably ovoid pit. Probably 50% covered by the southern LOE. Break of slope from surface to sides, on both sides approx 45°. Sides are smooth and gently slope to a concave base, the break of slope from base to sides is approx 30°. Feature is adjacent to ditch [0100] but does not interact with it. Cut of prehistoric pit.	1		0.38
	0099	0098		pit	fill	Fill of probable ovoid pit [0098]. Mid brown/mid orange mixed sandy clay. Medium to loose compaction.			
	0125			pit	cut	Part of pit cluster including 0126, 0127, 0129. Round. Almost vertical sided with a flat base.	0.66	0.66	0.25
	0126	0125		pit	fill	Mid brown/orangey silty sandy clay. Occasional small rounded stones (5-15mm) Moderate to hard compaction.	0.66	0.66	0.25
	0129			pit	cut	Pound pit. Steep sided on E side, slightly shallower on the W side. Concaved base. Part of pit cluster with 0125, 0127, 0131.	0.64	0.72	0.38
	0130	0129		pit	fill	Mid brown, orangey mottled silty clayey sand. Occasional small rounded stones throughout (5-10mm) Moderate to hard compaction. Occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	0.64	0.72	0.38
	0167	0037		pot	fill	Context number assigned to deposit qwithin complete vessel 1002 which was wiin complete vessel 1001 which was within 0041 in pit [0037]			
	0168	0037		pot	fill	Context number assigned to deposit within complete vessel 1003 which was within complete vessel 1000 which was within 0041 in pit [0037].			
	0169	0037		pot	fill	Context number assigned to deposit within complete vessel 1000 which was within 0041 in pit [0037].			
	0170	0037		pot	fill	Context assigned to deposit within complete vessel 1001 which was within 0041 in pit [0037].			
	0023		0023	gully	cut	Linear in plan. U-shaped in section, average 45° BOS leading to a concave side, with	0.43	7	0.14

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0024	0023		gully	fill	an imperceptible break of base. Flat and slightly concave base. Cut by 0027. Aligned SW-NE. Mid/ light slightly orangey grey brown silty sand (coarse). Occasional stone pebble inclusions (10% of fill). Single struck flint find. Fairly loose and friable. Single fill of gully	0.43	7	0.14
	0160			gully	cut	Shallow gully the same as [0023] U shape with very steep sides and a concave base.	0.45	1	0.17
	0161	0160		ditch	fill	Mid orangey brown clayey sand. Frequent flint gravel. Firm compaction. Single fill of narrow shallow gully. Stoney fill because natural is gravelly up at this end of the area.			
	0065		0065	ditch	cut	Cut of very shallow ditch. Aligned E-W. Sharp BOS and BOB. Flatish base. Eastern end of an irregular linear ditch- peters out 1.5m further to east, down slope.	0.55		0.11
	0066	0065		ditch	fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Frequent small, angular and rounded flint. Medium compaction. Single fill of ditch.			0.11
	0073			ditch	cut	Irregular linear. U shaped. Gradual sides; base not observed. Aligned E-W (ish) Probably part of an enclosure ditch.	0.37	0.7	0.28
	0077	0073		ditch	fill	Mid orangey brown clayey silt. Occasional small rounded flint pebbles. Friable. Lower fill within ditch 0073.			0.12
	0078	0073		ditch	fill	Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Moderate small rounded flint pebbles. Firm compaction. Upper fill of ditch merges a bit with (0076) upper fill of later ditch 0072.			0.13
	0106			ditch	cut	Ditch running E-W cut by ditch 0104. Only N side remains. 45° slope. Truncated 0104.	0.4	0.77	0.55
	0107	0106		ditch	fill	Light orangey grey silty clay. Occasional small flint gravel. Firm compaction. Single remaining fill of truncated ditch.			
	0144			ditch	cut	Linear plan. Shallow dish section with average break of slope, concave sides, gradual break of base, concave base. Aligned N-S. Truncated by [0142]. See [0142] for section and plan. Linear of unknown function.	0.8		0.2
	0145	0144		ditch	fill	Top fill of 0144. Mid greyish orange brown sandy silt (40/60%) Firm and friable. No finds.			
