University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Excavation on Land off Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland NGR: SK 855 092

Steve Baker

ULAS Report No. 2015-066

An Archaeological Excavation on Land off Huntmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland NGR: SK 855 092

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For Bellway Homes

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Summary

Archaeological excavations by ULAS at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland (SK 855 092) on behalf of Bellway Homes revealed an extensive area of activity from the Neolithic/Bronze Age to the Late Saxon/Early medieval period and an Iron Age/transitional "aggregated" settlement. The latter consisted of two enclosed roundhouses developed after, and in relation to, a 'main' and re-used ditch, and evidence of further 'open' occupancy. Settlement on the site was evidently long-lived, focused on the Iron Age/transitional period, declined or changed in nature in the 1st century AD, and increased again in the late Anglo-Saxon period. The site probably represents the same settlement revealed at Catmose College to the north-west and is comparable in type and development to other settlements in Rutland and Leicestershire, adding to the regional knowledge of sites from this period. Although the finds assemblage was small, it offered some indication of the changing function of the site over time. Limited environmental information suggests that the site existed within a largely cleared landscape with areas of open grassland and possibly agricultural fields nearby, although wooded areas must still have existed in the vicinity. Although it is thought that the inhabitants of the settlement were involved in mixed farming, an emphasis on pastoralism is suggested. Evidence for metal working and food processing was also recovered.

Introduction

Planning permission has been granted to Bellway Homes for a residential development on land at Barleythorpe Road/Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland (Pre-planning enquiry; NGR SK 855 092, Fig.1). This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological excavation that was undertaken between April and July 2014 to mitigate damage to buried archaeological remains from the development proposals. It addressed the requirements of the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC PPA) as advisor to the planning authority for excavation following pre-determination evaluation. A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation, (Clay 2011, hereinafter 'WSI'; Appendix 4). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2010).

Site description, Topography and Geology

The site is located to the west of the historic core of Oakham, east of Huntsmans Drive and west of Barleythorpe Road (Figure 1). It consists of approximately 1.2ha of relatively level land with a slight fall to the east, lying approximately 114m above Ordnance Datum. The areas were formerly used as open recreation/pasture land, with the southern area previously occupied by primary school buildings and attached playing fields. Housing bordered the site to the west and south and a residential home was located on the eastern edge of the development area. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicated that the underlying geology consisted of Marlstone Rockbed, although there were significant variations in the geology across the area once it had been stripped.

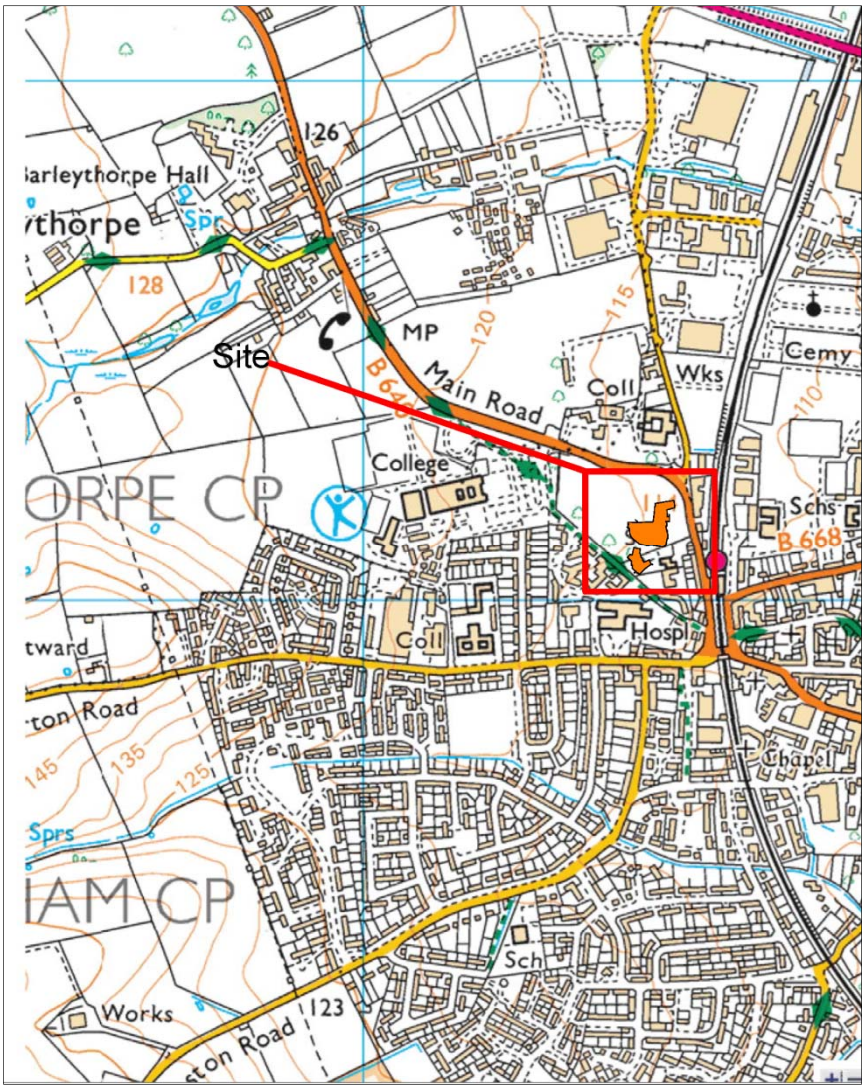


Figure 1 - Site Location

Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment was produced for the area (Clarke and Clay 2011) and showed the good archaeological potential of the development site. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies within an area of archaeological interest. It is west of the historic settlement core of Oakham and close to areas rich in archaeological sites including Bronze Age ring ditches north-west of Lonsdale House (MLE5020-1) and south of Barleythorpe Stud (MLE 16640) and Iron Age and Roman settlements north-east of Catmose College (MLE16973; MLE17078; MLE16974; MLE 18637).

Following the desk-based assessment, an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on the land by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 29th November and the 6th December 2011 (Higgins 2012). The archaeological potential of the site was proven by the results of this evaluation, which consisted of nine trial trenches excavated across the application area.

Towards the south-west corner of the site, two of the excavated trenches contained archaeological remains including ditches, post-holes and pits. Pottery dating to the 11th-13th century was present in

one of these features. To the north, five of the trenches contained ditches, post-holes and pits. One ditch contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman Conquest period together with slag, burnt daub and animal bone.

While many of the features were undated, the archaeological evaluation revealed evidence of Iron Age-Roman activity in the north-eastern part of the proposed development area and medieval activity in the south-western. The Iron Age and Roman remains may be associated with other similarly dated settlement deposits located to the west (MLE16973; MLE17078; MLE16974; MLE18637) indicating a wider area of settlement. The medieval remains of 11th- to 13th-century date are potentially of more significance as they may indicate that the historic core of Oakham extended further to the north and west than had previously been thought.

Aims and Objectives

All mitigation work was considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al* 2012), along with targeting national research aims, highlighted as English Heritage's critical research priorities for the prehistoric and Roman periods (EH 2010, EH 2012). Potential research objectives that this scheme might contribute towards included the following:

Late Iron Age (Willis 2006; Knight et al 2012, 58-69; EH 2010, 11-18): The evaluation results suggest there is Iron Age evidence which will be affected by the scheme. 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 was recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence could potentially have provided information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts provided evidence for evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas.

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al. 2012, 70-81): The evaluation results suggest there is Roman evidence which will be affected by the scheme. There are several Roman sites within the vicinity and the excavations contributed to knowledge on rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts could have potentially identified trade links and economy.

These research aims were identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims were re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

Excavation Methodology

For the purposes of identification and recording the development area was stripped and subsequently excavated in four different stages named areas 1 – 4, after initial and ongoing mitigation with the on-site developers (Figure 2). The total area of the archaeological investigation was *c.*0.54ha. Area 1, the first area opened in the centre of the development, was stripped in April 2014 and comprised *c.*0.19ha. Area 2, immediately to the east, covered *c.*0.12ha and was stripped in May 2014. Areas 3 and 4 were stripped in June of the same year; Area 3 consisting of *c.*0.12ha, and Area 4, covering *c.*0.11ha, to the immediate north and *c.*35m south of the central area respectively. A metal detecting survey was carried out over the whole area following the removal of the topsoil and after the archaeological level had been exposed.

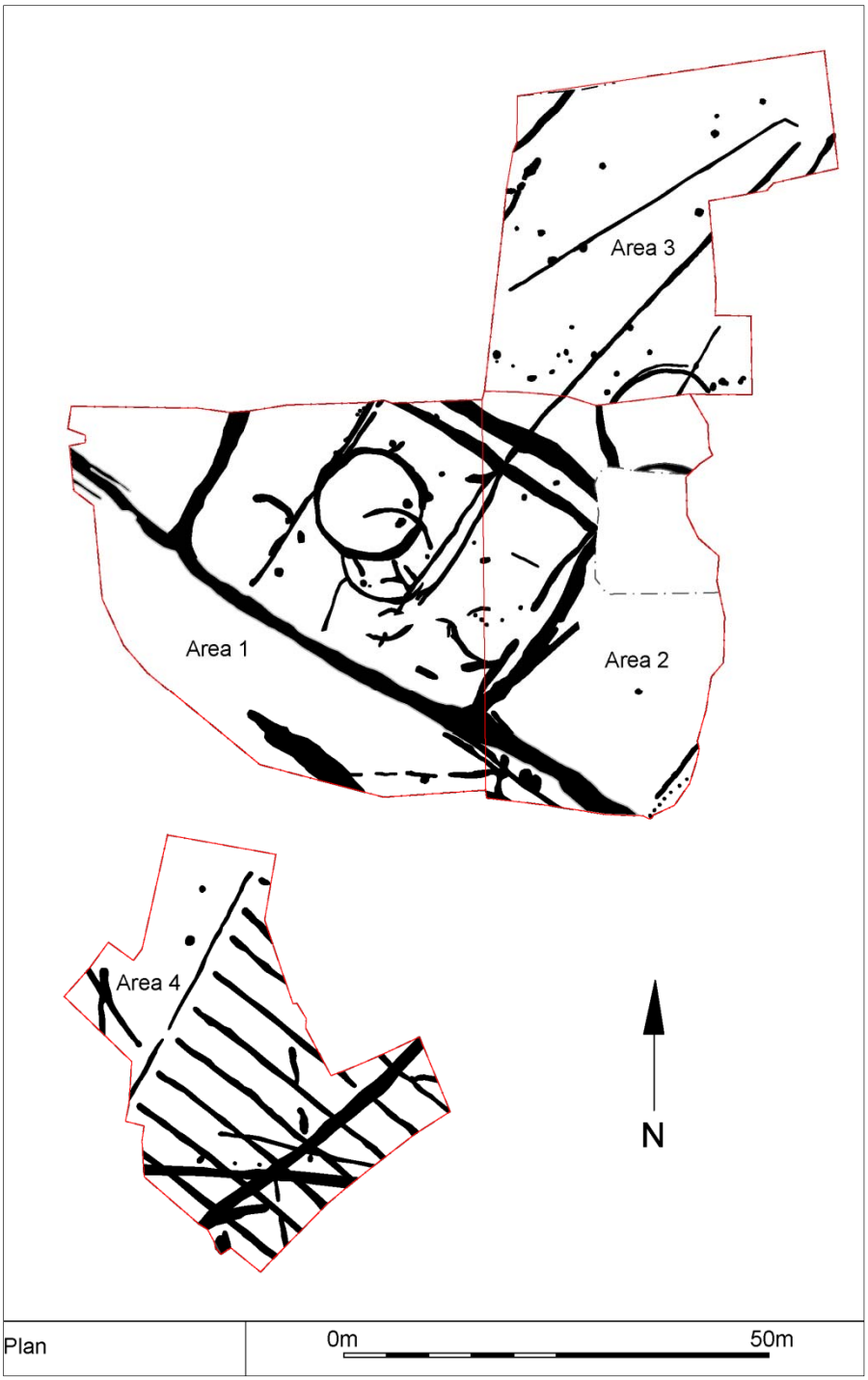


Figure 2 - Archaeological Features

Following the machine stripping, the exposed areas were planned using a Topcon GTS303 Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a prism hand-held data logger. The resulting data were processed using n4ce survey software and CAD drawing software to produce site plans at a variety of scales. This procedure enabled the swift production of site plans to aid site excavation strategy and as a guide for preliminary analysis (e.g. spatial distribution of feature types, finds and initial spot dating).

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (2008). The LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland (1997) were also followed.

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These ensured that project targets were met and professional standards maintained. Unlimited access to monitor the project was available to the client and his representatives, the planning authority, and the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one week's notice was given prior to commencement of the recording work in order that monitoring arrangements could be made.

Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully across the area of the site in level spits under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Each area was excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation *in situ* or more detailed investigation by hand excavation.

Areas were selectively examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

Linear features such as gullies and ditches were evenly sampled along their length and particular attention was paid to the terminals and intersections with other features. Where possible, ring gullies and enclosure ditches were sampled using a consistent strategy where sections for excavation included both entrance terminals and at least one straight sample through the linear.

Where possible, excavated slots were *c.*1m in length and separate cut and different context numbers were allocated for each sample through the same features to determine the location of finds. Discrete post-holes and pits were generally half-sectioned unless deemed otherwise. They were fully excavated after the half-section was drawn if considered important or an item in a larger group. Particular attention was again given to instances of interrelationships with other features. Towards the end of the excavation, sections across the larger enclosure and other ditches were excavated using a JCB mechanical digger. This was a measure taken to save time, ensure a representative sample of the features were recorded and to examine all possible relationships to aid site phasing. All machine cuts were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and separate fill layers were carefully removed in sequence to maximise finds retrieval and ensure they were correctly provenanced.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All plans were then tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate.

An adequate photographic record of the investigations was undertaken to illustrate in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. This record was compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

Finds

The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work was adhered to.

Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number was agreed with the Planning Archaeologist and used to identify all records and finds from the site.

All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client were deemed to be the property of ULAS, on the basis that ULAS, after due examination of such discoveries would transfer ownership of them unconditionally to the appropriate authority (in this case, Rutland County Museum) for storage in perpetuity.

All identified finds and artefacts were retained, although certain classes of building material were, in some circumstances, discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

All finds and samples were treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they were cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This included the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds were bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context.

Environmental Sampling

Features that were identified as having potential for environmental remains were sampled according to a strategy and methodology developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples was carried out in accordance with current best practice.

The sampling strategy included the following:

A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases were selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection was based on deposits that were are datable, well-sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

Spot samples were taken where concentrations of environmental remains were located.

All collected samples were labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

Appropriate contexts (i.e. datable) were bulk sampled (50 litres or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs was normally achieved through processing other bulk samples or 50 litre samples were taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

Wet sieving with flotation was carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh was used initially, as flotation of plant remains may have been incomplete and some may have remained in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank was separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions were then sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots were evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent were sorted. The prioritised flots were not sorted until

the analysis stage when phasing information was available. Flots were scanned and plant remains from selected contexts were identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

The aim of the strategy was to increase the likelihood of recovering small material remains, animal bones and other environmental remains to enhance information about activity areas.

Excavation Results

Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age Activity (Figure 3, A - K)

Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age activity was indicated by a spread of shallow pits and possible post-holes located in Area 3 which contained quantities of worked flint. A number of features, although undated, may be related to this activity by virtue of their close spatial associations. Residual lithics from later features across the excavated area hinted at a wider area of activity. A cluster of features at the northern end of Area 3 appears to represent contemporary activity dating broadly to the Neolithic/Bronze Age (Figure 3). Five truncated circular pits, **[601] (C) [613] (F) [623] (G) [627] (H) & [655] (K)** were dated by flints to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

The central Pit **[623] (G) (**Figure 3) was just 0.06m deep with a diameter of 0.50m. The profile was almost 'bowl-like' with a flat base. The light-brown silty clay single fill **(622),** contained a flint end scraper **(SF112)** dating to the Bronze Age.

To the north-west of this, a similar-sized Pit **[627] (H) (**Figure 3**,** Figure 4**)** was 0.09m deep, 0.67m in diameter and located *c.*13m east of **[623].** The sides were straight and sloped at *c.*80°, breaking relatively sharply with a flat base. The single silty clay fill **(626)** was somewhat mixed, generally light/mid-grey/brown with some mid-brown patches, and contained occasional charcoal. It also yielded what has been interpreted as a 'tool-kit' dating to the Early Neolithic. This included secondary flint flakes and serrated flakes dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age, two possibly Bronze Age scrapers, and a possibly 'exotic' combination tool made from black flint.

On the south-eastern edge of the cluster, circular Pit **[613] (F)** (Figure 3, Figure 4) was 0.23m deep, 0.60m wide and 0.70m in length. It was also 'bowl-shaped' in profile with sides sloping at *c.*45°. The single light-brown/grey silty clay fill **(612),** contained a secondary flint flake probably dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

A fourth sub-circular Pit **[655] (K) (**Figure 3**,** Figure 4**),** was located to the west, close to the edge of excavation. This feature survived to a depth of 0.18m and had a diameter of 0.53m with slightly concave sides merging with a central and concave base. Its single mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(654),** contained a secondary and tertiary flint flake probably dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

To the east of these pits a fifth similar feature lay close to the edge of Area 3 and had been truncated by modern activity. Directly south-west of **[621] (A) (**Figure 3**,** Figure 4**)** and along the same alignment, Pit **[601] (C)** (Figure 3, Figure 4) was investigated. It was sub-circular/slightly irregular, 0.10m deep, 0.69m wide with a slightly concave base. The surviving fill **(600)** consisted of mid-brown/grey silty clay, from which three secondary flint flakes dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age were recovered.

Three probable linear features lay in association with Pit **[601]** but were undated. Orientated north-east to south-west, feature **[621] (A)** (Figure 3, Figure 4) at a depth of 0.31m, width of 0.70m, where excavated, and investigated over a 1.10m slot, was tentatively interpreted as the terminus of a linear feature. The sides were *c.*60-70° merging with a concave and central base. The single mid- to dark-brown/grey fill **(620),** containing occasional charcoal, was devoid of finds. On the same alignment, feature **[596] (D) (**Figure 3**,** Figure 4**)** was identified as representing a ditch terminus, possibly continuing southwards as a curvilinear feature, and surviving to a depth of 0.22m and width of 0.51m. The *c.*60-70° sides merged with a central and concave base and the single mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(595)** was also devoid of finds.

Disappearing beneath the baulk and interpreted as possibly representing another terminus, Ditch **[598] (B)** (Figure 3, Figure 4) was recorded, on an east-west orientation. It appeared to respect the terminus **[596].** The profile described gently sloping sides merging with a slightly wavy base. It was 0.10m deep and 0.50m in width. The mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(597)** was devoid of finds.

Other isolated features in this area comprised several pits and post-holes that were undated but may have been related to the wider area of Earlier Prehistoric activity. Post-hole **[610] (E) (**Figure 3**,** Figure 4**)** was heavily truncated and survived to a depth of just 0.07m. It had a length of 0.38m and width of 0.34m. The profile was 'bowl-shaped'. The single silty clay fill **(609),** mid-brown/grey was devoid of finds. Circular post-hole **[625] (I)** (Figure 3, Figure 4) was 0.12m deep with a diameter between 0.35 – 0.39m. The *c.*45° sloping sides merged with a concave base. Single fill **(624),** mid-yellow silty clay with grey mottling, was also devoid of finds. Pit **[637] (J)** (Figure 3, Figure 4), also circular and surviving to a nominal depth of 0.05m, was heavily truncated. It had a diameter of 0.60m and the base was flat. Mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(636),** with yellow mottling, was without finds.

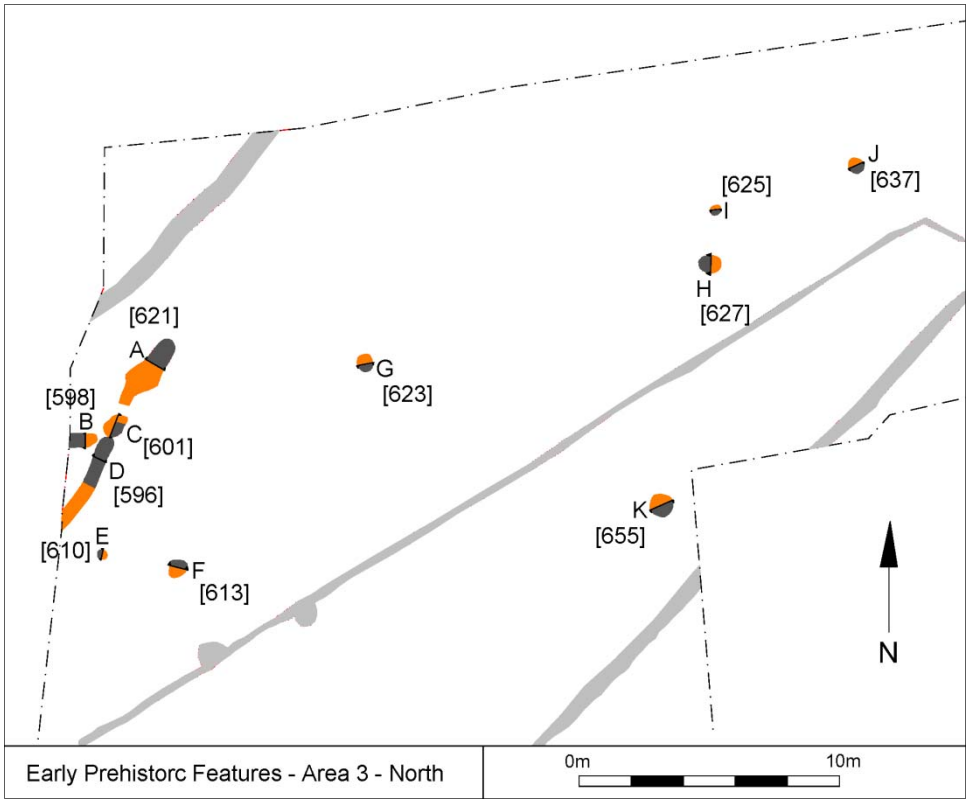
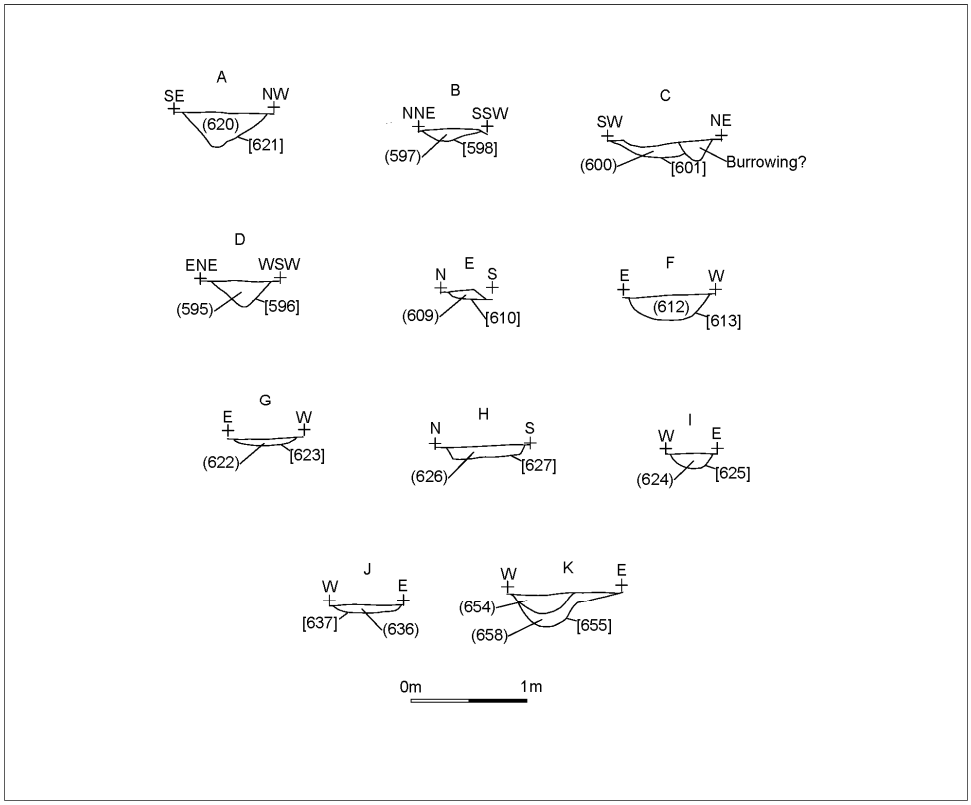


Figure 3 – Early Prehistoric Features (Area 3)



A – 112.4906m OD

B – 112.5107m OD

C – 112.4997m OD

D – 112.5422m OD

E – 112.4937m OD

F – 112.4814m OD

G – 112.3322m OD

H – 112.9974m OD

I – 112.0342m OD

J – 112.7426m OD

K – 112.1613m OD

Figure 4 - Early Prehistoric Feature Sections (Area 3)

Others Features - Area 3 (South) (Figure 5, A - I)

A number of discrete unrelated archaeological features **[512] (H) [514] (E) [523] (D) [531] (F) [547] (G) [551] (I) [572] (C) [574] (B) & [576] (A)** were identified during machining in the south-west corner of Area 3, to the north-west of the central linear feature running across the area of excavation. These consisted of pits and post-holes and were investigated and recorded as follows.

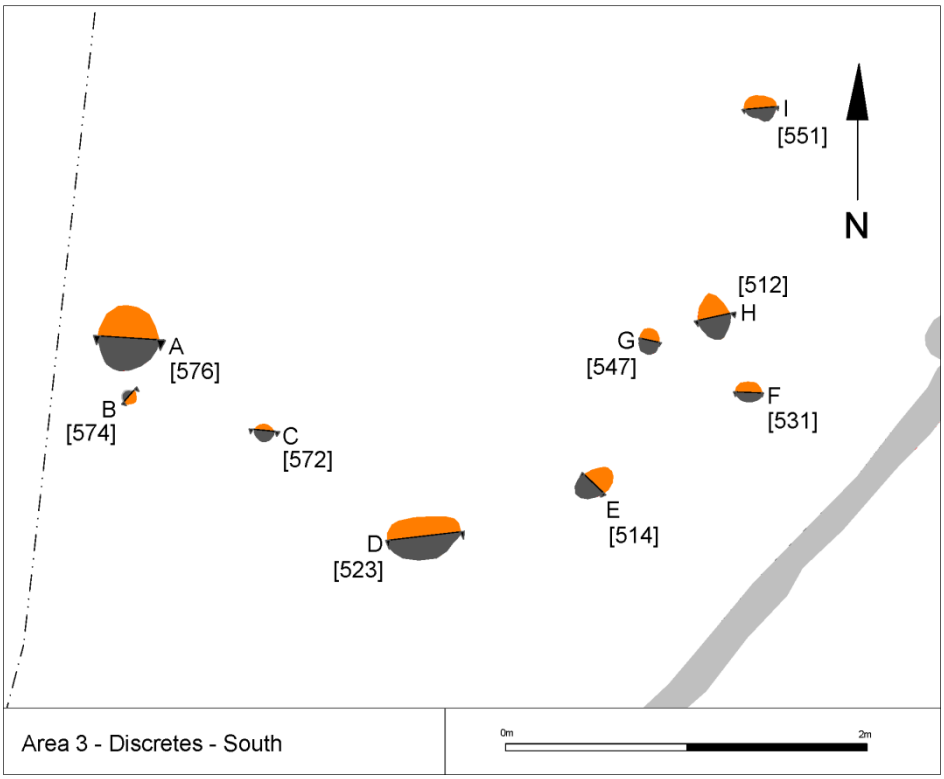


Figure 5 - Discrete Features (Area 3 South)

Alongside the western limit of excavation of Area 3, and *c*.4.0m from the north-west corner, Pit **[576] (A)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) was represented by a sub-circular cut with sides sloping at *c*.60°-70°, merging with a concave base. It survived to a depth of 0.29m and width of 0.85m. The single fill **(575),** of mid-brown/grey silty clay with moderate charcoal fragments, was devoid of finds.

Immediately south of the larger Pit **[576],** a relatively small and shallow circular Post-hole **[574] (B)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) was excavated. It was 0.09m deep with a diameter of 0.20m. The sides sloped at *c*.30°-40° to a 'U-shaped', central base. The single fill **(573),** of mid-yellow/brown silt clay was also devoid of finds.

Located *c*.1.70m to the east of the above post-hole, another slightly larger sub-circular post-hole, **[572] (C)** (Figure 5, Figure 6), with a diameter of 0.26m and depth of 0.11m, had steeper sides and a concave base. The single mid-grey/brown fill **(571)** was also devoid of finds.

