University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Excavation on land at Leaders Farm, Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

(SP 5302 8423)

Mathew Morris

ULAS Report No 2014-200

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Lutterworth, Leicestershire

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For: Bellway Homes (East Midlands) Ltd.

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Summary

Between October and December 2013 ULAS carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Leaders Farm, on the south-western edge of Lutterworth, for Bellway Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. prior to construction of a new residential development to be known as Whittle Fields. An evaluation carried out by ULAS in 2012 (Speed 2012; 2013) identified two areas containing significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods, consisting of a probable roundhouse, enclosures and ditches. Follow up work in 2013 saw the excavation of two large open areas (Field 1 and Field 2), 1.1ha and 0.8ha respectively, to record this activity; and the excavation of seven more trial trenches to better characterise peripheral areas of the site and to further investigate a large undated earthwork (MLE1916) visible on Ordnance Survey maps in the site's south-eastern corner.

Despite adverse weather, which left large areas of the site extremely waterlogged or flooded and unworkable, the seven week excavation has produced good evidence for two distinct and separate landscapes. The main focus of activity was in Field 1. The eastern half of the field contained several large polygonal enclosures, the ditches defining each enclosure exhibiting a complex sequence of re-cutting suggesting that they were in use for a prolonged period of time. Activity within the enclosures was sparse, a few isolated pits, post-holes and tree-throws, but outside Enclosure A were two roundhouses (Roundhouse 1 and Roundhouse 2). Evidence suggests that Iron Age activity started as unenclosed settlement focused around this pair of buildings, with the enclosures appearing later in the site's development.

A third roundhouse (Roundhouse 4), partially uncovered on the edge of the excavation, appears to be enclosed within its own timber stockade (Enclosure D) – identified by a line of closely-spaced stake-holes found along the base of the narrow trench defining the enclosure edge; whilst a fourth possible roundhouse (Roundhouse 3) was recorded beneath Enclosure B.

Overall, finds from the excavation were few, but pottery from Roundhouse 1, Roundhouse 2 and some of the enclosure ditches belonged to the East Midlands scored ware tradition current from the 4th or mid-3rd century BC to the earlier 1st century BC and in view of the high proportion of scoring recorded, a date in the Late Iron Age, 1st century BC or early 1st century AD is indicated. Roman pottery is noticeably absent from features in the eastern half of Field 1. A large quantity of fired clay was also recovered from the eaves drip gullies surrounding Roundhouse 1 and Roundhouse 2. The best preserved material came from the gully of Roundhouse 1 which contained a large fragment from a perforated oven plate with other joining fragments. The function of the plate, which perhaps sat within the house before it was broken up and deposited in the gully, was to provide a flat surface for cooking and presumably a cooking pot was placed over the large central perforation. The corner of a triangular loom-weight was also found in the roundhouse gully.

The western half of Field 1 and Field 2 were crossed by systems of rectilinear ditches but contained few other features, suggesting much of the site was covered with small enclosures or fields. Finds were scarce in these ditches, which predominantly produced Roman pottery of late 2nd or 3rd century date, with one ditch in the north-west corner of Field 1 producing an assemblage of later 3rd century or 4th century material. Many of the ditches in Field 2 remain undated. Soil conditions were not favourable for well-preserved animal bone or environmental remains. Only bones from larger mammals typically survived, with cattle, sheep and pig present on the site. Fine cut marks noted on some bones indicate that the assemblage derived from domestic waste. Soil samples from Roundhouse 1, Roundhouse 2 and some of the Roman field ditches were dominated by staple food cereal crops with a lower quantity of seeds of plants from arable and disturbed ground. Samples taken from post-pipes at the entrance to Roundhouse 1 suggest the burning of food waste, whilst possible evidence for the parching of glume wheat (excess chaff and a large quantity of grain) was found in one of the Roman ditches in Field 1.

No further archaeological deposits were found in the additional trial trenches and the function of the large sub-rectangular enclosure in the site's south-eastern corner remains uncertain. Trenches across the earthwork suggest that its banks were not deliberately constructed but rather a natural build-up of soil and it may relate to medieval ploughing as ridge and furrow across this part of the site appears to respect it.

Considering the potential 200-300 year dating disparity between the Iron Age enclosures and the Roman field systems it seems unlikely that there was continuity in the landscape but rather two distinct and separate phases of activity on the site. Overall, the general impression given by the archaeological evidence is that the site is on the periphery of the Roman activity in the vicinity, the focus being to the north-west, closer to Watling Street which is only 2km away.

Introduction

Between October and December 2013 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Leaders Farm, at Lutterworth in Leicestershire (SP 5302 8423 - Figure 1). The work was undertaken for Bellway Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. prior to construction commencing on a new residential development to be known as Whittle Fields.

In July 2013, Bellway Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. received outline planning permission for a residential development comprising the erection of 130 dwellings, creation of a cemetery and provision of associated infrastructure including public open space (app. no. 12/00900/OUT). Conditions 12 and 13 of the planning permission required that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (Clay 2013) before development commenced. This was in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012); Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET), as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council, requiring the investigation to be undertaken to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

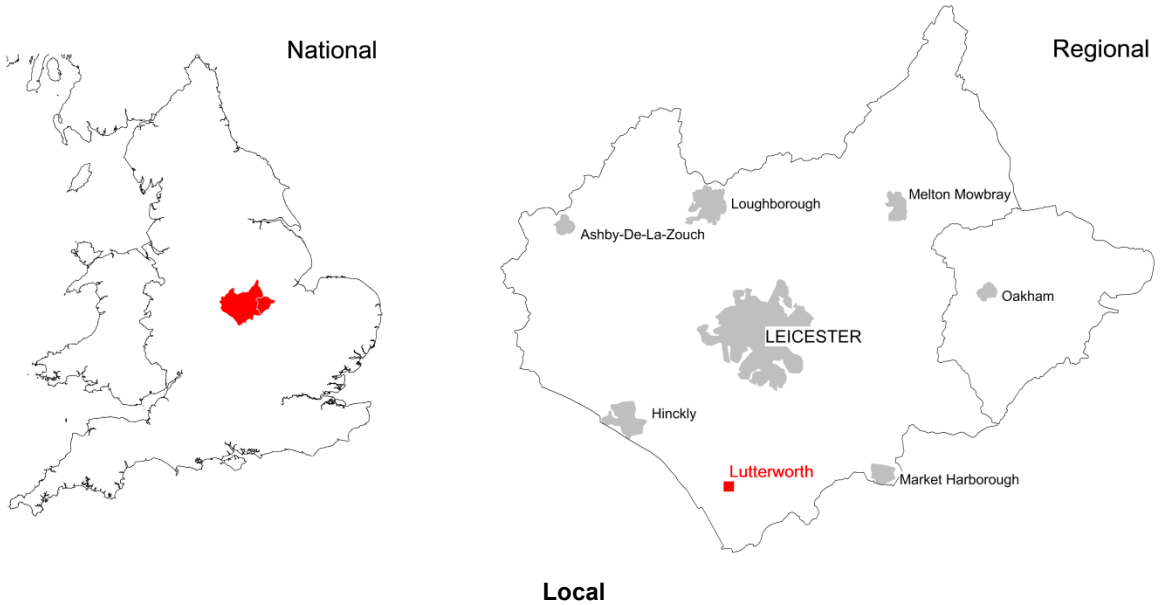

Figure 1: Location Plans with project area highlighted

Archaeological work was carried out over a seven week period between October 24 and December 6, 2013 by staff of ULAS on behalf of Bellway Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. This report presents the final results of that archaeological investigation.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The project area lies on the south-western edge of Lutterworth, on land known as Leaders Farm (SP 5302 8423 - Figure 1). The site comprised three fields, covering *c.*6.3 ha of arable farmland and grassland. The fields were defined by the A4303 to the south, Coventry Road to the north, Brookfield Way to the west and modern housing to the east. Henceforth in this report, the northernmost field will be referred to as Field 1, the southernmost as Field 2 and the south-easternmost as Field 3 (Figure 2).

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 169 (Coventry) shows that the underlying geology was likely to consist of bedrock deposits of interbedded mudstone and limestone belonging to the Blue Lias Formation. Across the western half of the site this is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton till, commonly known as boulder clay, belonging to the Oadby Member; whilst the eastern half of the site is covered with sand and gravel of the Sharwell Sand and Gravel group (BGS 1994).

The site lies on the south-facing side of a ridge of ground, known as Woodbridge Hill on historic maps, running north-east to south-west between two tributaries of the river Swift, with ground dropping gently across the site from 122m in the north-west to 117m OD in the south-east.

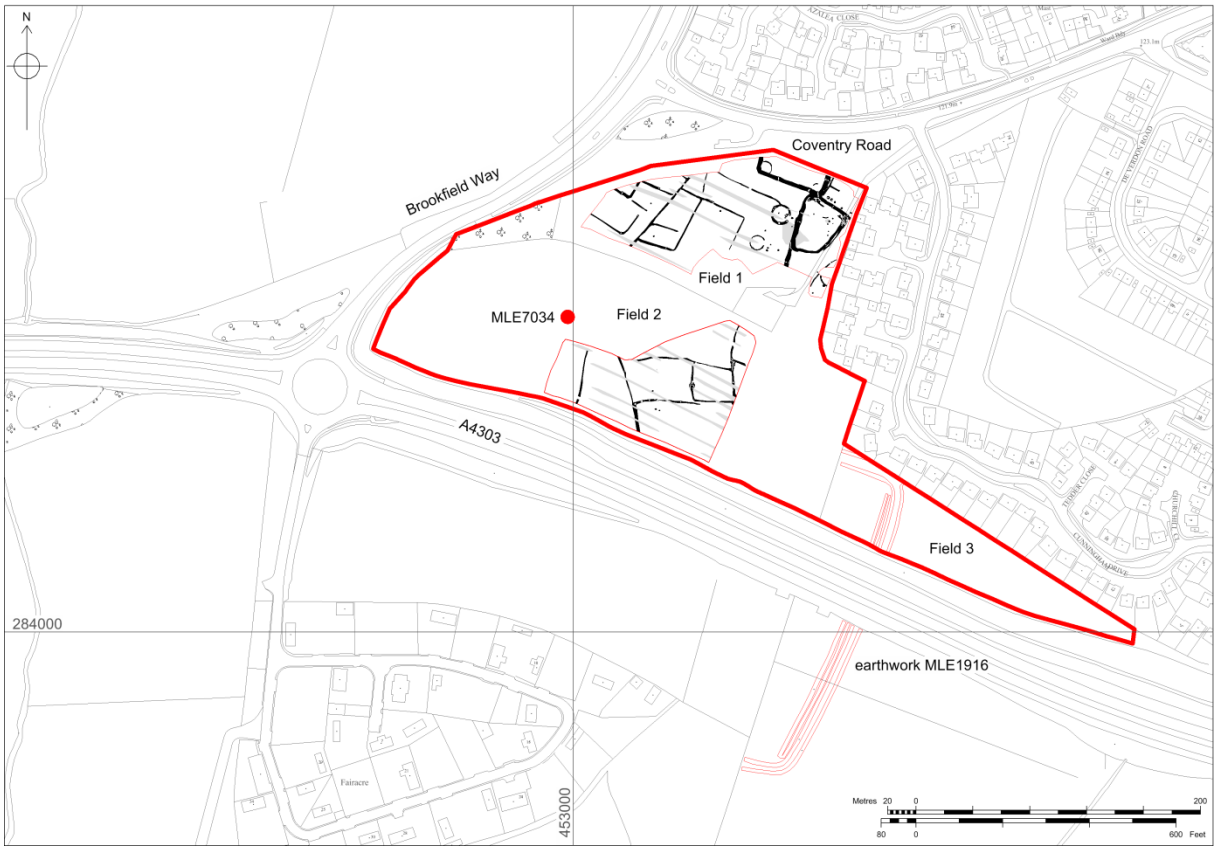

Figure 2: Plan of project area

Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies in a rural location on the south-eastern edge of Lutterworth. From an archaeological perspective, little is known about this part of Leicestershire. However, the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland (HER) does list a number of known archaeological sites in, and within the vicinity, of the project area.

Much of what is known is largely thanks to the efforts of the Lutterworth Fieldwork Group who have, over the past thirty years, extensively fieldwalked the fields around Lutterworth. Prehistoric flint has previously been recovered from Field 2, including a core rejuvenation flake, two possible Neolithic scrapes and a transverse arrowhead (MLE7034 - Figure 2). To the north, south and west of the site, a number of prehistoric flint artefacts, small quantities of Roman pottery and a more general scatter of medieval and post-medieval pottery have also

been recovered during fieldwalking (MLE10425, MLE10426, MLE10427, MLE10428, MLE10430, MLE10431, MLE10432, MLE18332).

Approximately 600m south of the site a crop mark of a ring ditch, possibly a Bronze Age barrow is marked on OS maps (MLE1920); whilst *c.*1km to the south-west aerial photography has recorded a large complex of 'prehistoric' crop marks around Moorbarns, consisting of a number of sub-rectangular enclosures, a substantial square enclosure, a sub-circular enclosure and a small group of parallel rows of pits (MLE1909, MLE1914; Pickering & Hartley 1985, 58-9).

Known Roman activity is sparse, despite the presence of the important Roman road, Watling Street (today the A5) just 2km west of the site. Besides low levels of Roman pottery found during fieldwalking, some lumps of *opus signinum* have been recovered from a field *c.*700m to the south-east of the site. This is tentatively identified as a potential villa site in the HER (MLE1942).

Medieval ridge and furrow was recorded immediately east of the site (MLE10417) before the modern housing estate was built. These earthworks are no longer extant. In Field 3, and continuing south of the A4303, is a large, very faint sub-rectangular earthwork of unknown date but possibly related to the medieval ridge and furrow (MLE1916 - Figure 2).

Figure 3: Previous archaeological work, showing the 2011 geophysical survey results (grey), 2012 evaluation trenches (blue) and 2013 excavation areas (red)

The medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Lutterworth (MLE1921) lies 1km east of the site. The settlement most likely dates to the Anglo-Saxon period and it is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Lutresurde*. This is Old English, most likely meaning an enclosure or settlement next to 'a clear, bright stream', perhaps an earlier name of the River Swift (Bourne 2003, 62). Lutterworth has had a market for livestock and dairy produce since 1214 which was expanded into a weekly market in 1414. In the 18th and 19th century, as long distance travel became more practical, the town became an important stopping point for stage coaches on the London to Chester turnpike but there was little new development in the late 19th century until it was connected to the railway network in 1899. Today, the town is perhaps best known for its connections with two people, the radical 14th century preacher John Wycliffe who was rector of Lutterworth (1374-1384) and Sir Frank Whittle, the inventor of the jet engine (Feilden 2004).

ULAS has previously carried out a number of small archaeological investigations to the south of the site; on land at Leaders Farm south of the A4303 (Clarke 2002), at Lutterworth Sewage Works (Parker & Hurford 2005) and at Moorbarns Lane (Farnworth-Jones 2008). For the most part, these have not revealed any archaeological finds or features, with the exception of a shallow, undated gully in one trial trench at the sewage works.

Archaeological work relating to the Whittle Fields development has been ongoing for a number of years as part of an archaeological impact assessment required by Leicestershire County Council. In 2011 a geophysical survey

of the development area was undertaken by Stratascan Ltd. (Biggs 2011) which identified some areas of archaeological potential (Figure 3). In the eastern half of Field 1, the detailed gradiometer survey identified a series of rectilinear anomalies which appeared to be associated with a small circular feature enclosing a number of high magnetic spikes. In Field 2, a few positive linear features were also highlighted and Field 3 also contained a significant number of anomalies with potential archaeological origins, including parallel positive and negative linear features and possible pits which were scattered in an amorphous pattern along the length of the field. The survey also revealed a significant amount of ridge and furrow in the gradiometer date – some of which ran in two directions in Field 3.

Later in 2011, ULAS followed this up with an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching across all three fields (Speed 2012). In all, thirty-two trenches were excavated, some placed to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey whilst others were placed to provide a general characterisation of the site. In Fields 1 and 2, this revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods, consisting of a probable roundhouse, enclosures and ditches. In Field 3 a large earthwork bank which formed part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure present on Ordnance Survey maps (MLE1916) was also examined. However, no dating evidence was retrieved from this and interpretation of the earthwork remained uncertain, although it may relate to medieval ploughing as the ridge and furrow appeared to respect it.

Archaeological Objectives

The principle aims of the archaeological excavation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the prosed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

All archaeological work was considered in regard to the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and Strategy (Knight *et. al.* 2012), along with national research aims, highlighted as English Heritage's critical research priorities for the prehistoric and Roman periods (EH 2010, EH 2012).

The 2011 evaluation results suggested that there was Iron Age evidence which would be affected by the development. The character of Iron Age settlements and associated field systems and the reasons for their emergence are an agreed regional priority. The comparison of such sites with similar complexes in the East Midlands and their location and intra-site spatial arrangements is also a regional research aim. Information on the sequence and chronology of boundaries and their relationship to settlements may be recovered and paleoenvironmental evidence could provide information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas (Willis 2006; Knight *et. al.* 2012, 58-69; EH 2010, 11-18).

The evaluation results also suggested that there was Roman evidence which would be affected by the development. There are several known Roman sites in the vicinity and the excavation might contribute to knowledge on rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts could identify trade links and economy (Taylor 2006; Knight *et. al.* 2012, 70-81).

Methodology

The archaeological excavation comprised two areas known to contain archaeological features, identified by geophysical survey and trial trenching, and some additional trial trenching to clarify the extent of the archaeology and further investigate earthwork MLE1916 in Field 3. Area 1 was located to the north in Field 1 and Area 2 to the south in Field 2 (Figure 3). The proposed location of these areas was laid out using a Global Positioning System (GPS) but their exact extent was not fully established until the machine stripping to ensure a 10m buffer where deposits were not present, where possible, around each area.

By arrangement, vegetation and topsoil were removed from Area 1 and Area 2 using 360° mechanical excavators with toothless ditching buckets, together with dumper trucks, before archaeological supervision began. The remaining overburden, predominately subsoil, was then removed to the top of archaeological deposits using a 360° mechanical excavator supervised by an experienced professional archaeologist (Figure 4). Topsoil and subsoil were stripped and stored separately to prevent mixing and machinery was not allowed to track over unexcavated areas of archaeology.

Ground conditions were generally fair during the initial soil strip. Relatively low rainfall over the preceding months had left the subsoil and natural substratum firm and dry, particularly over the sands and gravels in the eastern half of Area 1. Removing subsoil from over the boulder clay in the western half of Area 1 and Area 2 was more problematic. The clay had a propensity to tear and lift away in large clumps making it hard for the

ditching bucket to leave a smooth, undamaged interface.

One problem encountered during the excavation was adverse autumnal weather, particularly extensive rainfall. This left large areas of the site extensively waterlogged or flooded, and unworkable (Figure 5). This particularly affected the southern half of Area 1 but fortunately the largest areas of flooding generally coincided with areas devoid of archaeology and could be worked around.

Figure 4: Area 1 – supervising overburden removal at the eastern end of Area 1, looking south-west

Figure 5: Area 1 - flooding during the excavation meant that large areas of the site were unexcavatable.

Stripped areas were examined by hand cleaning and all archaeological deposits/features located were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of the site. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and spot heights were taken as appropriate.

Sections across excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale and tied to the National Grid. Each context was recorded on a standard ULAS pro-forma context recording sheet. A photographic record of the excavation was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and

finds discovered. Colour digital and 35mm black and white photographs were taken throughout the excavation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Additional trial trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator with a *c.*2.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and overburden were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS trench recording forms whilst all stratigraphic units were given unique context numbers and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets as necessary. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and were then backfilled and levelled on completion of the work.

In consultation with ULAS's environmental specialist, a limited programme of soil sampling for archaeobotanical analysis was implemented as part of the recording strategy. The programme of trial trenching in 2011 (Speed 2012) had demonstrated that the archaeobotanical potential was low, the majority of the soil samples taken being unproductive, but there was some potential for the recovery of charred plant remains (Radini 2012). Therefore, bulk (50 litre) samples were collected from features rich in charcoal, and when appropriate 100% excavated.

For the purpose of identification, all Cut features described in this report will be defined by square brackets, e.g. pit **[##]**; whilst layers, deposits and feature fills will be defined by round brackets, e.g. layer **(##)**.

All work followed the approved written scheme of investigation (Clay 2013) and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2008) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

Results

Area 1

Area 1, in essence all of Field 1, measured *c.*170m east/west by *c.*100m north/south and covered *c.*1.1ha (Figure 6). The area was covered with topsoil comprising dark greyish-brown clayey-silt overlying greyish-orange sandy-clayey-silt subsoil. Overburden across the area typically comprised *c.*0.2m of topsoil and *c.*0.45m of subsoil but along the area's eastern edge this thickened to *c.*0.4m of topsoil and *c.*0.55m of subsoil.

Figure 6: Area 1 – general view of Area 1, looking west

Natural substratum was revealed beneath the subsoil. This could be divided into two distinct areas: firm brownish-orange clayey-sand with abundant gravel inclusions, iron-panning and manganese staining covered the eastern third of the area; whilst softer greyish-orange/yellow sandy-clay with gravel inclusions covered the western two-thirds of the area.

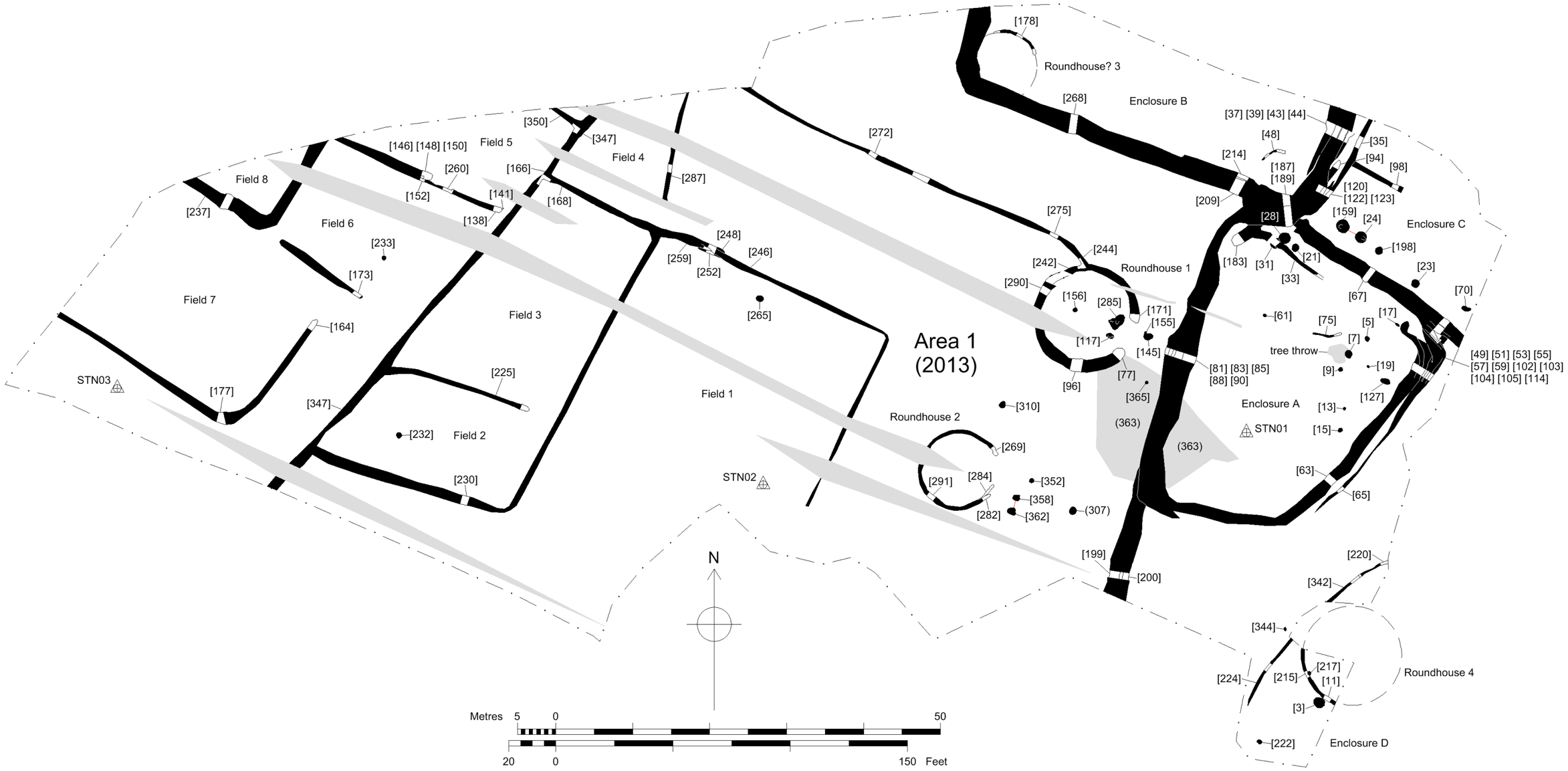

Figure 7: Plan of Area 1 (medieval furrows marked in grey)

The ground across Field 1 sloped gently down from north-west to south-east, from *c.*122m to *c.*121m aOD. During overburden removal, ridge and furrow was observed crossing the field from east to west. The furrows were typically spaced *c.*5m apart and were each *c.*2m wide. The furrow fill was the same as the overlying subsoil and produced post-medieval pottery. Where possible, furrows were removed using the mechanical excavator to reveal the archaeology beneath. Running the length of every furrow were multiple ceramic field-drains - of horseshoe and cylindrical variants – none likely to pre-date the early 19th century. Other field-drains were also observed running north-west to south-east across the field to create a herring-bone drainage pattern.