	0067		0067	ditch	cut	Linear in plan. 'V' shaped in section. BOS 45-50°, straight sides, abrupt BOB, leading to narrow, concave base. Aligned NE-SW. Boundary/ drainage ditch.	0.6	8.5	0.5
	0068	0067		ditch	fill	Mid orangey/ greyish/ brown sandy silt (40% sand, 60% silt approx). Rare unsorted flint stones (	0.6	8.5	0.5
	0072			ditch	cut	Linear. Very steep sided 'v' shape in section. Sharp BOS to steep side becoming near vertical, sharp BOS to 'v' shaped base. Aligned broadly N-S Appears to truncate shallower ditch 0073. Probably cornering off to west. Appears to be part of an enclosure ditch? Scrappy pottery in fill indicates likely iron age date. Keys into E-W linear 0013 but was cut after it had at least partly silted up.	0.5	1.06	0.52
	0074	0072		ditch	fill	Mid orangey grey silty clay. Occasional mediums subangular flint frags. Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Lower fill of ditch within narrow channel at base. Contained 2 x small pot sherds.			0.18
	0075	0072		ditch	fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Moderate small rounded flint pebbles; moderate charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Fill within ditch. Contained tiny glazed piece of pottery.			0.22

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0076	0072		ditch	fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt. Occasional small rounded flint fragment. Friable. Upper fill of ditch merges with upper fill of ditch 0073.			0.16
	0081		0081	ditch	cut	Linear plan. V-shaped section. Slightly diffuse. Average break of slope (45°) with straight sides leading to a smooth break of slope. Base is concave. No truncation. Aligned NW-SE. Ditch terminal.	1.1		0.42
	0082	0081		ditch	fill	Mid slightly orange grey brown sandy clayey silt. Occasional mid/light brown-yellow clay (10%) Friable and fairly firm. Main fill of 0081.			
	0083	0081		ditch	fill	Mid/light yellowy-grey clay. No inclusions. Firm/solid compaction. No finds. Redeposited natural.	0.3		0.6
	0096			ditch	cut	Linear running NW/SE. Steep straight sides, sharp break of slope, rounded uneven base. Cut of ditch - part of segmented linear ditch.	0.8	1	0.35
	0097	0096		ditch	fill	Mid brown sandy clay. Occasional mixed rounded and angular flints. Compact.	0.8		0.35
	0104			ditch	cut	Ditch 0104 cutting 0106. Part of segmented ditch 0081/0112/0096 etc. S side is approx 50° slope. N side is steeper. Concave base. Ditch runs W-E.	1.2	0.76	0.6
	0105	0104		ditch	fill	Mid grey silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks. Hard compaction.			
	0112			ditch	cut	Linear. Steep straight sides. Break of slope and base not excavated. NW-SE aligned.			
	0113	0112		ditch	fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Rare small rounded stones. Compact but slightly softer and more moist than 0111.			
	0142			ditch	cut	Linear plan. Shallow shaped U section. Slightly steeper than average break of slope, slightly concave sides, smooth and gradual break of base leading to a concave base. Not truncation. Aligned NW-SE.	1.2		0.28
	0143	0142		ditch	fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt (20-80%) rare unsorted flint stones (0.01-0.04m) Firm and quite compact.			
	0146	0142		ditch	fill	Pale to mid browny orange clay. No inclusions. Firm and very compact. No finds.			0.1
	0158			ditch	cut	Cut of ditch near butt ebd. Sharp break of slope 60° approx. U shape in section. Rough E-W alignment. Ditch terminal 2.5m from end of other segment 0149.	0.82		0.37
	0159	0158		ditch	fill	Fill of ditch [0158] Mid orange/brown silty sand. Common small to medium angular and rounded flints. Friable.			