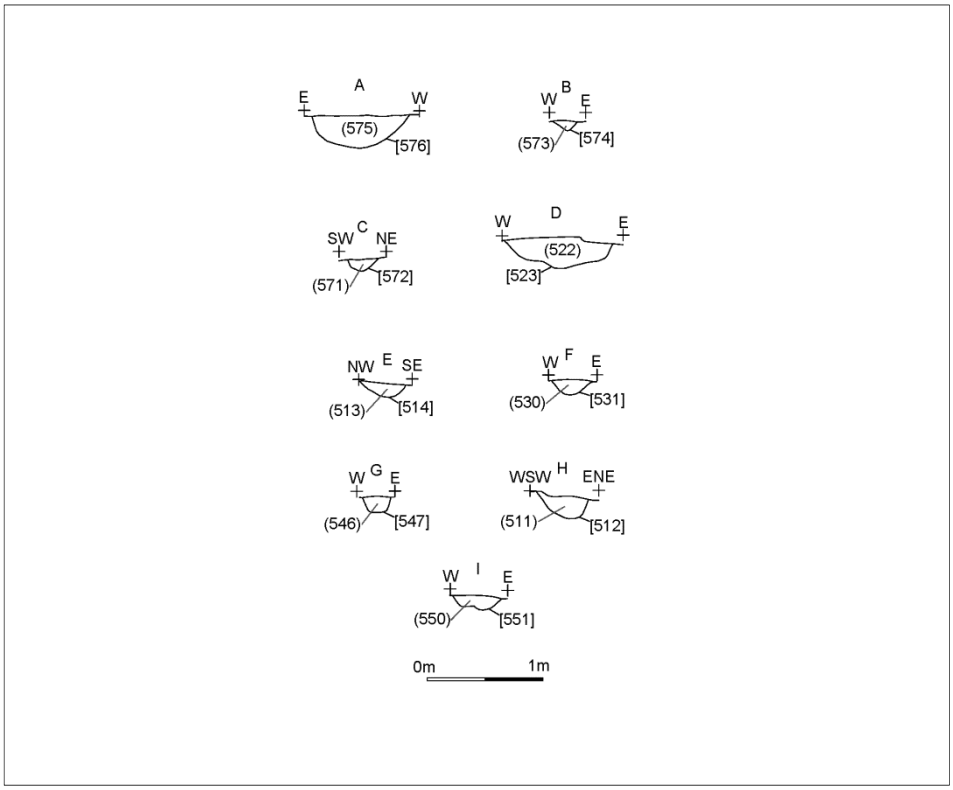
Post-hole **[523] (D)** (Figure 5, Figure 6), located c.2.0m further south-east, was an elongated oval shape in plan, with a width of 0.55m, length of 1.0m and survived to a depth of 0.24m. The profile was 'bowl-shaped'. The mid-grey/brown single fill **(522)** was again devoid of finds.

Post-hole **[514] (E)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) lay 1.71m to the east and slightly north of the above discrete feature and measured 0.14m deep, 0.40m wide and 0.50m long. It was sub-circular with a 'bowl-shaped' base and its mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(513)** was also devoid of finds.

A triangular cluster of three discrete post-holes was found *c*.1.65m to the north-east of the above. Sub-circular post-hole **[547] (G)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) had a diameter of 0.35m and depth of 0.14m. The nearly vertical sides broke quite sharply with a 'bowl-shaped' base and the light-grey/brown silty clay

fill **(546),** contained flint, including a chip, a flake fragment and serrated flake tenuously dated to the early Neolithic. To its east and slightly northwards, post-hole **[512] (H)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) was devoid of finds, It was oval and deeper at 0.18m, with a width of 0.33m and length of 0.45m. The west side, sloping at *c*.70° was steeper than the east at *c*.50°. The base was slightly westwards. The single fill **(511)** was mid-brown/orange silty clay. To the south and completing the triangle, another sub-circular post-hole **[531] (F)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) was 0.10m deep with a diameter between 0.26m – 0.32m. The profile was again 'bowl-shaped' and single mid-brown silty clay, with dark grey mottling, again without finds.

Post-hole **[551] (I)** (Figure 5, Figure 6) located *c*.2.50m north of the triangular cluster was slightly irregularly sub-circular and 0.10m deep, with a width of 0.30m and length of 0.35m. Again, the single fill **(550),** light-grey/brown silty clay with mid brown mottling, was devoid of finds.



A – 112.4861OD

B – 112.4415m OD

C – 112.4368m OD

D – 112.4815m OD

E – 112.3413m OD

F – 112.4253m OD

G – 112.4886m OD

H – 112.4204m OD

I – 112.3516m OD

Figure 6 - Discrete Feature Sections (Area 3 South)

Iron Age Occupation

At least two phases of Iron Age occupation were evident from the excavations. The earliest Iron Age feature was a prominent boundary ditch that extended beyond the limits of the excavation. This attracted later activity in the form of a two-phased enclosure, each phase associated with a roundhouse, which incorporated the boundary feature into its groundplan. Other curvilinear features, potentially indicative of roundhouses outside of the enclosures were also revealed but the evidence of these is not conclusive. One of these, to the south of Area 3, was interpreted as Roundhouse 3. Possible subdivisions, running across the internal enclosure area could be dated to the mid-late Iron Age or the transitional period.

Landscape Boundary Ditch (Area 1 and 2) (Figure 7, A - D)

The earliest evidence for Iron Age activity was represented by a substantial ditch traversing the centre of the excavation area on a north-west – south-east alignment. This boundary was revealed over a length of *c.*80m but extended beyond the limits of the excavation at either end indicating that it formed part of a major landscape boundary.

The ditch was sample excavated at four locations along its length (Figure 7 A-D) which revealed a long and complex history in the development and use of the boundary. The earliest ditch was represented by cuts **[161] (B), [213] (C), [477] (A)** and possibly **[221] (D).** This was later recut by a shallower feature **[163] (B)** during the Iron Age and a later recut in the early Roman period was represented by cuts **[218] (C)** and **[223] (D).** The line of the ditch was flanked by two parallel gullies; **[375] (A)** at the south-west end and **[219]** & **[227] (D)** at the north-west end, but it is unclear how they fit into the sequence of boundary development.

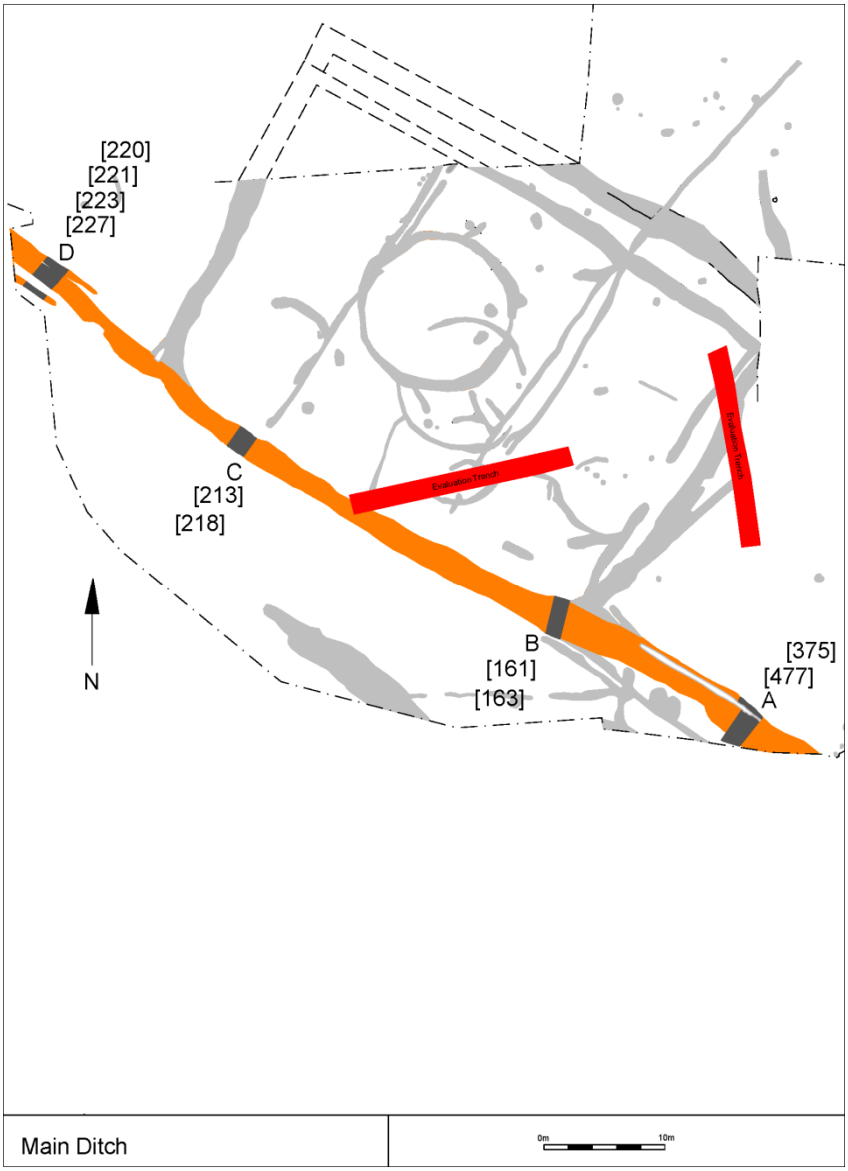


Figure 7 - Main Boundary Ditch (Area 1 and 2)

The south-eastern extent of the boundary ditch was investigated before it ran beneath the baulk at the corner of the excavation area and where there was also evidence for parallel gully features **(A).** Here

the ditch **[477] (A)** (Figure 7, Figure 9) was *c*.0.76m deep x 2.60m wide, had sloping edges and a narrow concave base. The feature contained a single fill of mid-brown/grey silty clay **(488)** that was devoid of finds. A shallow ditch/gully **[163]** cut through the backfilled remains of **[477]** on the south-west side. This was *c*.0.90m wide x 0.22m deep and contained a single fill of mid-grey/brown silty clay **(476),** from which Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered.

Immediately to the north of **[477]** was parallel gully **[375] (A)** (Figure 7, Figure 9) which measured 0.39m wide by 0.20m deep with slightly concave sides, approximately 45-50°, breaking gently with a central and concave base. The single fill **(381),** of mid-grey/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds and indistinguishable from the main ditch fill.

The relationship of the boundary ditch **[161]** with the south-east side of the enclosure **[163]** was investigated at Slot **(B).** Ditch **[161],** measured 0.92m deep and *c*.2.5m wide, and had straight, gradual sides, breaking sharply on the north-east side and 'stepped' towards the flat base. It contained a single fill **(162),** of light grey/brown clay silt that produced pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age.

The backfilled ditch was recut as a smaller gully **[163],** representing an extension of this later linear feature from Slot A. This gully, **[163]**, was 0.25m deep, and may represent the south-east boundary of the enclosure. It had *c*.45° straight sides and a flat base and a single mid-grey/brown clay silt fill **(164)** containing pottery dated to the mid/late Iron Age. The stratigraphic relationship between the two features was undetermined but it seems probable that the later recut phase of the main ditch post-dates the internal enclosure and the earlier phase pre-dates or was contemporary with the internal enclosure construction.

Further to the north-west, a third slot was excavated across the main ditch *c*.6m south-east of its inter-relationship with Enclosure 1 and 2**.** Here the earliest ditch **[213] (C)** (Figure 7, Figure 9) measured *c*.2.1m wide by *c*.0.70m deep and had gently sloping straight sides and a concave base. Ditch **[213]** contained two fills: **(214),** a mid-orangey/brown silty clay, 0.70m deep, with occasional charcoal and animal bone and **(215),** a darker brown clayey silt, 0.37m deep, with charcoal but devoid of finds. Evidence of recutting was identified at this point, confirming what was seen further north-west at the point where internal enclosure ditch met it. The ditch was recut as **[218]** with gently sloping sides and a concave 'U-shaped' base. It contained two distinct fills: a primary fill **(216),** of mid-orangey/brown silty clay, 0.5m deep and 1.6m wide, contained fragmentary bone and an upper fill **(217),** 0.19m deep, of mid-brown clayey silt which contained pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age and 1st century AD.

A final slot across the linear boundary identified ditch **[221] (D)** (Figure 7, Figure 9) as the earliest feature. This feature only partly survived due to a later re-cut, but had a fairly steep western side and hints of a slightly rounded base. It was filled with mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(222)** that was devoid of finds. The lack of evidence for this feature makes it difficult to be certain which of the Iron Age boundaries this feature relates to, but it does indicate that some form of linear boundary extended to the south-west.

The ditch was recut in the early Roman period by a steep sided ditch, with a rounded base **[223] (D)** (Figure 7, Figure 9). The later ditch had a depth of *c*.0.47m and width of 1.10m, and contained three separate fills. Primary fill **(226),** light-brownish/grey silty clay was 0.21m deep and 0.56m wide. It contained Belgic pottery dated to *c*.AD 30-60 and animal bone. Above this **(225)** consisted of mid-grey/brown silty clay, 0.25m deep and 1.10m wide, and was devoid of finds. The top fill **(224),** darker brownish/grey clay silt with occasional charcoal, contained pottery dated to the mid/late Iron Age and animal bone.

Two parallel gullies, running either side of the ditch were also investigated at this location. To the south-west, **[219] (D)** (Figure 9), measured *c*.0.90m deep and 0.59m wide, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its relationship to the main ditch remained undetermined. It contained a single mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(220),** devoid of finds. To the north-west, a second parallel linear gully **[227] (D)** (Figure 7, Figure 9) was *c*.0.13m deep and 0.49m wide. It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Single fill **(228),** of mid-brown/grey silty clay contained Belgic pottery dated to *c*.AD 30-60, Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Its relationship with the main ditch was also undetermined.

Figure 8 – Main Boundary Ditch [213], looking east

Overall, the main north-west to south-east ditch was more substantial than the other boundaries of the enclosure and the pottery recovered indicated that it was recut and continued in use at a later date, possibly being incorporated into later field systems. The boundary also continued outside the stripped area to the north-west and south-east, pointing to its wider use and importance in the area.

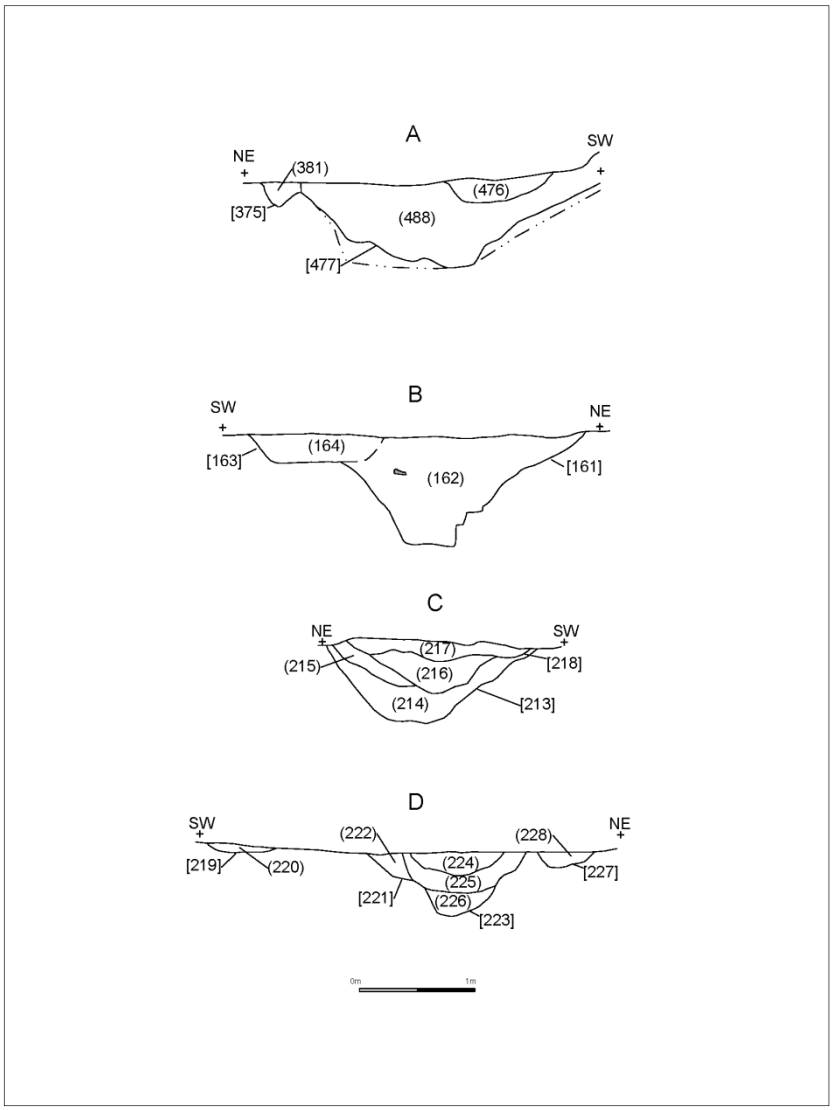


Figure 9 - Main Boundary Ditch Sections

Landscape Boundary Ditch – Associated Features (Area 1 and 2) (Figure 10, A - F)

A complicated series of ditches was located immediately to the south of the surviving south-eastern extent of the main ditch. Although producing sparse finds, pottery was recovered indicating a mid/late Iron Age date. Two features ran parallel to the main ditch and beneath the limit of excavation to the south-east, one of these merging with the main enclosure ditch further north-west, and another was orientated east-west. The series of gullies appeared to be continuing to the south but overall the relationships between them proved difficult to ascertain.

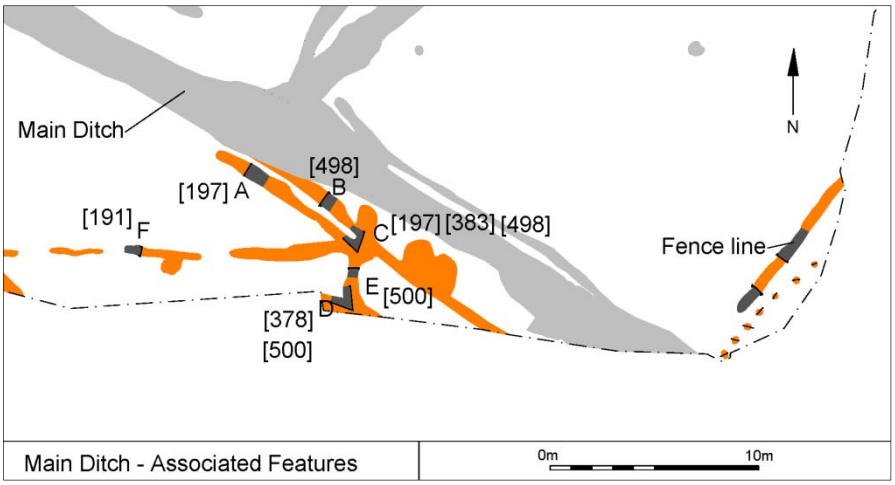


Figure 10 - Main Boundary Ditch - Associated Features (Area 2)

Gully **[197] (A)** (Figure 10, Figure 11) ran parallel to the main ditch and terminated south-east of the return of the internal enclosure ditch. It was *c.*8m in length and, where excavated, 0.27m deep and 0.62m wide. Its 40° sloping sides led to a slightly concave base. A single mottled light-grey/brown clay silt fill **(198)** was devoid of finds. Parallel, but with an undetermined relationship to **[197],** was gully **[498],** 0.29m deep x 0.64m wide and running a total possible length of *c.*15m where it merged with the landscape boundary ditch in the north-west and beneath the limit of excavation in the south-east. It had relatively straight sides breaking gently to a central and concave base. The single fill **(497),** of mid-grey/brown silty clay, contained pottery dating to the mid/late Iron Age.

Gully **[498]** appeared to cut gully **[383] (C)** (Figure 10, Figure 11) which had a similar profile, was orientated east-west and appeared to end at some undefined point in the intersection. The single fill **(384),** of mid-grey/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds. This feature continued further west and was represented by a series of shorter 'sausage-shaped' gullies. Typical of these was gully **[191] (F)** (Figure 10, Figure 11) measuring *c.*1.9m long, 0.35m wide and 0.10m deep at its western terminus. It had near vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base. It contained a single fill **(192)** of mid-yellow/brown silty clay which was devoid of finds. The relationship to adjacent pit was not determined.

Gully **[500] (E)** (Figure 10, Figure 11) on a noticeably different north-south orientation may have survived as a terminus just short of the main enclosure ditch, although neither this theory nor its stratigraphic relationship with **[383], [197]** and **[498]** could be ascertained. The fill of **[500],** mid-grey/brown silty clay **(499)** was devoid of finds. The north-south gully **[500]** did post-date another east-west gully **[379]** that was just visible at the limit of excavation to the south **(D).**

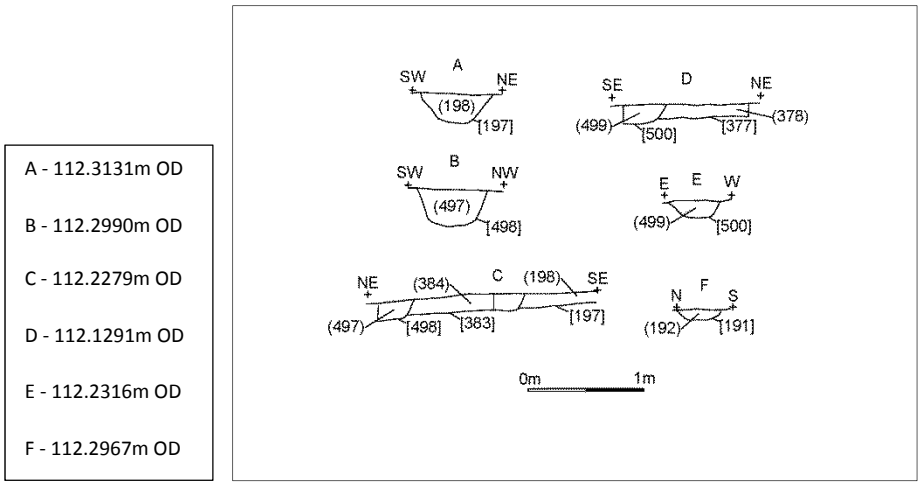


Figure 11 - Main Boundary Ditch - Associated Feature Sections

Fence line (Area 2) (Figure 12, A - I)

On the eastern side of the landscape boundary ditch a possible fence line was represented by a very shallow gully **[391] & [393].**This was *c.*8m long and orientated north-east to south-west, approximately perpendicular to the main enclosure ditch and parallel to the alignment of the later enclosures.. A line of seven post-holes **(**Figure 12**,** Figure 13 A – G) parallel to the gully ran along the eastern side, this continuing under both the south and north-east limit of excavation.

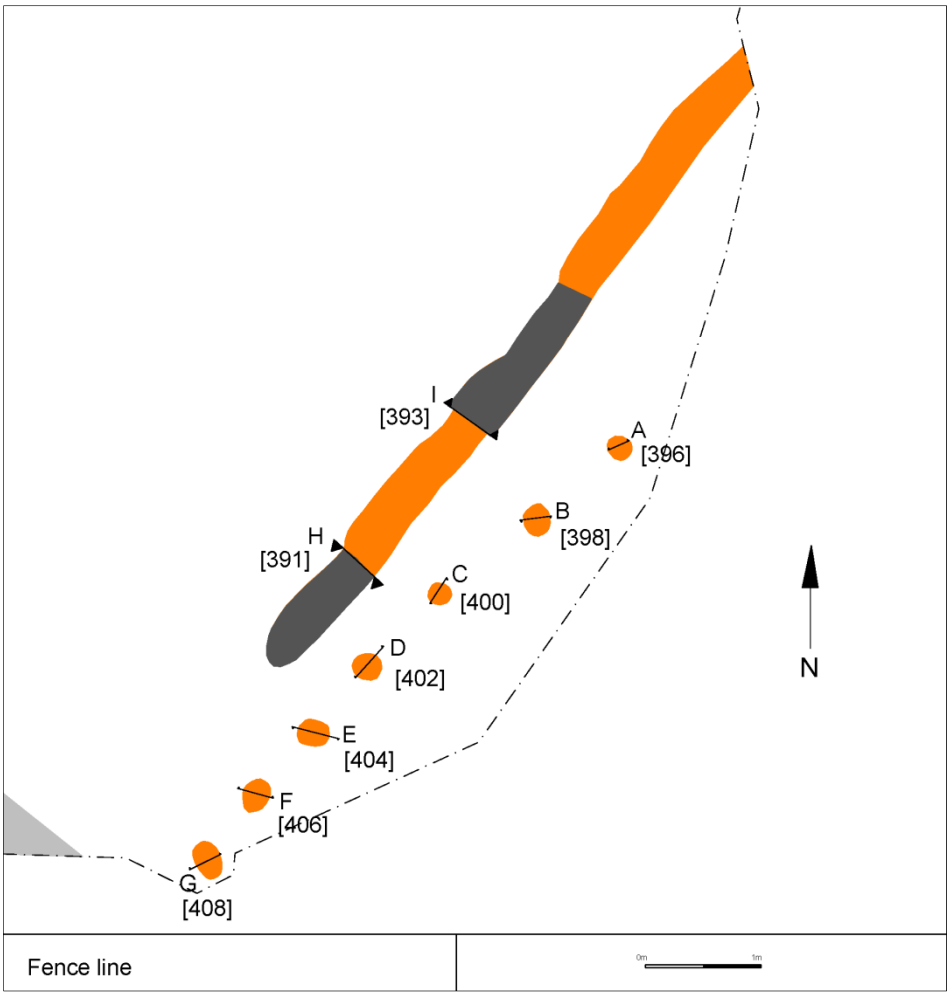


Figure 12 - Fence line Structure (Area 2)

A - 112.1985m OD

B - 112.1811m OD

C - 112.1457m OD

D - 112.1739m OD

E - 112.1642m OD

F - 112.1613m OD

G - 112.1550m OD

H - 112.0921m OD

I - 112.1257m OD

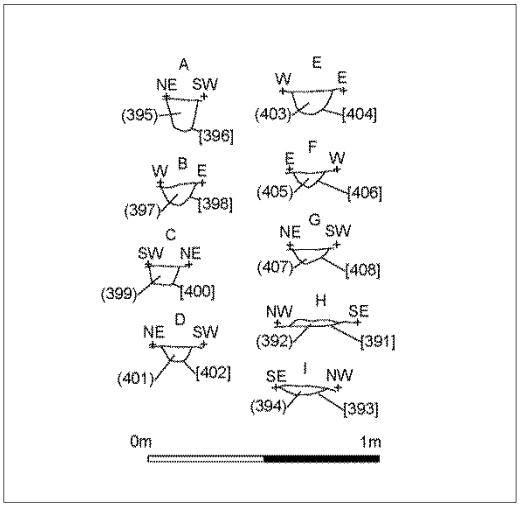


Figure 13 - Fence line Sections

The fence gully was shallow, its survival barely perceptible. At its terminus, **[391] (H)** (Figure 12, Figure 13) was just 0.07m deep and *c.*0.43m wide. The single fill **(392),** of light-grey/brown silty clay was devoid of finds. Further excavation *c.*2m further north-east confirmed this where concave cut **[393] (I)** (Figure 12, Figure 13) was 0.08m deep and 0.55m wide with a similar fill **(394),** also devoid of finds.

The post-holes (Figure 12, Figure 13) comprising the fence line were more substantial. They were of a similar size to each other, between 0.26m and 0.36m in diameter and 0.12m to 0.28m in depth. With straight or slightly concave sides, they all had concave or flattish bases. The post-holes contained single fills, usually mid/light- orange/brown silty clays. Only one, **[408],** contained pottery in its single light-orange/brown silty clay fill **(407),** dated to the mid-late Iron Age.

Figure 14 - Fence line, looking north-north-east

Iron Age Ditch (Area 4) (Figure 15, A - C)

Traversing Area 4 on a north-east to south-west orientation, an earlier linear feature **[736] (A) [742 (C)] [745] (C)** was identified (Figure 15). This had a length exceeding 33.70m and ran beneath the north-east and south-west limits of excavation. The depth of the feature was between 0.23m – 0.62m

and a width of between 1.47m – 1.90m. Unfortunately it did not yield any datable material finds but the relationship with the field system gullies and the archaeological features dated to the Late Saxon period were discernible on the surface. It was investigated and recorded at three separate points along its length.