Roundhouse 1

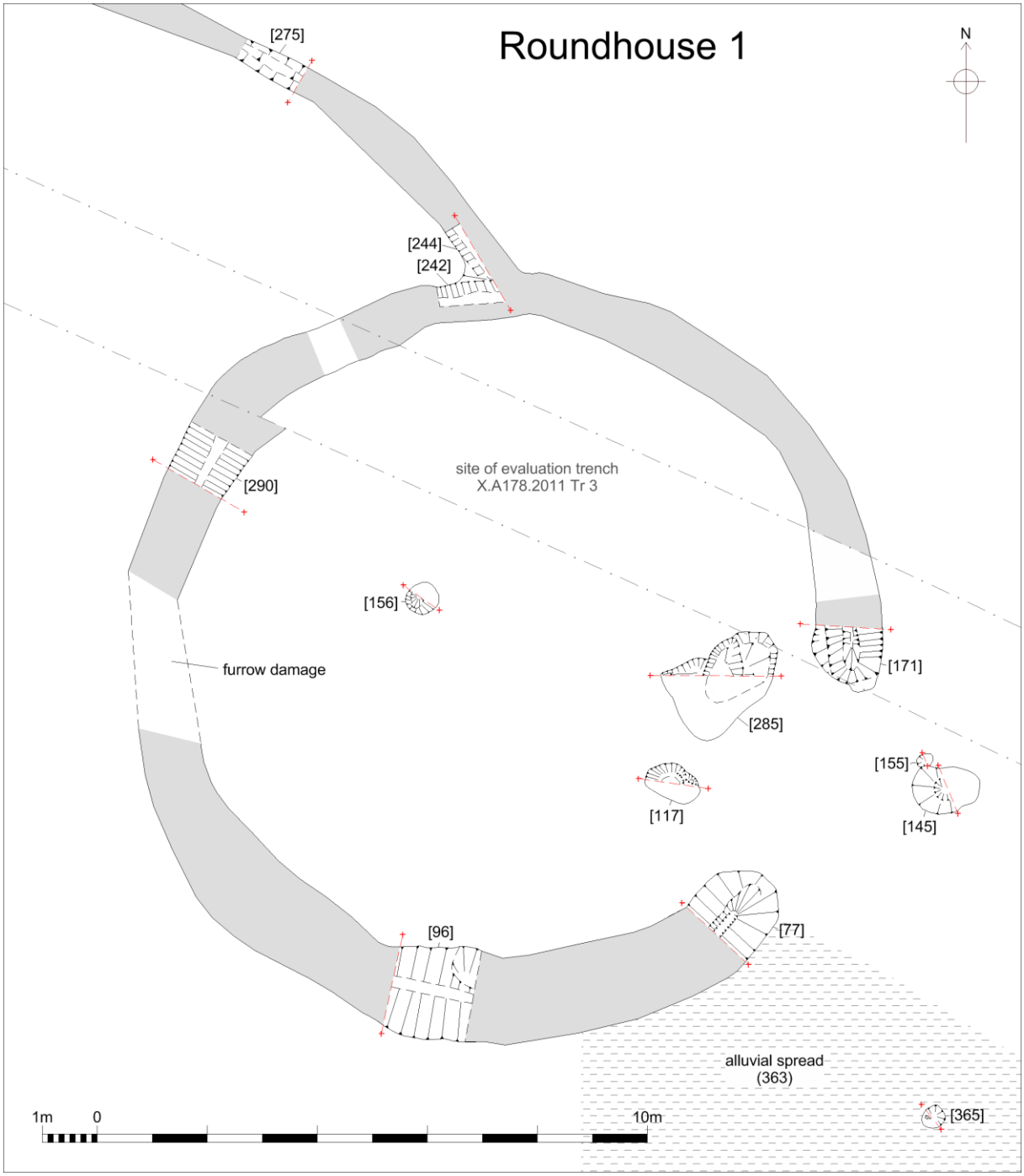

Figure 8: Plan of Roundhouse 1.

Ring-ditch: [77], [96], [171], [242], [290]
Internal post-holes: [117], [156], [285], [295], [297], [306]
External post-holes & ditch: [145], [155], [244]=[272]=[275], [365]

In the centre of the area, west of Enclosure A and south of Enclosure B, Roundhouse 1 was represented by a penannular eaves-drip gully *c.*11.3m in diameter with an east-south-east facing entrance *c.*3.7m wide marked by

substantial rounded gully terminals. This structure is clearly visible on the 2011 geophysical survey and Trench 3 of the subsequent evaluation was placed east-west across its northern half, during which two slots were excavated across the gully (X.A178.2011, Tr 3 [8] & [13]). Five further slots were excavated across the feature during the 2013 excavation, including the investigation of the two entrance terminals.

The eaves-drip gully was substantial, typically *c.*1.15-1.54m wide and *c.*0.57-0.68m deep with a flared V-shaped profile, the gully being deepest around its southern side. Typically, two fills were noted in each section across the gully. The earliest was a brownish-grey sandy-silt with few inclusions, probably representing natural soil accumulation along the gully's base. A darker secondary fill, however, contained pottery, cattle bone, fired clay, large sub-rounded stones (some of which were burnt or fire-cracked) and charcoal. Sixty-six sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery, a triangular clay loom weight and fragments from a perforated clay oven plate, along with cattle bone, small quantities of charred grain and chaff and charcoal from oak were recovered from a slot across the southern side of the gully **[96]**; whilst small quantities of pottery and charred material was also present in the southern terminal **[77]** and a slot across the gully at the back of the roundhouse **[290]**. More fragments of perforated oven plate and charcoal from ash, oak and hawthorn were also recovered from the southern terminal; whilst the tip of an iron knife blade was found in slot **[290]**. Noticeably, slots along the northern, up-slope side of the roundhouse produced few finds, although during the evaluation, 11 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery and a fragment of a saddle quern were recovered from a slot close to the northern terminal (X.A178.2011, Tr 3 [8]).

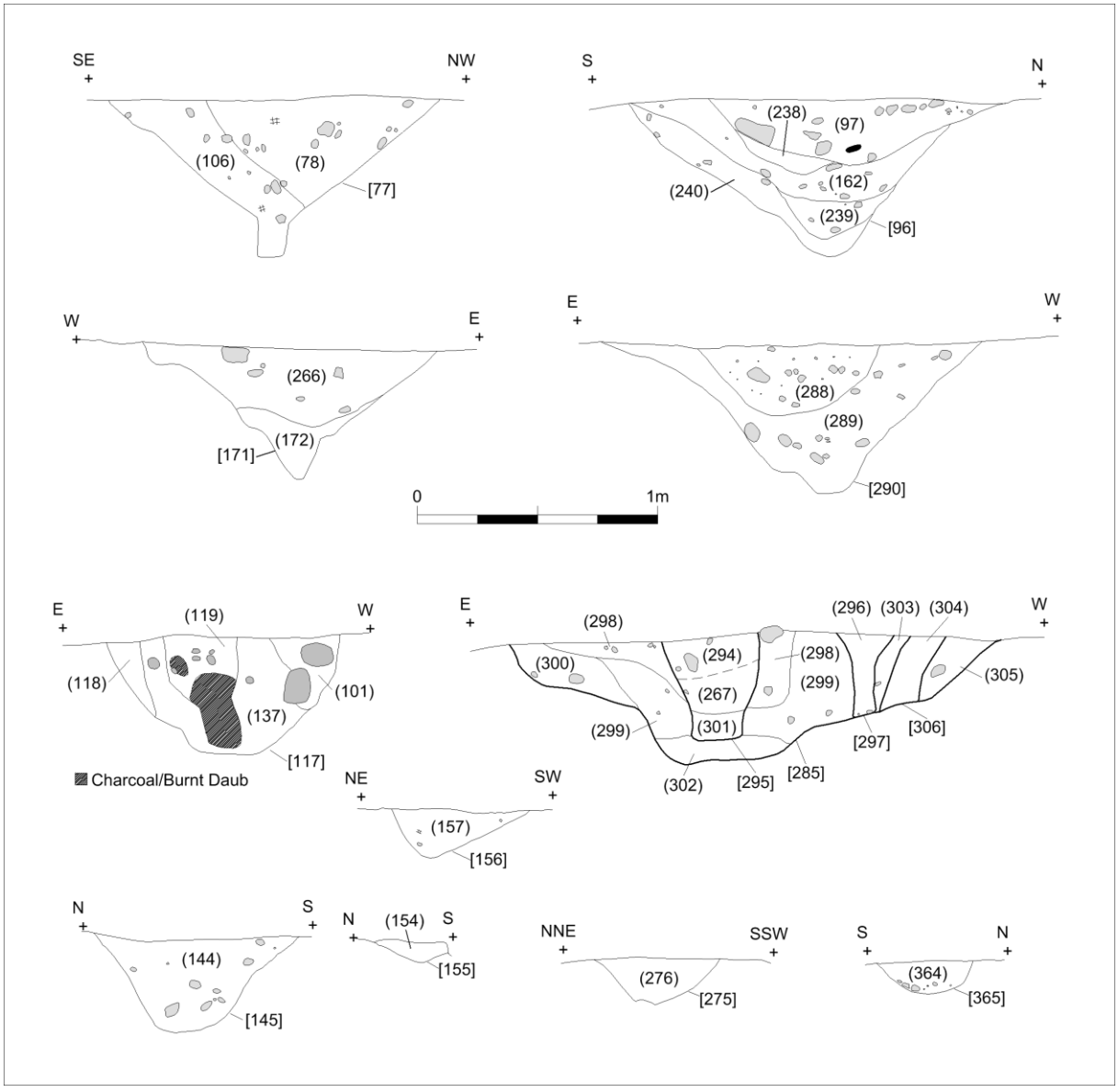

Figure 9: Sections across Roundhouse 1 and associated features.

Figure 10: Photographs illustrating various aspects of Roundhouse 1.Clockwise from top left, the southern terminus of the penannular gully [77]; section across the southern gully [96]; the two entrance post-groups [285] and [117].

Despite some damage from ploughing to the western side of the gully, the roundhouse was generally well preserved and a number of features were recorded within its interior. Two groups of post- and stake-holes were clustered close to the entrance through the gully and presumably formed part of the entranceway into the roundhouse.

The southern group **[117]** was a large sub-circular pit, *c.*1m by *c.*0.66m and *c.*0.49m deep, filled with greyish-yellow sandy-clay in which a row of three dark grey post-pipes were clearly visible. These were placed broadly at right-angles to the roundhouse's entrance, the easternmost **[118]** being *c.*0.94m inside the gully and *c.*0.72m north of the southern gully terminal. This was *c.*0.18m in diameter and *c.*0.32m deep. The second [**119]** was *c.*40mm inside the first, whilst the third [**101]** was *c.*0.18m inside [**119]**. Post-pipe [**119]** was the largest, being *c.*0.3m in diameter and *c.*0.48m deep, whilst [**101]** was *c.*0.26m in diameter and *c.*0.32m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature but post-pipe [**119]** did contain charcoal, burnt clay and moderate quantities of charred grain, whilst post-pipe **[101]** contained a number of large stones, possibly the remains of post-packing.

The northern group **[285]** was a sizeable irregular pit, *c.*1.98m by *c.*2.04m and *c.*0.55m deep, filled with dark orange-grey sandy-clay in which a row of three dark grey post-pipes were clearly visible. As with the southern group, these were broadly at right-angles to the roundhouse's entrance, the easternmost **[295]** being *c.*1.04m inside the gully and *c.*0.61m south of the northern gully terminal. This placed the two groups *c.*1.5m apart in the roundhouse entrance. Post-pipe **[295]** was the largest of the three, being *c.*0.23m in diameter and *c.*0.45m deep. The second **[297]**, *c.*0.35m inside the first, was *c.*0.24mm in diameter and *c.*0.35m deep; whilst the third **[306]**, *c.*40mm inside **[297]**, was *c.*0.19m in diameter and *c.*0.26m deep. Again, no datable finds were recovered but the post-pipes did contain charcoal, burnt clay and moderate quantities of charred grain and chaff from glume wheat. The final feature inside the roundhouse was a more centrally placed post-hole **[156]**. This was *c.*0.6m in diameter and *c.*0.2m deep with a concave profile, filled with greyish-orange sandy-clay.

Outside the roundhouse's entrance, slightly off centre to the north, was a large sub-circular post-hole **[145]**. This measured *c.*1.24m by *c.*0.86m and was *c.*0.38m deep, filled with brownish-grey clayey-sand. Adjacent to it, to the north, was a second smaller post-hole **[155]**, *c.*0.34m in diameter and *c.*90mm deep; whilst *c.*5.3m to the south was a third **[365]**, *c.*0.37m in diameter and *c.*0.13m deep. Both were similarly filled with brownish-grey clayey-sand. None produced dateable finds.

Running into the back of the roundhouse gully from the north-west was a narrow ditch **[244]=[272]=[275]**. This was concave, *c.*0.52-0.7m wide and up to *c.*0.19m deep, filled with greyish-yellow clayey-silt. The site's topography means that this had to be flowing downslope into the roundhouse gully, which might explain why the roundhouse gully was so deep in contrast to others excavated on the site. This might also account for a large spread of pale grey alluvial silty-sand **(363)** spreading south-eastwards in a large fan away from the southern terminal of the roundhouse.

Roundhouse 2

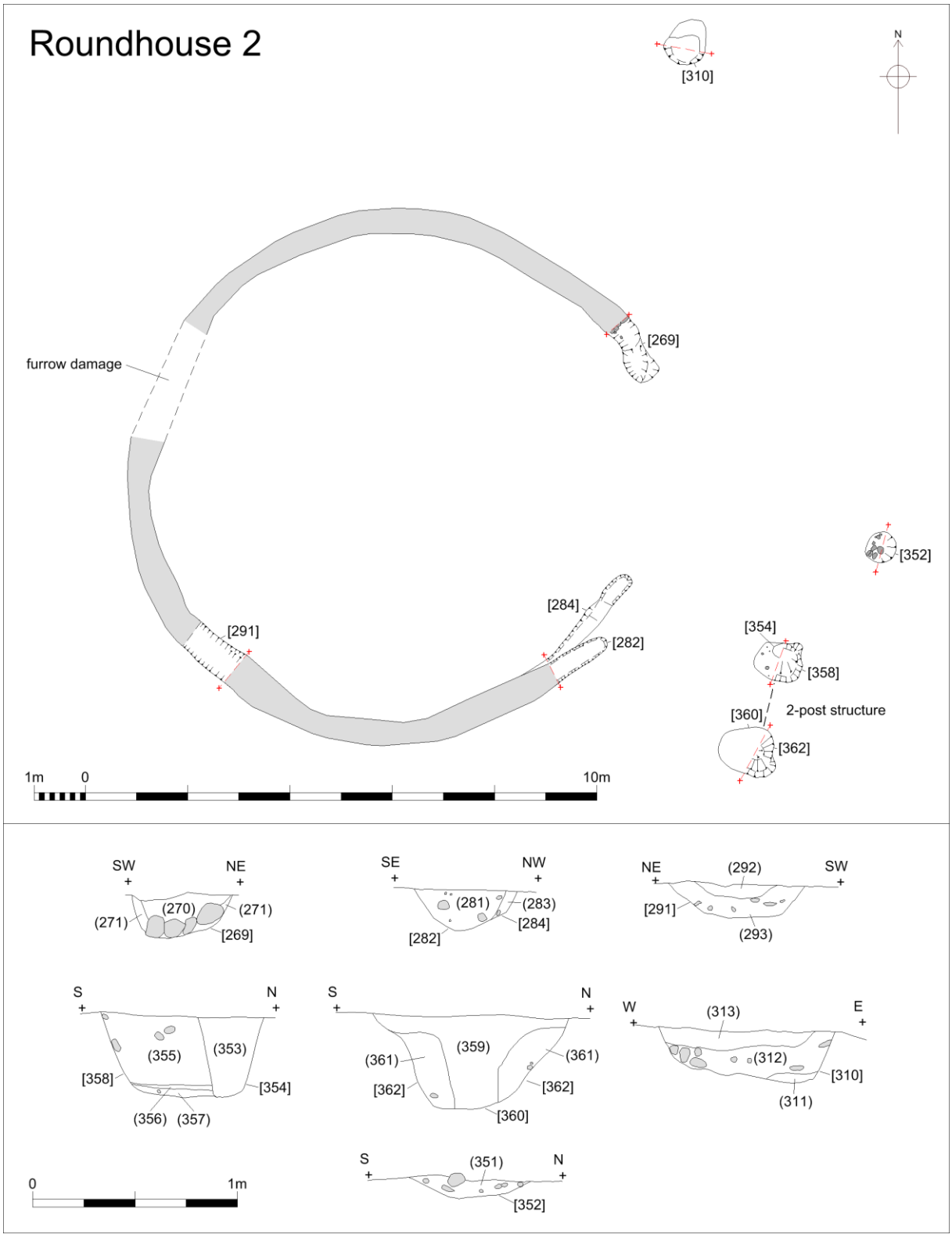

Figure 11: Plan and sections of Roundhouse 2 and associated features.

Eaves-drip gulley: [269], [282], [284], [291]
External pits & post-holes: (307), [310], [352], [354], [358], [360], [362]

South of Roundhouse 1, Roundhouse 2 was represented by a penannular eaves-drip gully of two phases *c.*9.5m in diameter with an east facing entrance. The earliest phase only survived at the southern side of the entrance where two shallow, rounded terminals were observed, one cutting the other. The earliest **[284]**, which was *c.*0.25m wide and *c.*0.13m deep with a concave profile, allowed an entrance break of *c.*3.7m whilst the later

[282] allowed for a wider entrance of *c.*5.1m. The second phase gully varied in width between *c.*0.45-0.65m and was generally *c.*0.2m deep with a U-shaped profile, the northern terminal ending in a square cut **[269]**.

Despite some damage from ploughing to the western side of the gully, the roundhouse was generally well preserved although no features were recorded in the interior. Two fills were noted in most sections across the gully. The earliest was a brownish-grey sandy-silt with few inclusions, probably representing natural soil accumulation along the gully's base. A darker secondary fill, however, contained pottery, cattle bone, fired clay, large sub-rounded stones (some of which were burnt or fire-cracked) and charcoal. Fifty-two sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery, along with cattle tooth enamel, moderate quantities of charred wheat and barley grain and chaff and charcoal from oak, hazel, maple and hawthorn were recovered from both second-phase terminals – **[269]** and **[282]**; whilst a small quantity of pottery and charred material was also present in first phase terminal **[284]**. A small quantity of pottery was also recovered from section **[291]** on the southern side of the gully.

Outside the roundhouse, to the south of the entrance, was a 2-post structure comprised of **[358]** and **[362]**, spaced *c.*1m apart and placed *c.*2.9m away from the southern entrance terminal. Both were large sub-circular cuts *c.*0.76m and *c.*0.95m in diameter and *c.*0.4m deep with near vertical sides and flat bases. Post-pipes were visible in both features – **[354]** and **[360]**. These were *c.*0.15m and *c.*0.21m in diameter, filled with greyish-orange silty-clay, whilst the surrounding packing was more yellowish-grey. North of these post-holes, outside the roundhouse entrance was a shallow circular pit **[352]** *c.*0.6m in diameter and *c.*0.11m deep filled with dark grey clayey-sand mixed with abundant charcoal and fire-cracked pebbles. Further east, a similar spread of burnt material **(307)** was recorded but not excavated as it had been truncated by at least two modern field-drains which had caused considerable damage to the feature. Another small concave pit **[310]**, measuring *c.*0.96m in diameter and *c.*0.25m deep, was also excavated *c.*4.6m north of the roundhouse. It was filled with deposits of greyish-yellow and yellowish-grey silty-clay mixed with frequent pebbles but produced no dateable finds.

Figure 12: Photograph of the northern terminus of Roundhouse 2's penannular gully.

Enclosure A

Enclosure ditches [49] [51] [53]=[105] [55] [57]=[104] [59]=[114] [63] [65] [67] [81] [83] [85] [88] [90] [102] [103] [187] [189] [199] [200]
Gullies [33]=[183] [75] [185]
Pits and post-holes [5] [7] [9] [13] [15] [17] [19] [21] [28] [31] [61] [127]

The eastern half of Area 1 was dominated by a single large polygonal enclosure, measuring *c.*42m north to south and *c.*34m east to west, tapering to *c.*20m at its southern end. Internally, it had an area of 833 sq m. Parts of Enclosure A, notably its northern and western sides, are clearly visible on the 2011 geophysical survey and Trenches 1, 3 and 9 of the subsequent evaluation were placed north-south and east-west across its northern and western sides (X.A178.2011 Tr 1 [7], Tr 3[16] [18] & Tr 9 [51]). To the north, this identified a single ditch with three fills, the secondary fill containing six sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. To the west, a ditch and re-cut were identified but remained undated.