	0092		0092	ditch	cut	Linear, terminating in rounded end. Shallow U shape gradual sides, imperceptible break of slope to concave base. Merges with a pit [0094] cut into it's terminal. Shallow linear terminating to SSW.	0.5	1	0.13
	0093	0092		ditch	fill	Mind brownish gray clay silt. Occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles. Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Relationship to pit 0094 unclear. Single fill of shallow linear ditch. Terminating 2m to North of perpendicular ditch 0112.			0.13
	0100		0100	ditch	cut	SSW-NNE running narrow ditch. Depth varies dramatically along 1m excavated slot, from southern LOW. At baulk, it is between 0.28m - 1m deep across the site. The ditch rises up 0.35m from the baulk edge. Break of slope at baulk from surface is 70° approx. 1m in from bault it is 45° approx. Break of slope from base to sides is 45° approx. Base concave. Varied depth - narrow gully. Depth variation may be due to variation in the density of the natural the feature runs across.	0.4		0.28
	0101	0100		ditch	fill	Fill of ditch [0100]. Mixed mid brown/ mid orange sandy clay with frequent charcoal			

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
						flecks in 0.35m of deeper ditch nearer southern baulk. Charcoal flecks infrequent in main body of fill. Charcoal collected and was more readily sealed in the deeper part of ditch.			
	0110			ditch	cut	Linear. Steep straight sides, sharp break of slope, flat base. NW-SE aligned. Ditch cut by [0112]	0.4	1	0.22
	0111	0110		ditch	fill	Mid brown sandy clay. Occasional small rounded stones. Compact.			
	0138			ditch	cut	Cut of ditch with rough N-S alignment. Same as [0110]. Squared and shaped section.	0.46		0.18
	0139	0138		ditch	fill	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Frequent small flint inclusions. Compact. Single fill.			0.18
	0149		0149	ditch	cut	Cut of shallow ditch. Break of slope with steep sides 45° approx. Base wide and flat. E-W aligned approx. Ditch terminal part of 8.75m long ditch segment. 0151 was it's other terminal. 2.5m to W of ditch terminal 0158 which formed continuation of feature. See back of sheet.	0.78		0.16
	0150	0149		ditch segment	fill	Mid orange/brown silty sand. Frequent small to moderate rounded and angular flints. Friable. Single fill of ditch terminal.			0.16
	0151			ditch	cut	Linear with rounded end. Concave sides, gradual break of slope, concave base. E-W aligned. Ditch butt end. Section not photographed. Ditch terminal opposes 0149.	0.9	1	0.2
	0152	0151		ditch	fill	Mid brownish grey silty sand. Occasional small rounded flints. Friable. No finds. Single fill.			
	0153			finds		Pot sherds found on surface of ditch [0151] but within the confines of evaluation trench.			
2	0022			layer	deposit	Mid brownish yellow clay silt. Frequent flint gravel. Frequent post medieval tile fragments. Firm compaction. Deliberately deposited layer used to level out a portion of the natural hill slope. Presumably related to activity associated with the 'big house' nearby. Seals buried soil 0011.			
	0049			pit	cut	(depth measurment is from cut to the bottom of fill 0052). Cut of possible exstraction pit. Machine dug slots into SW corner of the site, to ascertain what was going on with a large, ovoid pit. The southern edge of this pit (and indeed 0050 and 0051) is missing under the LOE. Gently sloping 30° slope to SE, similar gradient on NW side, but cut on NW side is more uncertain. Imperceptible break of slope from sides to base. Base is concave. Feature orientated roughly NE-SW Cut of possible sand extraction pit.	3.95		0.84
	0050			unknown feature	cut	Cut of anomalous feature. Due to the fact that the feature is located right in the SW corner of the site, the extent of the feature is not known. Fill 0060 of 0050 looks to be possibly a structural deposit (although this is a guess) and fills 0054 and 0055 look to be redeposited deposits of fill 0060. This may have happened when 0049 was back filled, presumably as 0060 was encountered. Cut of feature- size and possible function of feature cannot really be estimated.			