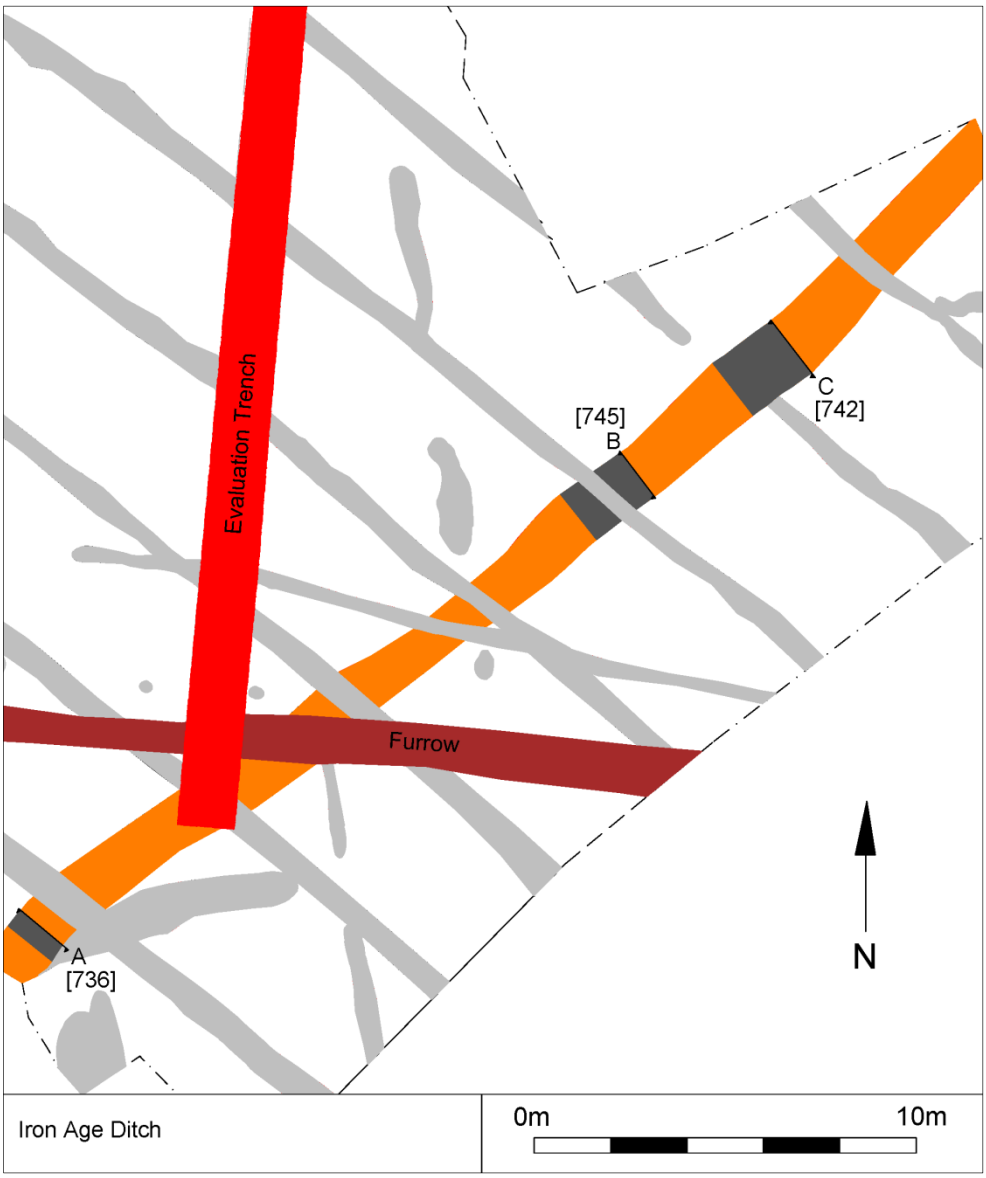


Figure 15 - Iron Age Ditch (Area 4)

To the south-east was **[736] (A)** (Figure 15, Figure 16) the profile of which survived with sides of between *c*.50°- 60°, merging with a concave base. It was 0.62m deep and 1.47m wide at this point. The single mid-brown/grey silty clay fill **(735)** was devoid of finds.

Excavated in the centre of Area 4, **[745] (B)** (Figure 15, Figure 16) had a profile which displayed similar sides, but the base of the feature was flatter and, at 0.25m deep, shallower. It was the same width. The mid-brown/grey silty clay was observed again as **(744)** but was again devoid of finds.

The profile at **[742] (C)** (Figure 15, Figure 16) was excavated by machine due to time constraints. Heavily truncated at this point, the linear feature **[742]** survived to a depth of just 0.23m where the base was flat. It was 1.90m wide. A mid- orange/brown clay fill **(743)** was observed, without finds.

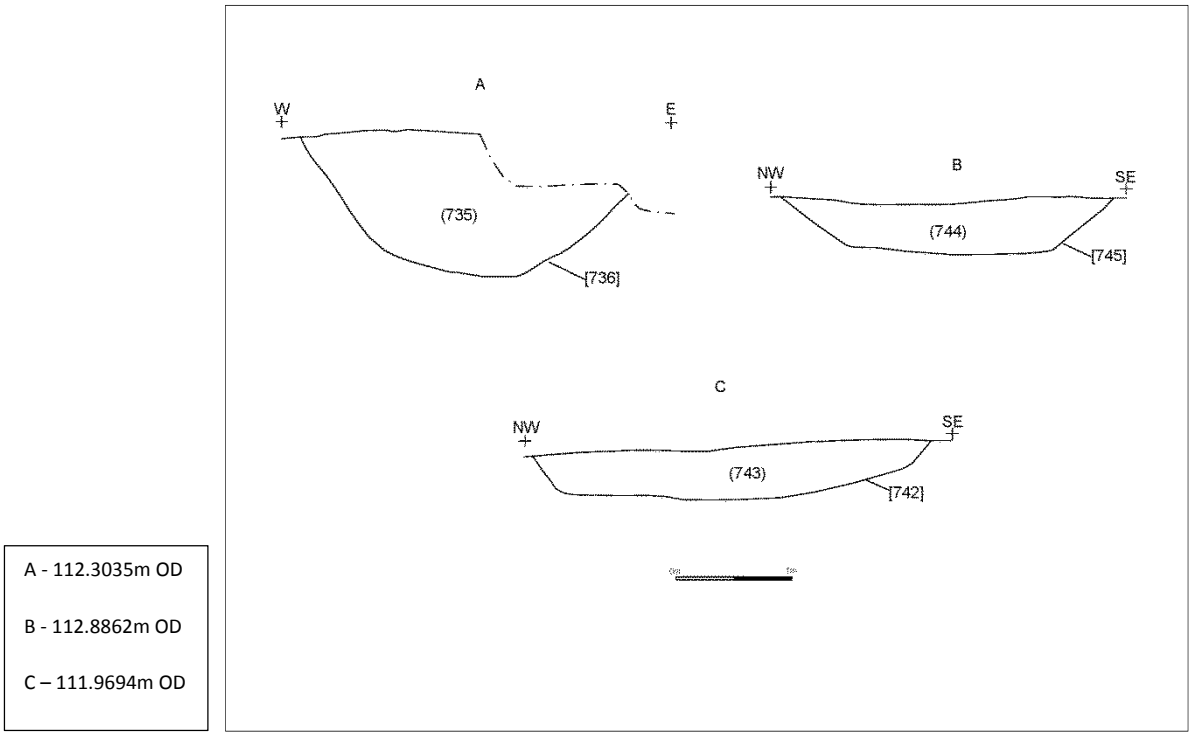


Figure 16 - Iron Age Ditch Sections

Enclosure 1 (Area 1 and 2) (Figure 17, A–G)

A sub-rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 1) was constructed on the northern side of the boundary ditch during the Iron Age (Figure 17). The enclosure had a close association with the boundary ditch, making use of the earlier boundary as one side of the enclosed area, and contained a contemporary roundhouse (Roundhouse 1).

Enclosure 1 was represented by the survival of a northern boundary ditch **[103] (A) [452] [454] [456] (B) [468] [470] (C),** *c.*22m of which was revealed in the stripped area, orientated north-west to south-east, with evidence of two phases, and a returning single cut eastern boundary ditch **[409] (G) [413] (F) [416] (E)**, orientated north-east to south-west, *c.*29m in length. The western boundary appears to have been another north-east to south-west ditch **[208] [210]** (see below) with a surviving length of *c.*18m revealed during stripping, and possibly recut at a later date to be incorporated into the construction of Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 1 had an internal north-east to south-west length of *c.*42m and a north-east to south-west internal width of *c.*28m. Roundhouse 1 was located centrally within this enclosure, the western and southern arc both *c.*10m, and the northern arc *c.*8m away from the respective boundary ditches, itself suggestive of a relationship between them.

The enclosure ditches survived to a depth of between 0.68m and 0.82m and a width of 1.26m – 2m on the eastern side, and up to *c*.2.50m wide on the northern boundary. Unfortunately both the north-west and south-east corners of this enclosure were not seen, the north-west being outside the proposed development area and the south-east having been truncated by the construction of a pumping house.

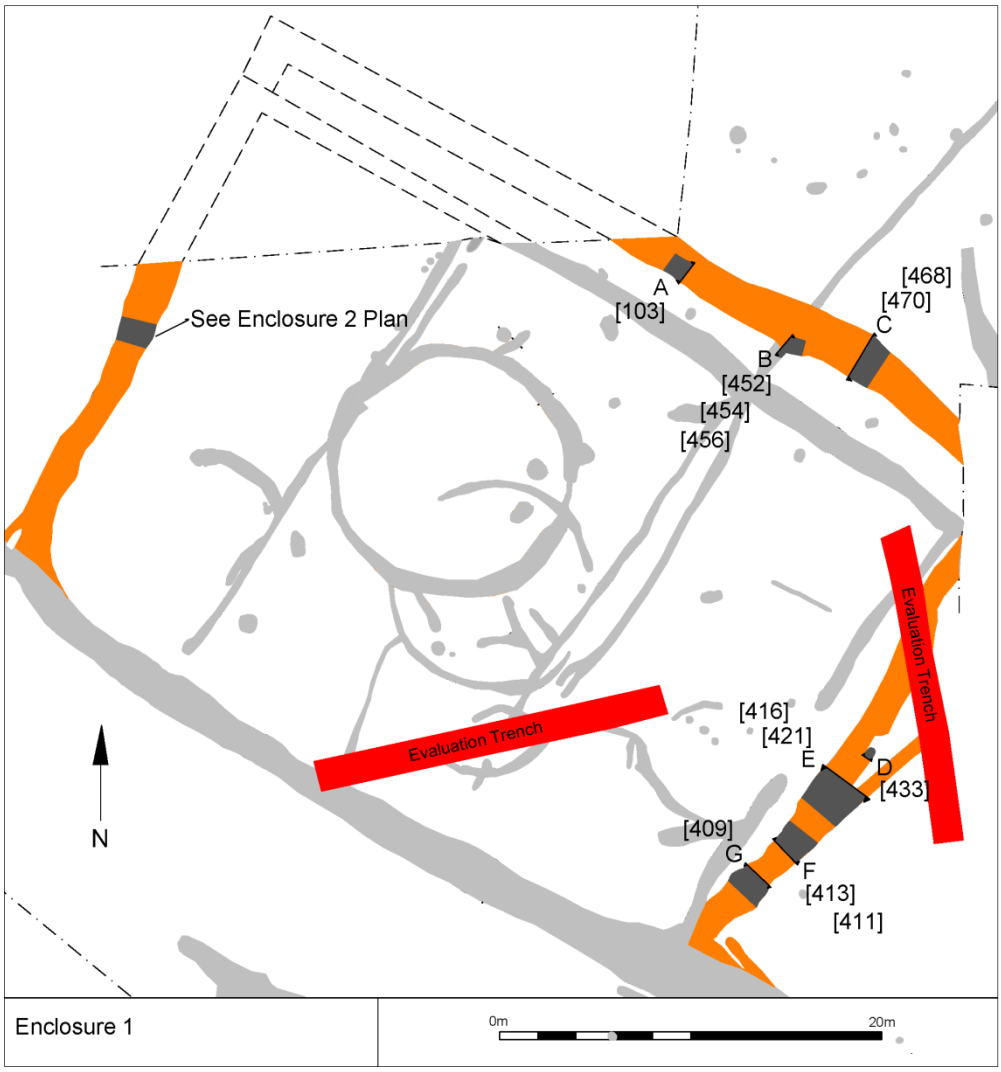


Figure 17 - Enclosure 1 (Area 1 and 2)

The north-western boundary ditch **[208] [210]** was excavated and recorded whilst investigating Enclosure 2 (Figure 24, below). The earlier enclosure ditch is probably represented by the cut **[208],** later truncated by **[210],** the ditch forming the boundary of Enclosure 2.

The northern boundary of Enclosure 1 was represented by the survival of ditch sequence **[468] [470] (C)** (Figure 17, Figure 18). It was *c*.22m in length, less than 0.83m deep and a maximum of 2.50m wide. **[468]** represented the earliest phase of this ditch construction and was seen in section as a linear cut 1.30m wide, with *c*.35° sides and concave, central base. The single mid-grey/brown clayey silt fill **(469),** with orange flecks and few other notable inclusions, contained animal bone and was probably a result of natural silting up of the feature. The ditch was later recut as **[470]** and its reuse as part of enclosure 2 cannot be discounted. Linear **[470],** with steeper *c*.60° straight sides and narrow flat base was 0.83m deep, exceeding that of the earlier ditch, and 1.30m wide at the surface. Single fill **(471),**

darker grey/brown clayey silt, contained animal bone and a patinated flint core dated to the Mesolithic.

The northern boundary was also investigated further to the north-west. Seen as a cut **[103] (A)** (Figure 17, Figure 18) 0.29m deep and 1.18m wide, with moderately sloping sides and shallow, gently concave base, its single fill **(104),** of mid-yellow/grey clayey silt, with flint fragments and rounded pebbles, contained pottery dated to the mid – late Iron Age.

Approximately half way along this surviving length of the northern boundary ditch, *c*.11m from where a projected corner was predicted but removed by modern truncation, the feature appeared to cut a north-east to south-west orientated gully **[452] (B)** (Figure 17, Figure 18) at least at its final recut phase of construction **[470].** This gully cut Roundhouse 2 further south and the inner enclosure ditch, so phasing of it proves problematic but it appears to be a land division traversing the internal enclosure area and is interpreted as indicating later, possibly transitional continuity of use of the boundary feature in the landscape. Context **[456] (B)** may represent an earlier cut [**468] (C)** and **[470] (C)** (Figure 17, Figure 18) represent recut **[454] (B).** Here, possibly subdivision gully **[452] (B)** had *c*.45° sides and a flattish base and its single fill **(453),** of grey/brown clayey silt with orange flecks, possibly natural silting, was devoid of finds. It is possible that the natural appearance of the deposit may have made phasing of this feature problematic. At the intersection, recut **[454] [470]** survived, with *c*.45° sides, to a depth of 0.33m and width of 0.72m. Single fill **(455) (B),** of mid-grey/brown clayey silt was devoid of finds. The original cut of this ditch **[456] [468],** 0.51m deep and 0.51m wide, with steeper *c*.60° sides and noticeably darker grey/brown clayey silt fill **(457) (C),** contained flint loosely dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

The eastern Enclosure 1 boundary was investigated in five places (Figure 17) and appeared to represent a single or double ditch construction phase, supporting the evidence from the northern boundary ditch (see above), albeit with interconnected smaller gully features **[421] (E) [433] (D) [411] (F),** the relationships to which proved difficult to determine or were suggestive of contemporariness. They may represent evidence for the presence of an entranceway to the enclosure.

Eastern boundary ditch **[416] (E)** (Figure 17, Figure 18) was *c*.29m long and orientated north-east to south-west, between 1.10m – 2.0m wide and survived to a depth from 0.69m - 0.79m. It was investigated where it interrelated with a parallel gully feature **[419] (E),** just south-west of where this gully terminated. Gully **[419]** proved to be shallow at 0.07m depth and was 0.48m wide where excavated. Linear, on a north-east to south-west orientation, with concave sides and a flat base, its single light-grey/brown clayey silt fill **(420)** was devoid of finds. A similar unexcavated 'bulge' *c*.1.0m along the line of the enclosure ditch to the north-east could be evidence of another gully terminus making what would appear to be an entranceway, albeit a very narrow one. There was some evidence for a double ditch of Enclosure 1 at this location or probably a single ditch interpreted as containing two fills **(417)** and **(415).** Firm grey/brown silty clay primary fill **(417)** was a maximum of *c*.0.40m deep and *c*.0.73m wide and devoid of finds. Above this and interpreted as being contained within the same single ditch cut, firm but lighter grey/brown clayey silt fill **(418),** 0.52m deep and 1.23m wide, contained a trace of animal bone. Linear ditch cut **[416]** had sides of 45° - 60° breaking definably to a narrow flat base, centrally located. Gully **[421],** located *c*.0.75m to the east of the Enclosure 1 ditch, and parallel to it, survived as a linear with concave sides and flat base, 0.65m wide and 0.21m deep. This was also excavated during the evaluation of the site. Single fill **(422),** mid-grey/brown firm clayey silt, was devoid of finds. The stratigraphic relationship between these three linear features and their homogeneous fills, investigated further south, **(F)** (Figure 17) was

undetermined, although the slightly differing orientations could be suggestive of differing construction times or functions.

Linear feature **[411] [421] (F)** (Figure 17, Figure 18), with slighty concave sides and gentle break to a flat base was 0.15m deep and up to 0.59m wide. Single fill **(412) (422),** of mid-yellow/grey silty clay, with a trace of charcoal, was devoid of finds. The relationship to enclosure ditch **[413] [417]** was unclear. Here ditch **[413] (F)** survived to a depth of 0.68m and a width of 1.10m and contained two fills, lower primary fill **(414)** and upper fill **(415),** corresponding to **(414)** and **(415)** respectively (see above).

An uncontaminated slot was excavated through the eastern boundary ditch of Enclosure 1 further south-west revealing a single cut feature. This feature, **[409] (G)** (Figure 17, Figure 18), was 0.78m deep and *c*.2m wide on the surface with a V-shaped profile, with sides sloping at 30° - 40°, becoming more gradual towards a flat base. The single fill **(410),** of light-grey/brown silty clay, contained animal bone.

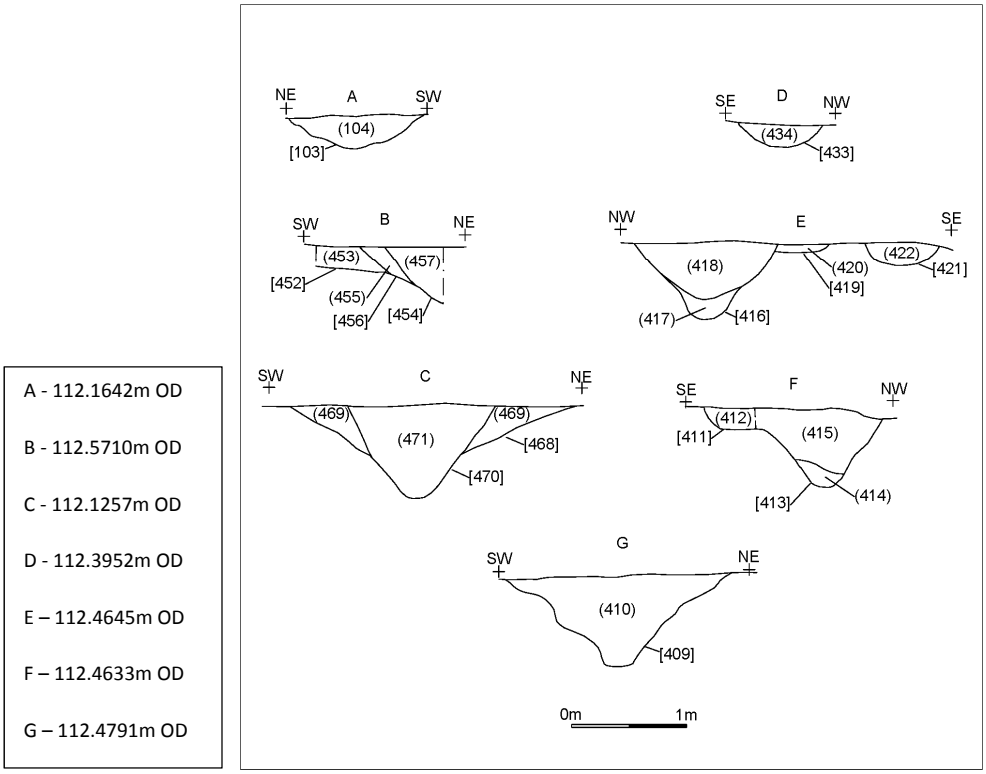


Figure 18 - Enclosure 1 Sections

Roundhouse 1 (Area 1) (Figure 19, A - K)

Roundhouse 1 lay centrally within Enclosure 1 and was represented by penannular eavesdrip gullies **[282] (B) [288] (A) [291] [297] [305] (D) (E)** demarcating an area of *c*.11.84m diameter (Figure 19). The structure had an east-facing entrance, represented by two termini of the gully, *c*.2.0m apart. A small gully bridged the two termini, which was later truncated by Roundhouse 2 (see below). Where excavated, the roundhouse gullies survived to a depth of 0.22m – 0.70m along its length and *c*.0.60m at the termini. Associated features includes two gullies **[310] (H) [295] (K)** spurring off the eavesdrip

gully from the north and south, the former with a proximal post-hole **[316] (G),** and two internal post-holes **[253] [257] (J) [326] [328] [329] (I)** located, and possibly related to the entranceway. The west of the roundhouse was truncated by a sequence of shallow linear features, possibly representing a later subdivision of Enclosure 2. Finds across the building included pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age. The eaves drip gully was investigated at the termini **[288] (A) [282] (B),** across its undisturbed breadth **[297] (F) [305] (C)** and where it inter-relates with other features **[291].**

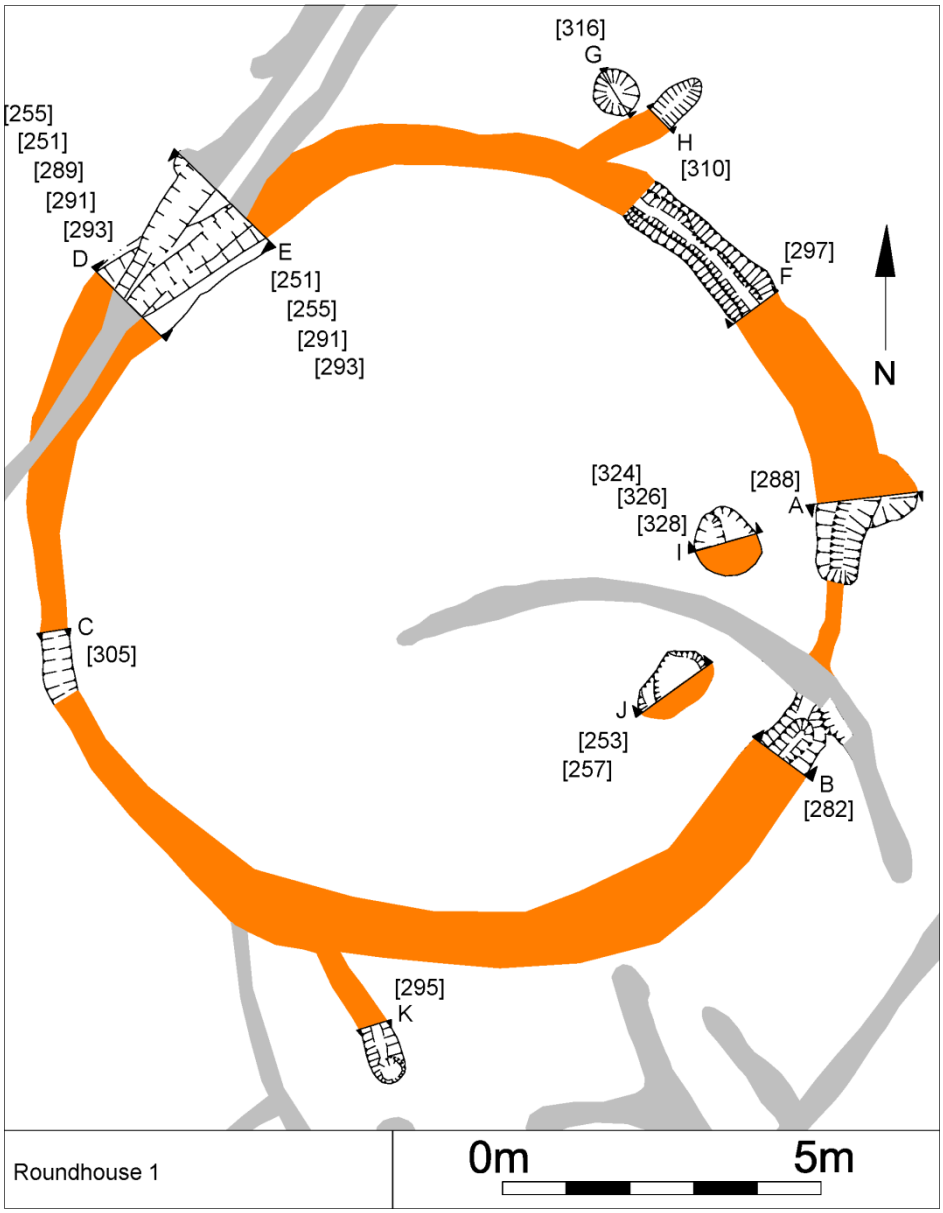


Figure 19 - Roundhouse 1 (Area 1)

Gully **[305] (C)** (Figure 19, Figure 23), located on the western side of the building, was 0.22m deep and 0.45m wide and was investigated in a 1.10m long north-south orientated slot. It was curvilinear with steep, slightly wavy sides and a pointed/concave base. Single fill **(306),** mid-greyish/brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones, was devoid of finds.

On the north-eastern arc, the roundhouse gully **[297] (F)** (Figure 19, Figure 23) survived to a depth of 0.70m and width of 0.96m. It was investigated in a slot 2.90m long. The gully was elongated and curvilinear, with gradually sloping sides becoming almost vertical and a concave, pointed base. It contained a primary light-orange/brown silty clay fill **(298),** *c*.0.31m deep and 0.47m wide with animal bone. Above this, black brown sandy silt with orange staining **(299),** 0.34m deep and 0.80m wide, also contained animal bone and pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age.

Figure 20 - Roundhouse 1 and 2 (Area 1 and 2), looking south

The northern entrance terminal was cut through a natural feature and represented by linear **[288] (A)** (Figure 19, Figure 23). The *c*.45° slightly wavy sides merged with a central pointed base. It contained three fills: mid/light-reddish yellow silty clay **(304),** with various sized pebbles, was 0.62m deep and devoid of finds. This appeared to be cut by what was originally interpreted as a post-hole **[284],** 0.63m deep and *c*.0.70m wide, containing fill **(287),** mid/light-brown/yellow silty clay, 0.22m deep, 0.10m wide, and containing animal bone, and fill **(286),** 0.40m deep and 0.70m wide, also with animal bone and mid-late Iron Age pottery. This interpretation was later revised to suggest that the feature was a single event, the construction of the roundhouse entrance terminal.

Located *c*.2.0m south-west of the northern terminal was the other entrance terminal **[282] (B)** (Figure 19, Figure 23). This survived as a curvilinear cut, 0.60m deep and 0.90m wide, with steep sides and narrow, concave base. Containing two deposits, primary fill **(319),** mid-greyish/brown clayey silt with occasional stone and charcoal, *c*.0.20m deep and *c*.0.30m wide, contained animal bone, and fill **(283),** 0.93m wide and 0.43m deep, dark-brown/grey clayey silt, with large packing stones, contained a fragment of quern stone **(SF101)** (see below), an iron strip **(SF103)** (see below) and pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age.

Figure 21 - Roundhouse 1 [282], looking south

The north-west of the roundhouse gully arc **[291] (D) (E)** (Figure 19, Figure 23) was truncated by north-east to south-west orientated gullies **[255]** and **[252],** probably of a later transitional date. Where excavated at the intersection with these latter features **[291]** was represented by the survival of the roundhouse gully to a depth of 0.22m and width of 0.63m, in the south-facing, and 0.25m deep and 1.15m in the northern facing section. The cut here had moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Animal bone was recovered from the fill **(292),** mid-brownish/grey silty clay. The

roundhouse gully was interpreted as cutting an earlier, fairly steep sided linear feature **[293],** with a pointed base and single fill **(294),** very firm light-brown/grey silty clay, devoid of finds. This may represent an earlier phase of roundhouse gully construction.