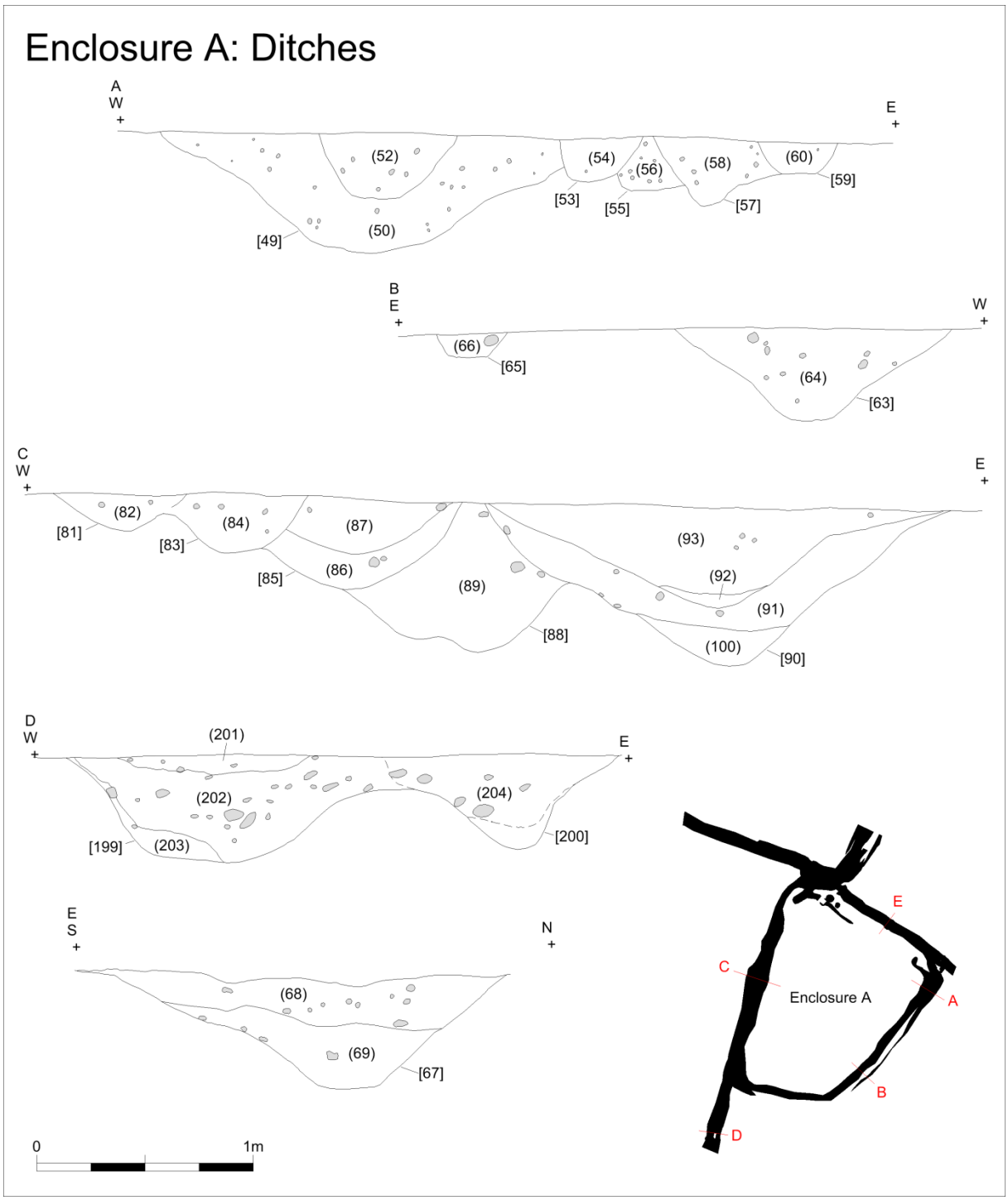

Figure 13: Sections across ditches forming Enclosure A.

Investigation of the enclosure's north-western corner showed it to be shared with the south-eastern corner of Enclosure B. Two ditches were identified, **[187]** and **[189]**; from their position and orientations, the earlier and southernmost of the two **[189]** appears to form the eastern side of Enclosure B and the western side of Enclosure A but truncates the northern side of Enclosure A, whilst ditch **[187]** appears to solely relate to Enclosure B. This might indicate that the north-south line marked by the western side of Enclosure A and the eastern side of Enclosure B is older than the enclosures to either side of it. Further evidence for this was found at the south-west corner of Enclosure A, where an earlier ditch line continued to the south but had subsequently been re-dug to curve around to the east forming the enclosure. Investigation of this southern ditch identified two phases **[199]** and **[200]**. Excavation did not conclusively establish the relationship between the two ditches but in section there was a suggestion that **[200]** post-dated **[199]**. Ditch **[199]** had a U-shaped profile, *c.*1.5m wide and *c.*0.55m deep, whilst ditch **[200]** was more V-shaped, *c.*1.1m wide and *c.*0.43m deep. Both were filled with layers of greyish-brown and orange-grey silty-clay, all indicative of natural silting, whilst one fill in ditch **[199]** also produced twelve sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

Figure 14: Section across the western side of Enclosure A, ditches [81], [83], [85], [88] and [90]. Looking north-west.

The western side of Enclosure A certainly exhibited evidence of considerable remodelling. A slot excavated across the ditch close to Roundhouse 1 identified five successive re-cuts – **[81]**, **[83]**, **[85]**, **[88]** and **[90]**. The earliest **[88]** was a deep concave cut *c.*1.02m wide and *c.*0.69m deep. This was subsequently re-dug slightly further west as a deeper V-shaped ditch **[90]** *c.*2.1m wide and *c.*0.75m deep and to the east by a shallower concave ditch **[85]** *c.*0.9m wide and *c.*0.44m deep. Ditch **[85]** was in turn re-dug twice more **[83]** and **[81]**, each time slightly further east – **[83]** being U-shaped *c.*0.65m wide and *c.*0.28m deep whilst **[81]** was more V-shaped *c.*0.6m wide and *c.*0.17m deep. All five ditches were filled with a mix of orange-grey, grey-yellow and brown-grey silty-sand. None produced dateable material or any evidence of domestic waste which was surprising considering the proximity of the slot to Roundhouse 1. This might indicate that the ditches are not contemporary with occupation of the roundhouse.

Investigation of the northern and eastern sides of the enclosure found that the ditches around these sides were much more simple, with two phases of modelling on the eastern side – **[63]** and **[65]** – and only a single phase on the northern side **[67]**. The eastern ditch **[63]** had a flared V-shaped profile, was *c.*1.25m wide and *c.*0.47m deep, and was filled with greyish-brown clayey-silt. Just *c.*0.8m to the east was a shallow U-shaped gully **[65]** running the length of the enclosure's eastern side, eventually merging into the main ditch to the north and tailing off to the south just short of the enclosure's south-eastern corner. This was *c.*0.32m wide and *c.*0.12m deep, filled with orange-brown silty-clay. The northern ditch **[67]** had a similar flared V-shaped profile as **[63]**, was *c.*0.85m wide and *c.*0.55m deep, and was filled with greyish-brown clayey-sand from which three sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered.

However, the enclosure's north-eastern corner again exhibited considerable complexity suggestive of multiple phases of reuse. In its earliest form, eastern enclosure ditch **[49]** (which is probably the same as ditch **[63]** to the south) appeared to terminate at its northern end, *c.*2.3m short of the northern side of the enclosure. It was truncated by ditch **[51]**, most likely a re-cut which turned westerly then northwards as an L-shaped gully. The original ditch was concave, *c.*1.83m wide and *c.*0.55m deep, and filled with greyish-brown sandy-silt which produced two sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. The re-cut was U-shaped, *c.*0.63m wide and *c.*0.30m deep, filled with greyish-brown silty sand and clay which also produced two sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

These were subsequently replaced by a succession of smaller ditches slightly further east – **[55]**, **[53]=[105]**, **[57]=[104]** and **[59]=[114]** – which all appeared to continue north and connect with the northern side of the enclosure. The earliest **[55]** only survived as a small fragment between ditches **[53]** and **[57]** and was difficult to characterise. It was first re-cut as **[53]=[105]**, a U-shaped ditch *c.*0.38m wide and *c.*0.24m deep, filled with orange-brown silty-sand. This was in turn re-cut by **[57]=[104]**, a flared V-shaped ditch *c.*0.48m wide and *c.*0.32m deep filled with brownish-grey clayey-sand, and then **[59]=[114]**, a U-shaped ditch *c.*0.36m wide and *c.*0.14m deep filled with greyish-brown clayey-sand. None of these four ditches produced any dateable material.

Finally, the eastern side of the enclosure appears to have been lost but its northern side remained in use as a linear ditch which extended eastwards beyond the excavation. This had been dug at least twice more, the earlier

[103] having steep sides and a U-shaped base *c.*1.15m wide and *c.*0.63m deep whilst the latter **[102]** was more V-shaped *c.*1.6m wide and *c.*0.72m deep. Both were filled with greyish-brown silty-sand and one shed of mid-late Iron Age pottery was recovered from **[103]**.

Inside the enclosure was a scatter of post-holes, pits and gullies. These concentrated at the enclosure's northern end and it was unclear whether any or all were contemporary with the enclosure or not. In its north-western corner was an L-shaped gully **[33]=[183]** mirroring the corner of the enclosure. This was also recorded during the evaluation (X.A178.2011 Tr 1[4]) and is probably a continuation of enclosure ditch **[51]** to the east, making it probable that it is an early phase of the enclosure. This was typically V-shaped *c.*1.1m wide and *c.*0.35m deep. It tailed off to the east but its western end **[183]** finished in a rounded terminal which bore evidence of an earlier V-shaped cut beneath it **[185]**. The latter was at least *c.*0.8m wide and *c.*0.64m deep filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay mixed with abundant heat-affected pebbles, charcoal and several large fragments of mid-late Iron Age scored ware (unfortunately lost due to theft on site). The re-cut **[183]** was more concave *c.*1.45m wide and *c.*0.41m deep filled with dark greyish-brown silty-clay. Ditch **[33]** truncated a small group of pits – **[21]**, **[28]** and **[31]**. These were fairly shallow, circular and flat bottomed, typically *c.*0.95-1.5m in diameter and up to *c.*0.26m deep, filled with greyish-brown clayey-sand and yellowish-grey silty-sand. Pits **[21]** and **[33]** each produced two sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

Another shallow, meandering gully **[75]** was recorded inside the enclosure *c.*7.5m south of gully **[33]**. This was U-shaped *c.*0.28m wide and only *c.*70mm deep filled with greyish-brown sandy-silt. It could be traced for *c.*3.6m east to west but was not present within evaluation trench (X.A178.2011 Tr 1 [2]). West of this gully was a solitary post-hole **[61]** *c.*0.4m in diameter and *c.*0.18m deep filled with yellowish-grey silty-sand.

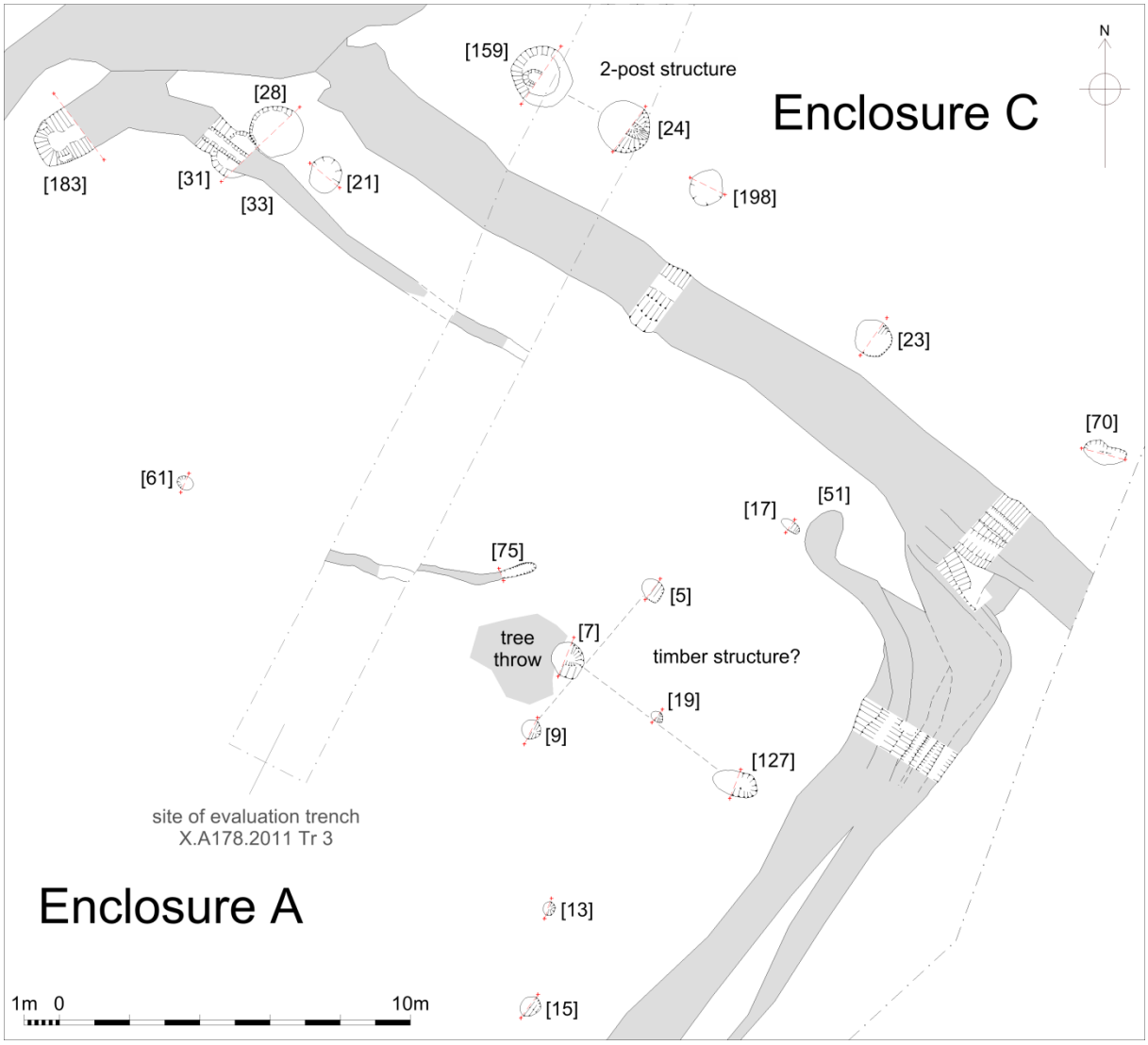

Figure 15: Plan showing features inside Enclosure A and Enclosure C.

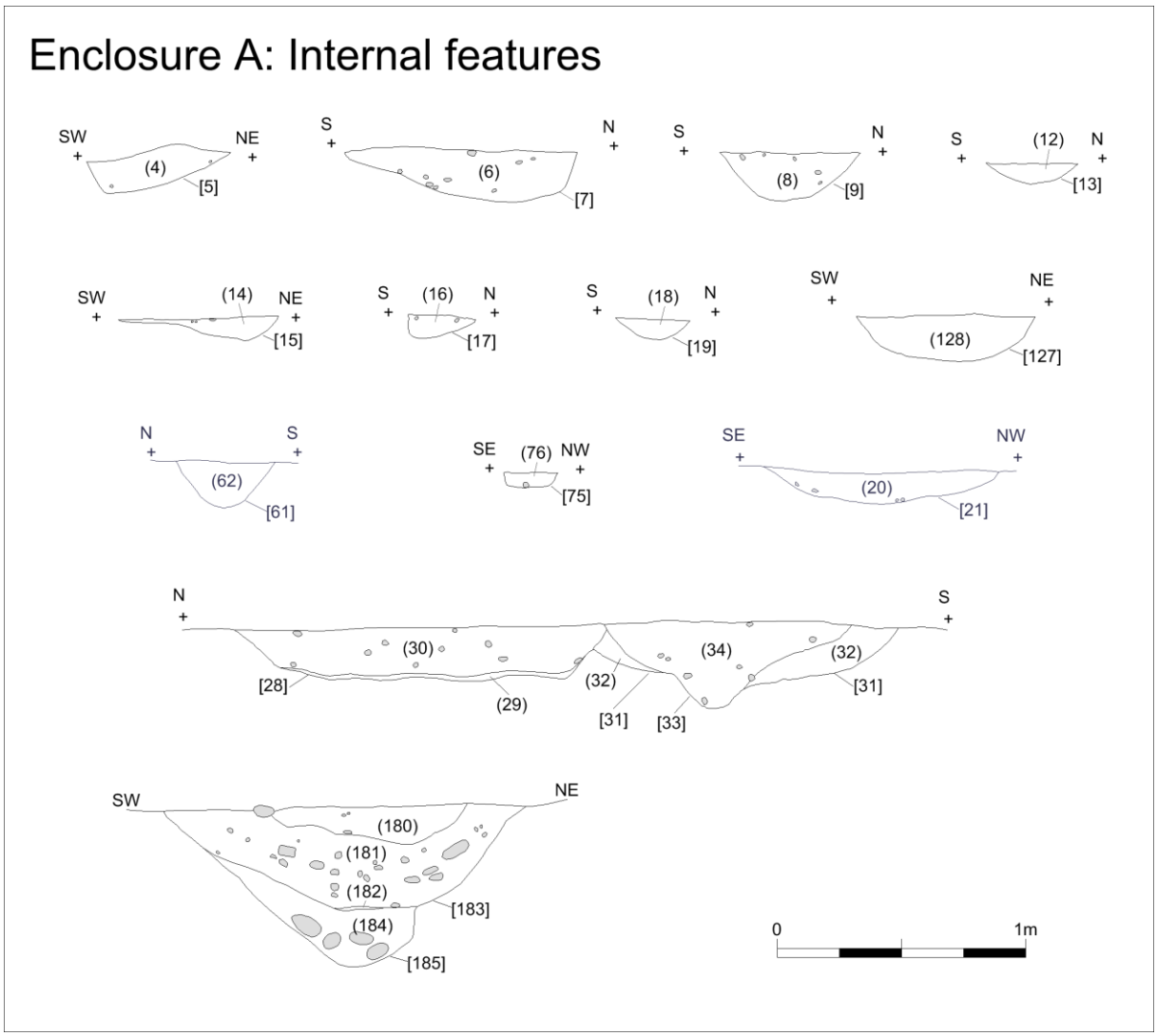

Figure 16: Sections across features inside Enclosure A.

Further post-holes – **[5]**, **[7]**, **[9]**, **[13]**, **[15]**, **[17]**, **[19]** and **[127]** - were scattered across the north-eastern quarter of the enclosure. Three – **[5]**, **[7]** and **[9]** – did broadly form a straight north-east to south-west orientated line *c.*5.3m long, whilst **[7]**, **[19]** and **[127]** formed a straight line *c.*6.2m long projecting away from the first at right-angles to the south-east. In general, no l discernable pattern could be made. Most were small, shallow concave scoops typically less than 0.6m in diameter and 0.2m deep but two – **[7]** and **[127]** - were larger (*c.*0.92m diameter and *c.*0.22m deep, and *c.*0.78m diameter and *c.*0.27m deep respectively), each producing a single sherd of mid-late Iron Age pottery. All were filled with similar orange-grey silty-sand.

Figure 17: Post-holes [5], [7] and [9]; typical of the internal features inside enclosure A.

Figure 18: Pits [28] and [31], and ditch [33] looking east.

Enclosure B

Enclosure ditches [35]=[120] [37] [39]=[123] [43] [44] [94] [122] [187] [189] [209] [212] [214] [268]
Roundhouse? 3 [178]
Gully [48]

The northern half of Area 1 was dominated by part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure, measuring *c.*54m east to west and over *c.*15m north to south, which continued beyond the excavation to the north. Internally, *c.*560 sq m was present within the excavation area but the enclosure's full extent remains unknown. Enclosure B is clearly visible on the 2011 geophysical survey and Trench 4 of the subsequent evaluation was placed north-south across its south-western corner (X.A178.2011 Tr 4 [38]). This identified a single ditch with two fills, the upper producing twenty-five sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery.

Two further slots were excavated across the enclosure's southern ditch. The westernmost, found a single steep U-shaped cut **[268]**, flaring out on its southern side, with some natural clay slumping down along the edges. This was *c.*2.5m wide narrowing to *c.*0.5m at its base and *c.*1.2m deep, filled with thick layers of greyish-orange clay and greyish-brown silty-clay, all indicative of natural silt accumulation. No obvious re-cuts could be seen and no finds were recovered. However, further east a second slot recorded at least three cuts making up the enclosure's southern ditch – **[209]**, **[212]** and **[214]**. The main ditch comprised a primary cut **[212]** and a possible re-cut **[209]**. Overall, it was *c.*2m wide and *c.*0.83m deep with the earlier ditch being broadly V-shaped and the later re-cut being broadly U-shaped and only *c.*0.55m deep. Ditch **[209]** was primarily filled with dark grey sandy-clay, suggestive of deposition in wet conditions, whilst ditch **[212]** was filled with layers of greyish-orange clayey-sand, more indicative of natural silt accumulation. A small quantity of fire-cracked pebbles but no other finds was recovered from the earlier ditch but a single sherd of mid-late Iron Age pottery was found in re-cut **[209]**. Immediately north of the main ditch, 'inside' the enclosure, was a shallow gully **[214]** running parallel with the ditch edge. This was V-shaped, *c.*0.65m wide and *c.*0.18m deep, filled with greyish-brown silty-sand.

The enclosure's eastern side bore considerable evidence of remodelling; suggesting that it was a relatively long-lived feature, perhaps longer lived than the rest of the enclosure. One slot identified five ditch cuts – **[35]**, **[37]**, **[39]**, **[43]** and **[44]**. The earliest ditches – **[43]** and **[44]** – were inseparable in section although in plan they were clearly different features. The westernmost, ditch **[44]** had a flared V-shaped profile *c.*0.9m wide and *c.*0.36m deep, whilst ditch **[43]** was more U-shaped, also *c.*0.9m wide and *c.*0.33m deep. Both were filled with dark brownish-grey clayey-sand. To the east, ditch **[43]** was truncated by ditch **[39]**, a deeper V-shaped cut *c.*0.9m wide and *c.*0.61m deep. Evidence of a possible re-cut **[37]** of **[39]** was seen along its eastern edge where part of a shallower V-shaped gully, *c.*0.4m wide and *c.*0.27m deep, ran adjacent to the deeper ditch. Ditch **[39]** was primarily filled with dark orangeish-brown sandy-silt whilst gully **[37]** contained pale grey clayey-silt. Both were subsequently filled with layers of dark greyish-brown clayey-sand. Finally, *c.*1.1m to the east of these ditches was a fifth **[35]**. This had steep sloping sides and a flat base, *c.*0.63m wide and *c.*0.33m deep, and was filled with greyish-brown clayey-sand.

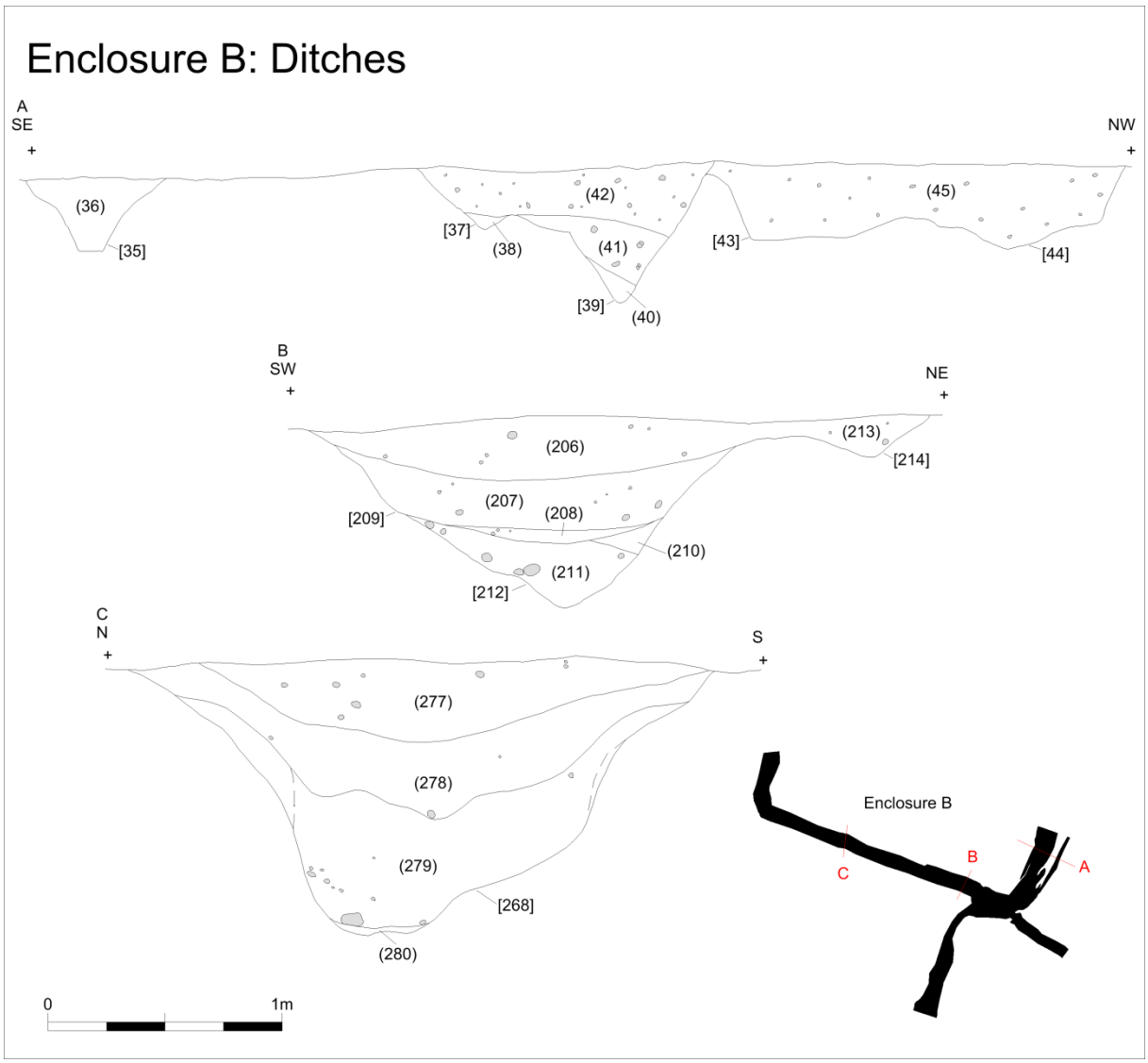

Figure 19: Sections across ditches forming Enclosure B.