	0051			ditch	cut	Cut of ditch 0051. Only SE side of ditch present in section. Steep sided (60° approx) smooth sides with a gradual BOB to a concave base. Cut of NE-SW running ditch. Post dates large pit 0049			0.44
	0052	0049		pit	fill	Main fill of 0049. Orange sandy clay, medium compaction. Principle fill of 0049	3.15		0.58

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0053	0049		pit	fill	Mid orange/ brown sandy clay- medium compaction. Frequent coarse gravel inclusions Gravelly layer 0053- looks to have been deposited at a similar time as 0056, 0054, 0055 and 0058- presumably as backfill.	1.1		0.28
	0054	0049		pit	fill	Tip line, following SE edge of 0049, above gravel layer 0057. Light brown chalky clay. Loose compaction. Probably a redeposited layer of 0060.	0.58		0.35
	0055	0049		pit	fill	Light brown chalky clay 'blob' at base of 0049. Probably redeposited 0060.	0.49		0.22
	0056	0049		pit	fill	Mid brown sandy clay, medium compaction. Frequent gravelly inclusions (coarse gravel). Fill of 0049	0.74		0.14
	0057	0049		pit	fill	gravelly mid orange/ brown fill. Loose compaction. Fill is 60-70% coarse gravel. Fill is a tip line that follows the SE edge of feature 0049. Fill of 0049, probably a tip line.	0.32		0.2
	0058	0049		pit	fill	Fill that runs along NW edge of cut 0049. Mixed orange grey sandy clay and mid grey sandy clay, medium compaction. Truncated by 0051 Cuts feature 0050 Poorly defined, but it is visible by the difference in fill between 0061 and NW edge of 0049. Tip line that abutts the cut of the feature.	1		0.31
	0059	0051		ditch	fill	Fill of NE-SW running ditch. Mid grey sandy clay- medium compaction. Frequent flint cobble inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks, in lower part of fill, around the cut.			
	0060	0050		unknown feature	fill	Light brown chalky clay 'blob' within 0050. Undisturbed deposit of this fill. Loose compaction. 0054 and 0055 I believe to be redeposited deposits of this fill, within later feature 0049. Fill of 0050	0.28		0.14
	0061	0050		unknown feature	fill	Mixed mid orange clayey sand and mid grey sandy clay. Medium compaction. Fill of unknown feature.			
	0079			ditch	cut	NW-SE aligned ditch. Break of slope from surface to sides: 45° (approx) on SSE side, 30° (approx) on NNW side. Break of slope from sides to base: 45° (approx) on both sides, base concave. Narrow base in section, 0.45m wide (of a 2.50m wide ditch in total) The ditch cuts ditch [0023] Near to SW baulk. It also cuts the N edge of [0049] further east. Cut of probable med/post med ditch.	2.5		0.68
	0080	0079		ditch	fill	Mid brown sandy clayey silt, loose compaction. Medieval peg tile present - possibly late med.			
	0162			ditch	cut	Linear ditch which terminated at N end. Partially obscured by the baulk. Truncated by replacement (?) 0164. Steep sided with sharp break of slope to a concave base. Truncated by ditch [0164]. Aligned NE-SW.	0.44	1.35	0.28
	0163	0162		ditch	fill	Light to mid greyish brown sandy silt. Frequent unsorted small sub-rounded flints. Friable. Single fill of ditch [0162]			
	0164			ditch	cut	Linear ditch probably a replacement for [0162] U shape with steep sides and a sharp break of slope to a concave base. Aligned NE-SW.	0.62	1.38	0.32
	0165	0164		ditch	fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Moderate sized unsorted flints. Friable.			
Modern	0021			layer	deposit	Topsoil- Dark brownish grey clay silt. Occasional small- medium flint fragments. Dessicated- firm.			