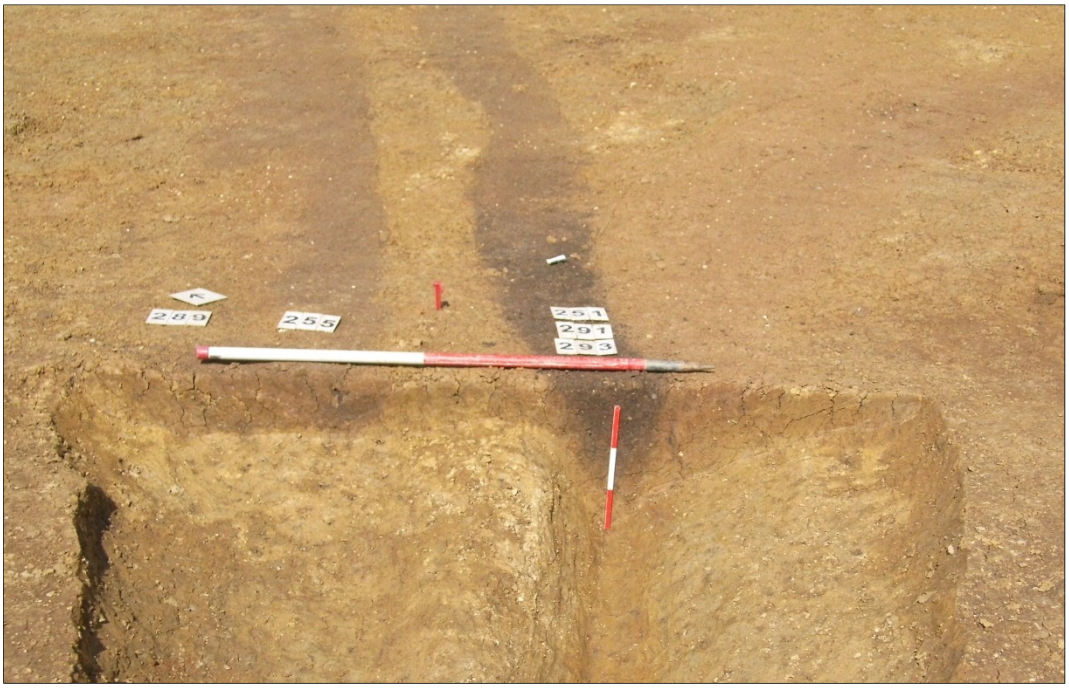
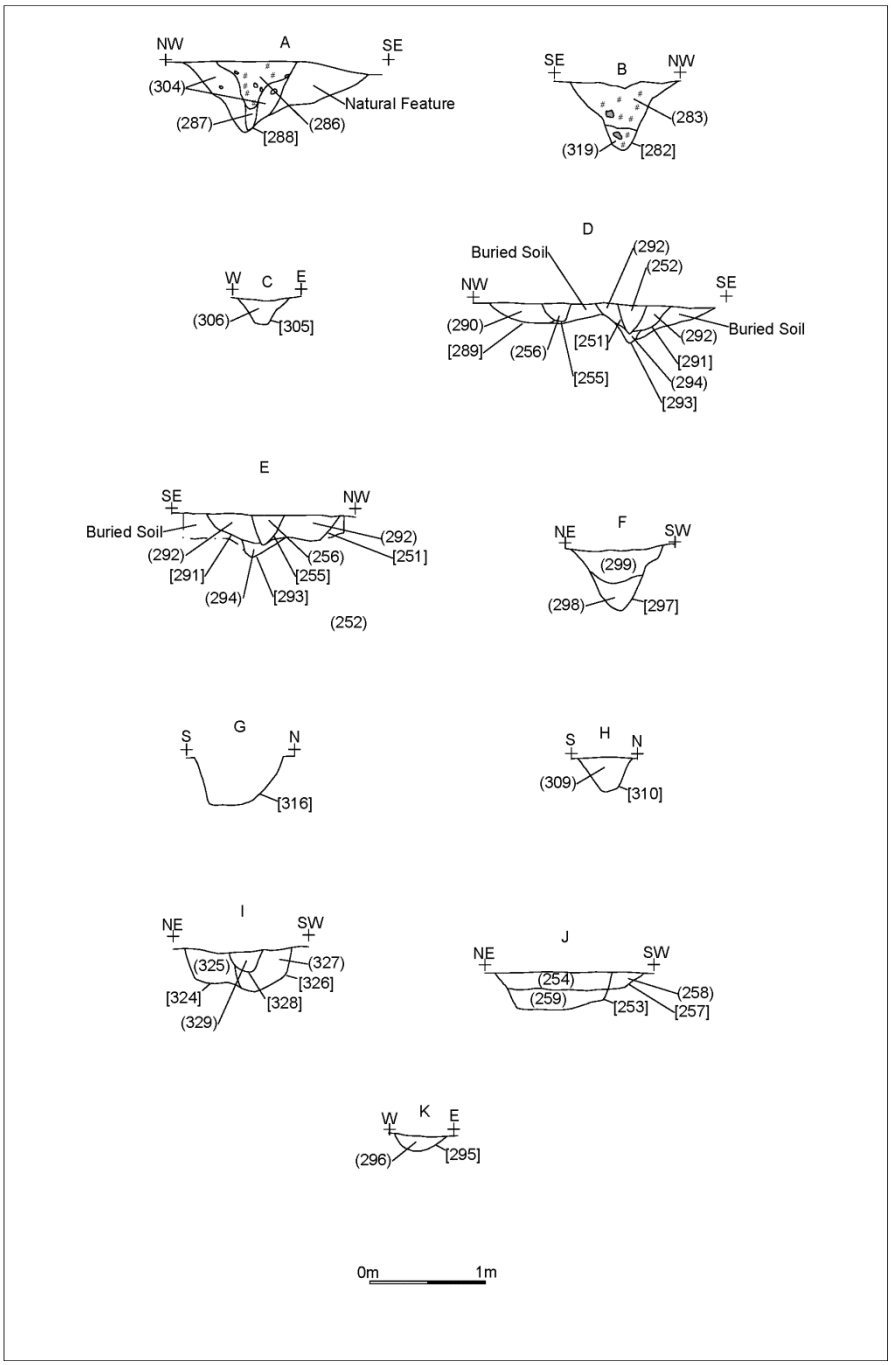


Figure 22 - Roundhouse 1 and Subdivision 1 gullies, looking north-east



A - 112.6366m OD

B - 112.7861m OD

C - 112.6010m OD

D - 112.7366m OD

E - 112.7020m OD

F - 112.7002m OD

G - 112.6380m OD

H - 112.5955m OD

I - 112.6802m OD

J – 112.7596m OD

K – 112.7732m OD

Figure 23 - Roundhouse 1 Sections

Associated Features (Area 1) (Figure 19)

Post-hole **[289] (D)** was located immediately west of roundhouse gully **[291]** and pre-dated linear feature **[255].** It partially survived to a depth of 0.16m and width of 0.46m, was oval in plan, with gently sloping sides and flat base. The single fill **(290),** of mid-greyish/brown firm silty clay, was devoid of finds.

A 'spur' of a gully **[310] (H)** (Figure 19, Figure 23) protruded externally from the northern edge, and was contemporary with the northern arc of the roundhouse, orientated north-south. It did not appear within the structure. Investigated at its rounded terminus, it survived to a length of *c*.2.10m, 0.31m in

depth and 0.47m wide, where excavated, with steep, straight sides, breaking concavely with a narrow, concave and central base. Single fill **(309),** mid-grey silty clay, with red/brown mottled patches and evidence of burning, was devoid of finds.

A comparable 'spur' gully **[295] (K)** (Figure 19, Figure 23) extending out from the southern arc of the roundhouse gully, and orientated south-east to north-west, was a similar *c.*2.30m in length, 0.46m wide and survived to a depth of 0.14m where excavated. Linear, with *c.*45° sides, the slightly concave base revealed evidence of a possible post-hole. Single fill **(296),** of light-yellow/brown clayey silt was devoid of finds.

Immediately north-west and adjacent to **[310]** was pit **[316] (G)** (Figure 19. Figure 23). Sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.76m and depth of 0.43m, it had steep sides breaking sharply with a central and flattish base. The single mid/dark-brown/grey friable silty clay **(315)** was quite sterile but contained a well-preserved fragment of worked/tapered wood/stake **(SF.102),** with an iron nail in it. After post-excavation analysis, this was determined to be of modern origin and the iron nail a staple.

Two internal discrete features **(I) (J)** (Figure 19), interpreted as portal post-holes were observed and investigated within the building and in the vicinity of the roundhouse entranceway, and it seems safe to assume they represent the same phase as the building.

Ovoid portal post-hole **[324] (I)** (Figure 19, Figure 23), possibly recut, 0.48m wide and surviving to a depth of 0.33m, had steep, almost vertical sides and a slightly rounded base. It was located 0.86m to the west of the northern eaves gully terminus, within the building. It had a single mid-brownish/grey silty clay fill **(325)** which contained animal bone. This was truncated by a comparably large ovoid portal post-hole **[326].** This was 0.36m deep and 0.50m wide, also steep sided with a rounded base. Single fill **(327),** of dark-brownish/grey silty clay was devoid of finds. The latest event in this feature was a cut for a probable post-hole **[328],** irregular in plan and with steep sides and rounded base. In section it was *c.*0.20m deep and *c.*0.30m wide. The dark-brown/grey silty clay fill **(327)** was devoid of finds.

Pit **[253] (J)** (Figure 19, Figure 23) was also located within Roundhouse 1, *c.*1.10m north-west of the southern entrance terminus and interpreted as relating to the entranceway construction phase of the building. Ovoid in plan, 0.80m wide and 0.34m deep, it had steep, almost vertical sides and a flattish base. Lower primary fill **(259),** light-grey/brown clay with charcoal content was 0.17m deep, 0.77m wide and contained animal bone. Tertiary fill **(254),** mid-grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal was firmer, 0.16m deep and 1.02m wide, contained fire-cracked stones, animal bone and pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age. This feature post-dated post-hole **[257]** and although unclear in plan, was observed in section as having steep sides and flat base. It was 0.25m deep and survived to a width of 0.33m.

Enclosure 2 (Area 1 and 2) (Figure 24, A - I)

Enclosure 2 is represented by the survival of four ditches **[208] [210] (A) [460] (B) [431] (D) [430] (E) [504] (F),** with Roundhouse 2 proximally central within them. The western ditch may have been reused from an existing earlier phase of enclosure construction and the archaeological evidence suggests recutting episodes of this feature. Where investigated, interrelationships proved difficult to determine and the finds recovered indicate a mid-late Iron Age date across the focal point of activity on the site. The north-western and south-eastern corner of the roundhouse enclosure system fell outside the proposed development area and may have yielded additional material and archaeological

information that would have altered this interpretation. Enclosure 2 was approximately 40m across and 28.20m wide internally.

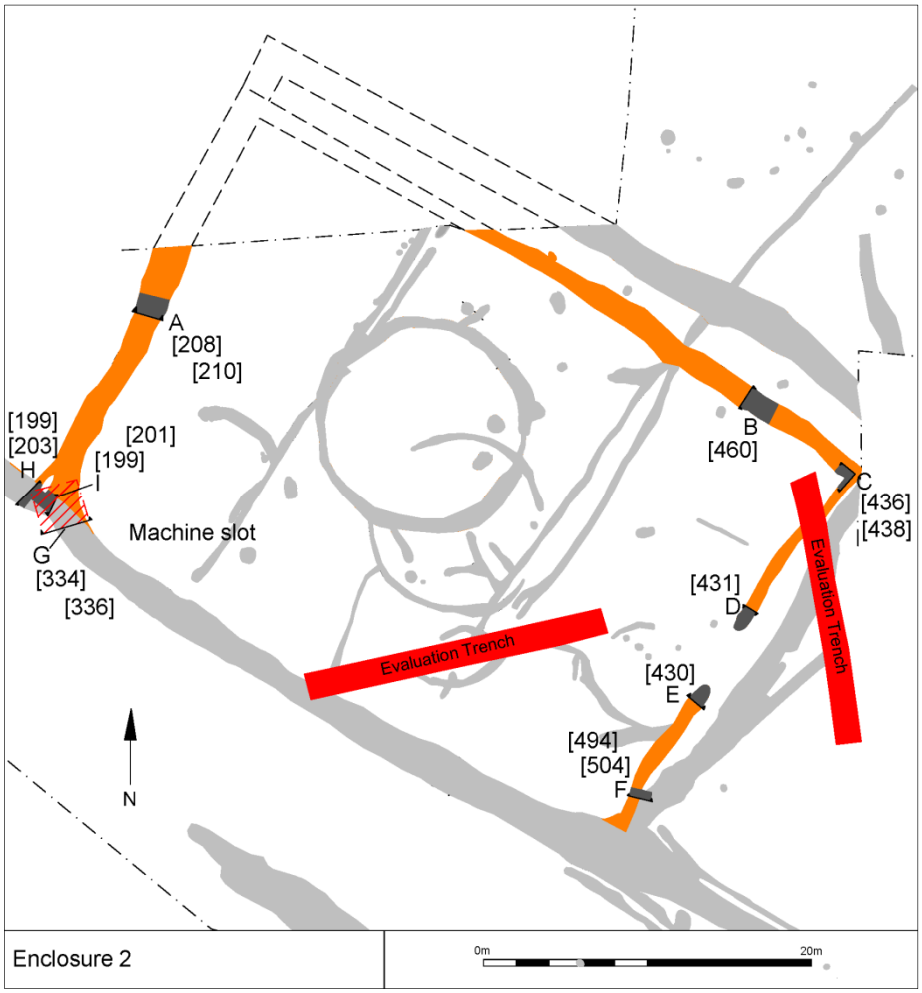


Figure 24 - Enclosure 2 (Area 1 and 2)

The western limit of Enclosure 2 was probably represented by a recut ditch system **[208] [210]** (Figure 24) orientated north-east to south-west, 17.70m long, between 1.40m - 2.22m wide and from 0.35m - 0.73m in depth, where excavated. This feature was located 17m to the north-west of Roundhouse 2.

The earliest ditch in this sequence **[208] (A)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) was linear with a depth of 0.36m and maximum width of 0.58m. It had regular, straight sides with a gently concave break with a central and concave base. Single fill **(207),** mid-orangey/brown silty clay with trace charcoal, contained pottery dated to the mid-1st century. This was cut by later ditch **[210] (A)** 1.04m wide and 0.36m deep and survived as a linear cut with slightly concave sides and flattish base. The single fill **(209),** of mid-grey/brown silty clay with less charcoal inclusions, contained animal bone.

The relationship between the north-western boundary **[336]** and the main north-west to south-east ditch **[334] [199]** was investigated at their intersection at the western corner of Enclosure 2 **(G) (H)**

(I) (Figure 24). Machine and hand slots were excavated in an attempt to clarify the stratigraphic sequence. Earlier ditch **[336] (G)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) approximately 1.08m wide and surviving depth of 0.70m, had moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Primary fill **(340),** light-brown/grey silty clay was 0.50m deep and 0.93m wide. Fill **(337),** mid-dark brown/grey silty clay, was 0.62m wide and 0.28m deep. Both were devoid of finds. Ditch **[334],** linear in plan, was 1.70m wide and 0.71m deep, had moderately steep sides and a rounded base, which cut the fills of ditch **[336].** It also contained two fills. Mid/dark-brown/grey silty clay lower fill **(341),** 0.29m deep and 0.54m wide, was devoid of finds, and mid-brown/grey silty clay **(335),** 0.46m deep and 1.08m wide, contained animal bone and flint probably residual and dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. Evidence for this relationship was also identified 1.60m to the west where the same feature was represented by cut **[199] (H)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) with the same profile and fill **(200),** an identical mid-brownish grey silty clay with pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age and animal bone. Here the feature survived to a depth and width of 1.40m and cut the north-western boundary ditch **[201] [336] (I)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) containing fill **(202) (337),** the mid-brownish/grey silty clay observed to the east.

Gully **[203] (H)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) spurring off, and contemporary with, the north - western boundary ditch **[199][334],** was orientated in a north-east to south-west alignment. The linear, with steep, vertical sides and concave base, was excavated to a depth of 0.25m, width of 0.40m and length of 1.80m, and contained a single fill **(203),** of mid-grey/brown hard clay with occasional charcoal and animal bone. At its intersection with the main north-east to south-west ditch **[199] [334],** excavated here to a depth of 0.72m and width of 1.53m, the stratigraphic relationship was difficult to determine, although it was probable an earlier feature cut by the later ditch. The same mid-grey/brown fill **(200)** observed here, also contained pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age and animal bone.

The northern boundary of Enclosure 2 was represented by a ditch **[460] (B)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) orientated north-west to south-east. It survived to a length of 28.30m, a width from 0.80m – 1.58m and a depth of between 0.83m – 1.31m. Excavation proved this to be a single cut linear feature **[460],** with straight sides and central and concave base, sharper than seen in the western boundary **[208] [210].** The single, possible backfill **(461),** of firm mid-brown/grey silty clay, with a trace of charcoal, contained pottery dated to the mid-late Iron Age, probably residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flint and animal bone. It was 1.20m wide and 0.70m deep. Both the eastern and western extents of the feature ran beneath the limit of excavation. The linear was located 10m to the north-east of Roundhouse 2.

The eastern boundary of Enclosure 2, providing evidence for an entrance way, was represented by linear feature **[431] (D) [438] (C)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) which measured 13m in length and was orientated north-east to south-west.

At the entrance**,** the narrow northern terminus ditch **[431] (D)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) had moderately concave sides breaking gradually to a flattish base. 0.37m wide and 0.10m deep, the single firm silty clay fill **(432),** was mid-brown/grey, with occasional large angular and rounded stones, some heat affected and possibly representing an occupational backfill, and some charcoal content. Pottery, of mid-late Iron Age date was recovered and some residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flint and animal bone. The ditch was also investigated at its interrelationship with north-west to south-east ditch **[436] (C)** (Figure 24, Figure 25). This appeared to indicate that the entranceway ditch **[438]** was the earlier feature. **[436]** had a concave, although irregular base and its single fill **(437),** 1.3m wide and 0.30m deep, mid-grey/brown silty clay with some charcoal, contained animal bone and lay above that of the entranceway ditch **[438].** Fill **(439)** was 0.50m wide, 0.12m deep, lighter mid-yellowy/brown silty clay with rounded pebbles, devoid of finds and was contained within a shallow linear cut **[438],** with a slightly flattish/concave base. There was evidence that linear **[436]** continued south-east where it was

truncated by modern disturbance caused by the construction of a pumping house. Linear **[438]** did not appear to continue to the north of **[436].**

Located *c*.3m to the south-west of the northern enclosure entranceway ditch was the terminus of another entrance way gully **[430] [504] (E**) (Figure 24, Figure 25) on the same north-east to south-west alignment and surviving to a length of 10.32m. This was rounded in plan, excavated to a length of 1.27m, 0.99m wide and 0.44m wide at the section, it had sides of approximately 70°, a slightly concave base and contained two fills. Primary fill **(435),** 0.50m deep and 0.11m wide, slightly loose mid-brown/yellow silty clay with rounded pebbles, was devoid of finds. Fill **(429),** loose/friable mid-brown/grey silty clay with charcoal trace and increasing small pebbles towards the lower deposit, contained animal bone pottery dated to the mid – late Iron Age. The entranceway was located approximately 13m south-east from Roundhouse 2.

Entranceway ditch **[430] [504]** continued to the south-west where it was investigated to determine its relationship with similarly aligned ditch **[495] (F)** (Figure 24, Figure 25) representing another phase of the enclosure sequence. At this intersection, **[504]** was approximately 0.68m wide and 0.31m deep, with a straight *c.*45° side and central and concave base. Related ditch **[495]** was partially excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The firm mid-yellow/brown silty clay fills **(496)** and **(503)** were indistinguishable, and the relationship between the two features difficult to determine.

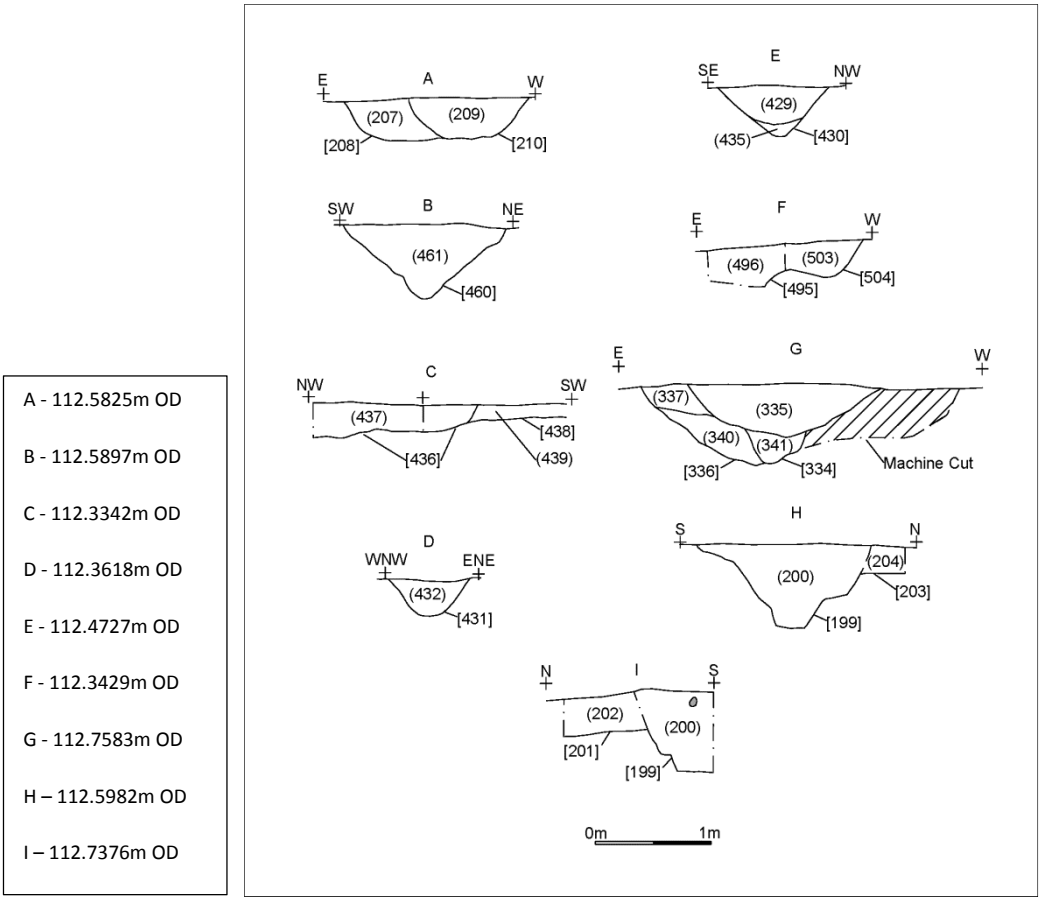


Figure 25 - Enclosure 2 Sections

Roundhouse 2 (Area 1) (Figure 26, A - I)

Two crescent shaped ring gullies of this roundhouse survived in Area 1 of the site (Figure 26). The northernmost **[273] (B) [301] [303] (B) [338] (D),** 10.56m in length along the arc, 0.40m wide and between 0.08m – 0.27m deep in total, possible consisted of two separate episodes. At its western terminus **(A),** excavated to a length of 2.0m, the section suggested evidence for two cuts **[301]** and **[303].** The former, **[301] (A)** (Figure 26, Figure 27) excavated to a length of 1.46m, was curvilinear with fairly steep sides and a concave base and contained friable mottled orange silty clay **(300)**, 0.40m wide and 0.17m deep, with Iron Age pottery, maybe representing the fill of a recut. It was shallower and longer than **[303].** Earlier cut **[303],** also curvilinear, with nearly vertical sides and a similar concave base, was very visible in plan. It contained dark-grey/orange, firm silty clay **(302),** with a width of 0.21m and depth of 0.15m, devoid of finds.

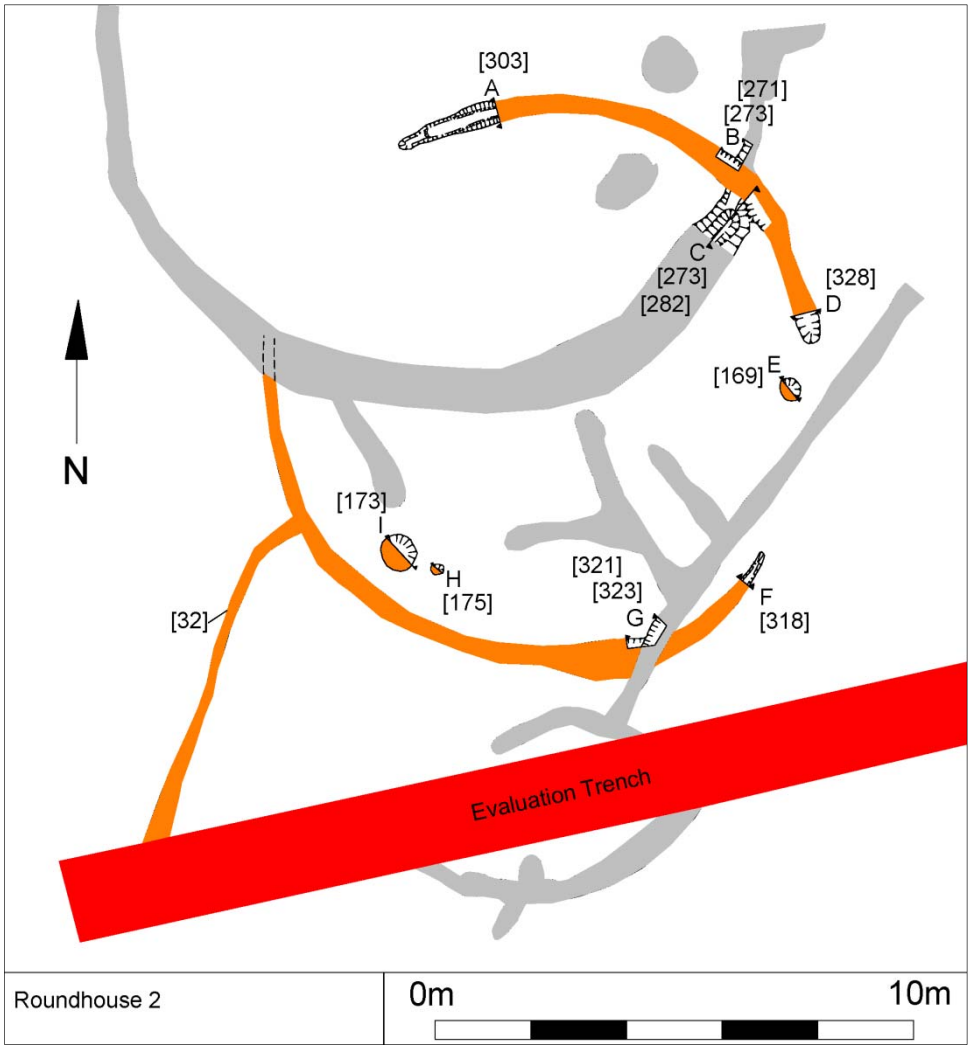


Figure 26 - Roundhouse 2 (Area 1)

The south-eastern terminus **[338] (D)** (Figure 26, Figure 27) was excavated to a length of 0.60m and proved to be shallower at 0.08m and 0.40m wide, and contained a single fill of light orange/brown hard clay **(338)**, without finds. This represents the northern terminus of the gully at the east-facing entranceway.

The northern surviving gully of Roundhouse 2 was also investigated at its interrelationship with Roundhouse 1 in the vicinity of the Roundhouse 1 entranceway, where it appeared to cut a small gully **[271] (B)** (Figure 26, Figure 27) bridging the two entrance termini of Roundhouse 1. This short length linear **[271],** orientated north-south, was 1.35m long, 0.07m deep and had a flat base. It contained a single fill of light brown/grey silty clay **(272).** The gully of Roundhouse 2 **[273]** was 0.15m deep, with steep sides and flat base, at the intersection. The relationship with the southern terminus of Roundhouse 1 was undetermined in this investigation, but presumably gully **[271]** represents a structural phase of Roundhouse 1 and confirmed that Roundhouse 2, with a diameter of 10.80m, was the later building.

The surviving southern crescent gully of Roundhouse 2 **[318] [323],** with steep sides and concave base, was 13.30m in length along its arc, 0.10m deep and 0.46m+ wide where excavated at its relationship with later subdivision gully **[321] (G)** (Figure 26, Figure 27). It contained a single fill of brown/grey silty clay and was devoid of finds. It was 0.08m deep and 0.22m wide at its surviving north-eastern terminus **(F),** where it contained friable dark-grey/orange mottled silty clay **(317) (F)** (Figure 26, Figure 27) with frequent fire cracked pebbles, mid-late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. The terminus was represented by a moderately steep-sided cut and concave base. The gully was cut by subdivision gully **[321] (G)** (Figure 26, Figure 27). Approximately 7m north-west, along the crescent gully **[323]** and heading southwards towards the main 'clothesline' enclosure ditch **[213]** was a linear feature**[32]** that was also recorded in the evaluation (Higgins 2012, p.14).