Figure 20 (left): Curvilinear gully [178], possibly Roundhouse? 3. Looking east.

Ditch **[35]** was one of a series of intermittent ditches or gullies running down the 'outside' of Enclosure B – **[94]**, **[120]** and **[122]**. Ditch **[120]** was the same feature as ditch **[35]**, although in this slot it had a more V-shaped profile. It merged with or was truncated by another shallow gully **[122]** which started as a tapered terminal to the north and carried on to the south, merging with the other enclosure ditches. Similarly, ditch **[94]** had a shallow concave northern terminal, *c.*0.82m wide and *c.*0.18m deep, and continued to the south. Where relationships could be seen these all appeared to pre-dated ditch **[123]** which is probably the continuation of ditch **[39]**. No finds were recovered from any of these slots.

Investigation of the enclosure's south-eastern corner – **[187]** and **[189]** showed it to be shared with the north-west corner of Enclosure A, being integrated with that enclosure's western side but truncating Enclosure A's northern side (see Enclosure A).

Inside the enclosure were two discrete features. At the western end a shallow curvilinear gully **[178]** may be the

remains of an eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse (Roundhouse? 3). It could be traced for *c.*6m, curving to the west and south. Three slots excavated across it found it to be *c.*0.25-0.41m wide and up to *c.*0.16m deep with a concave of U-shaped profiled, filled with brownish-grey sandy-silt. If this is part of a roundhouse, the curve of the gully would suggest that it enclosed a circle *c.*9m in diameter. No 'internal' features were identified, nor was any more of the eaves-drip gully which should lie somewhere beneath the south-west corner of Enclosure B. As no trace of the gully could be found overlying the infilled enclosure ditch it would seem likely that this 'roundhouse' predates the enclosure. At the eastern end of the enclosure was a second curvilinear gully **[48]**. This was very ephemeral with uneven sides and irregular profile, *c.*3.26m long, *c.*0.22-0.3m wide and up to *c.*0.11m deep, filled with brownish-grey clayey-silt. This gully curved to the east and south but too little survived to say with any confidence whether this was the remains of another roundhouse.

Enclosure C

Pits [23], [24], [70], [159], [198]
Post-holes [26] [161]
Gully [98]

Enclosure C is a nominal identifier for part of Area 1 to the north of Enclosure A and east of Enclosure B, measuring *c.*24.5m north-west to south-east by *c.*17m. It remains unknown if it is part of another polygonal enclosure. Six features were excavated in the enclosure, a line of five pits running along the outside edge of Enclosure A and a shallow gully projecting east at right-angles from Enclosure B.

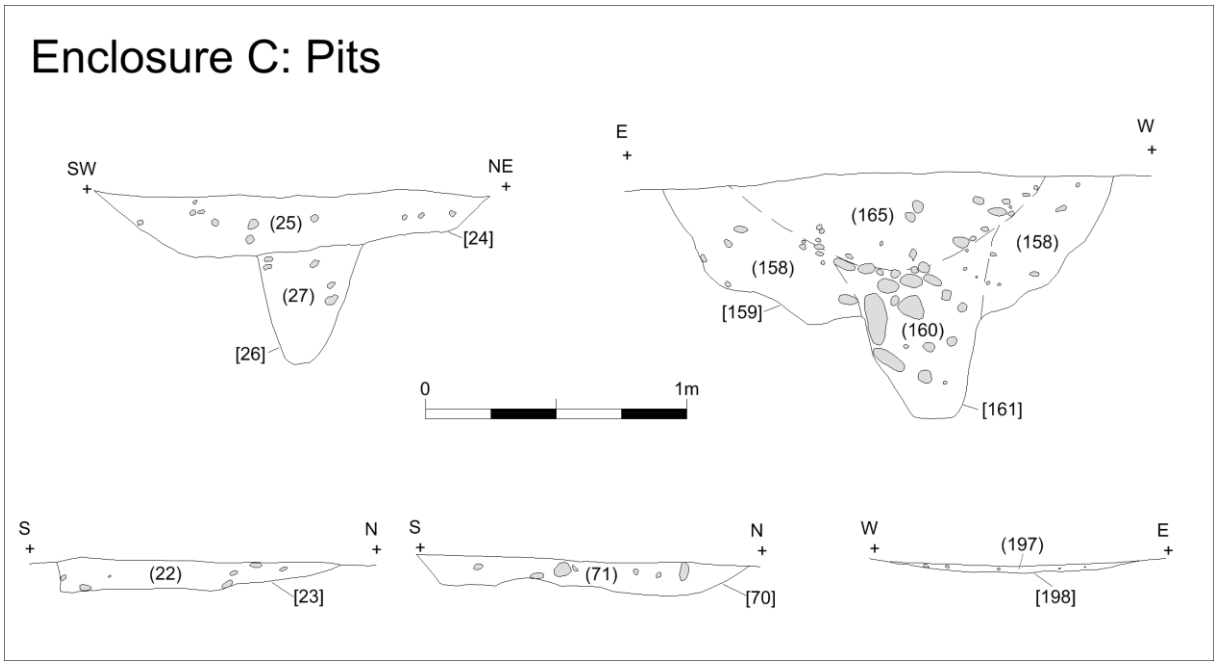

Figure 21: Sections across pits in Enclosure C.

Figure 22: Pit/post-holes [24] and [161].

Two of the pits – **[24]** and **[159]** – were particularly interesting, forming a 2-post structure. Spaced *c.*1.16m apart and placed *c.*2m from Enclosure A's northernmost ditch, these both contained substantial post-holes in their base. Pit **[24]** was circular, *c.*1.45m in diameter and *c.*0.26m deep; whilst the post-hole at the base **[26]** was *c.*0.37m in diameter and another *c.*0.46m deep. Similarly, pit **[159]** was *c.*1.76m in diameter and *c.*0.55m deep; whilst the post-hole at the base **[161]** was *c.*0.7m in diameter and another *c.*0.4m deep. Both were filled with greyish-brown clayey-sand and in pit **[159]** a faint post-pipe of paler brown silty-clay could be traced in the

higher pit fill showing that the pit and post-hole were contemporary. No finds were recovered from pits **[24]** and **[159]** or post-hole **[26]** but 19 sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery were present in post-hole **[161]**.

The other three pits – **[23]**, **[70]** and **[198]** – were unremarkable. All were shallow circular or oval depressions, typically less than 1.2m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, filled with clean sandy-silts very similar to the surrounding natural substratum. No finds from **[23]** and **[198]** were recovered but **[70]** did produce three sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery. It is possible that all three are natural or vegetational in origin.

North of the pits, gully **[98]** was a faint irregular north-west to south-east orientated linear feature *c.*7.3m long, c.0.75m wide and *c.*90mm deep filled with clean greyish-brown silty-sand. Although it projected away at right-angles to Enclosure B, it was truncated by ditch **[35]** and may also be of natural origin.

Enclosure D

Enclosure palisade: [220], [224], [342]
Roundhouse 4: [11], [215]
Pits & post-holes: [3], [217], [222], [344]

Although only partially observed in the south-eastern corner of Area 1, the excavation of a small group of features to the south-west of Enclosure A suggests that they form a contained area of activity. The western edge of the cluster was defined by a long, gently curving gully broadly running north-east to south-west across the corner of the area – **[220]**, **[224]** and **[342]**. This could be traced for *c.*27m, both ends continuing beyond the excavation. The gully was *c.*0.36m wide and *c.*0.4m deep with near vertical sides and concave base, and was filled with greyish-brown silty-sand mixed with occasional small pebbles. Two sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered from fill **(219)** in slot **[220]**. Impressed into the base of this slot were six shallow circular impressions, each *c.*100mm in diameter and each spaced, *c.*50-80mm apart. Too narrow to plausibly be a ditch, it is more likely that this gully is the foundation trench for a wooden palisade, the circular impressions in its base left behind by the weight of timber posts pressing down into soft sand.

Figure 23 (above): Section across roundhouse 4's gully [215] and 'internal' post-hole [217].

Figure 24 (left): Section across 'palisade' trench [220] showing stake-holes in its base.

Inside the enclosure, a second, shallow curvilinear gully – **[11]** and **[215]** – may represent the eaves-drip gully of a roundhouse (Roundhouse 4). It could be traced for *c.*8.6m, curving to the north and east and continuing beyond the excavation. The gully was *c.*0.39-0.57m wide and *c.*0.14m deep with a concave profile, and was filled with greyish-brown silty-sand. If this is part of a roundhouse, the curve of the gully suggests that it would have enclosed a circle *c.*12-13m in diameter. Inside the roundhouse, partially truncated by the eaves-drip gully was a small sub-circular pit or post-hole – **[217]** – *c.*0.33m in diameter and *c.*0.1m deep with concave sides and flat base. It was filled with brownish-grey sandy-silt mixed with occasional burnt stones and a few charcoal flecks. This could be part of the roundhouse structure but equally could pre-date it.

South of the roundhouse were two small pits. Pit **[3]**, situated immediately adjacent to the southern side of the roundhouse, was *c.*1.37m in diameter and *c.*0.22m deep with near vertical sides and an uneven base. It was filled with brownish-grey silty-sand mixed with occasional pebbles and burnt stones. Six sherds of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered from its fill – **(2)**. Pit **[222]**, *c.*10m to the south-west of the roundhouse, was *c.*0.7m in

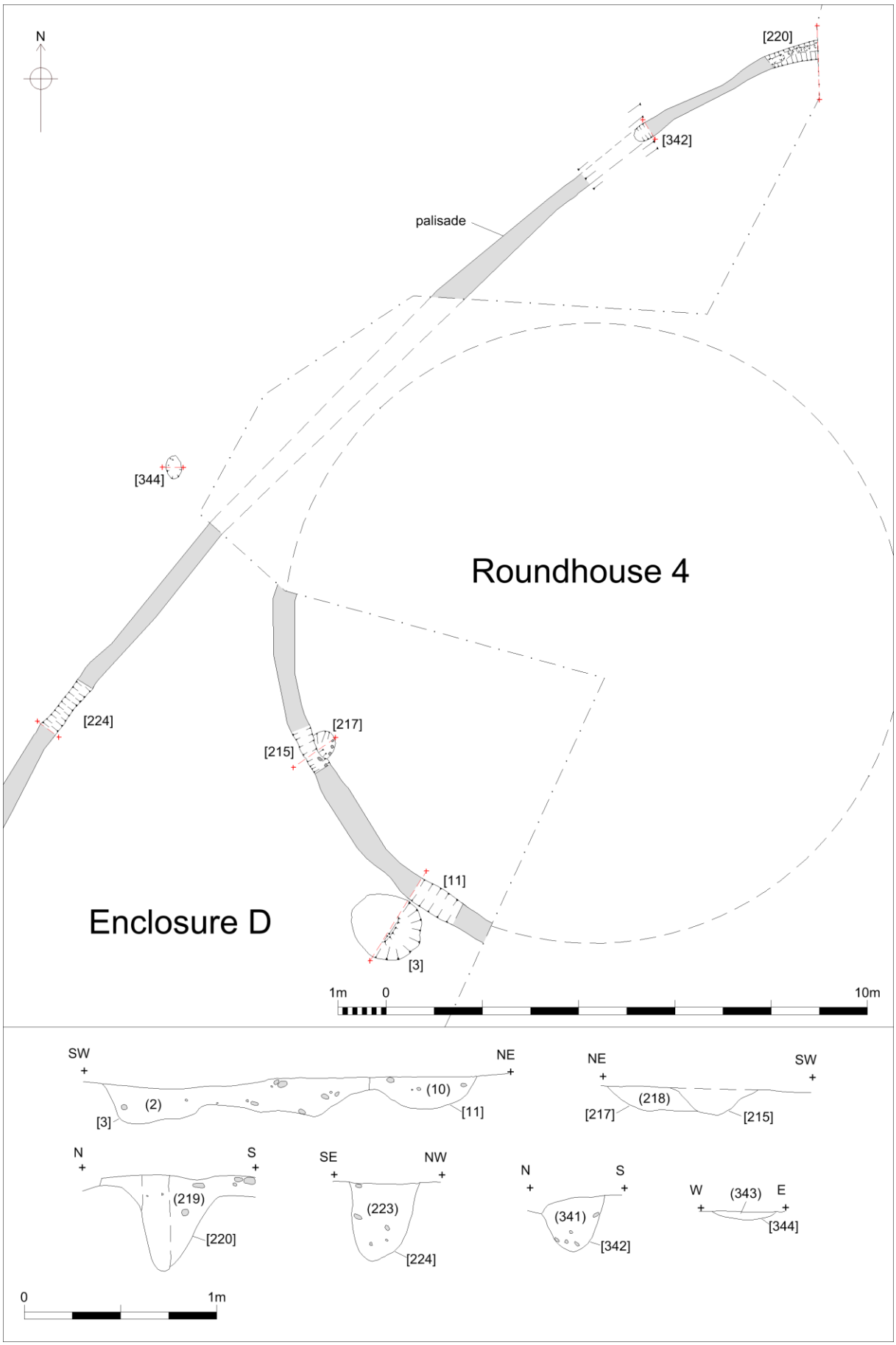

Figure 25: Plan and sections of Enclosure D and Roundhouse 4, and associated features.

diameter and *c.*0.24m deep with steep sides and concave base. It was filled with reddish-brown silty sand. A small post-hole – **[344]** - was also excavated west of the palisade gully. This was oval, measuring *c.*0.41m by *c.*0.33m and was just *c.*45mm deep with concave sides and base. It was filled with brownish-grey silty-sand mixed with occasional small pebbles.

Western field system

Ditches: [138], [141], [146], [148], [150], [152], [164], [166], [168], [173], [177], [225], [230], [237], [246], [248], [250], [252], [259], [260], [287], [347], [350]
Pits and post-holes: [232], [233], [265]

The western half of Area 1 was crossed by a series of small rectilinear ditched enclosures, all likely to be broadly contemporary, forming part of a wider system of fields or paddocks which evidently continued beyond the excavation to the north, south and west. Eight small fields were partially or completely present in Area 1, all broadly orientated north-east/south-west.

Table 1: List of field dimensions and ditch contexts in Area 1.

Field	Width (NE-SW)	Length (NW-SE)	Ditches
1	*c.*51m+	*c.*33m	[246] [248] [250] [252] [259]
2	*c.*13m	*c.*24m	[225] [230] [247]
3	*c.*28m	*c.*19m	[166] [168] [225]
4	*c.*16m+	*c.*12m	[166] [168] [287] [347]
5	*c.*15m	*c.*24m+	[138] [146] [148] [150] [152] [166] [260] [347] [350]
6	*c.*16m	*c.*24m	[138] [146] [148] [150] [152] [173] [237] [260]
7	*c.*23m	*c.*28m+	[164] [173] [177] [237]
8	*c.*11m+	*c.*10m+	[237]

Figure 26 (clockwise, top left): Ditches [138], [177], [230] and [237] in the western field system.

The ditches were all typically V-shaped or U-shaped, 0.6-2.1m wide and up to *c.*0.54m deep, filled with deposits of orange-brown, orange-grey and yellowish-grey silty-clay and sand-clay – all indicative of natural silt accumulation. A little charcoal or domestic waste was present. Junctions, termini and corners were all sample excavated, as well as a number of sections across straight lengths of ditch but excavation was hampered by extremely waterlogged ground conditions over this half of the site and fewer slots than hoped were excavated.

Phasing was discernable in three places, along the north edge of Field 1, in the north-east corner of Field 5 and between Fields 5 and 6. Five re-cuts were identified on the northern side of Field 1. The earliest were two overlapping ditch terminals – **[252]** and **[259]** – creating a narrow break in the ditch line. The northernmost, **[259]** was subsequently re-dug as **[248]** whilst the southernmost **[252]** had been re –dug as **[250]**. Finally, the two ditches were re-dug as a single continuous line **[246]**. To the west, the junction between Field 1 and Field 3 was investigated during the 2011 evaluation (X.A178.2011 Tr 5 [28] [30]) but no distinction could be made between either ditch, suggesting that their infilling was contemporary.

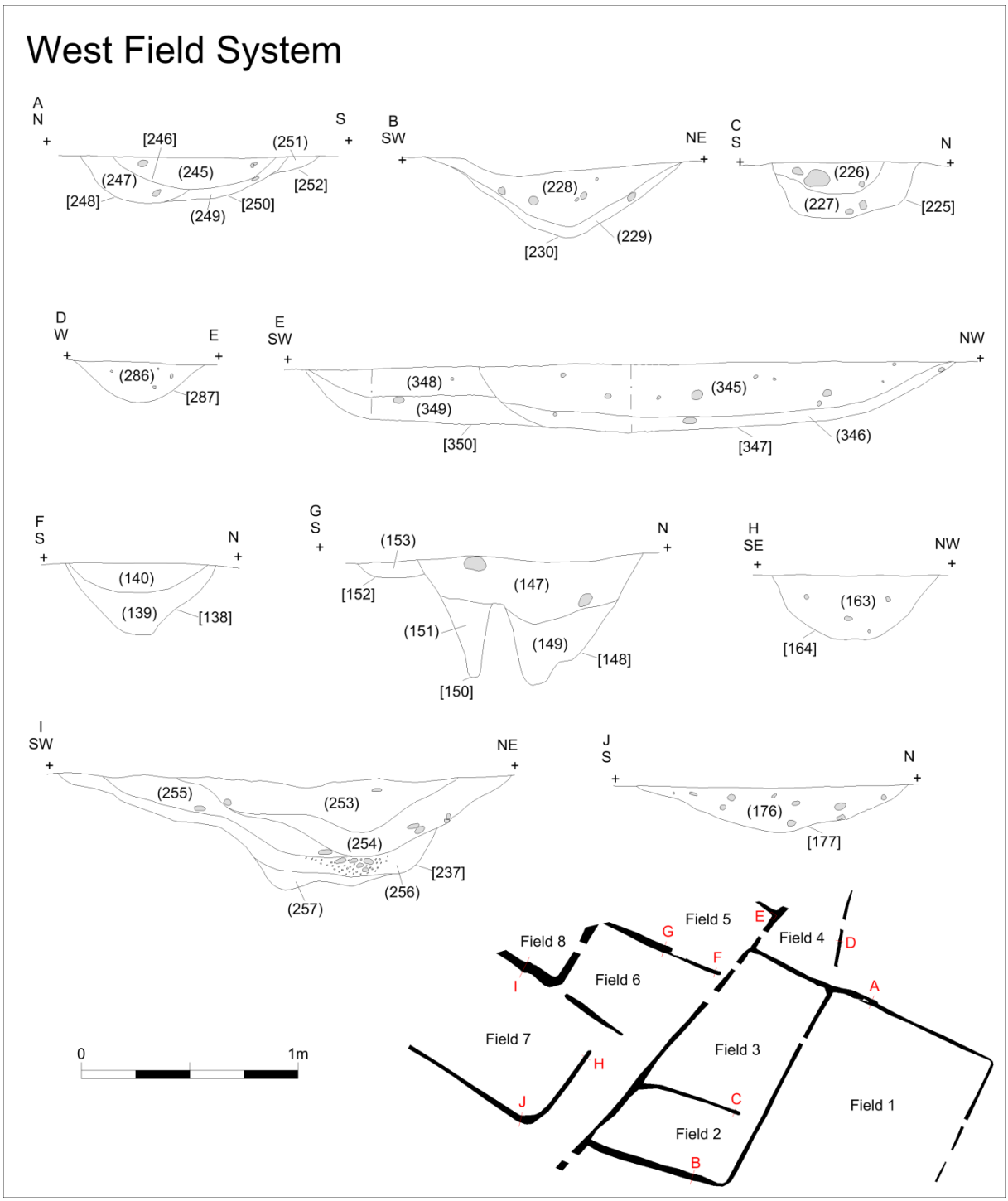

Figure 27: Sections across ditches in the western field system.

The intersection of two ditches forming the north-east corner of Field 5 – [**347]** and **[350]** – showed that the ditch on the eastern side of the field **[347]** had been dug or re-dug later than the ditch on the northern side of the field **[350]**; whilst four possible re-cuts were identified in the ditch between Fields 5 and 6. The earliest was **[138]=[152]=[260]**, a shallow U-shaped gully *c.*0.6m wide and *c.*0.19m deep which terminated *c.*1m short of ditch **[166]=[347]**, marking the western side of Field 3. The possible remains of a small post-hole **[141]** adjacent to the ditch end and the gap between ditches may be evidence of a narrow field-entrance. Abundant grain and chaff within the gully fill is likely evidence of parching taking place nearby. The gully was subsequently re-cut between one and three more times – **[146]**, **[148]** and **[150].** Ditch **[146]** was better defined, having a wide U-shaped profile *c.*1.04m wide and *c.*0.32m deep filled with dark greyish-brown sandy-silt.

Other entrances between fields can be inferred from breaks in the ditches (i.e. where ditches appear to deliberately end rather than where they have disappeared through later plough erosion). Thus, the east end of ditch **[225]** probably signifies a *c.*3.75m wide entrance between Fields 2 and 3. Similarly, the eastern terminal of ditch **[173]** and the northern terminal of ditch **[164]** probably mark entrances into Fields 6 (*c.*7.33m wide) and 7

(*c.*5.34m wide), both plausibly accessed from a north-east to south-west orientated trackway (*c.*8.4m wide) running between Fields 2 and 7 into Field 6 to the north and continuing south beyond the excavation. This trackway may have also continued further north into Field 5. Phasing of the ditch between Fields 5 and 6 suggests it was shortened when it was re-dug, leaving a *c.*11.2m wide entrance between the two fields.

Very few features were recorded inside the fields. On the northern side of Field 1 was a small, concave pit **[265]** *c.*1.1m in diameter and *c.*0.3m deep. The base of the pit was covered with a fine layer of orange-brown silty-clay, indicative of natural silting-up, whilst the rest of the pit was filled with homogenous grey silty-clay which produced a small amount of charcoal and heat-affected pebbles but no other finds. During the evaluation one trench on the southern side of Field 1 also recorded a shallow north-south ditch and post-hole (X.A178.2012 Tr 7 [33] & [35]) which hint at other subdivisions within the field but the area strip found no other surviving features in the vicinity. In Field 2 a similar small circular pit **[232]** *c.*0.8m in diameter and *c.*0.1m deep filled dark grey silty-clay also produced charcoal and frequent heat-affected pebbles, whilst in Field 6 a small pit/post-hole **[233]** *c.*0.58m in diameter and *c.*0.27m deep filled with orange-brown silty-clay was recorded.

Pottery was recovered from a number of ditches. This was of 2nd or 3rd century date; with some slightly more precisely datable to the late 2nd or 3rd century. However, a large assemblage of pottery recovered from ditch **[237]** during the 2011 evaluation (X.A178.2011 Tr 6 [11]) was predominately of late 3rd or 4th century date. This may indicate that the fields as a whole are much later, or that the ditch around Field 8 remained in use longer than the others.

Area 2

Area 2, in essence the central third of Field 2, was L-shaped; measured *c.*130m east/west by *c.*97m north/south and covered *c.*0.8ha. The area was covered with topsoil comprising dark greyish-brown clayey-silt overlying greyish-orange sandy-clayey-silt subsoil. Overburden across the area typically comprised *c.*0.3m of topsoil and *c.*0.45m of subsoil to the north-east and *c.*0.5m of topsoil and *c.*0.2m of subsoil to the south-west.