Unphased	0029			pit	cut	Sub circular in plan.Stepped 'u' shape in section. Sharp BOS at top to near vertical. Sharp BOS to flat base. Truncated by trial trench#1. At North edge of site. Pit- undated. Filled with clayey deposits towards base. Some charcoal present.	1.28	1.34	0.56



Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0030	0029		pit	fill	Mid yellowish grey silty clay. Occasional flint fragments, (angular and small) occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Basal fill of pit 0029			0.07
	0031	0029		pit	fill	Mid greyey orange silty clay. Occasional small flint fragments (small and sub angular). Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Fill of pit 0029. Small charcoal rich lens marks upper boundary on NNE side with fill above 0032.			0.11
	0032	0029		pit	fill	Light brownish orange silty clay. Moderate clay patches( greenish yellow). Rare charcoal flecks. Occasional merdium rounded flint cobbles. Firm compaction. Fill of pit 0029			0.23
	0033	0029		pit	fill	Mid orangey brown clayey silt. Moderate small flint pebbles; occasional charcoal flecks. Friable. Upper fill of pit 0029			0.25
	0034			posthole	cut	Sub circular in plan. 'U' shaped, near vertical sides, sharp BOS to flat base. Small, well constructed posthole. Undated. When feature was 100% excavated, there was a post socket against northern edge with a basal clay fill 0035 packed around it. Filled by stuff collapsed from above.	0.45	0.52	0.33
	0035	0034		posthole	fill	Mid brownish orange silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Basal fill within posthole. Diagram for packing of post see reverse of sheet 0034			0.11
	0036	0034		posthole	fill	Mid yellowy brown clayey silt. Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction. Upper fill of posthole, slumped into remnant of post socket in base of posthole, as well as filling remaining cavity.			0.21
	0038			pit	cut	Oval in plan. Wide 'u' shape in section. Steep sides, concave base. Gradual BOS to base. Small shallow pit.	0.54	0.94	0.19
	0039	0038		pit	fill	Light brown yellow silty clay. Occasional charcoal flecks. Firm compaction.			0.08
	0040	0038		pit	fill	Dark brownish grey clay silt. Occasional small sub angular flint fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. Upper fill of pit 0038. Higher silt content than lower clay fill. No datable artifacts.			0.11
	0047			posthole	cut	Sub rectangular in plan. 'U' shaped, near vertical sides, gradual BOS to concave base. Small posthole, close to east end of area. 100% excavated and profile drawn because it was small.	0.24	0.28	0.12
	0048	0047		posthole	fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional small rounded flint pebbles. Occasional charcoal flecks. Single fill of small posthole, undated.			0.12
	0062			pit	cut	Cut of oval pit 0062. Sharp BOS leading to curved sides and base. Aligned E-W. Horizon clarity clear. Contains fills 0063 and 0064.	0.37	0.5	0.2
	0063	0062		pit	fill	Upper fill of small pit 0062. Mid orange/ brown silty clay. Frequent small/medium, angular and rounded flints. Charcoal flecks present also.			
	0064	0062		pit	fill	Fill of pit 0062, Basal. Brownish orange silty clay (10% silt, 90% clay approx) Charcoal flecks.			
	0071			layer	deposit	Mid greyish brown silty clay Rare flint fragments. Medium compaction. Buried soil horizon below levelling layer 022. Seals most of the archaeology.			