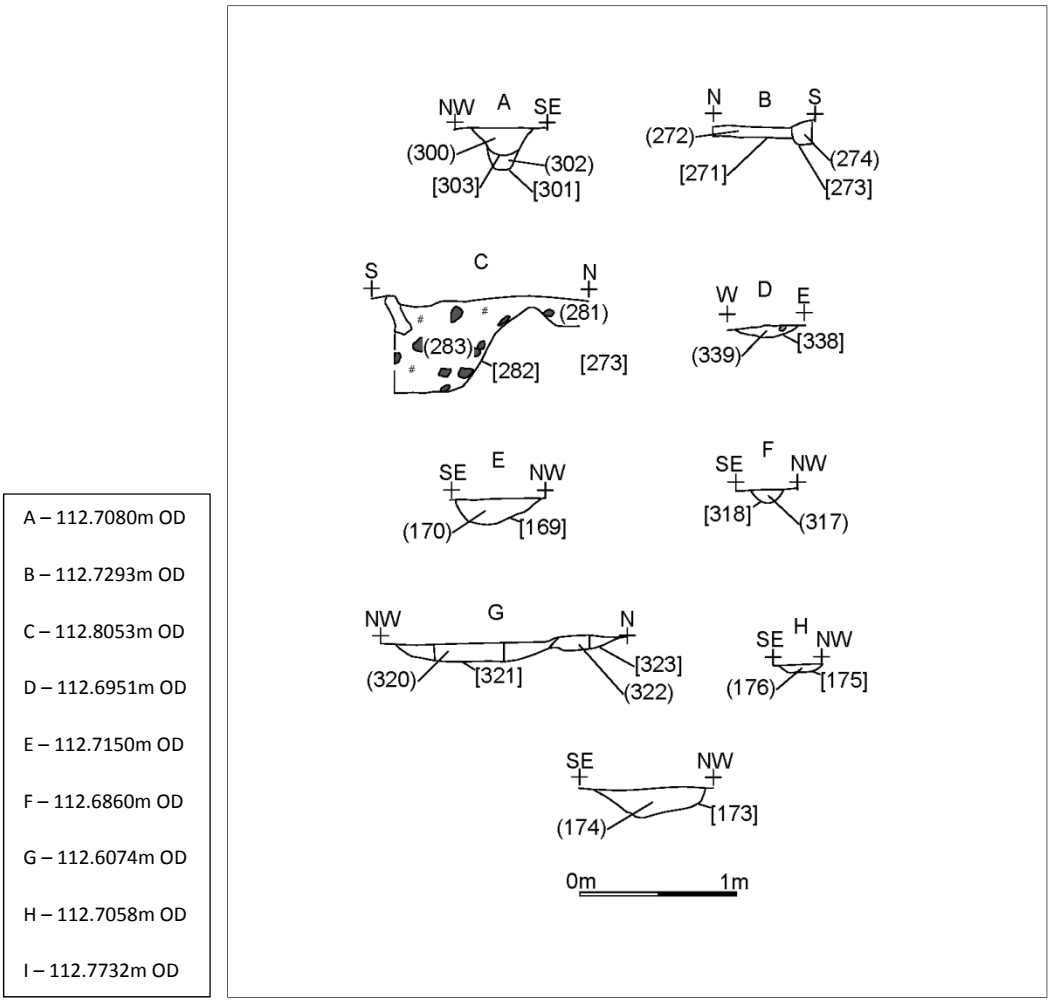


Figure 27 - Roundhouse 2 Sections

Roundhouse 2 - Associated Features (Area 1) (Figure 26)

South-west and 0.73m from terminal **[339],** a possibly related to the entrance/gateway structure was a portal post-hole proximally comparable to those identified associated with roundhouse 1. Sub-circular/oval with moderately sloping sides and slightly rounded base, **[169] (E)** (Figure 26, Figure 27) contained single mid-dark brownish/grey firm silty clay **(170),** devoid of finds. It was 0.54m in diameter and 0.17m deep.

Two other discrete features were observed in the vicinity of Roundhouse 2. Although no contemporary relationship can be ascertained, these are found within the confines of gullies **[301]** and **[323]** and could represent evidence of internal structures. Circular, shallow post-hole **[175] (H)** (Figure 26, Figure 27) 0.28m wide and 50mm deep, with a gently concave base was located 0.87m north-east of gully **[323].** It contained single dark-grey/brown clay with occasional charcoal **(176)** and was devoid of finds. 0.33m north-west, sub-circular pit **[173] (I)** (Figure 26, Figure 27**)** 0.70m diameter and 0.18m deep, had initially steep, then gently sloping sides and uneven base. The single dark-orange/brown hard clay fill **(174)** with occasional charcoal was also devoid of finds.

Enclosures 1 and 2: Associated Discrete Features (Area 1 and 2) (Figure 28, A – P))
There were a number of a discrete features located close to the enclosure ditches and although they were difficult to phase, they may be associated with the enclosure construction or function. Where yielding finds, they were of mid-late Iron Age date.

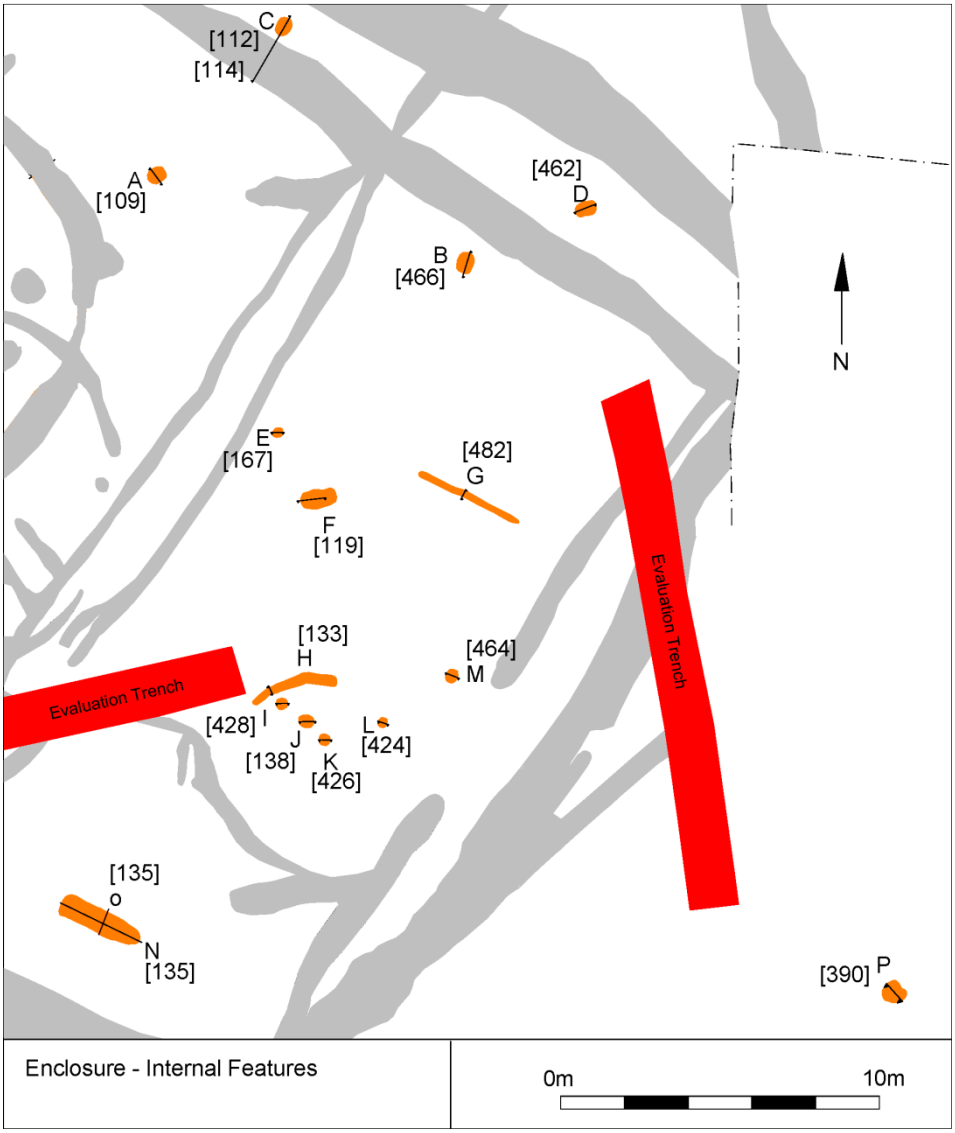


Figure 28 - Enclosure 1 and 2 - Internal Features (Area 1 and 2)

Post-hole **[109] (A)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was circular with steeply sloping sides and a 'V-shaped' base. It was 0.25m deep with a diameter of 0.26m. It was located *c*.3.70m south-west of the northern boundary ditch of Enclosure 2, *c*.2.0m north-east of the northern arc of Roundhouse 1. The single dark-grey silty clay fill **(110)** was devoid of finds.

Post-hole **[466] (B)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was sub-oval, 0.66m long, 0.42m wide and 0.16m deep. Located *c*.0.60m inside the northern ditch of Enclosure 2, it had gently concave sides and concave, central base. The single fill **(467),** of dark-brown/grey silty clay was devoid of finds.

Located between the ditches of the two northern enclosure ditches, oval post-hole **[112] (C)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was shallow at 0.06m deep and had width of 0.50m and length of 0.60m. It had moderately steep sides and an uneven base. Pottery was discovered in single silty clay fill **(111)** and dated to *c.*1730-1770AD.

Sub-oval post-hole **[462] (D)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was also found between the two northern boundary enclosure ditches. It was 0.30m deep, 0.43m wide and 0.70m long. The west-south-west side was steep and the base flat. Single dark-brown/grey silty clay fill **(463)** was devoid of finds.

Circular post-hole **[167] (E**) (Figure 28, Figure 29) was heavily truncated and just 0.03m deep with a diameter of 0.30m. It was located *c.*9m south of the northern Enclosure 2 and to the east of the internal subdivision gully. There were no finds in the mid-orange/brown clay fill **(168).**

Pit **[119] (F)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was located *c.*2.40m east of the internal Subdivision 2 gully. It was 0.40m deep and 0.60m wide with steep sides and sloping base. There were no finds in the light orange clay fill **(120).**

A short stretch of linear feature **[482] (G)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was *c.*3.5m long and orientated north-west to south-east. Its south-eastern extent was excavated where it was just 0.05m in depth and 0.25m wide. The sides sloped at 30-40° to a flat and central base. It was unrelated to any other features and the single light orange/brown clay silt fill **(483)** was devoid of finds.

Another short stretch of gully **[133] (H)** (Figure 28, Figure 29), this one curvilinear, was located *c.*4.0m north-west of the entranceway to Enclosure 2 and immediately north of a line of post-holes **[428], [137]** and **[426].** It had an approximate east-west orientation, arcing out northwards, and was heavily truncated, with a maximum depth of 0.08m. It had a width of 0.22m and was excavated to a length of 1m. It had steeply sloping sides and a relatively uneven base. Mid-grey/brown silty clay formed the single fill **(134)** which was devoid of finds. The line of post-holes ran diagonally away from the western end of the gully on a north-west to south-east alignment, the first of these **[428] (I)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) located *c.*0.22m away from the gully. Sub-circular, 0.20m deep and 0.33m wide, steep sides breaking gently to a central and concave base, single fill **(427),** mid-grey/brown silty clay was devoid of finds. South-east of this and 0.52m away, circular post-hole **[137] (J)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) with a depth of 0.10m and 0.44m wide, was located. Similar steep sides broke more sharply with a relatively uneven base. The dark-brown fill of silty clay **(138)** contained charcoal but no finds. Some 0.40m south-east of this, post-hole **[426] (K)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was identified. Sub-circular with gentler concave sides merging with a central and concave base, it had a depth of 0.21m and width of 0.31m. The single fill **(425),** mid-grey/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds.

Two other post-holes near to the above alignment were identified, excavated and recorded. Sub-circular post-hole **[424] (L)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was 0.10m deep with a diameter of 0.23m. The approximately 45° sides merged with a central and concave base. The single mid-brown/grey fill **(423)** was devoid of finds. 2.20m to the north-east, post-hole **[464] (M)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was oval, 0.22m deep and between 0.32m – 0.42m wide/long. The gradual sides merged with a gently concave base. Light-grey clay silt fill **(465),** was devoid of finds.

Further south *c.*5m north-west from the corner of, and within Enclosure 2, a pit feature **[135] (N) (O)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) interpreted as a possible corn dryer was investigated by quarter sectioning and recorded. A linear pit measured 2.70m long, 0.70m wide and 0.22m deep and had steep sides that merged with a flat, central base. The sides were gentler on the longitudinal profile and the feature became shallower towards the western end. The main fill **(136),** dark-orange/brown silty clay, with

abundant charcoal content and fragments, also contained burnt sandstone, burnt and unburnt animal bone and some fragments of CBM. There was no evidence for in-situ burning. An isolated deposit **(149)** was observed on the upper surface of this feature. This was a dark-brown peaty material with rare charcoal content. It was devoid of finds.

Outside the enclosure, *c.*10.50m east of the eastern boundary ditch, an isolated pit **[390] (P)** (Figure 28, Figure 29) was investigated and recorded. Sub-circular, with straight 60° - 80° sides, breaking relatively abruptly with a central and slightly wavy base, it was 0.18m deep, 0.64m wide and 0.69m long. Single fill **(389),** mid-grey/brown silty clay contained pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age.

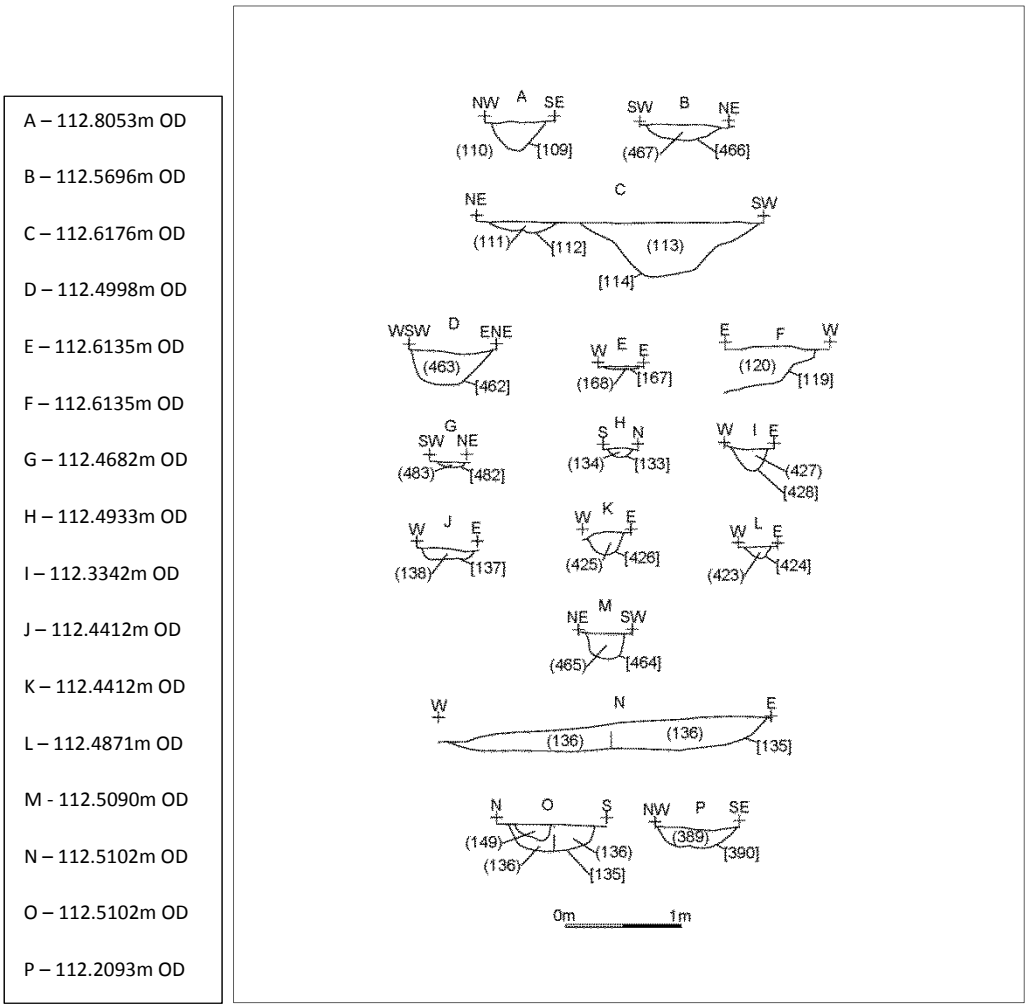


Figure 29 - Enclosures 1 and 2 - Internal Feature Sections

Roundhouse 3 and Associated Features (Area 3) (Figure 30, A – P)

Roundhouse 3 survived as two merging curvilinear gullies, the earlier **[528] (A) [553] (B),** 7.3m and the later one **[526] (A) [555] (C),** 13.50m long (Figure 30). These were identified toward the south of Area 3 and emerged from the southern limit of excavation. Their position was suggestive of the survival of the northern termini of an east-facing entranceway, although there was no evidence of a southern terminus. They were each investigated at their termini **(B) (C)** and where they merged **(A).** A number of discrete features were investigated to the east of, and possible associated to, the potential

entranceway and from the roundhouse interior, and to the north of the roundhouse drip gully, and two linear features were investigated immediately to the south **(O) (M).**

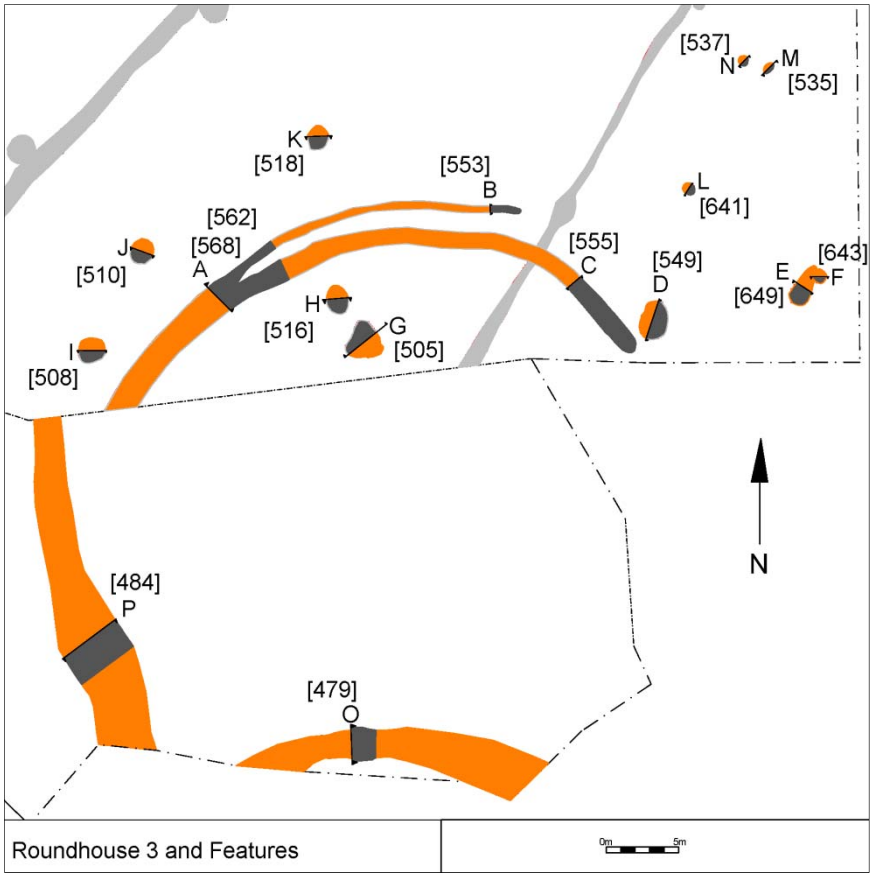


Figure 30 - Roundhouse 3 and Associated Features (Area 1 and 2)

Gully **[528] [553]** represented the earliest survival of the Roundhouse 3. At its terminus **[553] (B)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) this was heavily truncated and just 0.06m deep and 0.13m wide. It was a linear, gently curving at the end in plan, with the sides of the profile *c*.50°-70° and a relatively flat base. The mid-brown/ grey silty clay fill **(552),** was devoid of finds.

Later gully **[555] (C)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) was elongated in plan and also gently curved at the terminus. It was also shallow with a depth of 0.11m and width of 0.30m. The sides were relatively gently sloping and the base concave and central. The similar single mid-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(554)** was also devoid of finds.

These gullies merged together *c*.3.3m from the southern limit of excavation and their relationship was investigated. Gully **[526] (A)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) seen at this point as a linear, with *c*.60° sides merging with a concave and central base, was 0.26m deep and 0.49m wide. The single mid-brown/grey silty clay fill **(527)** contained flint and CBM and post-dated gully **[529].** The earlier gully **[528] (A)** was 0.14m deep and 0.17m wide at its relationship with **[526].** The **s**ides were *c*.50° in profile breaking relatively sharply to a notably flat base. Mid-brown/grey silty clay fill **(529)** was likewise devoid of finds.

A discrete feature identified as possible relating to a potential eastern entranceway was investigated. A large oval pit/post-hole **[549] (D)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) located 0.18m away from the terminus of gully **[555],** was 0.28m deep, 0.62m wide and 0.90m long. The relatively steeply sloping, straight sides broke sharply with a central and flat base. Single light-orange/brown silty clay fill **(548),** with some sand, was devoid of finds.

Two internal discrete features were investigated which may relate to the internal lay out of the roundhouse although this is difficult to prove. Irregularly shaped pit **[505] (G)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) was 0.20m deep with a diameter of 0.80m. The near vertical sides met with a central but irregular base. The fill was almost entirely composed of rounded/angular cobbles, within a mid-orange/brown silty clay matrix **(506),** most of these subject to burning. There was no evidence for in-situ burning elsewhere in the feature. A flint scraper/piercer, dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age, and mortar fragments were recovered from this fill. Oval pit **[516] (H)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) located 0.35m to the north-west of **[505],** was 0.28m deep, 0.50m wide and 0.66m long. It had steep sides and a flat, central base and contained a single, dark/mid-brown/orange silty clay fill **(515),** devoid of finds.

A possible natural feature **[649] (E)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) was observed *c*.2.70m to the west of the entranceway post hole, this being excavated and recorded due to its truncation by a small and potentially real sub-circular post-hole **[643].** This was 0.13m deep, with a width of 0.16m and length of 0.34m. It had sides of *c*.60° and a concave and central base. The mid/dark-brown/grey single fill **(642),** was devoid of finds.

The southern arc of Roundhouse 3 did not survive, all traces of it having been removed by ploughing or more modern truncation. Directly to the south of the surviving, at a distance of *c*.10m was the disturbed ground of the construction of a pumping station.

Located 0.63m outside the gully of Roundhouse 3 and *c.*1m from where it peters out, circular pit **[508] (I**) (Figure 30, Figure 31) survived to a depth of 0.20m and diameter of 0.56m. It had near vertical sides, breaking gently with a central and concave base. Mid-grey silty clay single fill **(507),** was devoid of finds.

1.86m north-east of **[508]** and 1.30m outside the roundhouse gully, but also undated, was another similar-sized circular pit **[510] (J)** (Figure 30, Figure 31). It had gradually sloping sides that merged with the concave base and survived to a depth of 0.16m. It had a diameter of 0.47m – 0.57m. It also contained a single fill **(509),** of mid-brown silty clay, devoid of finds.

Sub-circular post-hole **[518] (K)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) located *c*.1.50m directly north of the roundhouse arc and *c*.4.10m north-east of post-hole **[508],** was 0.19m deep with a diameter of 0.28m – 0.45m. The *c*.60°-70° sides broke gently with a central and flat base. Single fill **(517),** mid-brown/grey silty clay, was also devoid of finds.

North-east of the termini of the roundhouse gullies were located three more discrete post-hole features, **[641] [537]** and **[535].** Circular post-hole **[641] (L)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) with *c.*70° sides and concave base, survived to a depth of 0.11m and had a diameter of 0.13m - 0.24m. Single fill **(640),** mid/dark-brown/grey silty clay contained pottery dating to the post medieval period, *c.*1650-1780. Post-hole **[537] (N)** (Figure 29, Figure 31), 2.85m further north-east, was truncated to a depth of0.08m. It had a diameter of 0.21m and the gently concave surviving sides merged with a central and concave base. Single fill **(536),** mid red/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds. Also heavily truncated and surviving to a depth of just 0.07m, post-hole **[535] (M)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) had a diameter of 0.26m and a mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(534),** devoid of finds.

To the south of Roundhouse 3, two separate linear features were identified, investigated and recorded. Both these were subject to modern truncation to the south. Linear **[484] (P)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, survived as a gully with initially gradual sides becoming steeper, and a concave base. It was *c*.8m in length with a width of 1.55m and depth of 0.50m where excavated. Primary fill **(485),** light-yellow/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds. Upper fill **(486),** mid-brown/grey silty clay, contained pottery dated to the mid – late Iron Age and animal bone. East-west linear **[479] (O)** (Figure 30, Figure 31) was a slightly curvilinear gully and had a length of *c*.7.0m. It was 0.21m deep and 0.75m wide where investigated. Elongated with gently sloping sides merging with a flat base, single mid-orange/brown clayey silt fill **(478)** also yielded pottery dating to the mid to late Iron Age.

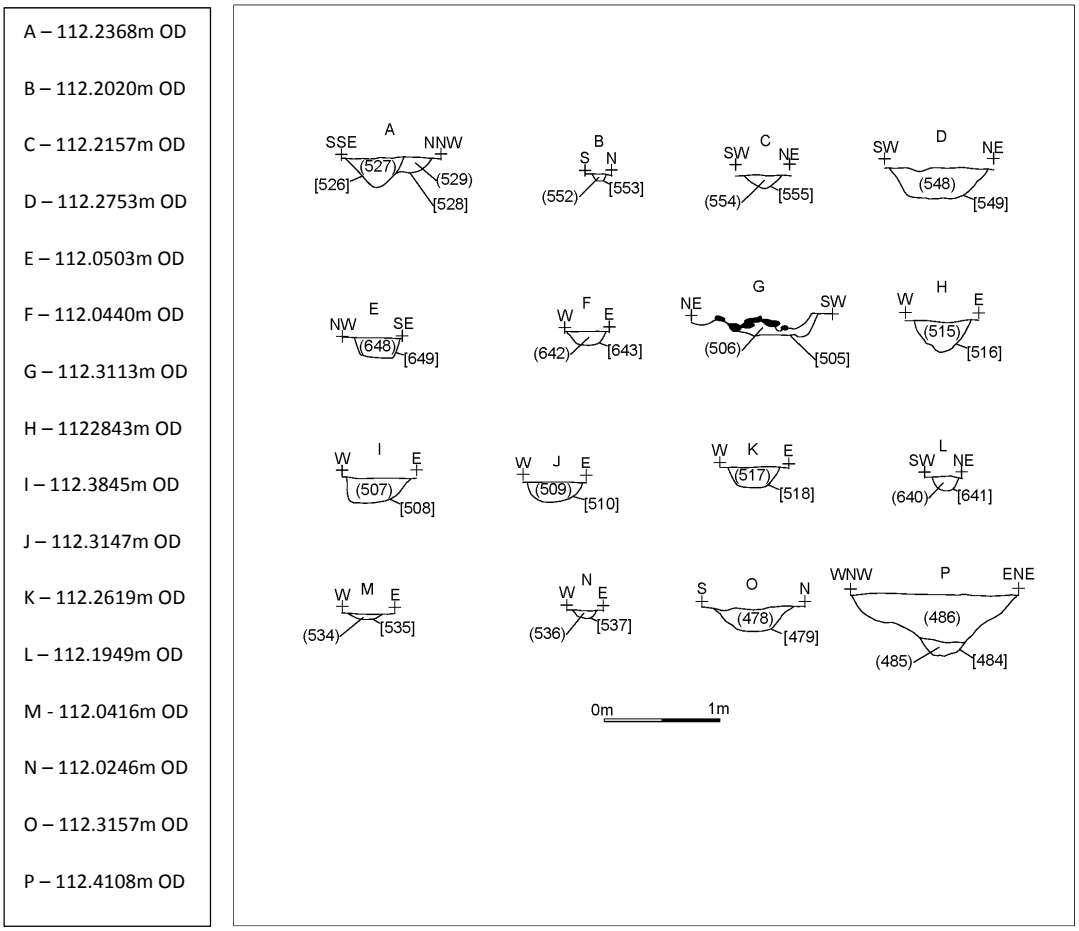


Figure 31 - Roundhouse 3 and Associated Feature Sections

Transitional Activity

Roundhouse Enclosure - Sub-Divisions (Area 1) (Figure 32, A - P)

Two series of linear gullies, both orientated north-east – south-west, ran across the internal area of the enclosures, possibly representing subdivisions of the later phase of construction or a period of post-enclosure activity (Figure 32). The south-east of these appears to run beyond the confines of the northern enclosure boundary. Both sequences terminate within the enclosure.. A number of associated discrete and linear features were also investigated in an attempt to determine the relationships to the linear divisions.