Figure 28: Area21 – general view of Area 2, looking east

Natural substratum was revealed beneath the subsoil. This was uniform across the area, greyish-yellow sandy-clay with gravel inclusions mixed with occasional fieldstones and abundant large lenses of reddish-orange clayey-sand, common lenses of pale grey clayey-sand and small fragments of greyish-blue clay. Although uniform, this was typically more clayey at the west end of the area and sandier to the east.

The ground across Field 2 sloped gently down from west to east, from *c.*121m to *c.*119m OD. Ridge and furrow was observed running across the field from east to west, the same alignment as seen in Field 1. As there, the furrows were typically spaced *c.*5m apart and were each *c.*2m wide. The furrow fill was essential the same material as the overlying subsoil and produced post-medieval pottery. Where possible, furrows were removed using the mechanical excavator to reveal the archaeology beneath. Running the length of every furrow were multiple ceramic field-drains - of horseshoe and cylindrical variants – none likely to pre-date the early 19th century. Other, more modern, field-drains were also observed running north to south across the field.

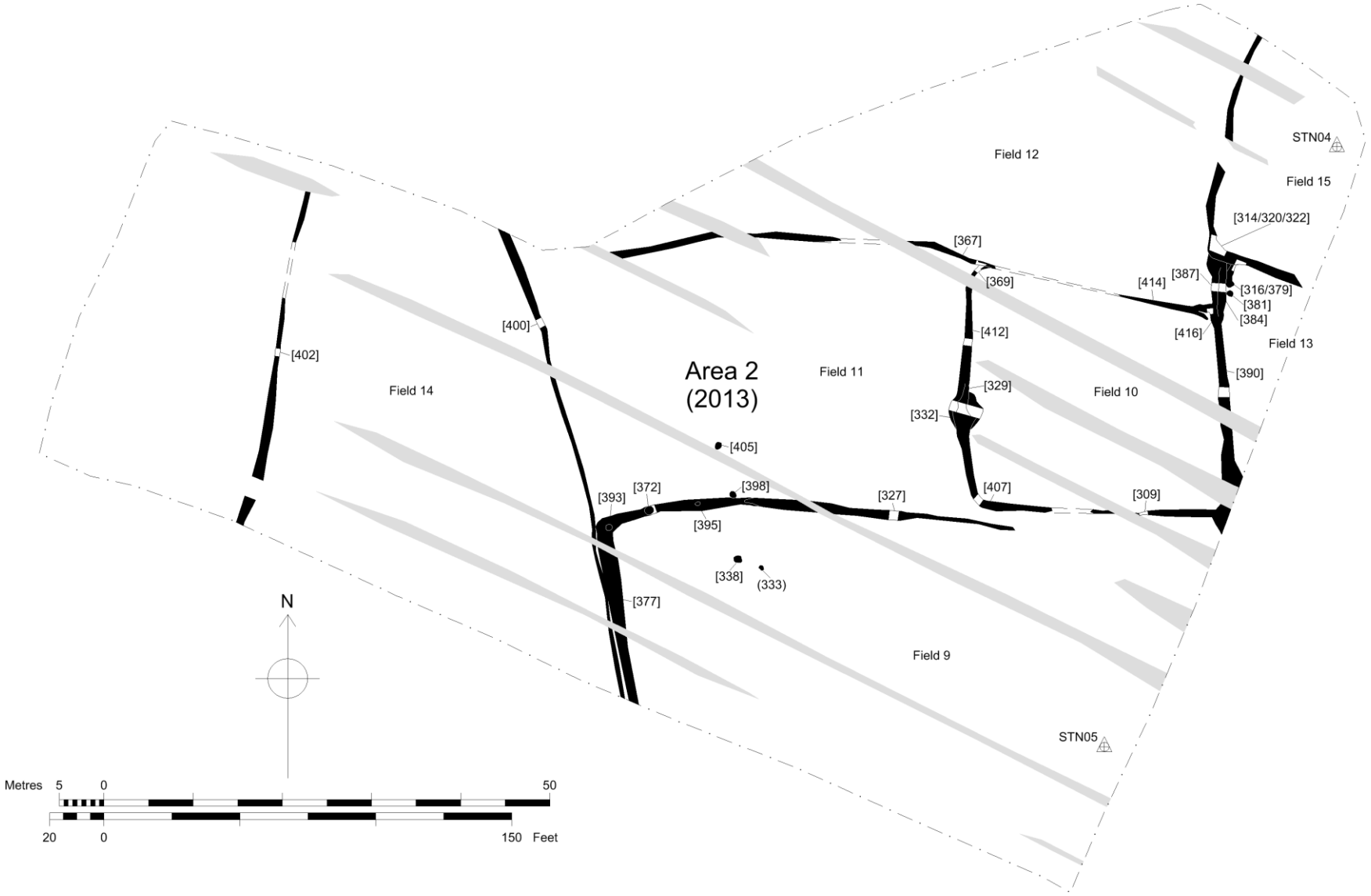

Figure 29: Plan of Area 2 (medieval furrows marked in grey).

Field-systems

Ditches [309] [314/320/322] [316/379] [327] [329] [367] [369] [377] [384] [387] [400] [402] [407] [412] [414] [416]
Post-structure [338] [372] [393] [395] [398] [405]
Other features (333) [381]

Area 2 was crossed by a series of small rectilinear ditched enclosures which can broadly be divided into three phases of activity, most likely forming part of a wider system of fields or paddocks which evidently continued beyond the excavation in all directions. Dating is problematic as only two features in Area 2 produced pottery, ditch **[367]** between Fields 11 and 12, which contained two sherds of pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age, and ditch **[402]** on the west side of Field 13, which contained four sherds of Roman pottery (with another seven produced from the same ditch during the evaluation – X.A178.2011 Tr 24 [45]).

Stratigraphically, the earliest ditches surround Fields 9 and 10. Subsequently, Field 10 doubled in size, becoming Field 11 with other fields added to the north (12), east (13) and west (14). Finally, Field 13 was replaced by a smaller field (15). The relationship between the Roman ditch **[402]** and the rest of the field system remains unclear. It could be contemporary but equally could be of much later date.

Table 2: List of field dimensions and ditch contexts in Area 2.

Field	Width (E-W)	Length (N-S)	Ditches
9	*c.*67m +	*c.*41m +	[309] [327] [377] [400]
10	*c.*26m	*c.*27m+	[309] [329] [332] [369] [407] [412]
11	*c.*74m	*c.*29m	[327] [367] [390] [400] [414] [416]
12	*c.*70m+	*c.*34m+	[367] [384] [387] [414]
13	*c.*17m+	*c.*56m+	[316/379] [390] [384] [387] [416]
14	*c.*63m+	*c.*54m+	[400]
15	*c.*17m+	*c.*24m+	[314/320/322]

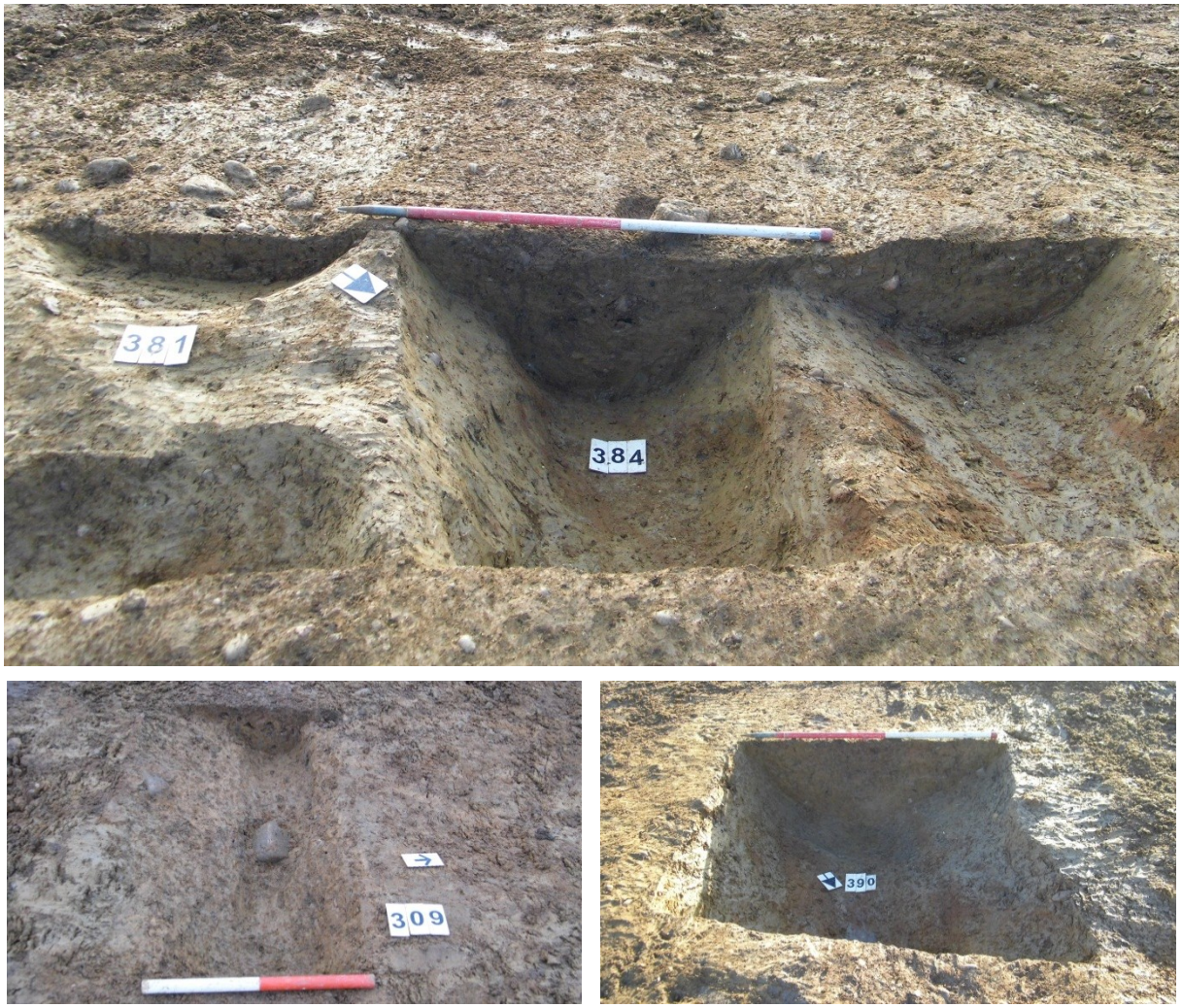

Figure 30: Ditches [309], [384] and [390] in Area 2, typical of the area.

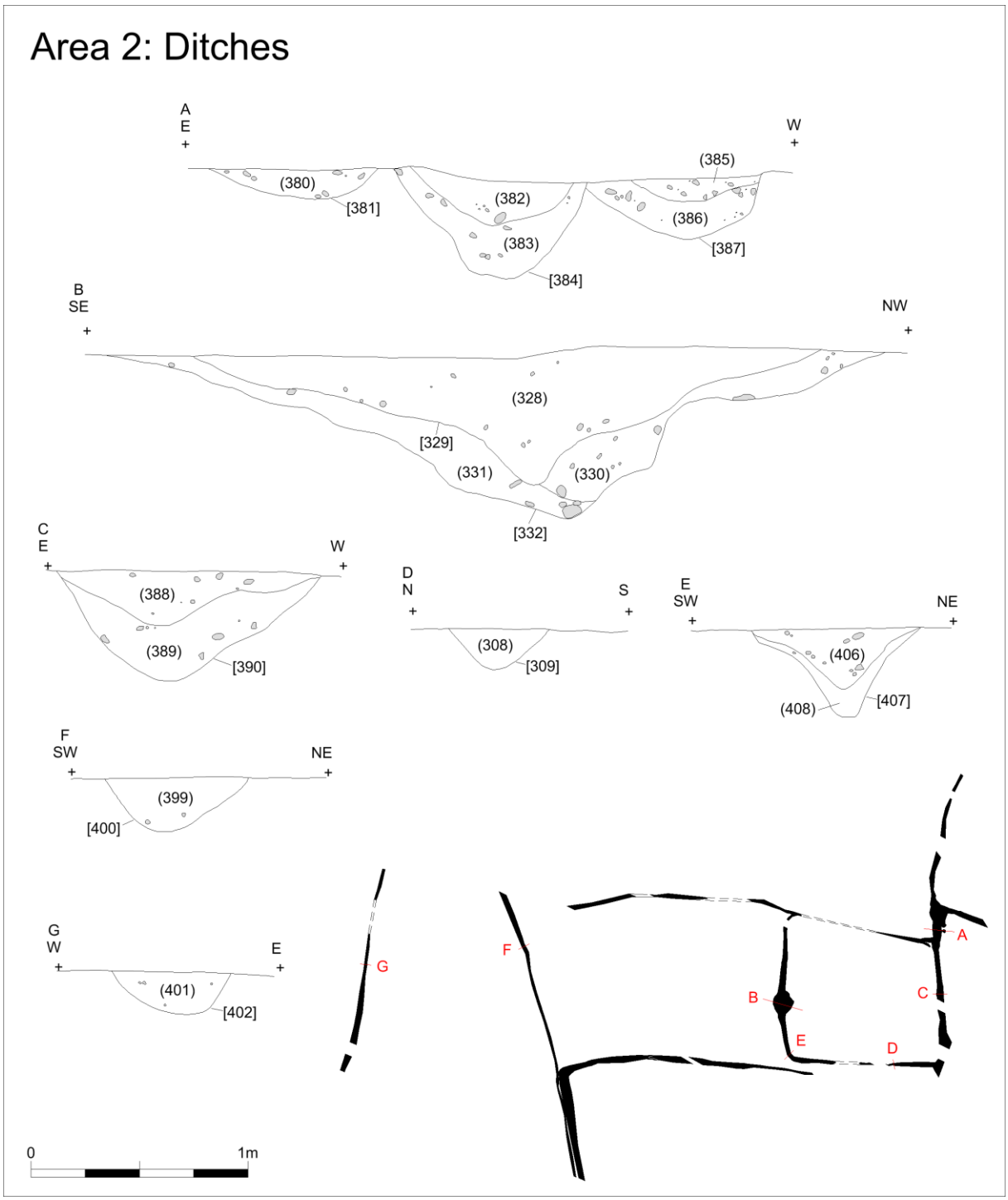

Figure 31: Sections across a selection of field ditches in Area 2.

Ditches were typically U-shaped or V-shaped, *c.*0.45-1.22m wide and up to *c.*0.52m deep, filled with deposits of orange-brown, orange-grey and yellowish-grey silty-clay and sand-clay – all indicative of natural silt accumulation. A little charcoal or domestic waste was again present. Only one ditch **[327]** contained significantly different fill, predominately containing dark grey clayey-silt. Junctions, termini and corners were all targeted, as well as a number of sections across straight lengths of ditch. A number of ditches had previously been excavated during the 2011 evaluation. These included ditches **[377]** and **[400]** (X.A178.2011 Tr. [42], [44] & [52]), ditch **[402]** (X.A178.2011 Tr. 24 [45]) and ditch **[314/320/322]** (X.A178.2011 Tr. 10 [37]).

Phasing was discernable in a number of places. The ditch initially surrounding Field 9 – **[377]** – was re-dug along its northern and western sides as ditches **[327]** and **[400]**. Ditch **[327]** stopped *c.*16.5m short of the western side of the field, the gap between it and ditch **[400]** being filled with a line of four regularly spaced post-holes – **[372]**, **[393]**, **[395]** and **[398]**. This could be a fence line marking an entrance between Field 9 and Field 11. However, two further post-holes **[338]** and **[405]**, positioned at right-angles in relation to the eastern extent of the line, may suggest a more expansive timber structure. From west to east, post-holes **[372]**, **[393]**, **[395]** and **[398]**

where spaced *c.*4m, *c.*4.6m and *c.*3.4m apart respectively; whilst post-hole **[405]** was *c.*5m north of **[398]** and post-hole **[338]** was *c.*6.5m to the south. Overall, the structure measured *c.*15m east to west by *c.*13.6m north to south.

The post-holes were typically circular or sub-circular with steep to vertical sides and flat to concave bases, measuring between *c.*1.06m and *c.*0.4m in diameter and *c.*0.23m and *c.*0.34m in depth. Most contained basal deposits of dark-grey silty-clay mixed with large quantities of charcoal and fire cracked pebbles; with later fills typically being brownish-yellow, yellowish-grey and brownish-grey silty- and sandy-clays more indicative of natural accumulation. One post-hole **[372]** had the hint of a *c.*0.44m diameter post-pipe at its base, whilst **[393]**, **[395]** and **[405]** all contained large field-stones, possibly the remains of displaced post-packing. Environmental analysis of the dark basal fill in post-hole **[372]** found it to contain large quantities of charred grain, charred arable weed seeds, grass seeds and a fragment of hazelnut shell, material typical of burnt domestic waste. Two other sampled post-holes **[393]** and **[405]** produced similar, albeit smaller, assemblages. This material was clearly redeposited after the timber structure had been dismantled, but is likely to have come from nearby, possibly from a feature *c.*2m south-east of post-hole **[338]**, the south-eastern extent of the structure, where a small area of natural clay **(333)**, burnt red, with frequent impressed charcoal flecks was recorded, possibly the truncated base of a hearth.

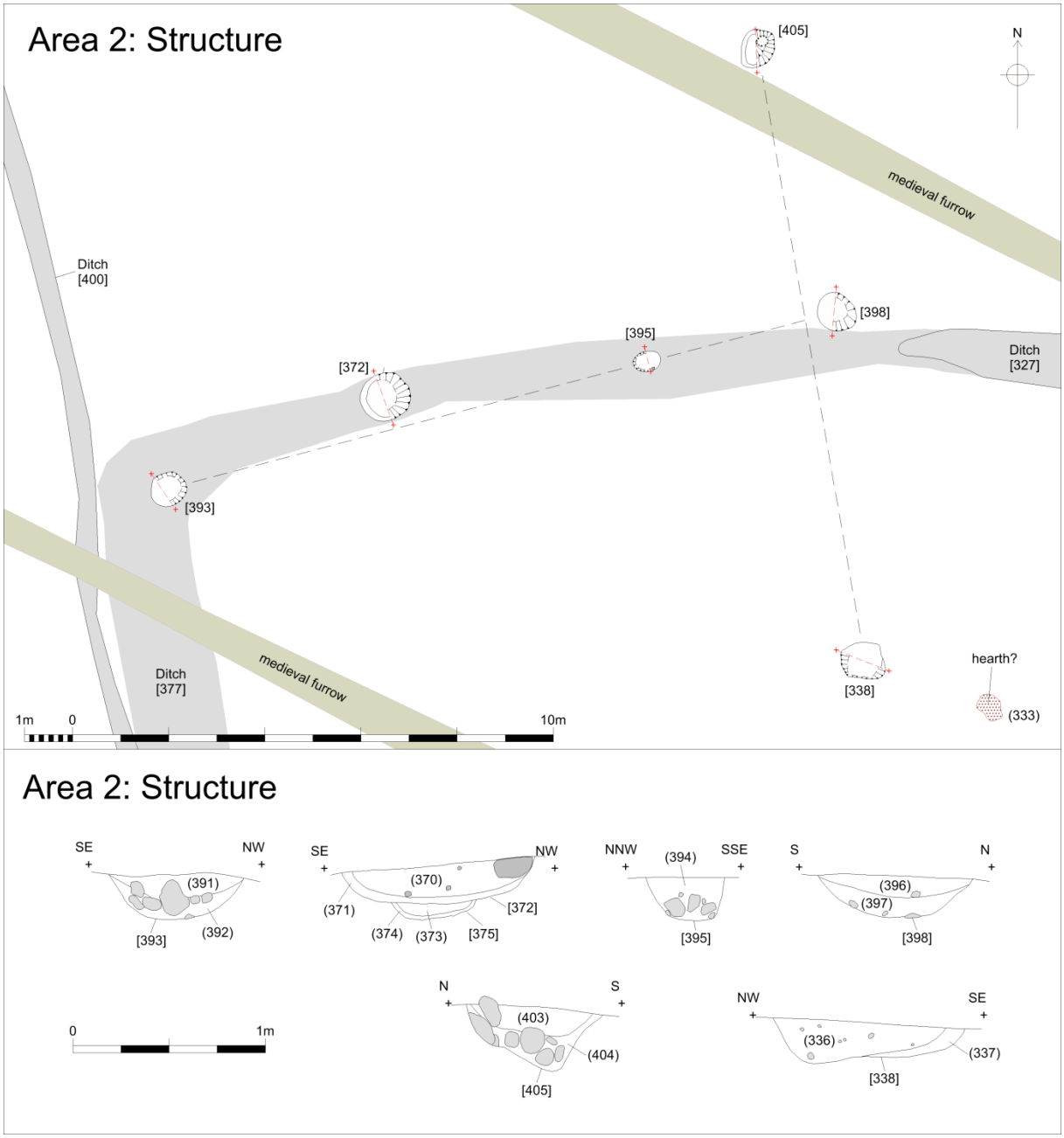

Figure 32: Plan and sections of possible post-hole structure in Area 2.

Figure 33: Post-holes [372], [393], [395] and [405], all possibly part of a timber structure in Area 2.

Part of the western side of Field 10 had also been re-dug – **[329]** and **[332]**. This appeared to be localised to a *c.*4.3m long section of the original ditch **[332]** which bulged out from *c.*1.4m to *c.*3.8m in width. The centre of the ditch remained V-shaped but flattened out as a shallow ledge across its extended width. The feature's edges were often diffuse and hard to find and the ditch had been re-cut **[329]**. This appeared to be more likely due to erosion of the ditch sides rather than a deliberately dug feature, and may be a cattle scar, evidence of livestock crossing or watering at the ditch.

Further north, evidence of the transition of Field 10 into Field 11 could be seen in the intersection of ditches **[369]** and **[367]**. Excavations clearly showed that the earlier ditch **[369]**, which formed the western side of Field 10, falling out of use and being truncated by ditch **[367]**, which formed the northern side of Field 11. Further phasing could also be seen along the eastern edge of the area, along the north to south orientated ditch separating Fields 11 and 12 from Field 13. One section across it showed it had been re-dug at least twice – **[384]** and **[387]** with a third, shallow gully **[316/379]** and post-hole **[381]** to the east hinting at another phase of activity. These were all truncated to the north by a large rectangular enclosure ditch **[314/320/322]** marking the south-west corner of Field 15.