	0084			pit	cut	Shallow circular pit. Break of slope 90°. Slight curve to sides and base.	0.7		0.17
	0085	0084		pit	fill	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Common small rounded and angular flint inclusions. Compact. Single fill of small pit.			0.17

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0094			pit	cut	Sub circular. Steep sided, sharp break of slope to flattish base. Relationship to ditch 0092 uncertain. Didn't spot pit until part way down but location at/in ditch terminal might suggest probably associated. Pit at terminal of ditch. Probably contemporary-undated. Basal fill 0095 was distinct from fill of ditch but only recognised when part way in.	0.38	0.45	0.15
	0095	0094		pit	fill	Mid yellow brown clay silt. Rare small rounded flint pebbles. Friable. Single recognised fill in pit at ditch terminal.			0.15
	0102			posthole	cut	Cut of posthole [0102] Rough circle in plan, steep near vertical sides, curved base. Very steep sided deep posthole. Deepest on site. Might be associated with posthole [0034] and possible posthole [0008] (seen in evaluation)	0.38		0.46
	0103	0102		posthole	fill	Dark blue/brown silty clay. Contains charcoal. Occasional small round and angular flints. Single fill of deep posthole. 3 buckets sampled.			0.46
	0108			pit	cut	Shallow oval pit, wide U shape, gradual sides, gradual break of slope and concave base. Long axis NW-SE.	0.9	1.62	0.23
	0109	0108		pit	fill	Light brownish grey silty sand. Moderate small angular and sub-rounded flint frags. Friable. Single fill of pit. Relatively unmodified from sandy material into which it had been cut.			0.23
	0114			posthole	cut	Small circular undated posthole. U shaped steep sides, gradual break of slope to concave base. Located to close to posthole 0116 and probably associated.	0.49	0.53	0.13
	0115	0114		posthole	fill	Single fill of small undated posthole. Mixed mid greyish brown and yellowish brown silty sand. Frequent small flint gravel. Firm compaction.			0.13
	0116			posthole	cut	Small circular posthole possibly associated with similar adjacent feature 0116. U shaped with steep sides, sharp break of slope to flat base.	0.46	0.47	0.19
	0117	0116		posthole	fill	Mixed greyish brown and yellowy brown silty sand. Frequent small sub-rounded gravel (flint). Firm compaction. Single fill of posthole. Very similar to fill of posthole 0116.			0.19
	0118			pit	cut	Large shallow oval pit similar to [0086] Sharp break of slope, curved sides leading to flatish base with gradual break of base. Contains 0119, 0120.	1.4	1.5	0.4
	0119	0118		pit	fill	Mid brown orange silty clay with charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded slints. Basal fill. Compact.			0.14
	0120	0118		pit	fill	Upper fill of pit [0118] Mid prange brown silty clay. Occasional small to mid angular and rounded flints. Compact.			
	0121			posthole	cut	Round, almost vertical sided, slightly concave based pit/posthole.	0.3	0.3	0.1
	0122	0121		posthole	fill	Light, orangey brown, silty clayey sand. Occasional stones, rounded 5-20mm. Moderate/hard compaction.	0.3	0.3	0.1
	0123			posthole	cut	Round, concave base, W side almost vertical and a shallow angle to E side.	0.5	0.51	0.13
	0124	0123		posthole	fill	Light orangey, brown silty clayey sand. Occasional round stones (5-20mm). Moderate to hard compaction.	0.5	0.51	0.13
	0127			pit	cut	Round, steep sided to E, shallow to W. Concaved base. Part of pit cluster with 0129, 0125, 0131.	0.69	0.69	0.32
	0128	0127		pit	fill	Mid brown/orangey silty sandy clay. Occasional small, rounded stones (5-10mm) Moderate to hard compaction.			

Period	Context	Within cut	Grouped as	Type	Category	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Depth (m)
	0131			pit	cut	Round, concave based shallow sided feature. Steeper concaved side to W. Shallower convex to E. Part of pit cluster with 0125, 0127 and 0129.	0.84	0.84	0.34
	0132	0131		pit	fill	Mid brown orangey silty sandy clay. Occasional small rounded stones (5-10mm) throughout. Moderate to hard compaction. Single fill.			
	0133			posthole	cut	Pit/posthole. Round. Fairly steep sided but not vertical. Concave base and sides. Slightly shallower to SE. Merged with shallow spread (0135). Probably result of disturbance during activity associated with posthole construction/use. Relationship between the two uncertain.		0.4	0.32
	0134	0133		posthole	fill	Light brown silty sandy clay with orange mottled sand. Small rounded stones (5-10mm) throughout. Moderate to hard compaction.			
	0135			spread		Light grey brown silty sandy clay. Rounded stones (5-20mm) throughout. Hard compaction.			