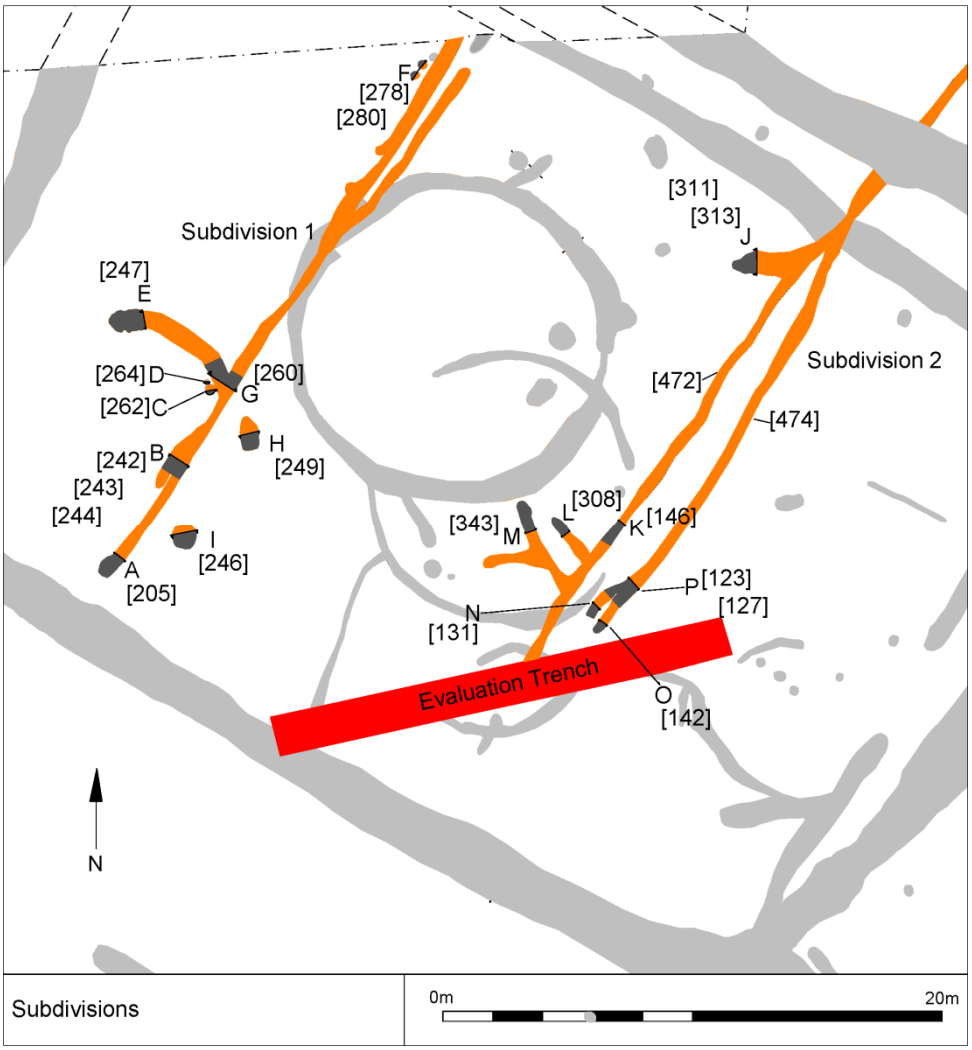


Figure 32 - Enclosure Subdivisions (Area 1)

Subdivision 1 (Figure 32, Figure 33)

This sequence of gullies **[205] (A) [242] [244] (B) [255] [260] (G)** extended a maximum of *c*.27m, disappearing beneath the northern limit of excavation. It survived as two distinct linear features, both cutting the eaves gullies of Roundhouse 1 further north-east, with a curvilinear gully **[247]** extending from the earlier of these, *c*.8.5m from its south-west terminus. A number of discrete pit and post-holes were also located towards its terminus and the northern limit of excavation. Both gullies post-dated Roundhouse 1 (see above). The eastern gully **[205] [242]** appeared to be intermittent in nature, merging with the later feature to the south-west and separating from it to the north-east. It also terminated further north-west before the limit of excavation and the terminus of another potential gully feature, left unexcavated, was observed on the same alignment running beneath the baulk, possibly representing an entranceway.

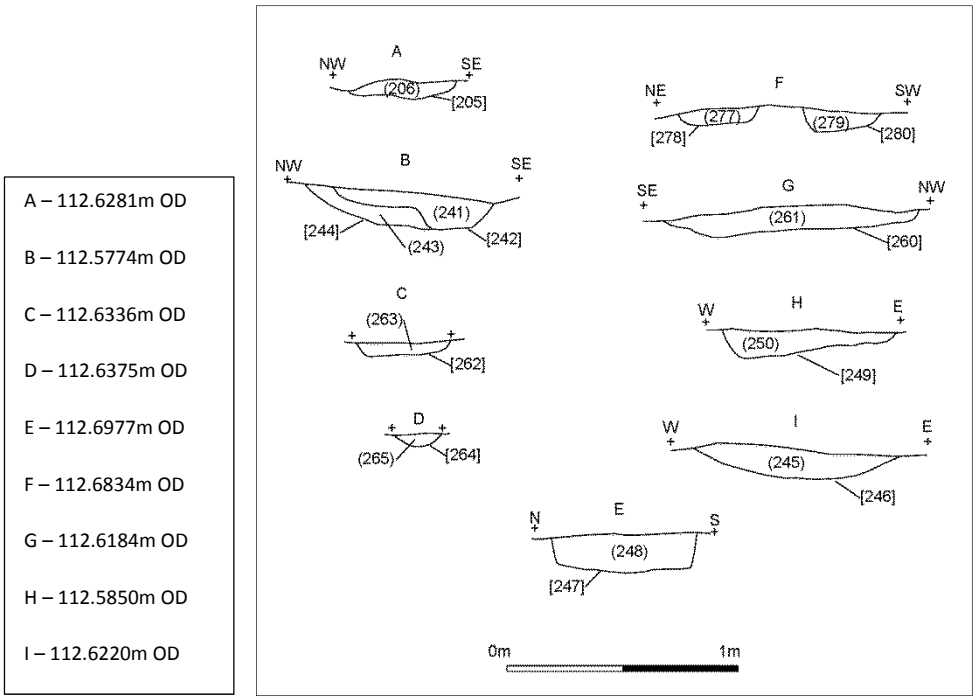


Figure 33 – Subdivision 1 Sections

Gully **[244] (B)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) orientated north-east to south-west, was the earlier of the two gullies. It was no more than *c.*5m long, not been seen at section **(G).** It was 0.19m deep and 0.55m wide, excavated to a length of 0.60m where it interrelated with parallel gully **[242],** seemingly post-dated by it. The single mid-brown/grey silty clay fill **(241)** contained mid-late Iron Age pottery. The sides of **[244]** were gradual, merging with a flat bottom. The single fill **(243),** of light-yellow/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds.

Later gully **[205] (A)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) survived in section further south-west where it terminated. A minimum of *c.*27m in length, from 0.08m – 0.25m deep and *c.*0.50m wide, it was observed further north east as **[242]** and where it cut Roundhouse 1, as **[255],** where its survival was better. In all sections where it was excavated the single fill was seen to be mid/dark-brown/grey silty clay with small rounded pebbles and trace of charcoal. At the south-west the terminus was sub-rectangular with steeply sloping sides, breaking sharply with an uneven and central base. Elsewhere **(B)** and **(G),** the base was flatter and the sides gentler.

Figure 34 - Excavation in Area 1, looking south-west

A curvilinear gully **[249] [247] (E)** (Figure 32, Figure 33), protruding from the west of the division gully, 8.54m from the terminus of **[205]** and 4.3m from the terminus of **[244]** was excavated at its western terminus. It survived here as **[247] (E)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) which measured 0.17m deep, 0.65m wide and *c.*6.0m long, with gently sloping sides and slightly wavy concave base. The single fill **(248),** of mid-brown clayey silt, with charcoal and notably large angular stones/cobbles, contained Roman pottery dating to the mid-1st century AD and animal bone. Its relationship with the internal division gullies was undetermined **(G)** and the feature may have continued on the eastern side of the division gullies **(H),** but due to truncation, this was difficult to prove. The potential south-eastern terminus **[249] (H)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) had a near vertical western side and gradual eastern, was 0.15m deep and 0.75m wide. Single mid-grey/with orange mottling, clay silt and rare charcoal flecks, was devoid of finds. It seems probable that this curvilinear feature post-dates the subdivision 1 gullies.

An isolated discrete pit **[246] (I)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) was identified and investigated 3.70m south-west of terminus **[249]** and 0.88m away from gully **[205]** towards the south-west terminus. Sub-circular and relatively shallow at 0.14m deep, with a diameter of 0.90m – 0.98m, it had gently sloping 15-20° sides and a central and slightly concave base. Mid-brown/grey single silty clay fill **(245)** was devoid of finds.

Two discrete post-hole features were identified in the vicinity. Immediately adjacent to where **[249]** and **[260] [205]** meet, the larger of the two, post-hole **[262] (C)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) was just 0.05m deep and 0.35m wide. It was sub-rectangular with near vertical sides and post-dated the subdivision

gully **[260],** suggesting it may possibly be related to the later curvilinear feature **[249].** Its single fill **(263),** was devoid of finds. Immediately to the north-west of this was located heavily truncated post-hole **[264] (D)** (Figure 32, Figure 33) which was 0.05m deep and 0.23m wide. Circular with *c*.45°sides and a flat central base, it was had no physical relationship with **[260].** Single fill **(265),** mid grey clay silt, was devoid of finds.

Three circular post-holes aligned parallel to the internal division gully **[205],** were identified *c*.0.70m from where gully disappeared beneath the northern limit of excavation and located to the west of the feature. Two of these **[278] [280] (F**) (Figure 32, Figure 33) were investigated and recorded. They were heavily truncated and shallow, between 0.03m – 0.09m deep. **[278]** and **[280]** had near vertical sides whilst the sides of **[276]** were gentler. All had flat, central bases. A similar light-brown silty clay fill **(275), (277)** and **(279)** was contained within each feature and all were devoid of finds.

Subdivision 2 (Figure 32, Figure 35)

Located *c.*15m to the south-east of, and parallel to, the Subdivision 1 gullies, Subdivision 2 was represented by a single gully **[452],** pre-dating outer Enclosure 1 ditch, splitting into two: **[472]** and **[474],** just within the earlier north-east boundary ditch of Enclosure 2. Both these features continued *c*.20m across the enclosure area and appeared to terminate at a similar distance from the main enclosure ditch to the south-west. From the western gully **[472],** a series of protuberances were investigated from the western edge. The first, gully **[311] (J)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) from the area of the splitting of the two gullies just within the enclosure to the north, and secondly, gully **[308] (L)** and **[343] (M)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) north-west from the southern end of the western division gully **[472].**

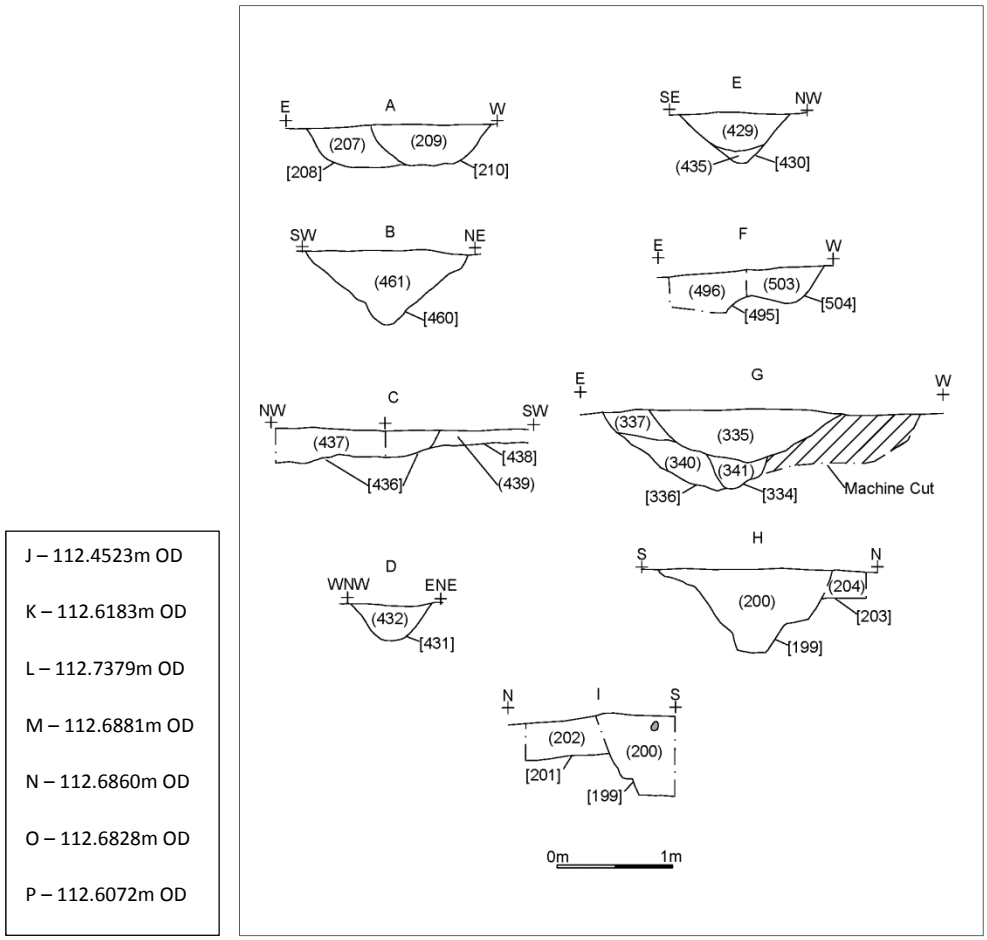


Figure 35 - Subdivision 2 Sections

Ditch terminus **[311] (J) (**Figure 32**,** Figure 35**)** was represented by a rounded, gradually narrower, cut in plan, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was 0.20m deep and a width of 0.86m and excavated to a length of 1m. It was orientated south-west to north-east, protruding from the western edge of Subdivision 2 gully **[472].** Single fill **(312),** mid-grey/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds and its relationship with the internal division gullies was undetermined.

Later internal gully **[115] [123] [127] [142] [474]** continued from without both roundhouse enclosures *c*.18m to the south-west where it was recorded as splitting in two **[123] [131]** (Figure 32) and terminating **[123].** At its south-west terminal, gully **[142] (O)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) was 0.15m deep and 0.45m wide, with relatively steep sides becoming gentler. The base was central and concave. The single mixed grey/yellow silty clay fill **(141)** was devoid of finds. Another 'spur' of a gully **[131] (N)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) protruded off the west side of **[142]** *c*.1.50m from its terminus. This ended with a rectangular cut, 0.28m deep and 0.40m wide, with steep sides and concave central base and contained several fills. Primary fill **(130),** grey/brown sandy clay, 0.10m deep, contained animal bone. Fill **(129),** firm yellow clay 0.20m deep was devoid of finds. Upper fill **(128),** a grey brown sandy clay, 0.13m deep and 0.30m wide also contained pottery and fragments of CBM.

The relationship between these two features was investigated but was not determined, **[123]** being interpreted as a recut of gully **[127]** and **[132]** rather than a distinct feature. Cut **[127] (P)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) here observed to have steep, slightly irregular sides and a concave base and was 0.34m in depth, 0.55m wide. It contained three fills. The primary fill **(126),** of mixed yellow/brown silty clay, was 0.34m deep; fill **(125)** comprised brown/grey silty clay, 0.05m deep and fill **(124),** was yellow

silty clay, 0.35m deep. All were devoid of finds. Interpreted as a recut, gully **[123],** again had steep sides and an irregular, concave base.

Two protuberances **[308] [343]** from the west of the gullies forming the internal subdivision were identified. One was investigated at its intersection but the relationship undetermined. Gully **[308] (L)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) at its terminus was 2.15m long, 0.14m deep and 0.35m wide, with relatively steep sides and a slightly concave base. It was orientated north-west to south-east and appeared to pre-date the internal divisions. Single fill **(307)** comprised mottled orange/brown/yellow silty clay which contained animal bone. Gully **[343] (M)** (Figure 32, Figure 35) was *c*.4.0m long, 0.12m deep and 0.40m wide and also had steep sides, a concave base and a similar orientation. The mixed brown/orange silty clay single fill **(342)** contained pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age.

Linear Features Area 3 (Figure 36, A - O)

Four linear features, collectively **[619], [570] [574] [539] [594], [635], [525] [557] [629]** traversed Area 3, all generally on an approximate north-east to south-west orientation, although this was slightly variable (Figure 36). One of these **[539] (H) (I) [635] (J)** ran as far south as the Iron Age enclosures and thereafter across the internal enclosure area, seemingly corresponding with the possible internal Subdivision 2. The central two of the linear features identified, **[570] (D) [539] (I) (H)**, terminated in the north-east before the limits of excavation. The south-east linear feature **[557] [629]** was intermittent, being truncated by Roundhouse 3 along its southern stretch **[557] (O) (N)** and then reappearing in the north-east of Area 3 **[629]**. The north-west linear feature **[619] (A)** was identified in the corner of the development area, with both termini outside.

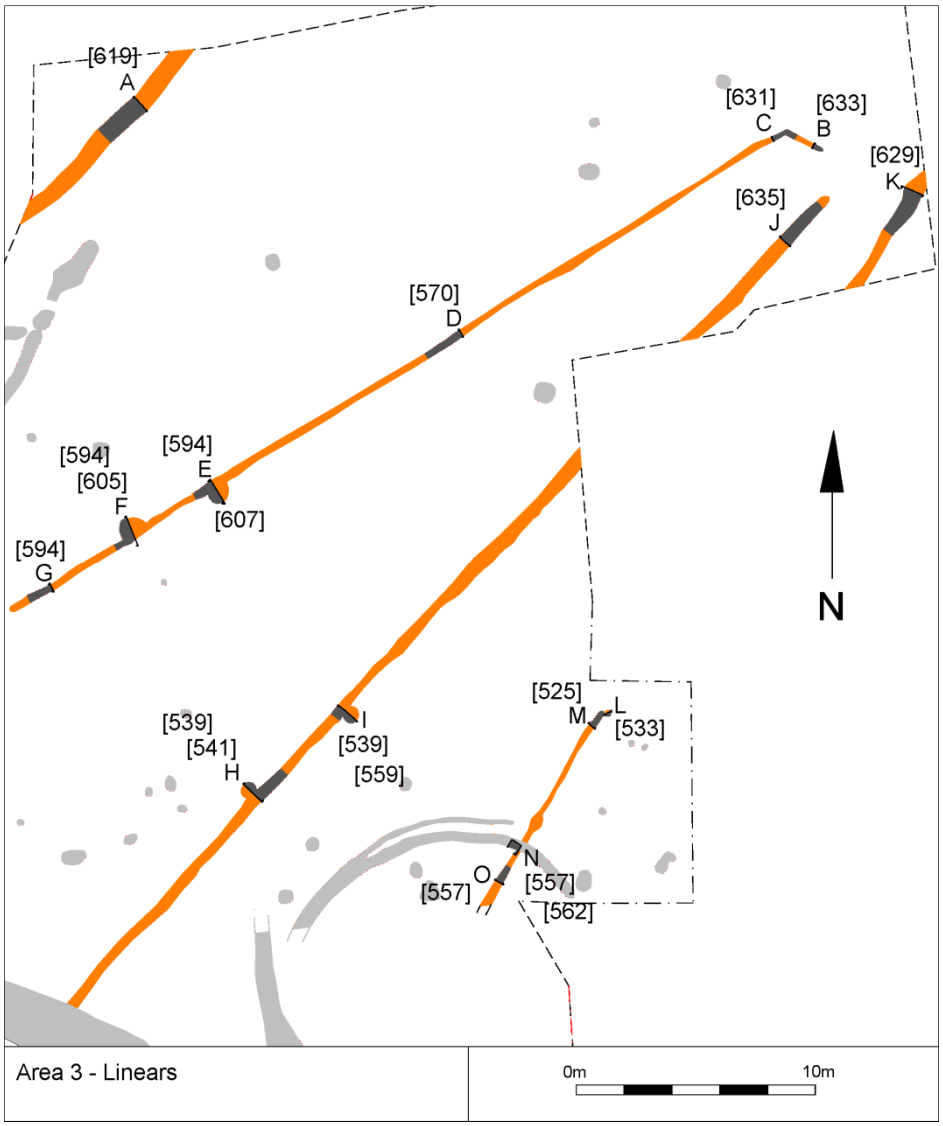


Figure 36 - Linear Features (Area 3)

Linear feature **[619] (A)** (Figure 36, Figure 37), orientated north-north-east to south-south-west survived as a gully 10.30m long, 0.20m deep and 0.76m wide, located in the north-west corner of the excavated area. Its profile had *c*.45° sides merging with a concave base. The single fill **(618),** of light-yellow/brown silty clay was devoid of finds.

Located between 13.30m and *c*.16m south-east of **[619]** was another linear gully on a more north-east to south-west orientation. This linear feature survived as a gully terminating at both its north-east and south-west extremities and had a total length of *c*.40m. The north-east rounded terminus was excavated just south of where the gully dog-legged, turning and extending 1.73m to the south-east. Here the profile **[633] (B) (**Figure 36**,** Figure 37**)** was heavily truncated, with little of the sides surviving, and to a depth of just 0.04m. The base was slightly concave and its width here was 0.20m. No finds were recovered from the mid-brown silty clay fill **(632).** The linear feature was also investigated where it dog-legged to the south-east, **[631] (C)** (Figure 36, Figure 37). The profile here was similar, the base slightly flatter. Subject to a similar level of truncation, the gully was a maximum of 0.04m deep and was between 0.18m - 0.26m wide. The single mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(630)** did not yield any finds. Approximately 6m south-west from the 'dog-leg' the profile **[570] (D)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) had sides sloping at *c*.70° to a 'V-shaped' base at a depth of 0.11m**.** The gully here was

between 0.17m – 0.26m wide and was investigated over a length of 1.68m. A similar single fill **(569)** contained three flint flakes, probably residual. Another slot was excavated towards the south-west end of this gully **(G)** where the 'V-shaped' profile was confirmed. Here the maximum depth was 0.12m and width 0.24m although the similar fill **(593),** was devoid of finds. The relationship of this gully with two post-hole features was investigated. The first of these was identified 5.63m from the south-west terminus. Shallow pit **[605] (F)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) was seen to be cut by the linear gully **[594].** The sub-circular pit was 0.23m deep and *c.*1.14m wide, with gently sloping sides and flat, central base. The single light-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(604)** contained notable quantities of burnt clay and a flint bladelet dated to the Mesolithic. The gully profile here **[594] (F)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) was of a similar width at 0.36m and depth of 0.19m and the single fill **(611)** also contained a flint blade. Sub-circular pit **[607] (E)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) located *c.*3.50m north-east along the length of the linear **[594] (E)** and also cut by it, was 0.50m maximum wide and at just 0.05m in depth, heavily truncated. The base was gently concave and single mid grey/brown silty clay fill **(608),** was devoid of finds. The profile of the linear **[594] (E)** here was more concave and 0.43m wide and the similar silty clay fill **(608),** was devoid of finds at this point.

Running between *c.*2.0 – *c.*12.60m south of the gully **[633]** was another linear gully **[635] (J)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) on a more north-north-west to south-south-east orientation, similar to gully **[619].** Surviving to a depth of 0.12m and width of 0.50m where investigated towards its north-east terminus, the profile had sides of *c.*45° merging with a flat and central base. Light-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(634),** was devoid of finds. This linear ran for 8.66m until it disappeared beneath the baulk and then, on emerging, for a total of *c.*46.50 to where it met, and appeared to be post-dated by, the outer roundhouse Enclosure 1 ditch. The linear feature was investigated at two points where it interrelated to post-hole features along its length. Circular pit **[559] (I)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) had steep, almost vertical sides merging with a slightly rounded and central base. It was 0.30m deep and 0.60m wide. The single fill **(558),** light-grey/brown, was devoid of finds. Gully **[539] (I)** here was 0.10m deep and 0.40m wide with a concave base but the relationship with post-hole **[559]** was unclarified, although there was some evidence in section that it post-dated the gully. Circular post-hole **[541] (H)** (Figure 36, Figure 37) survived to a depth of 0.10m and was 0.40m wide. The base was bowl shaped, the sides merging with it. Single fill **(540),** mid-reddish/brown, was devoid of finds. The profile to the gully **[539]** was similar here but the relationship to it was again unascertained. The single mid-light yellow brown gully fill **(538),** was also devoid of finds.

Another intermittent linear feature **[525] (M**) (Figure 36, Figure 37) was identified as being truncated by Roundhouse 3 in the south-east corner of Area 3. The southern north-north-east to south-south-west stretch of this was *c.*9.6m long and investigated along its length **[557] (O)** (Figure 36, Figure 37), where it had a relationship with Roundhouse 3 and at its termini**.** At the terminus **[525] (M),** the gully had gently concave sides breaking gently with a central and concave base. It was 0.08m deep, 0.23m wide and excavated across a length of 0.76m. The single mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(524),** was devoid of finds. Immediately to the east of this, sub-circular post-hole **[533]** had gently sloping sides and a concave, central base. Single fill **(532),** mid-grey/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds. At a distance of 6.38m from the terminus gully, **[525]** was truncated by Roundhouse 3. Here the profile of the gully was 0.08m deep. The gully profile at **[557] (O)** was similar with a sharper base, deeper at 0.12m and slightly wider at 0.29m. Mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(556),** contained a serrated flint flake fragment dated to the early Neolithic. Another stretch of north-north-east to south-south-west orientated gully **[629] (K)** (Figure 36, Figure 37), is interpreted as being a possible continuation of intermittent gully **[525],** running for *c.*6.0m between the limits of excavation. The sides were

relatively irregular at *c*.45°, with a 'V-shaped' base at a depth of 0.20m. It was between 0.60m – 0.80m in width. Single mid-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(628),** was devoid of finds.

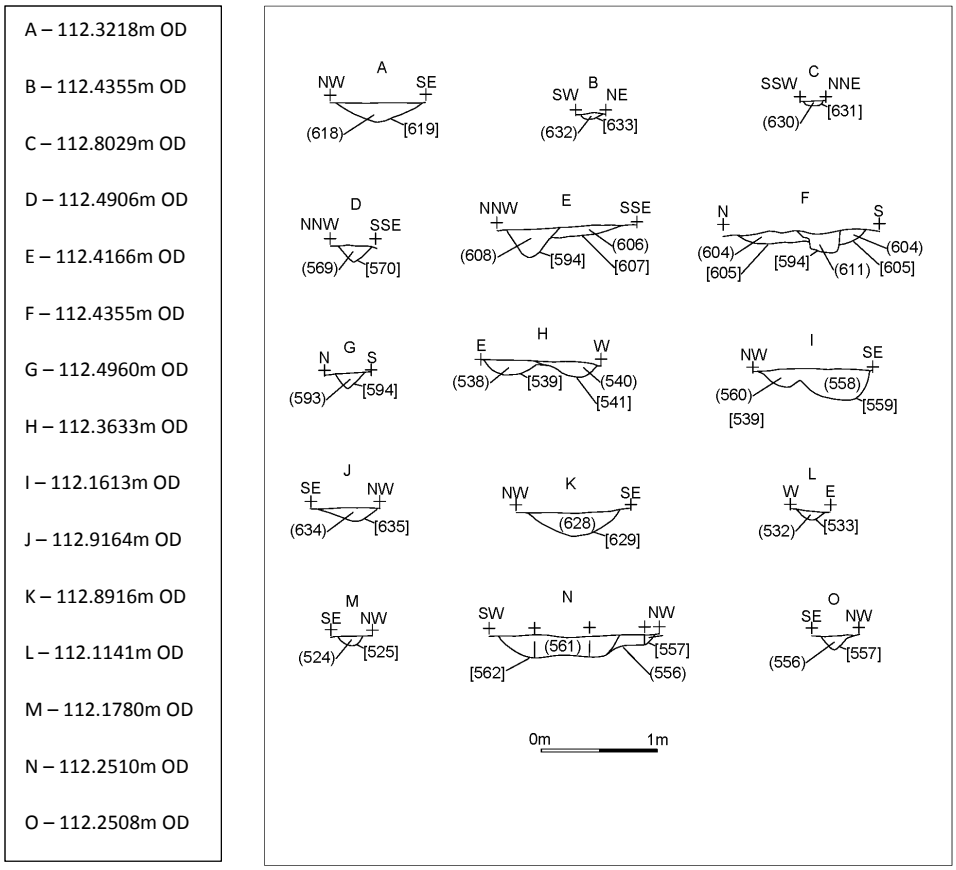


Figure 37 - Southern Field System (Area 4) (Figure 38, A - T)

An agricultural field system surviving as a series of parallel gullies **[582] (F) [586] (E) [592] [681] (I) [696] (P) [702] (O) [715] (L) [716] (N) [732] (K)** was identified *c*.26m south-west of the main enclosure ditch (Figure 38). These were orientated north-west to south-east and ran for up to *c*.28.5m before disappearing beneath the south-east limit of excavation in Area 4. The northern extent of these was contained by another single but intermittent gully feature **[579] (C) [580] (B) [644] (D) [679] (C)** running perpendicular on a north-east to south-west orientation. They were sample excavated along the lengths, at their termini and where related to other archaeological features, but relationships were difficult to define and the features yielded few material finds. There were some additional associated discrete features in the vicinity of this field system that were also investigated.