Figure 34 (from left to right): Trenches 2 (looking east), 4 (looking east) and 7 (looking west)

Trial Trenching

As part of the 2013 excavation, a small programme of additional trial trenching was carried out to characterise an area of Field 2 left unexamined during the original 2012 evaluation and to further examine an extant sub-rectangular earthwork enclosure (MLE1916) in Field 3. Trenches 1-4 were placed across the north-east corner of Field 2 to examine an area of the site known, from historic mapping, to have once been the site of farm buildings associated with Leaders Farm. Trenches 5-7 were placed across the western end of Field 3 to provide sections across the bank forming the northern side of the earthwork and to investigate inside the enclosure. The aim of the work was to determine whether any further phases of archaeological investigation would need to be carried out. In any event, all seven trenches proved to be negative of any archaeological finds or features, meaning no further work need to be undertaken and allowing the project to be drawn to a conclusion.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated broadly north/south in an area of trees and waste ground between Field 1 and Field 2, immediately south of the south-east corner of Area 1. Initial machining removed *c.*0.11-0.38m of mixed building rubble and *c.*0.18-0.37m of orange-grey sandy-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum of firm greyish-yellow and greyish-orange clayey-sand. Approximately 17.5m from the north end of the trench a concrete beam and brick wall footing was recorded crossing the trench from north-west to south-east. This and the building rubble are presumably associated with farm buildings belonging to Leaders Farm which is known to have once occupied this area of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
28	2.2	61.6	0.45	0.68	*c.*121m OD	No
Interval (m) from North end	**0**	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**
Topsoil depth	0.11	0.22	0.21	0.23	0.38	0.23
Subsoil depth	0.29	0.28	0.23	0.18	0.19	0.37
Top of natural	0.40	0.50	0.44	0.41	0.57	0.60
Base of trench	0.45	0.62	0.48	0.52	0.68	0.68

Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated broadly east/west in the north-east corner of Field 2, immediately south of Trench 1. The ground in the vicinity of Trench 2 was extremely disturbed and initial machining removed *c.*0.2-0.82m of turf and mixed building rubble. Orange-grey sandy-clay subsoil was only observed at the eastern end of the trench. The natural substratum was firm greyish-yellow and greyish-orange clayey-sand. The western end of the trench was extremely damaged by a large modern pit and brick wall footing, both dug into the natural substratum; whilst between *c.*9m and *c.*23m from the western end of the trench a line of regularly spaced square concrete plinths were observed running along the line of the trench. As in Trench 1, these and the building rubble are presumably associated with Leaders Farm. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
27	2.2	59.4	0.74	1	*c.*121m OD	No
Interval (m) from West end	**0**	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**
Topsoil depth	0.67	0.74	0.82	0.70	0.40	0.20
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	0.31	0.45
Top of natural	0.67	0.74	0.82	0.70	0.71	0.65
Base of trench	0.74	0.93	1.00	0.80	0.82	0.80

Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated broadly north/south in the north-east corner of Field 2, immediately south of Trench 2 and east of Area 2. Initial machining removed *c.*0.22-0.41m of turf and dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.26-0.62m of orange-grey sandy-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum of firm greyish-yellow and greyish-orange clayey-sand. A field-drain was recorded crossing north-west to south-east across the northern end

of the trench and a modern service trench running north to south crossed much of the southern half of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
27	2.2	59.4	0.56	1.11	*c.*120.5m OD	No
Interval (m) from North end	**0**	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.23	0.27	0.22	0.31	0.41
Subsoil depth	0.31	0.26	0.35	0.60	0.62	0.59
Top of natural	0.60	0.49	0.63	0.82	0.93	1.00
Base of trench	0.67	0.56	0.71	0.89	1.02	1.11

Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated broadly east/west in the north-east corner of Field 2, south of Trench 2 and east of Trench 3. Initial machining removed *c.*0.23-0.36m of turf and dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.14-0.55m of orange-grey sandy-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum of firm greyish-yellow and greyish-orange clayey-sand. Ground in the vicinity of Trench 4 appeared undisturbed by activity associated with Leaders Farm. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
28	2.2	61.6	0.44	1	*c.*120m OD	No
Interval (m) from West end	**0**	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**
Topsoil depth	0.30	0.36	0.23	0.29	0.31	0.30
Subsoil depth	0.14	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.55	0.40
Top of natural	-	0.72	0.64	0.65	0.86	0.70
Base of trench	0.44	0.82	0.70	0.86	1.00	0.91

Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated broadly north/south in the north-west corner of Field 3, its northern half over the northern bank of extant earthwork MLE1916. Initial machining revealed two distinct layers of topsoil, the most recent being reddish-brown sandy-loam (topsoil 1) which was only present over the northern half of the trench, coinciding with the earthwork. Original ground-level appeared to be represented by dark brown clayey-sand (topsoil 2) which covered the entire trench. Beneath this was orange-brown clayey-sand subsoil overlying natural substratum, coarse orange sand with occasional gravel inclusion. No evidence was found to suggest that the earthwork was deliberately constructed and no finds were recovered.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
18.9	2.1	39.69	0.83	1.05	*c.*120m OD (N) *c.*119.5m (S)	No

Interval (m) from North end	**0**	**5**	**10**	**15**	**18**
Topsoil 1 depth	0.18	0.28	0.15	-	-
Topsoil 2 depth	0.55	0.49	0.47	0.50	0.40
Subsoil depth	0.20	0.22	0.20	0.27	0.35
Top of natural	0.93	0.99	0.82	0.77	0.75
Base of trench	0.96	1.05	0.92	0.86	0.83

Trench 6

Trench 6 was orientated broadly north/south in the north-west corner of Field 3, *c.*23m east of Trench 5, over the north-east corner of extant earthwork bank MLE1916. Initial machining revealed two distinct layers of topsoil,

the most recent being reddish-brown sandy-loam (topsoil 1) overlying dark brown clayey-sand (topsoil 2). Beneath this was orange-brown clayey-sand subsoil overlying natural substratum, coarse orange sand with occasional gravel inclusion. No evidence was found to suggest that the earthwork was deliberately constructed and no finds were recovered.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
20.8	2.1	43.68	0.81	0.93	*c.*119m OD	No

Interval (m) from North end	0	5	10	15	20
Topsoil 1 depth	0.60	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.32
Topsoil 2 depth		0.34	0.36	0.26	0.25
Subsoil depth	0.24	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.20
Top of natural	0.84	0.77	0.74	0.67	0.77
Base of trench	0.93	0.89	0.81	0.85	0.87

Trench 7

Trench 7 was orientated broadly north-west/south-east in the south-west corner of Field 3, south of Trench 5 and Trench 6, inside extant earthwork bank MLE1916. Initial machining removed dark brown clayey-sandy topsoil overlying orange-brown clayey-sand subsoil to reveal natural substratum of coarse orange sand with occasional gravel inclusion. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level	Archaeology?
28.1	2.1	59.01	0.80	1.05	*c.*119.5m OD	No

Interval (m) from North-west end	0	5	10	15	20	25
Topsoil depth	0.60	0.51	0.80	0.50	0.60	0.50
Subsoil depth	0.19	0.25	0.15	0.24	0.20	0.18
Top of natural	0.79	0.76	0.95	0.74	0.80	0.68
Base of trench	0.96	0.89	1.05	0.84	0.85	0.80

Finds

Lithics

Lynden P. Cooper

A small collection of 17 worked flints (Table 3) was recovered during the excavation (14 from Area 1 and 3 from Area 2). All were residual or unstratified.

Table 3: Lithics

Context	Feature	Area	Classification	Notes
U/S	-	1	2ry flake	Near (219)
58	57	1	discarded	
78	77	1	2ry flake	
108	102	1	shatter	
108	102	1	core fragment	
160	161	1	flake fragment, calcined	
160	161	1	core on flake	
175	173	1	Penknife Point	
180	183	1	calcined fragment	
207	209	1	core fragment	
219	220	1	2ry flake	
241	242	1	3ry flake	
245	246	1	retouched flake	
283	284	1	core	
328	329	2	2ry flake	
328	329	2	2ry blade	
337	338	2	3 x calcined fragments	

The raw material is local till-derived semi-translucent flint. Of note was a curve-backed and shouldered piece with some patination. This is probably a variant of a Final Upper Palaeolithic Penknife Point, with a shoulder rather than the slighter tang often seen on this type of *Feddermesser*. It served as an armature for an arrow. The blank for the piece was a flake fragment that was fortuitously blade-like. The remaining pieces are of later prehistoric technology, likely to be Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Iron Age Pottery *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Introduction

A total of 203 sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery weighing 1749g was retrieved from 25 contexts, predominantly the fills of the eaves drip gullies of Roundhouse 1 and 2 but also from the enclosure ditch. Significantly, apart from two sherds found residually in the fill of Roman linear ditch [350], all of the Iron Age pottery occurred in features in the eastern half of the site, indicating that the two phases of the site are chronologically and spatially separate. Additionally, 44 sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery weighing 212g (reported on previously) were retrieved from four contexts during the evaluation phase. The total assemblage of 247 sherds (1961g) is discussed together.

Methodology

The pottery has been analysed by form and fabric using the Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011, 62, Table 1), with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group's Guidelines (PCRG 1997), and quantified by sherd count and weight.

Analysis of Assemblage by Fabric, Form and Decoration

The complete record of the stratified assemblage is presented below (Table 4) accompanied by the record of the complete assemblage from the evaluation phase for comparison (Table 5) with a quantified summary by fabric of the combined assemblage following (Table 6). Note: A small amount of pottery from the excavation phase context (184) [185] was lost due to theft on site.

Table 4: Quantified record of Iron Age pottery from the excavation phase

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form/Rim	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Diam
EncDitch	1	S2	base		6	32	
2	3	Q1	body		6	30	
6	7	S2	body	scored	1	8	
20	21	S2	body		2	1	
34	33	R1 sy	upright flat	scored	2	71	240
50	49	Q1	body	scored	2	46	
52	51	S2	body	scored	2	20	
68	67	S2	body		3	2	
71	70	R1 sy	body		3	15	
78	77	Q1	base		4	97	
97	96	R1 sy	base	scored	48	363	
97	96	S2	upright flat	scored	18	137	140
110	103	Q1	body	scored	1	8	
128	127	Q1	body	scored	1	4	
160	161	S2	body	scored	19	175	
201	199	Q1	pinch everted		12	235	130
207	209	S1	body	scored	1	7	
219	220	S1	body	scored	1	5	
219	220	Q1	body		1	25	

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form/Rim	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Diam
241	242	S1	body		1	2	
266	171	S2	body	scored	2	13	
270	269	S1	upright flat bead	scored	10	137	400
270	269	R1 sy	body		6	20	
271	269	S1	body		1	5	
271	269	Q1	upright flat bead	scored	3	40	160
281	282	Q1	upright bead	scored	2	30	140
281	282	Q1	upright slashed	scored	11	112	110
281	282	R1 sy	body		1	2	
281	282	S1	body	scored	10	32	
283	284	S2	body		8	10	
288	290	S1	body	scored	2	16	
292	291	R1 sy	body	scored	5	10	
292	291	S1	body	scored	4	10	
348	350	S2	body		2	14	
366	367	S2	body	scored	2	15	
Total					**203**	**1749**	

Table 5: Quantified record of Iron Age pottery from the evaluation phase

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Date
3	4	S2	jar	scored	2	10	M-L Iron Age
6	7	S2	jar	scored	6	36	M-L Iron Age
9	8	S2	jar	scored	11	34	M-L Iron Age
40	38	S2	jar	scored	25	132	M-L Iron Age
Total					**44**	**212**	

Table 6: Quantified summary of combined assemblage by fabric

Fabric	Sherds	Weight	%sherds	Av.Sh.Wt
Sand Q1	43	627	18	15
Sand with shell S2	109	639	44	6
Granitic R1	65	481	26	7
Shell S1	30	214	12	7
Total	**247**	**1961**	**100**	**8**

The assemblage from the evaluation indicated that all the pottery belonged to the East Midlands scored ware tradition current from the 4th or mid-3rd century BC to the earlier 1st century AD (Elsdon 1992, 85, Fig.1.6), but in view of the high proportion of scoring recorded, a date in the Late Iron Age, 1st century BC or early 1st century AD was indicated. The analysis of the larger excavation assemblage has not altered this conclusion but it has added considerably to our knowledge of the variety of fabrics occurring in the southern part of the county and provided a wider range of slack shouldered jar forms and rim types.

The assemblage from the evaluation, much of which came from a single context (40), was consistently in a quartz sand fabric with sparse shell tempering (Fabric S2) which was invariably leached, leaving occasional plate-like voids on the surface and needle-like voids in section. The excavation assemblage demonstrates that the sources of opening materials and perhaps the sources of manufacture of the vessels is wider than originally thought, with four distinct fabrics recorded, indicating that the site lies at something of a boundary between

different sources. The site lies at the south-western edge of the East Midlands scored ware tradition (Elsdon 1992a, 87) and shows a mixture of fabrics typical of sites both to the east and to the north. The different fabrics do not show any spatial or stratigraphic separation across the site and so it has to be assumed that they are broadly contemporary.

When combined with the evaluation assemblage the quartz sand fabric with sparse shell (S2) makes up 44% of the assemblage by sherd count and together with quartz sand fabric (Q1) (18%) and the granite-tempered fabric (R1) (26%) total 88%. Fabrics with high mineral content, typical of the north and west of the scored ware distribution, are therefore dominant but the high proportion of S2 incorporating shell is probably characteristic of this area and represents a transition to the southern and eastern areas of the distribution stretching into the Welland and Nene Valleys of Northamptonshire and Rutland where a largely sand-free shell-tempered fabric is dominant (Cooper 2000), though only contributing 12% here.

Given its southerly location, the proportion of granitic-tempered sherds (26%) (fabric R1 Sy) still appears relatively high and there is a strong possibility that the local potters were exploiting granitic outcrops closer to Lutterworth, rather than the recognised source at Mountsorrel (Knight *et al*. 2003) which was used for most of the pottery manufacture at sites close to Leicester such as Manor Farm, Humberstone (Marsden 2011, 64-65). Thin-section analysis of medieval Potters Marston ware manufactured to the south-west of Leicester demonstrated that the nearby outcrop of syenite at Croft was the source of igneous rock used (Vince 1984, 38-39), and low-power visual comparison of that fabric with the Iron Age examples from Lutterworth, eight miles further south, suggests they are very similar, with a high proportion of predominantly white rock inclusions containing mainly feldspar and a low proportion of quartz (R. Hearne pers. comm.), as well as lacking the large plates of biotite mica which are a distinctive feature of fabrics employing granodiorite. The use of syenite inclusions is also evident in the Iron Age pottery from Lubbesthorpe, to the north of Croft and also suspected at Enderby and Huncote in the same vicinity (Marsden 2004).

The largest comparable assemblage to the south of Leicester comes from Grove Farm, Enderby (Elsdon 1992b) which contained a similar range of jar forms, as does the Humberstone assemblage (Marsden 2011). Of the seven rims recorded, vessel diameters range from small jars of 110mm to large storage jars of 400mm, with all but two belonging to the small jar category up to 160mm broadly equivalent to Elsdon's Form Type 1 (1992b, 39, fig.24.1). Two of the smallest, came from (281) [282] the southern terminal of the gully of Roundhouse 2, one with oblique slashes across the top of the rim the other with a small rolled over bead rim similar to examples from Humberstone (Marsden 2011, 68, fig.72.3 and 6 respectively). Two other vessels came from the terminal on the other side of the same doorway [269], the first from (271) very similar to the previous two and the other from (270) a large storage jar of 400mm diameter with a flattened bead rim, belonging to Elsdon's Form Type 4 (1992b, 39, fig.24.1) and similar to an example from Humberstone (Marsden 2011, 68, fig.74.27). The largest group of sherds came from the gully of Roundhouse 1 (97) [96] including another small jar with an upright flattened rim, and small numbers of sherds from the gully terminals of the same structure (78) [77] and (266) [171]. Only two sherds, one scored, came from the line of palisade stakes (219) [220] identified at the south-east edge of the site next to Roundhouse 4, but there is nothing to suggest the feature is necessarily earlier in date.

Roman Pottery *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Introduction

A total of 37 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 668g was recovered from ten contexts during the excavation phase, each containing fragments of single vessels further broken and consistently abraded across the assemblage, perhaps during exposure on the surface prior to burial. The high average sherd weight of 18g is misleading and skewed by the group of large sherds from (174). All the material, except for the four sherds from (401) [402] in Area 2, was retrieved from the rectilinear ditch system in the western half of Area 1. An overview is also given here of the material previously reported on from the evaluation phase (93 sherds, 564g), as this provides evidence for later Roman activity not further built on by the excavations.

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Roman pottery form and fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight. The full record for both excavation and evaluation is presented below (Table 7 & Table 8).

Results

Table 7: Quantified record of Roman pottery from the Excavation Phase

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Date
147	146	CGSamian	Cup	Form 27	1	30	E-mid 2nd
147	146	CGSamian	misc	misc	1	1	mid 2nd

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Date
153	152	C2NV	flagon	misc	10	62	L2nd-3rd
163	164	GW5	jar	misc	4	10	2nd-3rd
169	168	GW5	jar	misc	2	25	2nd-3rd
174	173	GW5	jar	misc	11	480	2nd-3rd
245	246	GW5	jar	misc	1	22	2nd-3rd
254	237	GW5	jar	rim frag	1	1	2nd-3rd
256	237	GW3	jar	misc	1	1	2nd-3rd
345	347	GW5	jar	misc	1	1	2nd-3rd
401	402	GW5	jar	misc	4	35	2nd-3rd
Total					**37**	**668**	**Av. Sh. Wt. 18g**

Table 8: Quantified record of Roman pottery from the Evaluation Phase

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Date
10	11	samian	misc	misc	2	2	L1st-2nd
10	11	C2NV	beaker/jug	HPM 63?	9	146	4th cent
10	11	MO4	mortarium	reeded rim	1	25	L3rd-4th
10	11	GW5	jar	necked	2	10	2nd-4th
10	11	GW4	jar	necked	5	20	M2nd-L3rd
10	11	CG1B	jar	square bead	10	47	L3rd-4th
10	11	GW9	jar	misc	24	122	2nd-4th
10	11	BB1	jar	HB 20.1	32	137	L3rd-4th
27	28	GW5	jar	necked bead	1	15	2nd-4th
46	45	GW5	jar	misc	7	40	2nd-4th
Total					**93**	**564**	

Dating

In contrast to the larger assemblage from the evaluation (Table 8) which was predominantly of later Roman date (see below), the small number of diagnostic sherds, namely from (147) [146] and (153) [152], the ditch at the western end of Area1, indicate occupation in the second half of the 2nd century or into the 3rd. These include the base of a Form 27 Central Gaulish Samian cup of early to middle 2nd century date and another Central Gaulish samian sherd from Lezoux of similar date from (147), alongside joining sherds of an early flagon (Fabric C2NV) from (153) in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Howe et al. 1980 no.14 with colour-coat) which could date as early as the later 2nd when the early beakers are produced but continued to be manufactured during the 3rd century. The sherds from all the other contexts from the rectilinear ditch system are from jars in medium sandy grey ware (GW5) or fine grey ware (GW3) which are not closely dateable but the occurrence of ribs and wavy-line decoration on the shoulder would suggest a 2nd century date, with the proviso that dates into the 3rd century cannot be ruled out for the undiagnostic material. This is also true for the four grey ware sherds from north-south ditch (401) [402], the only pottery to be recovered from Area 2 to the south during excavation and supplemented by the seven similarly undiagnostic sherds from the evaluation of the same ditch (46) [45].

The assemblage from (10) [11], excavated during the evaluation phase, is quite closely dateable to the later 3rd or 4th century (although some residual material such including samian is apparent), and indicates that the wider L-shaped ditch at the western end of the excavated area represents a separate, later phase of activity. It was fortunate that this group was detected at the ditch corner as the subsequent section cut across the straight length during the excavation phase, fills (254) and (256) of [237] contained only two sherds of grey ware. The diagnostic forms from (10) include the base of thick-bodied beaker or jug in Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric C2NV) (Howe et al. 1980 no.63?), a reeded rim mortarium from the Mancetter-Hartshill kilns (Fabric MO4), not far from the site, and a south-east Dorset BB1 cooking pot with obtuse lattice decoration (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 103 and fig.29 form 20.1). The group also included a jar from the Harrold shell-

tempered industry in Bedfordshire (Fabric CG1B) with a squared bead, again demonstrating a fairly distant connection, and confirming the later Roman date.

The very low frequency of Roman pottery across the site, and its highly abraded condition, would indicate long-distance disposal at the edge of settlement perhaps originally in midden heaps, with subsequent manuring taking material on to fields where sherds became incorporated into ditch fills over a long period of time.

Fired Clay Oven Plate and Loom Weight *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Introduction

A total of 378 fragments (4.4kg) of fired clay was recovered from 22 contexts, predominantly from the Iron deposits at the east end of Area 1, and particularly from the gully of Roundhouse 1, with smaller amounts from Roundhouse 2. The Roman rectangular ditch system yielded no fired clay apart from seven small fragments from Area 2. The inhabitants have consistently used a sandy, iron rich, clay with occasional angular flint inclusion up to 10mm, probably the locally available boulder clay drift deposits. The full record is detailed in the table below (Table 9).

Results

Table 9: Fired clay

Context	Cut	Count	Weight	Description	Comment
97	96	3	1530	Perforated oven plate	Ditch Roundhse 1
97	96	200	1175	miscellaneous frags	Ditch Roundhse 1
162	96	1	75	Triangular loom weight	Ditch Roundhse 1
78	77	11	240	Perforated oven plate	S Terminal RH 1
119	117	60	760	miscellaneous frags	RH 1 interior
266	171	2	10	miscellaneous frags	RH 1 N. terminal
EncDitch	1	1	15	miscellaneous frags	Enclosure Ditch
50	49	1	10	miscellaneous frags	Ditch
110	103	3	22	miscellaneous frags	Ditch
112	104	1	1	miscellaneous frags	Ditch
116	105	1	1	miscellaneous frags	Ditch
136	135	22	190	miscellaneous frags	Posthole
267	135	20	170	miscellaneous frags	Posthole
149	148	2	2	miscellaneous frags	Ditch
202	199	2	12	miscellaneous frags	Ditch
241	242	1	1	miscellaneous frags	Ditch Roundhse 1
270	269	16	18	miscellaneous frags	RH2 N terminal
281	282	14	48	miscellaneous frags	RH2 S terminal
288	290	7	24	miscellaneous frags	RH 2 gully
289	290	3	5	miscellaneous frags	RH 2 gully
330	332	4	14	miscellaneous frags	Pit Area 2
373	375	1	12	miscellaneous frags	Posthole Area 2
401	402	2	58	miscellaneous frags	Linear gully Area 2
Total		**378**	**4393**	**Av.Frag.Wt 12g**	

Discusssion

The best preserved material came from a section [96] across the southern part of the eaves drip gully of Roundhouse 1, fill (97) of which contained a large fragment from a perforated oven plate with other joining fragments. The fragment which was up to 80mm thick (broken length 210mm and broken width 110mm) with smoothed surfaces on both sides and form about 25% of the edge of a large central perforation of 140mm with one smaller perforation of 40mm adjacent and another separate. Two similar examples of perforated plates with central perforations of 130-140mm in diameter came from round houses at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams and Hylton 1996, 142, fig.86.148-9) and compares with the Type 2 plates from Danebury, Hants., which have perforation diameters of 130-150mm (Poole 1984, 118). Perforations of the smaller size are paralleled by examples from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (Poole 2009, 272-4, fig.5.56.2), and Empingham, Rutland (Cooper 2000, 70, fig.33). The function of the plates was to provide a flat surface for cooking and presumably a cooking pot was placed over the large central perforation. Other miscellaneous fragments were recovered from the gully terminals and from the pit inside the door of Roundhouse 1 and possibly belong to the same plate, which perhaps sat within the house and was subsequently broken up and deposited. Fill (162) of [96] yielded one corner of a triangular loom weight, the standard mid-late Iron Age type, with a 15mm diameter perforation across the angle, similar to examples from Empingham, Rutland (Fraser 2000, 114, fig.55).

Metalwork *Nicholas J. Cooper*

One piece of metalwork was found during the excavation; an iron knife blade tip fragment recovered from (288) the fill of Roundhouse 1 eaves drip gully [290], broken length 42mm, width 17mm.

Environmental Evidence

Animal Bones *Jennifer Browning*

Introduction

This report presents the analysis of the animal bone which was hand-recovered during excavations at Leader's Farm, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. No animal bones were recovered during sieving of the bulk environmental samples. Twelve features, including ditches, gullies, ring gullies and pits, produced a total of 142 fragments of animal bone. Both Roman and Iron Age activity is present on the site and this seems to be delineated largely by area.

Bones recovered during the evaluation were previously examined and the results have been summarised in the discussion below. While recently excavated sites have produced some larger groups of Iron Age material, rural Roman assemblages are currently very rare and study of the rural economy has been identified as a gap in current knowledge (Monckton 2006, 277).

Methodology

Specimens were identified with reference to comparative modern and ancient skeletal material held at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. Information was compiled directly into a *pro forma* spreadsheet with facility for recording data on preservation, taxa, bone element, state of epiphyseal fusion and completeness to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation, age and taphonomy. Where possible, the anatomical parts present for each skeletal element were recorded using the 'zones' defined by Serjeantson (1996), with additional zones ascribed to mandibles based on Dobney and Reilly (1988). Surface preservation was assessed after Harland *et. al.* (2003). Joining fragments were re-assembled and the resulting specimen counted as a single fragment, although a record of the original number of fragments was retained.

Provenance

The bones were recovered from ditches, gullies, ring gullies and pits of both mid-late Iron Age and Roman date. Most of the Roman activity seems to belong to a rectilinear ditch system on the western half of Area 1 and in Area 2. The Iron Age activity appears to be concentrated in a series of enclosures with roundhouses to the east of Area 1. Area 2 produced a slightly larger quantity of bones (60%) than Area 1 (40%).