	0136			posthole	cut	Irregular shaped pit in plan. Concave based, steep sided and almost vertical to SE and shallow irregular side to NW. Pit possibly associated with 0133.		0.7	0.25
	0137	0136		posthole	fill	Light orangy brown silty sandy clay. Occasional stones (5-10mm) throughout. Hard compaction.			
	0140			pit	cut	Cut of oval pit. Extent unclear and appears to be cut by ditch [0138] Sharp break of slope 90°. Curved sides. Un even base.			0.32
	0141	0140		pit	fill	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Frequent small to medium angular and rounded flints. Compaction. Single fill of small pale pit.			0
	0147			pit	cut	Circular shape in plan. Steep sloping sides. Fairly flat base. Aligned N-S.			0.44
	0148	0147		pit	fill	Light brown sandy silt. A few small stone inclusions. Hard compaction.			0
	0154			pit	cut	Shallow oval pit. Wide U shape steep side to E, gradual break of slope to concave base. Truncated by pit 0156.		0.88	0.16
	0155	0154		pit	fill	Mid orangey grey silty sand. Frequently medium rounded flint cobbles. Friable. Single undated fill of pit 0154.			0.16
	0156	0156		pit	fill	Small oval pit. Steep sides, imperceptible break of slope to concave base. Truncates 0155 fill of 0154. Later than [0154] Both undated.		0.89	0.2
	0157	0156		pit	fill	Dark brownish grey silty sand. Moderate small flint pebbles. Friable. Single undated fill of pit.			



## Appendix 4. Pottery catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Sherd	No	Wt/g	Form	Notes	Spotdate
0041	F2	CV	1	1275	jar	SF1000 (SF1003 inside). Closed jar. (Rim 1, (175mm 100%), Base 2, (90mm 100%). Ht 150mm, T 11mm. 0168	IA
	Q4	CV	1	1310	jar	SF1001 (SF1002 inside) High-shouldered jar. Rim 3 (155mm 100%). Base 6, (105mm 100%).Ht 170mm, T 8mm. Smoothed surf.	IA
	Q1	ba	1	92		Jar base (2, 100mm 90%) Smoothed surf. join with 0043	IA
	Q1	b	7	43		Smoothed surf.	IA
	Q3	ba	1	63		Base type 1, (140mm 15%)	IA
	Q4	b	1	5			IA
	F1	b	2	14			IA
0043	F1	r	1	11		Rim type 1, 250mm 5%	IA
	F1	b	3	35			IA
	Q1	ba	1	13		Jar base type 2, (100mm 90%) Smoothed surf. x join with 0041	IA
	Q1	b	5	10		Smoothed surf.	IA
	Q5	b	1	3		Burnished	IA
0066	Q4	b	1	2		Abraded	IA
	F1	b	1	5		Smoothed surf.	IA
0074	Q5	b	1	1		Abraded	IA
	F1	b	1	1		Abraded	IA
0078	G1	b	1	2			LNEBA
0082	MCW	b	1	10	jar	Red/brown ext, grey core and int. Sooted ext.	L12-14th c
	F1	b	2	11			IA
0090	F1	b	2	3		Very abraded	IA
0126	GX	b	1	19		Series of incised horizontal grooves	Rom+
0130	F1	b	1	31		Abraded	IA
0143	MCW	ba	1	16	jar	Sagging base? Sooted exterior.	L12-14th c
0153	Q5	b	1	1		Abraded	IA
0166	Q5	ba	1	17		Base type 5. Very abraded	IA
0167	Q4	CV	1	661	jar	SF1002 (Inside SF 1001) Biconical jar. Rim 3 (130mm 100%) Base 1 (80mm 100%) Ht 120mm, T 7.5mm. Wiped surf.	IA
0168	Q5	CV	1	706	jar	SF1003 ( inside SF1000) Closed jar. Rim 2 (100mm 100%) base 1 (70mm 100%) Ht 135mm, T 5mm. Smoothed surf.	IA