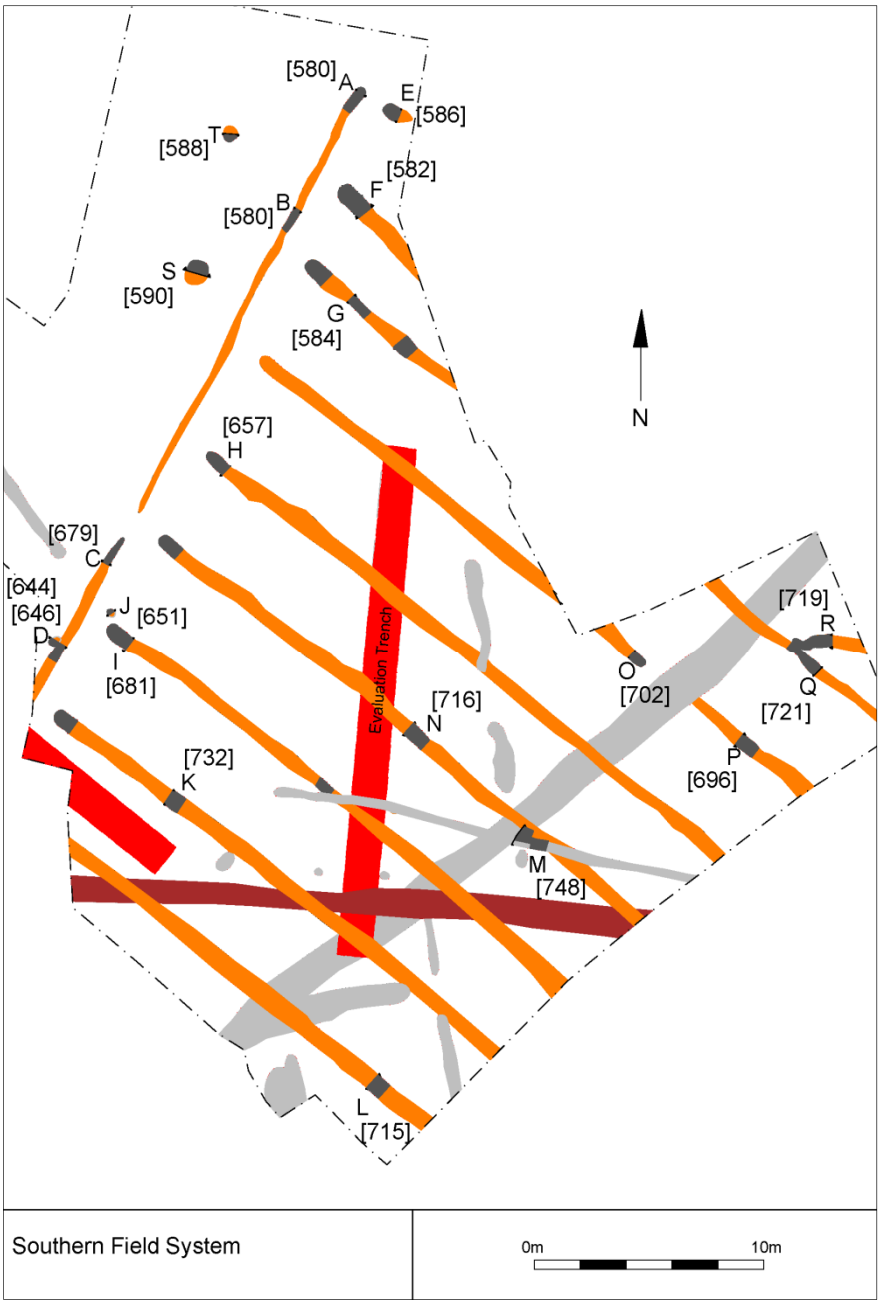


Figure 38 - Southern Field System (Area 4)

The north-west to south-east gully alignment that appears to represent the north-west limit of the field system survived as two separate stretches of linear. The first of these was *c*.21m and excavated at its terminus and along its length. At the north-east terminus, the linear **[580] (A)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) was 0.15m deep and 0.36m wide with straight sides sloping at *c*.50°, merging with a central and concave base. Single mid-brown/grey fill **(579)** was devoid of finds. The same fill and similar profile was observed where the linear was investigated and recorded *c*.4.8m south-west along its length **(B).** The second stretch of linear on this same alignment survived for 8.23m and disappeared beneath the south-west limit of excavation. At its north-east terminus **[679] (C)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) had a depth

of 0.13m and width of 0.30m. A similar 'V-shaped' profile with *c.*45° straight sides and central, concave base. This contained solitary light-yellow/brown silty clay **(678),** also devoid of finds. Excavated further along its length where it cut post-hole **[646] (D)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) Here the gully **[644]** was again shallow at 0.09m depth, with a width of 0.45m. Its base was central and concave. Single fill **(645),** grey/brown silty clay with rare charcoal, was devoid of finds. The earlier circular post-hole **[646]** had vertical sides and a concave base. The single very dark brown clay fill **(647),** was devoid of finds.

The northernmost surviving features in the series of the north-west to south-east gullies appeared to be **[586] (E)** (Figure 38, Figure 39). This was just visible north of the limit of excavation. Although initially interpreted as a pit it seems likely, due to its proximity to the other parallel gullies, that this represents the terminus of another in the series. 0.27m deep and 0.58m wide at this terminus, it had relatively steep sides of *c.*70°, clearly breaking to a notably flat and central base. The fill **(585),** mid-brown/grey with redeposited natural, was devoid of finds. The next and first definite parallel gully **[582]** south-west ran a total of *c.*5.50m before disappearing beneath the limit of excavation. Investigated at the terminus **(F)** it had gently sloping sides at c.45° and a slightly undulating base. The light-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(581),** 0.17m deep and 0.70m wide, was devoid of finds.

Linear **[584] (G)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) was investigated and recorded along a section of its length and terminus**.** It survived to a length of *c.*0.60m before running beneath the baulk. The terminus described a well-rounded end and the gradually sloping sides broke gently to a central and concave base. It was 0.15m deep and 0.44m wide at this section. Single fill **(583),** mid-brown silty clay with grey mottling, was devoid of finds. 5.70m from the south-east limit of excavation a linear **[719] (R)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) orientated east-west, protruded from the northern side of this gully. It was 2.16m long before running beneath the eastern limit of excavation. Its relationship to it was unclear. Heavily truncated, the linear was shallow, surviving to a depth of just 0.06m and 0.35m wide. The base was relatively flat. Light-brown silty clay fill **(718),** was devoid of finds. Here, the gully **[721] [584] (Q)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) profile was also heavily truncated and just 0.03m deep, 0.60m wide. Single fill **(720),** light-yellow/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds.

The next gully **[702] (O)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) survived as two stretches of linear. The first was *c.*21.50m in length, a section of it briefly running outside the development area, and the remainder ran beneath the south-east limit of excavation and was investigated along its length **(P).** At the south-east terminus of the first section of gully **[702]** the sides were gradual at *c.*20° and straight. The break with the base was gently concave and the base was central and concave. It was shallow at 0.06m and 0.43m wide. Single mid grey/brown silty clay fill **(701),** was devoid of finds. Along its length, 2.80m from the south-east baulk **(P),** the profile was similar, although the fill **(695)** a darker grey/brown silty clay, containing a worked flint flake, probably residual and of Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

The terminus **[657] (H)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) was up to *c.*24m long, a small section of it remaining beneath an area not subject to development. It was truncated and just 0.06m deep and 0.48m wide. Single mid-dark brown grey fill **(656)** was devoid of finds.

Gully **[716] (N)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) was investigated along its length and where it related to another linear running east-west across Area 4 **(M).** The profile was similar and it was up to 0.10m deep. The width where investigated along its length was 0.70m and the base was concave. Worked flint was recovered from the firm mid brown/orange single clay fill **(717).** This gully **[716]** was truncated by later linear **[748] (M)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) a gully probably dating to the Late Saxon period.

North-east terminus **[681] (I**) (Figure 38, Figure 39) was 0.19m deep, 0.58m wide and excavated over a length of 1.20m. The total length of this linear was c.25m before it ran beneath the south-east limit of excavation. The sides of the rounded terminus were *c*.45°, breaking gently with a central and concave base. The mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(680),** was devoid of finds. A post-hole **[651] (J)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) was identified, excavated and recorded, located 0.30m north of this terminus cut. This was circular with a diameter of 0.37m and depth of 0.18m. The relatively steep *c*.70° sides merged with a central and concave base. The single, dark-brown/grey silty clay fill **(650),** was devoid of finds.

Gully **[732] (K)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) ran for *c.*25 across site to the south-east baulk. Along its length its profile had relatively steep sides breaking sharply to a flat base. It was 0.20m deep and *c*.0.67m wide, containing a single mid yellow/brown silty clay fill **(731),** containing one possibly residual worked flint.

Both termini of the furthest south-west gully **[715] (L**) (Figure 38, Figure 39) were outside the limits of excavation. Investigated 2.40m from the south-east extent, the profile had steep straight sides breaking sharply with a central and relatively flat base. It was 0.18m deep and 0.70m wide. Single mid-grey/brown silty clay fill **(714),** was devoid of finds.

Two isolated pit features were investigated and recorded to the north-west of the north-east to south-west orientated gully traversing the site where the field gullies terminated. The northern pit **[588] (T)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) located *c.*3.60m from the gully, was sub-circular, *c*.0.20m deep with a diameter of 0.60m. The sides were gently sloping and the base concave. Single fill **(587),** of mid/dark-brown silty clay, was devoid of finds. Pit **[590] (S)** (Figure 38, Figure 39) also sub-circular, was 0.12m deep with a diameter of *c.*1.0m. The gradual sides merged with a 'bowl-shaped' base. Light-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(589),** was devoid of finds.

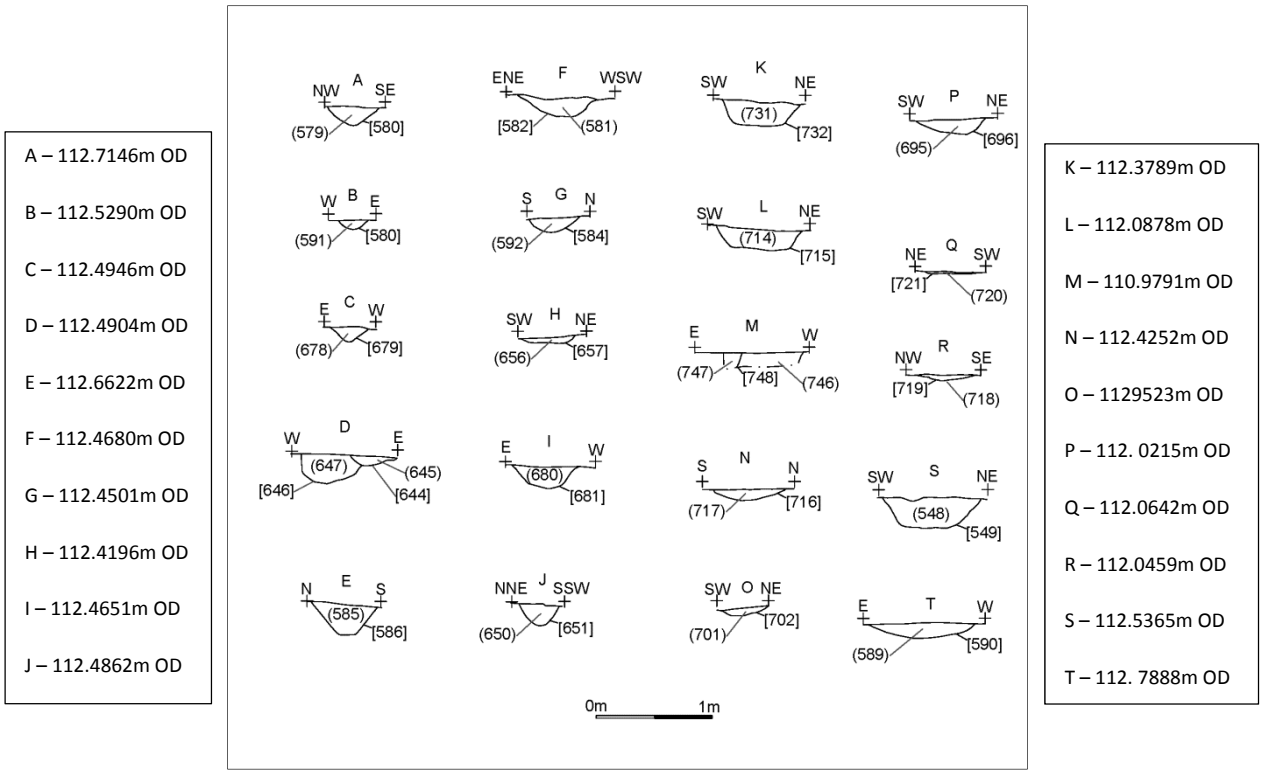


Figure 39 - Southern Field System Sections

Late Saxon Features (Figure 40, A - R)

A number of features aligned differently to the field system gullies discussed above were identified in Area 4 to the south of the site and, from pottery found, these were dated to the late Anglo-Saxon period (Figure 40). They included a pair of inter-related gullies **[653] (A) [660] (D) [662] [664] (C) [666] (B) [689] (F) [739] (E)** to the north of the area, emerging from beneath the north-west and south-west limit of excavation, an intermittent series of short gullies **[706] (G) [713] (H) [693] (I)** on a north-south alignment in the centre of the site, a discrete pit feature **[709] (K)** on the same alignment, possibly associated with these, an east-west orientated gully **[741] (R)**, cut by post-hole **[671] (Q),** in between these, two terminating gullies **[682] (M) [684] (L)** forming a possible entranceway in the south-west corner of the site and a terminating ditch **[667]** orientated east-west, heading away west from this entranceway, with another ditch **[723] (P),** perpendicular to this, orientated north-south and disappearing beneath the southern baulk of Area 4.

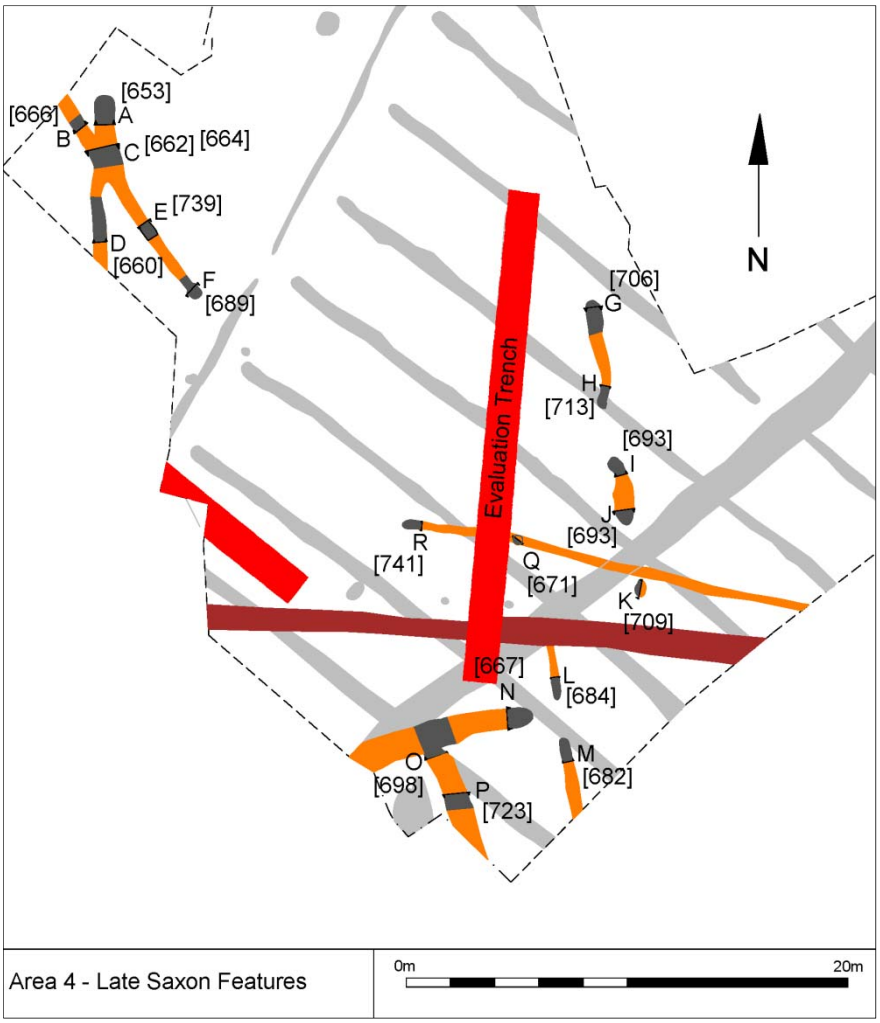


Figure 40 - Late Saxon Features (Area 4)

Two inter-related gullies in the north-west of Area 4 were identified, investigated and recorded in several slots. The first, gully **[666] (B)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) was observed emerging from the north-west baulk and, orientated north-west to south-east, extended 10.91m into the area of excavation. Gully **[660] (D)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) emerged from the south-west baulk and extended 7.71m on a north-south orientation. The two gullies appear to **cross (C).**

At its northern terminus, earlier gully **[653] (A)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) with sides of *c*.45°, was 0.18m deep and 0.90m in width. It had a flat, central base and a single light-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(652),** devoid of finds. In plan this gully appears to be curvilinear, arcing towards the east, with a southern terminus at **[689] (F)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) Its profile here had straight sides breaking gently with a central and concave base. Single fill **(688),** mid-grey/brown silty clay, was 0.15m deep and 0.50m wide and contained pottery dating to the mid-late Iron Age. Along its length, **(E),** the profile was shallower at 0.12m depth but a similar width. The base was still concave and the single fill **(738),** mid-yellow/brown silty clay, was devoid of finds. Gully **[664]** appears to be cut by **[662] [666] (C)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) although the relationship could not be ascertained categorically. Here the earlier linear was 0.10m deep and up to 0.50m wide, with steeper sides and slightly concave base.

Single russet-streaked orange/brown silty clay fill **(663),** was devoid of finds. The later linear profile at this intersection was 0.17m deep and 0.70m wide, with steep sides and flat base. This linear feature appears in plan to arc towards the west, disappearing beneath both baulks. Orange/brown silty clay fill **(661),** contained pottery dated to *c.*1050 – 12th century AD. The profile through gully **[662] [666] (B)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) to the north had moderately steep sides and concave base and the orange/brown sandy clay fill **(665),** contained fragments of undated CBM. To the south, gully **[660] (D)** (Figure 40, Figure 41**)** profile, 0.10m deep and 0.60m wide, had *c.*45° sides and a flat base and mid-brown silty clay fill **(659),** contained pottery dated to *c.*1150 – 13th century AD along with a flint flake fragment, probably of Neolithic/Bronze Age date, and animal bone.

In the centre of Area 4 were two intermittent north-south orientated stretches of gully, **[706] [713]** and **[693].** The northern of these **[706] [713]** was *c.*5m long and investigated at both termini. It was irregular in plan. Northern terminus **[706] (G)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) was heavily truncated and just 0.10m deep. The profile had gradual sides with a gentle break of slope at the flat base. Single light-yellow/brown fill **(705)** contained pottery dating to c.1050 – 13th century AD and animal bone. The southern terminus **[713] (H)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) was even shallower, with a depth of 0.05m and width of 0.35m. The base was concave. Mid-grey/black silty clay fill **(712)** contained pottery dating to *c.*1050 – 12th century AD.

The southern stretch of irregular gully **[693] (I) (J)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) was located 2.25m away from gully **[706]** and was just over 3m in length and *c.*0.91m at its widest point. It was between 0.14m – 0.19m deep, with a concave base. The single dark-orange/brown clay fill **(694)** contained unclassified pottery. Both the northern and southern terminus profile revealed gradually sloping concave sides merging with a gently concave base.

Orientated east-west and *c.*1.80 to the south of gully **[693],** gully **[741] (R**) (Figure 40, Figure 41) survived to a length of *c.*19m+ and ran beneath the south-west limit of excavation. At the north-east terminus it was elongated with steeply sloping sides merging with a quite sharply concave base. The single mid-yellow/brown silty clay fill **(749),** was devoid of finds. The relationship of this gully with the north-west to south-east field gully, where investigated, was unclear but further south it was interpreted as cutting another of these linear features.

A sub-circular post-hole **[671] (Q)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) with steep sides merging gently with a central and concave base, appeared to cut gully **[750].** The single fill **(670)** was mid-dark/grey silty clay, containing pottery dated to *c.*1050 – 12th century AD and *c.*1150 – 13th century AD. It had a depth of 0.32m and diameter of 0.45m.

Immediately to the south-east of the east west gully was located a discrete ovoid pit **[709] (K)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) This had undergone substantial truncation in antiquity and had a maximum depth of 0.10m, with a width of 0.50m and length of 0.75m. Single fill **(710),** dark-orange/brown clay, with charcoal and pottery dated to *c.*12th – 13th century AD. There were no other similar features in the vicinity.

In the south-west corner of Area 4, a cluster of possibly associated linear features was identified, **[667] (N) [682] (M) [685] (L) [698] (O) [723] (P)**. Two of these were gullies **[682] [684],** orientated approximately north-south, the opposing termini of which appeared to form an east-west entranceway. The northern of these **[684] (L)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) disappearing into an east-west furrow, was *c.*2.50m long. At its surviving southern terminus it was a shallow 0.08m depth and 0.35m wide with a flat base. The single mid-orange/brown clay fill **(685)**, with occasional charcoal, contained animal

bone and pottery dated to *c.*1050 – 13th century AD. The linear was cut by a furrow to the north and did not reappear on the other side of this. Approximately 1.80m away was the northern terminus of the southern stretch of gully **[682] (M)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) forming the entranceway and ran for *c*.3.60m until it went beneath the south-east limit of excavation. With a depth of 0.10m, steep, vertical sides and flat base, the single mid-orange/brown clay fill **(683)** contained pottery dated to *c*.850/900 century AD through to *c.*1150 – 13th century AD and animal bone.

Approximately 1m west from the entranceway was located the terminus of a larger ditch **[667] (N)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) orientated east-west, with a length of *c*.7.0m, before it merged with ditch **[698] (O**) (Figure 40. Figure 41). Its depth was 0.50m and width 0.90m. The sides were gradual, becoming steeper and the base concave. Primary fill **(669),** 0.42m in depth, light orange/brown clay, contained pottery dating from *c*.1050 – 13th century AD. The upper fill **(668)** was 0.25m deep and composed from dark-grey/brown clay containing animal bone and pottery dating from *c*.850 – 13th century AD. The relationship with this feature was investigated further west but was unclear in section or plan.

Linear **[723] (P)** (Figure 40, Figure 41) interpreted as a ditch, was *c*.6m in length, 1.05m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.62m. It had initially steep sides, becoming almost vertical, with a clear break to a flat base. The dark-greyish/brown clay fill **(722)** contained charcoal and a significant quantity of slag, identified as the fragmented remains of a hearth base, along with pottery dated to the Late Saxon period.

A – 112.6150m OD

B – 112.6306m OD

C – 1126082m OD

D – 1125634m OD

E – 112.5507m OD

F – 112.5396m OD

G – 112.3880m OD

H – 112.3455m OD

I – 112.3024m OD

J – 112.2806m OD

K – 112.2360m OD

L – 112.3166m OD

M – 112.1192m OD

N – 112.2526m OD

O – 112.2926m OD

P – 112.2269m OD

Q – 112.1790m OD

R – 112.2338m OD

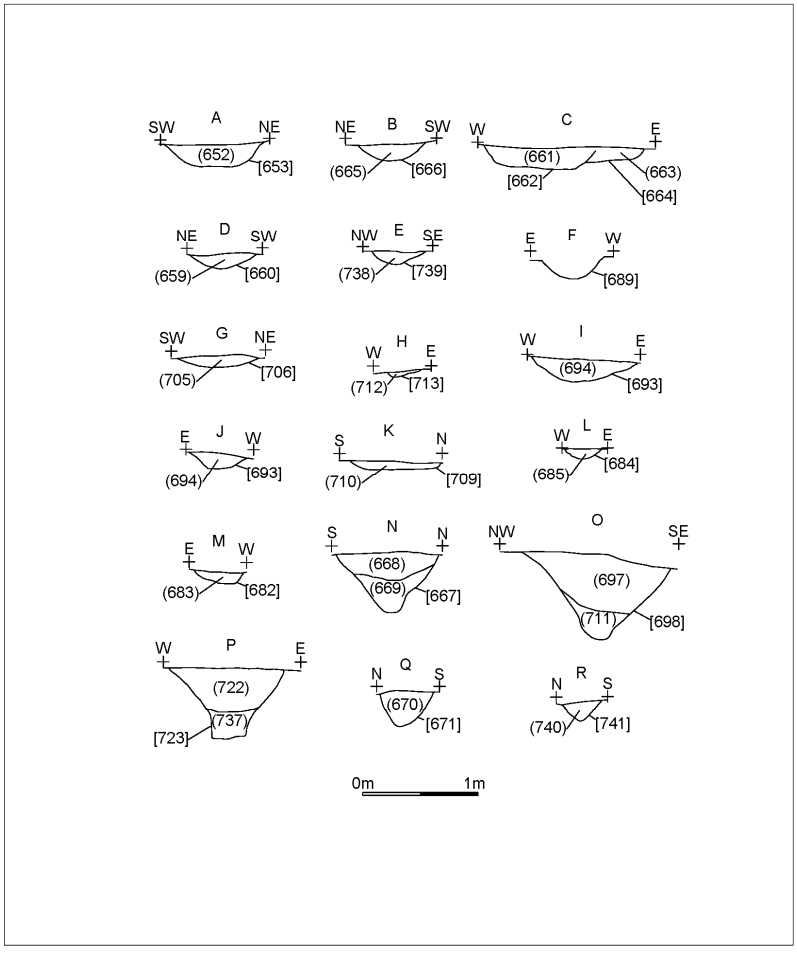


Figure 41 - Late Saxon Sections

Discussion

The site was divided and excavated in four separate areas, each revealing a differing density of archaeological preservation and functional nature. There was some evidence of furrows running across the site and the archaeology was possibly subject to some truncation through this. The overall nature of the deposits meant that stratigraphic relationships, where applicable, were difficult to ascertain and the general quantities of finds recovered were low and narrow in range although did indicate the longevity of land use on the site from the Neolithic/Bronze Age through to the Late Saxon period and to the modern day.

Areas 1 and 2

This area contained the main evidence for the domestic Iron Age occupation of the site and revealed the greatest density of archaeological remains. These remains were represented by two roundhouses with their accompanying respective enclosures, the main 'clothes line' ditch traversing both areas and internal enclosure divisions, along with a number of discrete, isolated features. The vast majority of finds were of mid/late Iron Age but the evidence for the transitional period was represented by pottery notably from the final recut of the main ditch and from internal Subdivision 1. It is conceivable that the discrete pit, post-holes and linear feature observed in this area could be the remains of other structures erased by truncation. Subsequent occupants of the area were clearly utilising and reusing the earthworks in the landscape left by their predecessors and for similar reasons.