Preservation and Taphonomy

The bones exhibited some ancient and modern breakage and re-fitting of joining fragments reduced the total from 127 to 142 fragments. Surface condition was assessed for each specimen, following Harland *et. al.* (2003) and was split almost equally between 'fair: surface solid in places, but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen' or 'poor', defined as 'surface flaky or powdery over 50% of specimen'. The better preserved bone

was invariably found in ditch fills, with the gullies, pits and ring gullies producing bones in very poor condition (Table 10). This may reflect variation in soil acidity or could suggest better survival of more deeply buried bones.

Table 10: Preservation by feature type

Preservation	Ditch	Gully	Pit	Ring gully	Total
3	62	-	-	1	63
4	1	11	24	28	64
Total	**63**	**11**	**24**	**29**	**127**

No gnawed bones were observed. Calcined specimens, indicating exposure to high temperatures beyond what would be required for cooking, were noted in ring gully [97]. No fragments were identifiable; however, these could represent hearth sweepings incorporated into the gully fill.

Taxa and Carcass Representation

The assemblage produced evidence for bovid (cattle) and equid bones (probably horse). Only 27% of bones (n=34) were identifiable to species. No medium or small mammals, wild animals, birds, amphibians or fish were identified. Analysis of the distribution of carcass parts was not possible due to the small sample size. However, it was observed that while the cattle bones comprised both cranial and post-cranial elements, only horse metapodials were present. While any inferences must be extremely cautious, it is possible that there were different disposal practices for the two species. A list of identified elements is shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Distribution of taxa and element within the assemblage (by context)

	Context												
Taxa and Element	**97**	**147**	**169**	**245**	**263**	**271**	**281**	**321**	**323**	**370**	**388**	**413**	**Total**
cattle	**15**	**1**				**11**	**1**	**1**	**1**				**30**
axis									1				1
humerus		1											1
molar	1												1
tibia								1					1
tooth enamel	14					11	1						26
equid				**1**					**3**				**4**
lateral metapodial									1				1
metacarpal									2				2
metatarsal				1									1
indeterminate mammal	**2**											**11**	**13**
shaft fragment	2											11	13
large mammal			**2**		**18**			**20**	**32**	**6**	**2**		**80**
radius			1										1
shaft fragment			1		18			20	32	5	2		78
tibia										1			1
Total	**17**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**18**	**11**	**1**	**21**	**36**	**6**	**2**	**11**	**127**

Age Structure

An indication of age at death is normally provided by tooth eruption and wear and, from post-cranial bones, the state of epiphyseal fusion. However, there were no mandibles or age-able teeth in this assemblage and articular ends were only preserved in a few instances. The distal ends of an equid metacarpal and a metatarsal were fused (distal), indicating that the animals were adult. A distal cattle radius was fused. There were two unfused bones

(distal tibia and distal radius), however, taxonomically, it was not possible to identify the bones to a level beyond large mammal.

Pathologies and Measurements

No pathologies were observed and poor preservation limited the number of bones that could be measured. It was possible to measure two horse bones and this data is recorded in Table 12.

Table 12: Measurements taken (mm)

Record	Context	Bone	Taxa	Bd	Dd	Dp
6	245	metatarsal	equid	40.4	30.3	
17	323	metacarpal	equid			31.2
18	323	metacarpal	equid	44.3	32.6	

Butchery and Articulated Bones

No definite butchery marks were observed. A horse metatarsal from ditch [246] had a circular hole on the plantar part of the shaft, directly above the distal articulation. However, it was not clear whether this hole was made deliberately or was taphonomic. The surface condition of the bone was particularly abraded around the area and small flakes of bone could be seen adhering to the tract of the hole.

Discussion

Unfortunately, the information available from the Leader's Farm assemblage has been limited by its small size, poor preservation and high fragmentation levels. The total assemblage comprised 142 bones from twelve features of which only 34 were considered sufficiently diagnostic to enable species distinction. Cattle and horse bones were identified but no bones from small creatures, such as fish, birds or small mammals, were recovered. A small quantity of burnt bones may represent hearth sweepings into a roundhouse drip gully.

The bones recovered during the excavation were consistent with the material recovered during the evaluation phase (Browning 2012), which comprised 232 fragments from four different features. The frequency of bones attributed to large mammal (not identifiable to a higher level) within both assemblages, pointed to extensive fragmentation and a survival bias towards the larger species. Cattle were positively identified in the evaluation, with teeth, a mandible and long-bones such as humerus, radius and metapodial fragments surviving. The presence of shaft fragments from medium sized animals among the evaluation assemblage was taken to indicate that sheep and pigs were present on the site, despite a lack of diagnostic fragments. Fine cut marks were noted on some bones indicating that the assemblage derived from domestic waste.

Charred Plant Remains *Rachel Small, Anita Radini & Graham Morgan*

Introduction

Soil samples were taken from a variety of features which included pits, ditches and the eaves drip gullies of roundhouses to assess the potential for them to contain charred plant remains, an indicator of activities on the site associated with agriculture and/or human occupation there and nearby.

Methods

Twenty-one bulk samples, primarily clay-based, were wet sieved in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and air dried. The residues were also air dried and the fraction over 4mm sorted for all finds which are included in the relevant sections of this report. The flots were sorted for plant remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material available at ULAS and were counted and tabulated below (Table 13). The plant names follow Stace (1991).

Results

General

Archaeobotanical remains were present in each sample but for the majority, they were only present in low numbers (Table 13). Three samples (7, 8 and 14) contained higher numbers of remains. Specimens, particularly those in sample 15, were broken and abraded which led to difficulty in identification, and this may suggest some

soil disturbance. Other evidence for soil disturbance includes the presence of rootlets in most samples, uncharred seeds which are probably modern, and worm egg shells in two samples.

Table 13: Charred plant remains. Key: + present, ++ moderate amount, +++ abundant.

Sample number	Area	Context number	Context description	Litres	Charred grain	Charred chaff	Charred seeds	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal flecks (2mm and under)	Charcoal (2mm +)	Notes
1 1/2	1	78	Roundhouse 1 terminal	6	++	+	+	-	+++	+++	Rootlets rare.
1 2/2	1	78	Roundhouse 1 terminal	8	+	+	+	-	+++	+++	-
2 1/2	1	97	Roundhouse 1 gulley	7	+	+	+	+	+	+	Rootles rare.
2 2/2	1	97	Roundhouse 1 gulley	8	+	+	+(+)	+	+	+	Rootles rare; worm egg shells present.
4	1	119	Roundhouse 1 entrance post hole	10	+(+)	+	++	+	+	+	Rootlets common.
5	1	172	Roundhouse 1 terminal	10	+	+	+	+	+	+	Rootlets common.
6	1	231	Pit	8	-	-	+	-	+	+	Rootlets common.
7 1/3	1	261	Roman ditch	7	+++	+++	+	+	++	++	-
7 2/3	1	261	Roman ditch	8	+++	+++	+	+	++	++	-
8 1/2	1	136	Roundhouse 1 entrance post pipe	6	+(+)	+(+)	++	+	+	+	Rootlets rare.
8 2/2	1	136	Roundhouse 1 entrance post pipe	6	-	-	+	+	+	+	Rootlets rare.
9	1	267	Roundhouse 1 entrance post pipe	8	-	-	+	+	+	+	Rootlets rare.
10 1/2	1	270	Roundhouse 2 entrance gulley	7	+	+	+	+(+)	+	+	Rootlets common.
10 2/2	1	270	Roundhouse 2 entrance gulley	7	++(+)	+	+	+	+	+	-
11 1/2	1	281	Roundhouse 2 entrance gulley	8	+	-	+	+	+	+	Rootlets common; worm egg shells present.
11 2/2	1	281	Roundhouse 2 entrance gulley	8	+	-	+	+	+	+	Rootlets common.
12	1	283	Roundhouse 2 entrance gulley	8	+	+	++	+	+	+	Rootlets common.
13	2	370	Burnt pit fill	8	+	-	+	+	+	+	Rootlets common.
14	2	371	Burnt pit fill	8	+++	-	++	-	+	+	1 x hazel nut; 3 x straw node; rootlets rare.
15	2	392	Burnt pit fill	8	-	-	++(+)	-	+++	+++	Specimens abraded. Rootlets rare.
16	2	404	Burnt pit fill	9	-	-	+	+	++	+	Rootlets rare.

Cereal grains and chaff

The identifiable cereal grains were of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.). A large proportion of the chaff was identified as Triticum spelta and in sample 10 a fragment of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) rachis was found.

Other food plants

Another food plant identified was a hazel nut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) recovered from the flot of sample 14. Hazel nuts are edible and the wood has many uses, such as fuel and basketry.

Arable/disturbed ground and grassland

Scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum* sp.), which prefers lighter soils, was found in small numbers in samples from Area 1. Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), corncockle (*Agrosemma githago* L.) and mallow (*Malva* sp.) were also recovered, but in low numbers in sample 7 and 8. Cleavers is an autumn germinating species and when found associated with cereals suggests that they may have been autumn sown (Jones 1988).

Weeds associated with spring sown crops and garden cultivation were also found in all samples often in single number, and include black bind weed (*Fallopia convolvulus* (L. A. Love)), (strictly a spring germinating weed), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and docks (*Rumex* sp.). These weeds are commonly found in settlements and disturbed ground as well.

Cabbages/mustards seeds (Brassica sp.) and seeds belonging to the cabbage family (Brassicaceae, see unclassified) in general were recorded almost in every sample, often as a single item. These species are weeds of arable fields but are also edible; in this case the seeds are very small and the surfaces of the seeds did not survive well so further identification was not possible.

Some species described under the category of arable and disturbed ground may have been collected for their edible leaves, such as goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex cf. acetosella* L.), for flavouring brassicas/cabbages (*Brassica* spp. and *Brassicaceae*).

Unclassified

The seeds recorded as unclassified belonged to plant families that have no common habitat or they could not be identified to a specific level. In this category we find sedges (*Carex* spp), which are plants of damp ground. Seeds of grasses, *Poaceae*, large and small, were also recovered in all samples; grasses are commonly found as weeds in the fields, and they can be hard to separate from the crop. Therefore they could have arrived on site with the crops, used as kindling, roofing and building material, fodder or grown in disturbed ground on site.

Samples with over 50 remains

There were three samples, 7, 8 and 14, that contained over 50 specimens. These are useful for the interpretation of crop processing activities by considering the ratios of cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds for example (van der Veen 1992).

Sample 14 (371) which was a burnt pit fill of Roman date from Area 2, contained 80 fragments of grains, no remains of chaff, 22 arable weed seeds, many of which are similar in size to the grain (4mm), 3 grass (*Poacea*e) straw nodes, and a fragment of hazel nut shell. This ratio is suggestive of the accidental/deliberate burning of food preparation debris - weed seeds similar in size to grains picked out – and the burning of food (grain) spillage (Van der Veen 2007), commonly found in domestic fires. The hearth would have been swept clean and the debris deposited in the pit.

Sample 8 (part 1), which was the entrance post-pipe of Iron Age Roundhouse 1 (136), contained 12 charred grain fragments, 13 charred chaff fragments of glume wheat, and 28 charred seeds or arable and disturbed ground. This is a mixed assemblage and probably represents a mix of activities over a period of time including the accidental/deliberate burning of crop processing debris, food preparation and food spillage debris.

Samples 7, which were from a Roman ditch fill (261), were extremely abundant in grains (100+ and chaff 300+), with little charred seeds present. The remains probably represent the remains of parching, a process where spikelets are heated to release the grain from the chaff which encases it, in preparation for human consumption. After the process these would have been dumped into the ditch.

Charcoal *Graham Morgan*

Charcoal flecks (2mm and under) and larger pieces of charcoal, 2mm in size and larger, were identified in each sample but generally in low numbers. The exception being samples 1 (part 1 and 2) and 15, which were abundant in both flecks and larger pieces of charcoal; samples 7 (part 1 and 2) were charcoal flecks and larger pieces were common; and, sample 16 were charcoal flecks were common. The higher number of charcoal fragments in these samples is probably representative of the deposition of burnt fuel.

The species of wood identified included oak (*Quercus* spp.), hazel or alder (*Corylus avellana* or *Alnus* spp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior),* hawthorn type (*Crataegus* spp.), field maple (*Acer campestre)* and rowan type (*Sorbus* spp) (Table 14). These species are all typical of the hedgerow or woodland environment. It was concluded that the fragments are mostly of mature wood, probably larger than 100mm diameter.

Table 14: Charcoal analysis

Ref			Dia	Rings	Age	Species
1 1/2	78	77	frags			ash, oak
1 2/2	78	77	100	9	12	oak – fast grown
1 2/2	78	77	20	3	4	oak
1 2/2	78	77	15	6	8	hawthorn type
2 1/2	97	96	frag			oak

Ref			Dia	Rings	Age	Species
2 2/2	97	96	frags			oak, coal
3	136		frag			oak
4	119	117	frag			oak
5	172	171	knot			unidentified
6	231		frag			oak
6	231		frag			rowan type – small dia
7 1/3	261		frag			coal
7 2/3	261		10	3	3	maple
7 2/3	261		15	8	8	hazel
8 1/2	136	135	frag			oak
8 2/2	136	135	frags			oak, maple
9	267		frag			oak
10 1/2	270		frag			hazel
10 2/2	270		frags			maple, hawthorn type
11 ½	281		frag			oak
11 2/2	281		frag			maple
12	283		frags			oak, ash
13	370		frag			oak
14	371		frag			oak
14	371					hazel, nut shell
15	392		frags			oak, ash
15	392		40	6	20	ash
15	392		30	12	15	oak
15	392		20	7	10	oak
15	392		20	5	8	hazel
16	404		frag			oak

Discussion

In general the assemblages contained low numbers of remains (except for the samples 7, 8, 14) and were similar to one another despite differences in litre concentrations. They were dominated by staple food cereal crops and were associated with a lower amount of seeds of plants from arable and disturbed ground. This is similar to assemblages from other Iron Age/Romano British sites. It is possible that emmer and spelt were grown together in the past. In assemblages, they are often found together, with emmer predominating in assemblages from the prehistoric period, and spelt being the predominant during the Roman period. The abundance of spelt in samples (from across the site) suggests a late Iron Age/Romano-British date for all samples.

Both glume wheat and barley hulls need to be removed if the crop is intended for human consumption. Possible evidence for the parching of glume wheat was seen in sample 7, containing an excess of chaff and a large amount of grain. Hulled barley grains were commonly identified in the samples. Other activity evidenced was the accidental/deliberate burning of food preparation debris – with weed seeds similar in size to the grains picked out – and the burning of food spillage (Van der Veen 2007), this was seen in samples 8 and 14.

There were too few samples to draw any broad distinction between the Iron Age and Roman phase activity. The samples abundant in archaeobotanical remains, samples 7 and 14, were from Roman ditch and pit fills from Areas 1 and 2 respectively, whilst sample 8 was from an entrance post-pipe of Iron Age Roundhouse 1 in Area 1. It is interesting that the Roman features produced some abundant remains, where other domestic rubbish such as pottery was little in evidence and would otherwise have suggested that the focus of activity lay further west.

Conclusion

The assemblage from this site was good, archaeobotanical remains were found in each sample, in low concentrations, and in three samples in abundance. This provided evidence for agricultural activity on and near to site: crop husbandry, crop processing, food preparation and spillage. In future works on site or nearby, sampling of soil is highly recommended.

Discussion

Establishing a chronology or detailed phased development of archaeological activity at Leaders Farm is difficult given the dearth of dateable artefacts, coupled with the general lack of intercutting features. Where phasing could be recorded, re-cuts tended to obliterate earlier features leaving it difficult to fully decipher the evidence. However, results can broadly be divided into four phases of activity dating to the prehistoric, Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman periods.

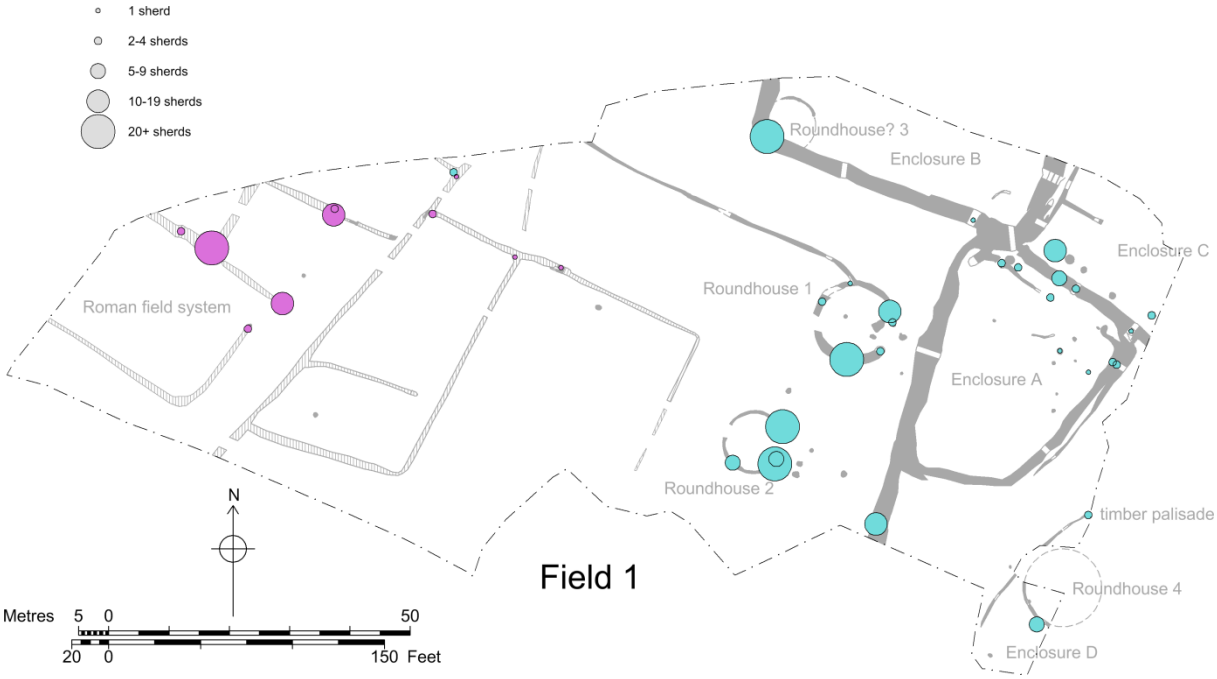

Figure 35: Distribution of Iron Age (blue) and Roman (purple) pottery across Area 1.

Prehistoric activity

A handful of residual worked flint was recovered during the excavation. These were predominately of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, derived from local till-derived semi-translucent flint. This is consistent with other pieces found during fieldwalking of Field 2 by the Lutterworth Fieldwork Group (HER finds spot MLE7034). One piece is much older, however, probably a variant of a Final Upper Palaeolithic Penknife Point. Overall, the assemblage demonstrates that there has been human movement through the southern Leicestershire landscape for the last 10,000 or more years.

Iron Age activity

Settlement chronology and morphology

Iron Age archaeological deposits in Area 1 can be divided into four possible phases of activity, inferred from a combination of stratigraphic relationships and artefact assemblages (or absence thereof). Activity is typical of Middle or Later Iron Age occupation, a series of sub-rectangular enclosure associated with one or more circular building, ancillary structures and activity. Such sites are well documented from aerial reconnaissance and field survey across the region and evidently represent the farmsteads of small family or kin groups (Willis 2006, 101).

The pottery assemblage from the site belongs to the East Midlands scored ware tradition current from the 4th or mid-3rd century BC to the earlier 1st century AD (Elsdon 1992, 85), but in view of the high proportion of scoring recorded, a date in the Late Iron Age, 1st century BC or early 1st century AD is more likely. In the absence of other dateable material, however, dating of the Iron Age activity cannot be more precise.

Phasing is also problematic. It is suggested that Roundhouse 1 pre-dates Enclosure A because the fan of alluvial material (363) spilling out of the southern terminal [77] of its penannular ditch is clearly truncated by the

enclosure ditch. This, coupled with the absence of domestic material in all five phases of the western enclosure ditch, closest to the roundhouse, in complete contrast to the assemblage in the roundhouse ditch itself, suggests that the two might not be contemporary. Roundhouse 2 has no relationship with other features in the area, making it difficult to place it confidently in the site's chronological framework. Its relationship with Roundhouse 1 is inferred from other Iron Age sites in the East Midlands which often uncover a pattern of 'paired' circular buildings (Willis 2006, 111), such as those at Enderby (Clay 1992; Meek 1997; Meek *et al* 2004) or Huncote (Meek *et al* 2004; Shore 2001). Roundhouse 3 is thought to pre-date Enclosure B. Although it has no physical relationship with the enclosure ditch, its position close to the enclosure's corner means it must either pre- or post-date the enclosure if it is to form a complete circle. With no evidence for it post-dating the enclosure, which should have survived, pre-dating seems more likely.

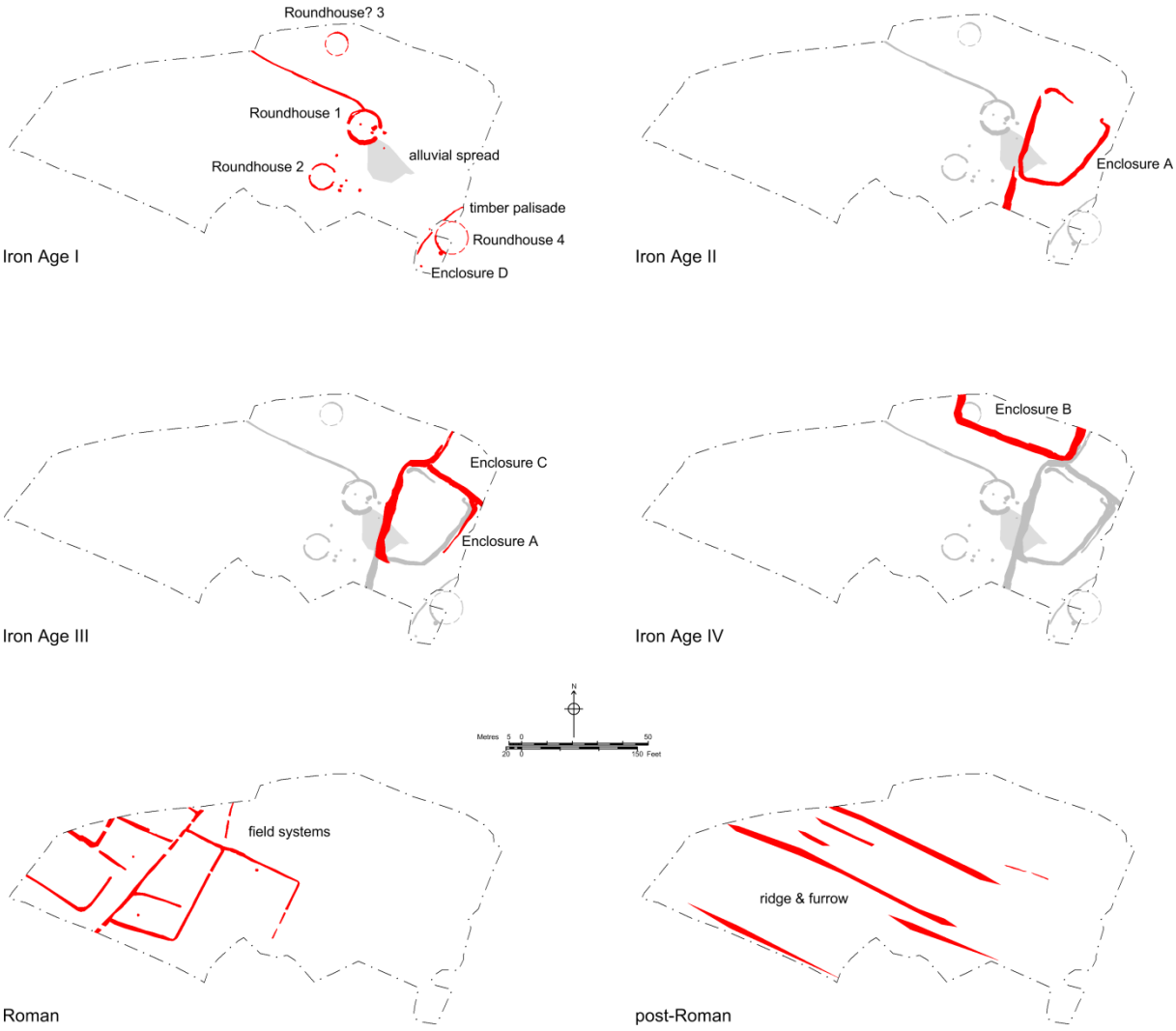

Figure 36: Possible phasing of activity across Area 1.

Leached fills and difficult to define features in the south-east corner of Area 1 might suggest that the oldest activity on the site is Enclosure D and Roundhouse 4 (Iron Age I). However, this diffuseness could equally be attributed to local geological conditions, this part of the site being sandier than elsewhere. Nothing in the pottery assemblage from Enclosure D suggests that the features are necessarily of earlier date. Evidence suggests an enclosed settlement containing at least one circular building within stockade fenced with a timber palisade. Less than one quarter of the circular building was present in the project area and the nature of the activity associated with it is uncertain but a projected size for the roundhouse, based on the curve of the eaves-drip gully, suggests it was probably *c.*12-13m in diameter.

The palisade comprised a deep, narrow trench dug to support freestanding posts. A post-pipe in slot [220] suggests that the timbers were typically *c.*100m in diameter, whilst impressions left in the soft sand along the base of the trench show that they were spaced *c.*50-80mm apart. Excavation of a Late Iron Age palisaded enclosure has been documented at Normanton le Heath in north-west Leicestershire (Thorpe *et al.* 1994) whilst the early phase of the Middle Iron Age enclosure at Wanlip, just north of Leicester, suggests that its perimeter was originally fenced or palisaded too (Beamish 1998); and Willis suggests that monuments of this type might not be particularly uncommon, although their identification and excavation is rare (2006, 101).

West of Enclosure D, unenclosed settlement based around two circular buildings (Roundhouses 1 and 2) is suggested, with a third building (Roundhouse 3) possibly also associated. It remains unclear whether these roundhouses are extra-enclosural occupation associated with Enclosure D or unrelated to it. Small settlements and farmsteads of this period can be unenclosed or enclosed, the former often sitting in a wider landscape of field-systems whilst the latter usually had unenclosed origins (Clay 2001, 6). This is certainly the case at Leaders Farm. Evidence shows that the three roundhouses were at least initially extra-enclosural, all most likely pre-dating Enclosures A-C; although it cannot be ruled out that provision of some of these enclosures may have subsequently occurred during the buildings' lifetime.

Of the three, Roundhouse 1 was the largest, its penannular ditch enclosing an area *c.*11m in diameter. The other two were smaller, both about *c.*9-9.5m in diameter. Where observed, entrances, in common with other sites (Beamish 1998; Clay 2001), were orientated to the south-east (Roundhouse 1) or east (Roundhouse 2). Internally, there was little evidence for the structure of Roundhouse 1 and none for Roundhouses 2 or 3, both of which appear to have been enclosed by shallower eaves-drip gullies. Surfaces did not survive so it remains unknown how much horizontal truncation the site has suffered over the last 2000 years. Two groups of post-holes and stake-holes clustered close to the entrance through the penannular gully in Roundhouse 1 presumably mark the position of door posts or a porch structure, *c.*1.6m wide and a single post-hole in the interior is probably evidence for internal structures or supports.

Water management around Roundhouse 1 is curious. The deep 'eaves-drip' gully is better thought of as a ditch surrounding the building and it appears to have been intended to hold a large volume of water. This must be deliberate for a gully joining the penannular ditch from the north-west would have brought water downslope to the building. The large fan of alluvial material (363) spreading south-east out of the ditch's south-eastern terminal is perhaps testament to the uncontrolled escape of water from the ditch on occasions when it reached capacity.

At Enderby it has been suggested that a pattern of 'paired' circular buildings, such as Roundhouses 1 and 2, represent a division between living and working space; with the larger, more substantial buildings typically interpreted as houses for a large family group and the slighter structures interpreted variously as kitchens, workshops or animal byres (Clay 1992; Meek 1997; Meek *et al* 2004). However, in instances where artefact assemblages do not differentiate between structures it might be that 'paired' buildings represent domestic arrangements where status, age or other social factors were also potential determinants of who live where and how (Willis 2006).

Slight differences were apparent in the finds assemblages recovered from the gullies surrounding Roundhouses 1 and 2 but both bore evidence of domestic activity, notably food preparation. Large quantities of pottery, fire-cracked pebbles, and charcoal and charred cereal grains were present around both buildings, along with smaller quantities of animal bone, all typical of domestic waste. However, evidence of specific domestic tasks was found around Roundhouse 1, fragments of an oven plate and quern stone are good signs of cooking, whilst a loom weight is a sure sign of another job, weaving.

Charting the development of the main enclosures (A-C) is difficult (Iron Age II-IV). Enclosure ditches all exhibited extensive evidence of redevelopment, which in many instances masked or obliterated earlier phases. However, three broad phases of change are suggested. Provision of enclosures on the site may be contemporary with occupation of one or more of the roundhouses. Domestic material was recovered from ditch [199], close to Roundhouse 2; whilst ditch [183], close to Roundhouse 1, also contained domestic material although sadly this could not be examined due to theft from the site. Overall, however, the enclosure ditches contained very little domestic material and much of the pottery assemblage was recovered from the north-east corner of Enclosure A, away from the roundhouses.

Excavation suggests that Enclosure A is likely to be the earliest of the three (Iron Age II). Two possible entrances can be inferred from the archaeological evidence, one in the enclosure's north-west corner [183] facing west towards Roundhouses 1 and 3; and one in the north-east corner facing north [51]. A boundary ditch [199/200] extending south from the south-west corner of the enclosure may also be an early feature. Subsequent remodelling of the enclosure (Iron Age III) slightly enlarged it to the north and east and removed the earlier entrances. Boundary ditch [199/200] appears to have disappeared during this phase but a new enclosure, Enclosure C, is probably added to the northern side of Enclosure A. Finally, Enclosures A and C may have both fallen out of use, or no longer been marked by ditches, before the establishment of Enclosure B (Iron Age IV), certainly the new enclosures position suggests it continued to respect earlier alignments.

Activity inside the three enclosures is scant and it is by no means clear whether it is contemporary with them. A scatter of post-holes, pits and gullies at the northern end of Enclosure A may be evidence of timber structures, perhaps fence lines surrounding stock pens; whilst many of the pits in Enclosure C were unremarkable and could easily be natural or vegetational in origin. These pits did appear to cluster along the ditch edge with Enclosure A, however, and if they are a product of vegetation, perhaps they represent a hedge-line running along the ditch edge.

Apart from the roundhouses, two two-post structures were also recorded; one outside Roundhouse 2 and another in Enclosure C. There has been much debate over what these structures represent and they have variously been interpreted as the settings for drying-frames, upright looms or hut remnants (Ellison & Drewett, 1971; Knight 1984), the latter being suggested at Wanlip (Beamish 1998, 34). The example outside Roundhouse 2 is unlikely to be part of the roundhouse's structure, being outside and to one side of the entrance through the eaves-drip gully. The two posts are spaced *c.*1.75m apart, a similar distance to the door posts in Roundhouse 1, and post-pipes suggest that the posts were 0.16-0.2m in diameter. Perhaps they are the remnants of another building although it is equally plausible that they represent some other sort of structure erected outside the entrance to the roundhouse. In Enclosure C, pits [24] and [159] were larger than those outside Roundhouse 2. Post-pipes in the centre of each pit suggest they would have housed tapered posts *c.*0.4-0.45m in diameter, spaced *c.*2.75m apart. These are sizeable timbers and suggest that this structure was of substantial construction; perhaps part of a building although their proximity to the boundary ditch dividing Enclosures A and C, on the same alignment as a postulated hedge-line, might suggest gate posts marking an entrance-way or bridge between enclosures.

Environment and economy

One aim of the excavation was to recover information on the environment and economy of the site. Although the 2011 evaluation had demonstrated that the archaeobotanical survival was likely to be poor, a soil sampling strategy was implemented to recover charred plant remains and try and provide information on activities being carried out on and in the vicinity of the site. Animal bone was also recovered from a number of features, although information from this is limited by the small size of the assemblage, its poor preservation and high fragmentation levels which has led to a survival bias towards larger species. Unfortunately, the quantities of plant remains and animal bone recovered do not allow for a comparison between Iron Age and Roman activity, the limited information recovered being broadly the same for both periods.

A mixed economy is suggested from the animal bone and grain recovered from the site. Cattle and horse are the dominant domestic species present, although no bones of small creatures survived. The 2011 evaluation (Speed 2012) also recovered some bone fragments from medium sized animals, presumed to indicate the presence of sheep and pigs. A small quantity of burnt bone recovered from the gully surrounding Roundhouse 1 may represent hearth sweepings, whilst butchery marks found on some of the evaluation assemblage indicate that it derived from domestic waste.

Charred plant remains were dominated by staple food cereal crops such as wheat and barley, with lower amounts of weed seeds from arable/disturbed ground or grassland. One ditch [260] in the Roman field system in Area 1 produced a large quantity of chaff and grain, possible evidence of parching of glume wheat to prepare it for human consumption; whilst further evidence of arable cultivation can be inferred from the fragment of saddle quern recovered from Roundhouse 1 during the 2011 evaluation (X.A178.2011 Tr 3 (9) [8] SF1). Other potential foods on the site include hazel nut, brassicas and edible weeds such as goosefoot and sheep's sorrel. Some weed seeds mixed in with cereal grains were autumn germinating, suggesting that the cereals may be autumn sown. Other weeds are more typically associated with spring sown crops and garden cultivation, perhaps indicating a mixed planting schedule.

Sedge, a plant associated with damp ground, and grasses were also recorded. These could be taken as indicators of the surrounding environment but might also represent collection for kindling, roofing and building material or animal fodder.

Exploitation of wood resources for timber and fuel is suggested by charcoal collected from the site. Much of this was mature wood, from oak, hazel or alder, ash, hawthorn, field maple and rowan – species typical of both hedgerows and woodland. Considering the dependency on timber in all aspects of Iron Age society, from building to cooking, ready access to carefully managed woodland must have been a necessity, although this settlement's proximity to it still remains unclear.

Certainly, the Iron Age inhabitants at Leaders Farm were reliably making use of other local resources. The oven plate and loom weight recovered from Roundhouse 1 were both made from a sandy, iron rich clay with occasional angular flint inclusions; material consistent with the locally available boulder clay drift deposits.

The wider setting

Archaeological investigation over the last couple of decades has drastically improved our knowledge of Iron Age Leicestershire. Analysis of crop marks, earthworks, artefact scatters and excavated data shows that Middle and Later Iron Age sites had a preference for south-facing aspects with an average distance to water of 0.4km. Settlements of this period were typically single family or small kin group farmsteads with few hill forts or larger, aggregated settlements or 'proto' towns. These appear to have had a typical density of one Iron Age site per 2 sq km (Clay 2001).

The Iron Age landscape around Lutterworth is poorly understood and few sites are recorded within a 2km radius of the Leaders Farm settlement. As with many Iron Age sites, Leaders Farm has a south-facing aspect and overlooks a tributary valley of the River Swift, giving it shelter and ready access to water. The nearest known site of possible Iron Age origin is *c.*1km to the south-west near Moorbarns, where aerial photography has recorded a number of sub-rectangular enclosures, a substantial square enclosure, a sub-circular enclosure and a small group of parallel rows of pits (MLE1909, MLE1914; Pickering & Hartley 1985, 58-9).

As Clay observed of Enderby (1992, 37), proximity to water, potential exploitation of the river valley area, a commanding aspect and ready access to woodland and other areas of Iron Age occupation probably all influenced the location of the Leaders Farm settlement, and its excavation has added valuable new information for Iron Age occupation in the southern clay lands of Leicestershire.

Roman activity

No evidence of continuity into the Roman period was found at Leaders Farm and the Iron Age site appears to have been abandoned by the mid-1st century AD, if not earlier. Roman reuse of the site was present across the western half of Area 1 and in Area 2. This can be characterised as a system of small rectilinear fields or enclosures with no evidence of habitation within the project area. Pottery recovered from the ditch fills suggests that the fields are unlikely to pre-date the late 2nd century AD; whilst the largest assemblage of pottery, found in the ditch around Field 8 during the 2011 evaluation, was predominately of late 3rd or 4th century date. This would suggest that the fields are much later than the Iron Age activity, by at least 100-200 years, making it unlikely that one was influenced by the other, as the similarity in alignments might suggest. Instead, this is more likely to be a product of the site's topography, with ditches dug diagonal to the southerly slope to maximise the flow of water through them. This also appears to have been continued in the post-Roman period in the orientation of the ridge-and-furrow.

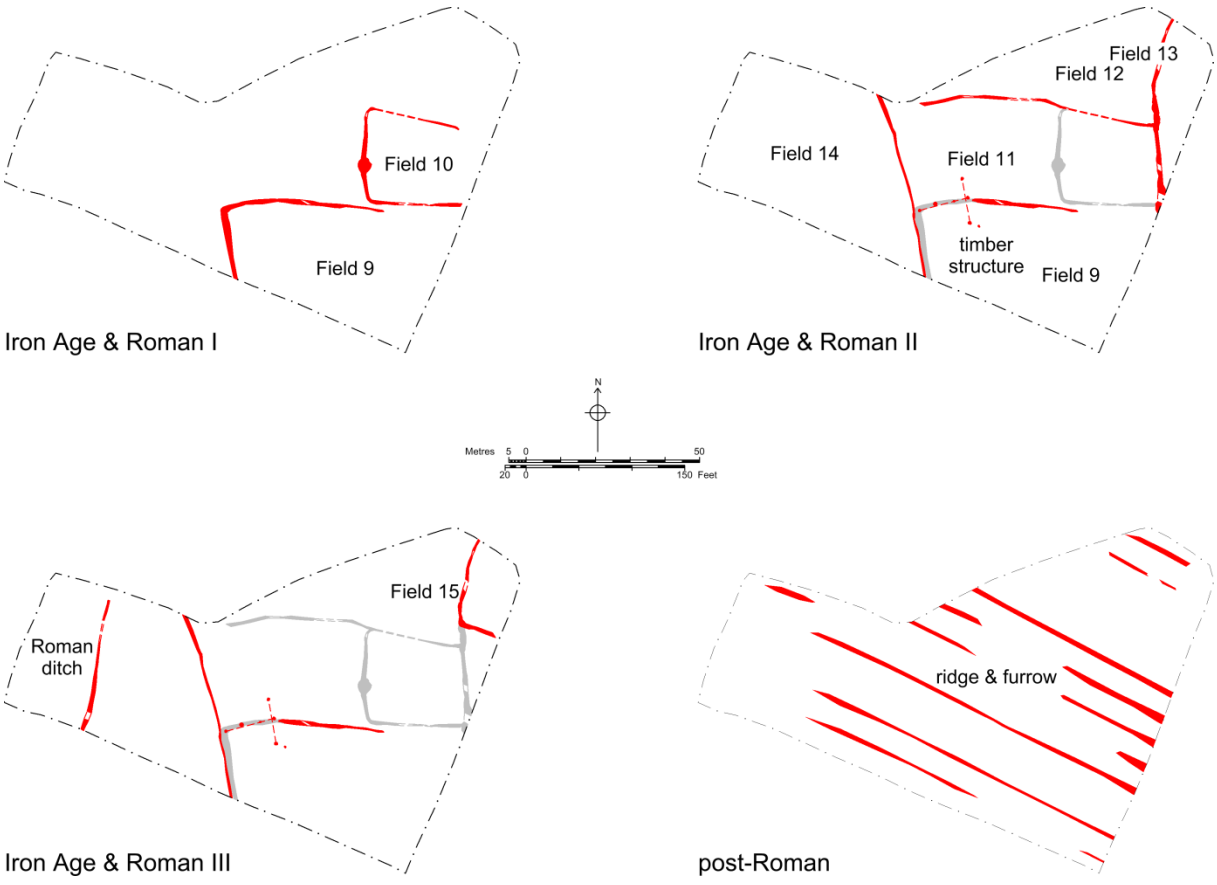

Figure 37: Possible phasing of activity across Area 2.

Most of the archaeology in Area 2 remains undated but the many small rectangular fields present had more in common with the Roman field system in Area 1 than the Iron Age activity and it seems likely that they are a continuation of the Roman activity. This cannot be said for certain, however, and they remain broadly phased to the Iron Age and Roman period.

Charting the distribution of pottery in the Roman ditches in Area 1 shows a distinct tendency for it to cluster in the north-west corner of the site. This might be an indication that the Roman occupation around which these fields are based is located to the north-west, perhaps on the crest of low ridge to the north of the site.

Like the Iron Age landscape, Roman activity around Lutterworth is poorly understood and few sites are recorded within a 2km radius of the Leaders Farm settlement, despite the presence of the important Roman road, Watling Street (today the A5) just 2km west of the site. One villa site is tentatively identified on the crest of the ridge on the opposing side of the valley, *c.*700m to the south-east of the site. So it is not unreasonable to suggest that there may be another in the vicinity of Leaders Farm.

Post-Roman activity

Activity post-dating the Roman period in Area 1 and Area 2 was solely ridge-and-furrow of medieval and/or post-medieval date. This was observed crossing both fields on the same alignment, north-west to south-east, suggesting that the two areas may have originally been one field. Indeed, increased thickness of topsoil and subsoil along Field 1's eastern side, at right-angles to the ridge-and-furrow, may be the remains of a headland and this broadly continued as a former field boundary dividing Field 2. Ridge and furrow visible on the 2011 geophysical survey in Field 2 appears to respect this field boundary too.

In Field 3, and continuing south of the A4303, is a large, very faint sub-rectangular earthwork of unknown date but possibly related to the medieval ridge and furrow. The geophysical survey in 2011 recorded a series of strong positive and negative linear anomalies, some of which are on the lines of the earthworks and some of which run south-west to north-east away from it (Biggs 2011). The following evaluation found that it measured *c.*210m north to south by *c.*47m east to west. A 50m long trench excavated across its eastern side found that it was formed of three soil layers, the original bank being about *c.*9.5m wide but with erosion spreading material to either side making it *c.*25m wide in total (Speed 2012). No finds were recovered.

One objective of the 2012 excavation was to investigate this earthwork in greater detail. Three more trenches were excavated across its northern bank and interior. These produced similar evidence to the evaluation, finding nothing to suggest the bank was deliberately constructed. Again, no finds were recovered leaving it difficult to date accurately. As the geophysical survey does show that medieval ploughing respects the earthwork, changing direction to either side of it, it does seem likely that it is related to the ridge-and-furrow on the site, most likely natural build-up of soil along headlands between different areas of the medieval open-field.

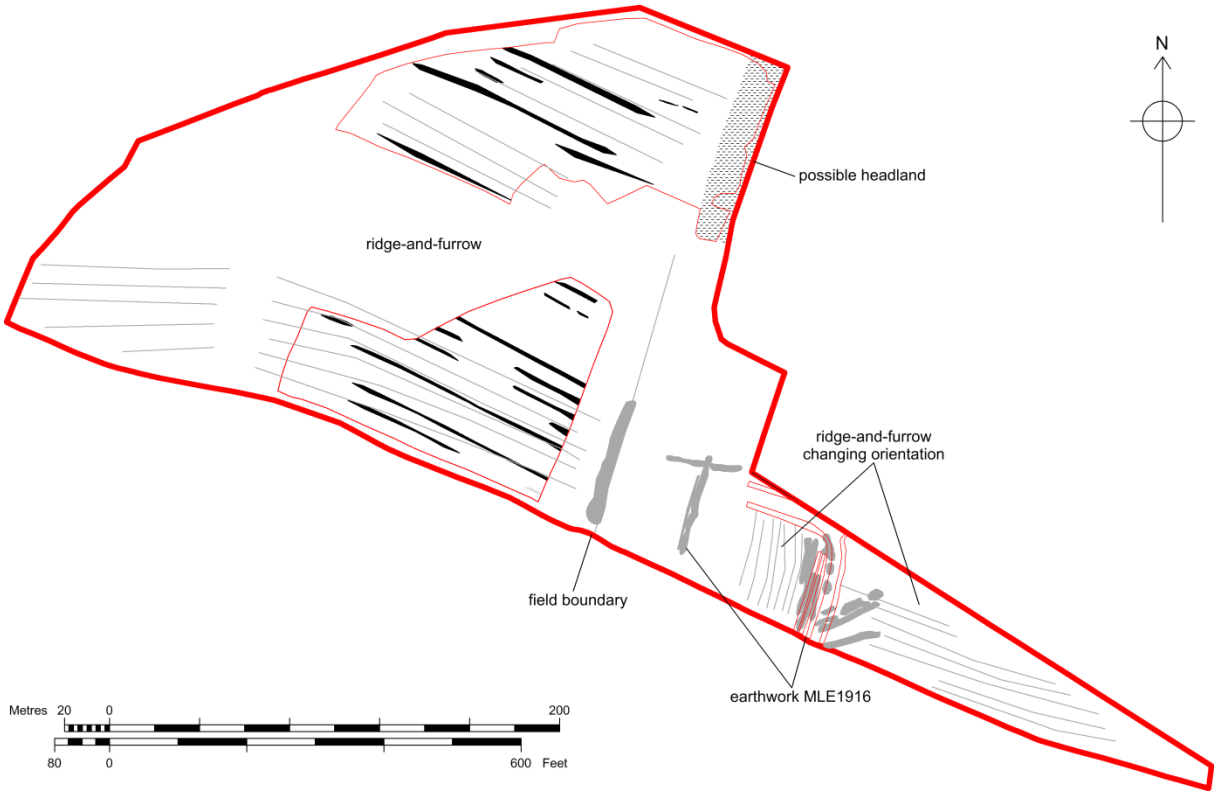

Figure 38: Ridge and furrow at Leaders Farm from geophysical survey (grey) and excavation (black).

Archive

The site archive consists of a site indices, context sheets, plan and section drawings, digital and monochrome photographs, trench sheets and assorted field notes, survey data, pottery, flint, industrial material, metalwork, animal bone, and environmental samples.

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A172.2013.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York (see Table 15).

Table 15: Summary of OASIS information

Project OASIS no.	Universi1-195850
Project Name	Leaders Farm, Lutterworth
Project Type	Excavation
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
Previous/Future work	2011 Geophysical survey, 2012 trial trench evaluation
Current Land Use	Arable
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co-ordinates	SP 5302 8423
Start/end dates of field work	24/10/2013 to 06/12/2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museum Service
Study Area	1.9ha

A summary of the work has also been submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* (Morris 2014, 176-178).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to extend its thanks to the client Bellway Homes (East Midlands) Ltd. for their assistance and co-operation through the project. Thanks also to Dave Brown, Steve Stell and the staff of JoinPoint for their excellent assistance during the excavation, particularly their masterful soil stripping and soil management under very difficult conditions; and also to Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologists for Leicestershire, for her advice and support throughout the project.

Fieldwork was directed by Mathew Morris and Steve Baker with the assistance of Hypatia Atheria, Adam Clapton, Donald Clark, James Harvey (GPS survey), Rebecca Hearne, Ruth Humphreys, Luis Huscroft, Richard Huxley, Nathan Flavell, Chris Lawson, Andrew McLeish, Margaret Nah J, Paul Sharrock, Tom Slater and Adrian Turner.

Post-excavation analysis was undertaken by Mathew Morris (stratigraphy & plans), Nicholas J. Copper (pottery, fire clay & metalwork), Lynden Cooper (flint), Jennifer Browning (animal bone), Graham Morgan, Anita Radini and Rachel Small (environmental), Steve Baker (section drawings) and Heidi Addison (finds processing).

The report was written by Mathew Morris, who takes responsibility for any errors or omissions; with contributions from Jennifer Browning, Lynden P. Cooper, Nicholas, J. Cooper, Graham Morgan, Anita Radini and Rachel Small. The project was managed for ULAS by Patrick Clay.

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