Area 3

The archaeology in this area was far less dense and of a different nature. There was a possible roundhouse gully, a series of straight linear features on a general north-east to south-west orientation and a number of discrete features. Two, possibly three, isolated discrete pits, dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age were also identified towards the northern limits of the development area which were probably part of a wider presence in the vicinity. There was no definite evidence of domestic occupation and the land use appears to have been of a more pastoral/agricultural function and part of the transitional phase of the activity and related to the same phase of development seen within the main focus of domestic occupation within Area 1. The distribution of pottery was sparse.

Area 4

This area contained archaeological features potentially representing each successive phase of the site. The earliest evidence was for a north-east to south-west ditch, albeit undated, reminiscent of the Iron Age ditch in Area 1 and 2 and cut by a series of parallel gullies tentatively attributed to a transitional agricultural field system. These were subsequently truncated by better-dated linear feature and discrete features dated to the Late Saxon period. An undated ditch, attributed by its similar alignment to the Iron Age period of occupation focused in Area 1 and 2, traversed Area 4 and was post-dated by both the field systems and the Late Saxon features.

Neolithic/Bronze Age Activity

This was represented by at least two, possibly three, isolated and discrete pit features towards the north of Area 3. This may suggest that further archaeological features of this date extend beneath the northern limit of the site, but the scarcity of the evidence gives little scope for further interpretation. There was no archaeological evidence from this period from the nearby site of Catmose College to the north-west. Other scattered clusters of Prehistoric features have been recorded nearby, along with prehistoric findspots in the vicinity. A Neolithic flint axe was found *c*.0.2km to the south west and Bronze Age ring ditches are recorded north – west of Lonsdale House and south of Barleythorpe Stud (Clarke, 2011). Off Barleythorpe Road a programme of geophysical survey and evaluation revealed

concentric Bronze Age ring ditches with burials associated with earlier Neolithic and Mesolithic finds. The Huntsmans Drive evidence, constituting a significant assemblage of finds from limited features, reinforces that which represents prehistoric activity, albeit fragmentary and somewhat dispersed, in the area.

Iron Age Activity

The primary focus for Iron Age archaeology on the site is represented by the survival of two successive roundhouse features and their respective enclosure ditches in Area 1 and extending into Area 2 of the site. The evidence suggests that there were two well established phases of roundhouse and enclosure construction, involving a reduction in the size of the enclosure, firstly by a smaller main enclosure and later, during the transitional phase, a partitioning and subdividing of the later enclosure. The finds across this area generally indicate a mid/late Iron Age date. There is evidence that the main enclosure ditch was recut in the transitional and Roman period. Based on its centrality and the interpretation of its relationship with the other roundhouse, Roundhouse 1 appears to be the earlier stage of Iron Age domestic occupation on the site. This would have incorporated the earlier cuts of the main, north-west and north-east ditches as three of its boundaries, and would also have incorporated an entranceway facing east. The south-east complex of ditches reveals some evidence for this entranceway. All of the boundary ditches appear to have been recut at a later date, the only definitive dating for this, being the presence of Iron Age and 1st century AD pottery within the main ditch.

Roundhouse 1, relatively large, at *c.*12m internal diameter, may have been altered or subject to rebuilding at least once during its period of occupation. Its entrance faced east, opposite the potential enclosure entrance. Internal entranceway portal post-holes were evidence of timber being used in construction. The southern terminus contained a fragment of quern stone, the deposition of which, whether 'symbolic' or not, represents material evidence of cereal processing in the vicinity of the structure. Unusually for Iron Age sites, an iron implement was also recovered from the terminus of Roundhouse 1 reflecting another function of the site.

The south-western enclosure ditch may have been recut in order to form a boundary for Roundhouse 2, although determining this is difficult. Unfortunately the return section of the enclosure extended beyond the development area to the north-west. The position of the entranceway formed by the inner enclosure ditches has been circumstantially interpreted as indicating that this was the enclosure relating to the second stage of domestic construction, that of Roundhouse 2. Through excavation it was established that this roundhouse post-dated Roundhouse 1. It had a similar diameter at *c.*11m and evidence of another east-facing entrance with associated post-holes. Its location, central to the main ditch and the inner north-west to south-east ditch, supports rather than confirms this theory. This roundhouse was generally subject to a higher degree of truncation, as was the inner north-east enclosure ditch probably related to it. There was less indication that this Roundhouse 2 had been rebuilt during its lifespan although a recut of the eaves gully was identified in the north-east terminus. The finds from Roundhouse 2, although scarce, suggested a mid/late Iron Age date. To the north-west of Roundhouse 2 the internal enclosure is subdivided by at least two straight linear features, both post-dating the earlier structure, Roundhouse 1. Dated to the transitional period between the Iron Age and Roman, they also potentially relate to Roundhouse 2 and may have been constructed whilst the latter building was still in use. This may again reflect a change in land use towards the end of the Iron Age period. The evidence that these subdivision gullies terminate before the main ditch could suggest that they respect this feature. A shifting of the focus of occupation may be represented by Roundhouse 3, probably rebuilt at least once, in the south of Area 3, although the scarcity of finds and substantial

truncation of this feature to the immediate south, possibly during the construction of a pump house, makes this interpretation limited and tenuous.

The settlement probably saw a variety of specialist processing activities either on-site or in the wider area, including processing of foodstuffs, the local production of metal and the husbandry of livestock. The assemblage, albeit relatively small, fragmentary and of sometimes poor survival, the animal bone recovered at Huntmans Drive suggests cattle were the predominant beast kept in the Iron Age period, along with sheep/goat, pigs, horse and deer. The evidence suggests an exploitation of wild animals for food in the wider landscape as well as full processing of domesticated animals on site, notably cattle, where the entire skeletal remains were represented (Browning, 2015, below).

An undated ditch, truncated by the field system gullies in Area 4 could be of Iron Age date. Although it did not yield any datable material the alignment with the linear features across the focus of Iron Age occupation imply a relationship in proximity to the main boundary ditch recorded in Area 1 and 2.

The alignment of the features described as associated with the main ditch and heading westwards south of it in Area 2, may loosely be ascribed a relationship with those identified as Late Saxon and on the same alignment, traversing the central part and emerging from the eastern corner of Area 4, although the evidence for this is tenuous and circumstantial at best. The sparse nature of the evidence and finds assemblage means it is difficult to expand on this hypothesis. The sparser nature of them would be consistent with activity decreasing further away from the Oakham to Barleythorpe road.

Most of the few Iron Age sites in the Gwash Valley have been identified through aerial photography and not subject to intrusive archaeological work. Others may have disappeared beneath the waters of Rutland Water (Brown 2010). A comparable site of 11.2ha was excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology between October 2008 and March 2009, located *c.*300m west of Huntsmans Drive prior to construction of college buildings. This comprised an open settlement of probably four roundhouses, dating from the 2nd Century AD and continuing through to the 3rd/4th Century AD. A boundary ditch was evidently introduced in the 1st century AD, possibly influencing subsequent development of the settlement further west, and reflecting the evidence obtained at the Huntsmans Drive site and the later re-cutting of the main enclosure ditch.

The roundhouses investigated on the college site were similar in size although at least one was constructed using a double ditch system. They revealed evidence for rebuilding but like the Huntsmans Drive example this evidence, where identified, was confined to the roundhouse termini. They also contained comparable internal portal post-holes, just within the east-facing entranceways, but differed in that more internal roundhouse features were observed. The construction of roundhouses on both sites is consistent with mid/late Iron Age building technology in the region such as Yaxley, Huntingdonshire (Brown, 2008c; 2009). Further comparable examples of roundhouse construction come from the Humberstone excavations near Leicester, where several of the buildings excavated included pairs of portal post-holes just within their entranceways. Others, containing more internal features, lack the ring gullies (Thomas, 2008). The movement to ring gullies may also reflect the trend of changing patterns of ownership and a move towards more permanent statements of ownership in the transitional period (Haselgrove, 2003). The College Fields excavation finds assemblage also provided evidence for the continuity, albeit shifting, of occupation on the site from the Iron Age into the Roman period. This is also evident at sites such as Empingham West where roundhouses are abandoned by the end of the 1st century AD onwards and a Romano-British farmstead evolved not more than *c.*1km away, from the mid-1st century AD onwards (Brown, 2010). Many sites do not demonstrate evidence for continuity of settlement and the Huntsmans Drive site is

important in this respect. The presence of Belgic style pottery in stratigraphically later features is importance evidence itself and shelley ware pottery from the Enclosure 2 ditch reinforces this theory in relation to the use of the ditches. There is compelling evidence from Huntsmans Drive that gullies were being added, influenced by the existing roundhouse enclosure layout, at least into the late-1st century AD (see Johnson, below).

The evidence from Oakham, at Huntsmans Drive and nearby College Fields suggests that open and enclosure areas can be incorporated into the same settlement, both forms respecting or influenced by the presence of an important and distinct linear boundary which is reused through time and leads to the development of linear settlement in its proximity. Some of the later developments to the Huntsmans Drive site, the two series of subdivisions and the fence line, for instance, support this. The same pattern of growth and influence is seen at the Humberstone settlement near Leicester, where a similar distinct linear boundary defined the edge of the settlement (Thomas 2008). At Huntsmans Drive, as at Humberstone, there was very little activity on the other side of the ditch to the main focus of settlement. The area immediately outside the enclosure entranceways to the east, with a significant lack of archaeological remains also indicate a distinct change in land use and clear division between them. Although difficult to ascertain from the stratigraphic evidence from Oakham, the evidence from Humberstone showed some indication that the main boundary ditch existed before the rectangular enclosure attached. The Humberstone settlement was occupied for a similar period of time to that of Oakham and the later evidence there indicated that single roundhouses were being enclosed in square and rectangular enclosures. The decreasing size of these enclosures was also reflected in the evidence from Humberstone (ibid) and may be deduced from the division of the enclosure at Huntsmans drive. This could be seen as part of a wider trend towards 'bounded' landscapes, whereby tenurial rights, previously more fluid, were being more clearly defined by groups in a more 'formal' arrangement (Wells 2007)

Transitional Activity

It appears that the land use changed towards the end of the late Iron Age and, as domestic occupation decreased, the land was more given over to pastoral or agricultural use. At some point a linear feature, extending from, and terminating in, the northern part of Area 3, continued into the enclosure area, where it also terminated, although, unlike Subdivision 1, at a significant distance from the main ditch. Further evidence of land subdivisions respecting the line of the main north-west to south-east ditch is represented by the survival of a linear fence line to the west, with a corresponding parallel alignment of related post-holes. Although ephemeral in nature, and the only dating material from this feature pointing to the mid/late Iron Age, this does not eliminate the feature as being part of the later transitional phase of development of the site. The alignment of the internal subdivisions is also comparable and possibly related to the north-east to south-west gully, respected by the southern field system gullies and identified as of agricultural in function and traversing the north-west of Area 4. The northern termini of Subdivision 1 may be represented by the gully emerging from the western baulk in Area 3.

An alternative interpretation is that both subdivision linear features represent later use of the site, after both roundhouses had gone out use and before the final recuts of some of the enclosure ditches. It was unfortunate that the north-west return and relationship between the enclosure ditch and with Subdivision 1 was outside the development area. There was less evidence that Subdivision 1 continued north of the internal enclosure ditch. Subdivision 2 also appeared to be post-dated by the latest cut of the inner north-west to south-east ditch of Enclosure 1, whereby it is later than the parallel inner ditch of Enclosure 2. This adds to the evidence that the roundhouse enclosure ditches were

subject to reuse in the transitional period of activity, along with the main ditch, the final visible recut taking place *c*.AD30-60.

The transitional period and change of land use across the site is supported by the evidence from Area 4 in the south of the development area. Here the predominant archaeological characteristic is the series of parallel north-west to south-east gullies, approximately 4m apart, respecting a single north-east to south-west gully at their northern extent. This single gully was on a comparable alignment to the features identified as subdivisions in the area of the roundhouse enclosure, tempting a correlation to be drawn with them. These appear to have had an agricultural function, reflected in the absence of finds. It appears that this field system extends south-east towards the present day settlement of Oakham. Comparable field systems have been identified at Thistleton, Rutland and both Wolleston and New Dunston in Northamptonshire. Those at Thistleton were *c*.5m apart, similar to Wolleston and Dunston and were interpreted as being on the periphery of a Roman Villa estate or agricultural outskirts of a nearby focus of occupation (Higgin, 2011). As at Huntsmans Drive, this was reinforced by the relative paucity of finds. Unlike the Huntsmans Drive examples, the bases of both the Wolleston and Dunston gullies were notably flat and showed evidence in them of penetration by post-holes or stakes, characteristic of pastinatio trenches found in vineyards. The features from Wolleston, Northamptonshire covered a total area of 11ha (Brown et al, 2001) and all three sites revealed evidence that the area was being cultivated in at least up until the 2nd century AD. The environmental remains from the Huntsmans Drive gullies were negligible and although the features contribute to the increasing understanding of possible viticulture practiced in Roman Britain, the evidence they yield in in no way conclusive.

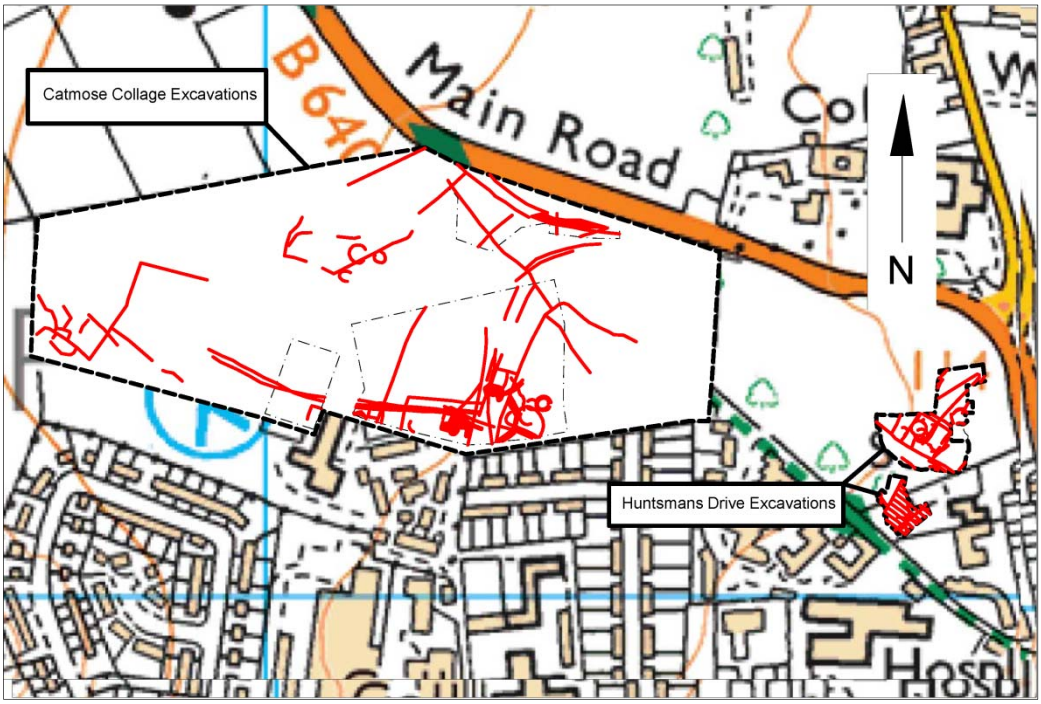


Figure 42 - Catmose College and Huntsmans Drive Excavations

The evidence from the nearby Catmose College excavation points to domestic occupation activity tailing off well into the Roman period with extensions to the enclosure system of ditches taking place in the mid-2nd century AD. The evidence from Huntsman's Drive supported this, suggesting that the developments in the main enclosure system were well underway in the 1st Century AD. The greater occurrence of Roman features and the higher the Roman pottery and other material assemblages from

the College site gives further weight to the shifting focus of settlement into the 2nd century AD (Brown, 2010). The implication that the enclosure system in the area is still being reused into the 2nd century AD reinforces the importance of some of these features in the landscape and it was noted from the College site that the late Iron Age boundary was incorporated into both the Roman Field system and later into the Saxon manorial boundary between Oakham and Barleythorpe (ibid). The main ditch on the Huntsmans Drive site can be projected towards another similarly aligned ditch heading eastwards from the College site, if the link between the two needs emphasising. The importance of the main ditch is reinforced at other sites, such as Empingham II, where a ditch and trackway later formed the southern boundary of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (Cooper 2000, 48). The main ditch at Huntsmans Drive may also have incorporated a bank, possibly external to the settlement, considering the evidence that the later subdivisions and fence line gullies terminate short of the ditch, to the north of it. Domestic occupation is evidently on the decline into the 1st century AD on the Huntsmans Drive site and it may be that the location is on the pastoral periphery of the more densely occupied area of the settlement at Catmose College to the west. This is supported by the dearth of seed remains in the environmental samples taken from the mid/late Iron Age and transitional features of Huntsmans Drive.

Late Saxon Activity

The latest period of activity on the site was represented by a group of differently aligned linear features located within Area 4 and dated predominantly to the Late Saxon period. Although sporadic in nature, these were well preserved, well dated, both stratigraphically and materially, and are probably the remains of a field system or field boundaries. They represent another shift southwards of later activity on the site, probably a re-emergence of domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site after the decline or shifting focus in the later 1st century AD. There was significantly more pottery recovered from these features, probably related to the closer proximity to the developing settlement nearby, and the sampling of the features produces more positive environmental remains. The animal bone assemblage indicated a greater diversity of husbandry and the greater proportion of pig bones reflects the evidence that this was an important food source in the Saxon period (Browning, 2015, below) The three linear termini in the south-west corner of Area 4 may represent the entranceway into some sort of enclosure and suggests an increasing density of archaeology southwards and outside the stripped area.

Other medieval/late medieval evidence has been recorded nearby. A rare Saxon building was excavated 0.6km south-east of the site in 1994, together with a ditch, parallel to South Street, thought to be the town boundary ditch (Jones, 1996). The Catmose College excavations revealed evidence for the medieval Barleythorpe Road 0.4km to the north-west along with significant ridge and furrow earthworks further west (Brown, 2010). Excavations in the town of Oakham which was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, point to a prosperous late medieval settlement. Near the castle, Saxon and late medieval pottery has been recovered and a coin hoard discovered in 1749, dated to *c.*AD980. Comparable pottery to that from the Huntsmans Drive site is recorded as being found close to Main Street (Good and Mepham, 2014). The Huntsmans Drive evidence, located as it is a few metres north of the main Oakham to Barlythorpe road, reflects a level of intensity in roadside activity that goes some way to reinforce this.

Conclusion

Taken as a whole, the site is an area with a sustained period of continued and long-lived settlement and activity, albeit changing in size, focus and function, all periods from the Neolithic to the present day being represented in the archaeological record.

Although the evidence is scarce, the remains of Neolithic/Bronze Age features to the north of the site suggest a continuation of this period of prehistoric activity further north and without the development area.

The evidence for the Iron Age activity is typical of another linear settlement in Rutland, otherwise known as 'aggregated' settlements and it seems certain that the past activity on Huntsmans Drive is representative of the evolution of the settlement glimpsed through evidence at the Catmose College site to the north-west. The identified criteria for these includes longevity of use, open and closed areas of activity, both domestic and subsistence related, and where the chronological development of the settlement has a distinct relationship with an important and reused linear boundary. The evidence from the Huntsman's Drive excavations seems to suggest that domestic activity continues in some form until the mid/late 1st century AD, when pastoral activity becomes predominant until domestic settlement appears again further south in the Late Saxon period. The individual roundhouse buildings overlapped and there was evidence that their respective enclosures were redesigned, reinforcing the suggestion that settlement was becoming more organised and formal. The relative scarcity of finds from the roundhouses and their enclosures indicates that the focus of activity on the Huntsmans Drive site could represent the periphery of the later transitional/1st century AD settlement and, along with the presence of the quern stone and metal strip, points to specialist activity taking place proximally to these structures, as opposed to intensive and general domestic occupation. The recovery of Belgic pottery from features associated with the Iron Age settlement is indicative of the continuity of typical transitional period sites in Rutland and adds further information to this body of knowledge. It can be deduced from the evidence from the nearby Catmose College Fields that the pastoral activities there may have been abandoned by the 5th century AD, an event that could and probably would have included the activity at Huntsmans Drive and supported by a Roman pottery assemblage.

The assemblage of pottery from the Late Saxon/Early medieval features to the south of the stripped area is typical of sites outlying present day settlements in Rutland and represents a relatively early development of the village before a continuing shift of focus to the present day centre of Oakham.

Acknowledgements

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Oasis

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	An Excavation on Land off Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland
Summary	*Archaeological excavations at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, Rutland (SK 855 092)have revealed an extensive area of activity from the Neolithic/Bronze Age*

	to the Late Saxon/Early medieval period and an intensive Iron Age/transitional "aggregated" settlement consisting of two enclosed roundhouse developed after and in relation to a "main" and reused ditch, and evidence of further "open" occupancy. Settlement on the site was evidently long-lived, focused on the Iron Age/transitional period, declined or changed in nature in the 1st century AD, and increased again in the Late Saxon period. The site probably represents the same settlement revealed at Catmose College to the north-west and is comparable in type and development to other settlements in Rutland and Leicestershire, adding to the regional knowledge of sites from this period. Although the finds assemblage was small, it offered some indication of the changing function of the site over time. Limited environmental information suggests that the site existed within a largely cleared landscape with areas of open grassland and possibly agricultural fields nearby, although wooded areas must still have existed in the vicinity. Although it is thought that the inhabitants of the settlement were involved in mixed farming, an emphasis on pastoralism is suggested. Evidence for metal working and food processing was also recovered.
Project Type	Excavation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Stephen Baker
Previous/Future work	Previous: Evaluation 2012
Current Land Use	Pasture/recreation
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF, Section 12 and DCLG 2012
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 855 092
Height OD	114m OD
Start/end dates of field work	April – July 2014
Archive Recipient	Oakham Museum, Rutland
Study Area	1.2ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: OAKRM2011.32

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Appendix 1: The Iron Age and Roman Pottery *Elizabeth Johnson*

Assemblage Size and Condition

An assemblage comprising 229 sherds of pottery weighing 1.316kg with an estimated vessel equivalent (EVEs) of 1.095 was retrieved from the excavations. Most of the pottery is mid-late Iron Age, accounting for 188 sherds, 1.116kg and 0.815 EVEs. The remainder of the assemblage is Roman pottery, accounting for 41 sherds, 200g and 0.28 EVEs. The assemblage is in fairly poor condition overall, with many small and abraded sherds. This is reflected in the average sherd weight of 5.8g.

Methodology

The pottery was examined using a binocular microscope at x20 magnification and classified using the Leicestershire fabric series for Prehistoric and Roman pottery as summarised below (Pollard 1994; Marsden 2011), with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group's guidelines (PCRG 1997).

Table 1: Summary of Leicestershire Prehistoric and Roman pottery fabric series (Pollard 1994, 112-114; Marsden 2011, 62).

Fabric	Description
Iron Age	
Shell-tempered	
• S1 *Shell*	Moderate to very common shell or platey voids (1–5mm).
S2 *Sandy fabric with shell*	As S1, but with common to very common sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25-1mm).
Grog-tempered	
G1 *Grog in shelly and sandy fabric*	Shelly and sandy fabric (similar to S2) with sparse rounded grog (c.0.2-0.5mm).
G2 *Grog in sandy fabric*	Sandy fabric (similar to Q1) with rare rounded grog (0.5-2mm).
Sandy	
Q1 *Quartz sand*	Common to abundant sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm).
Roman	
CG1A Calcite gritted (shelly) wares	Fossil marine shell, low quartz content.
SW2 Sandy wares	Fine sandy wares in 'Belgic' style, generally wheel thrown.
GT1 Grog-tempered wares	Coarse fabric with 'Belgic' forms diagnostic.
GW3 Grey wares	Fine sandy grey wares.
WW2 White wares	Fine white wares.

Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim values). Average sherd weights (ASW) have also been calculated to provide an indication of the condition of the material and levels of preservation within the assemblage. Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Museums form series and other published typologies. The dataset was recorded and analysed within an MS Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

The Iron Age Pottery

The table and chart below detail a summary of the pottery fabrics within the assemblage as a whole. Figure 1 shows the percentage of fabrics present by EVEs as a measure of individual vessels identified, whilst weight is shown to enable comparison with other published sites.

Table 2: Quantification of the Iron Age pottery.

Fabric	Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	% Weight	EVEs	% EVEs	ASW (g)
G1	18	9.6%	103	9.2%	0.075	9.2%	5.7
G2	4	2.1%	73	6.5%	0.05	6.1%	18.3
Q1	4	2.1%	23	2.1%	0	0.0%	5.8
S1	149	79.3%	756	67.7%	0.505	62.0%	5.1
S2	13	6.9%	161	14.4%	0.185	22.7%	12.4
Total	**188**	**100.0%**	**1116**	**100.0%**	**0.815**	**100.0%**	**5.9**

The assemblage is dominated by the shell-tempered fabrics S1 and S2, which account for 82.2% by weight, followed by grog-tempered wares G1 and G2, and a small amount of Q1 sandy ware. Twelve rims were recovered comprising three inturned rims from ovoid or ellipsoid jars; six upright jar rims and three upright flattened rims. Twenty-one sherds were scored, equating to 39.5% of the Iron Age assemblage.

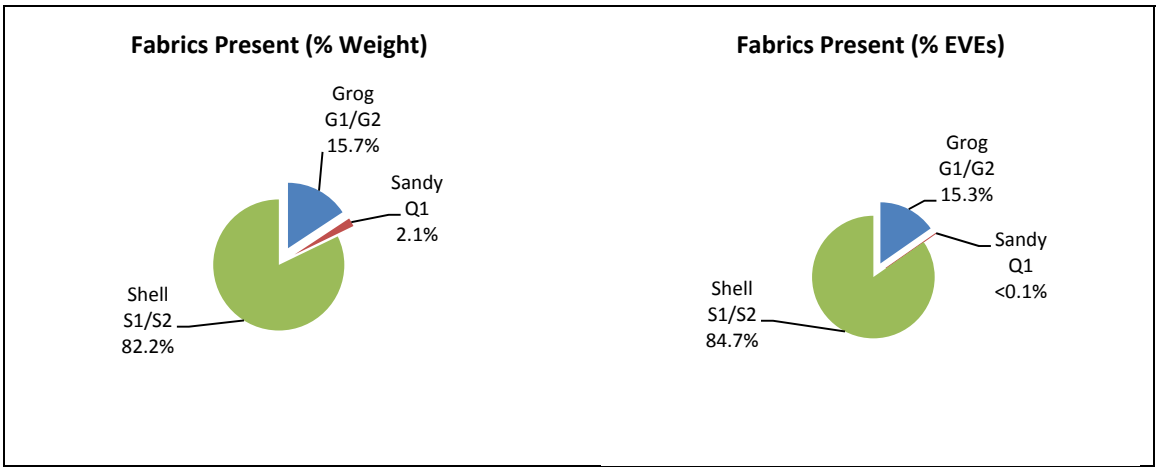

Figure 43: Iron Age pottery fabrics present by % weight and EVEs.

The material fits broadly within the East Midlands Scored ware tradition. Scored wares generally date to the mid-late Iron Age, becoming widespread from the middle of the 3rd century BC and are believed to continue well into the 1st century AD in rural areas of Leicestershire and Rutland (Elsdon 1992a, 83-89). It has also been suggested that the proportion of scored sherds within an assemblage increases with time, ranging from around 25% at earlier sites to 50% or more moving into the late Iron Age (*ibid*). The proportion of scored sherds in this assemblage compares fairly well with other sites in Leicestershire such as Grove Farm, Enderby (29%) (Elsdon 1992b, 38), Wanlip, (36.6%) (Marsden 1998, 46-69), Elms Farm, Humberstone (45.6%) (Marsden 2000, 173-177) and Manor Farm, Humberstone (35.4%) (Marsden 2011, 65). Similarly, 31% of sherds were scored within Ceramic Phase 1 at Weekley in Northamptonshire, which is dated to *c.*175BC-AD20 (Jackson and Dix 1987, 73). This compares to only 7.2% of scored wares recovered from Beaumont Leys, Leicester

dated to 600-400BC (Marsden 2011, 63). On this basis, a date range from the 2nd century BC to the early 1st century AD could be suggested for this assemblage.

The dominance of shell-tempered wares in Rutland and South East Leicestershire is evident at other Iron Age sites such as Empingham (Cooper 2000, 67), Whitwell (Todd 1981, 23) and Market Harborough (Johnson forthcoming), with the local outcrops of Lincolnshire limestone the most likely source of the shell inclusions (Marsden 2000, 173). A comparison of these sites with other Iron Age sites in Leicestershire from which scored ware assemblages were recovered shows interesting differences in the proportions of fabrics present, as illustrated in the table below.

	Fabric (% weight)				
Site	Quartz	Sandy	Granitic	Shell	Other
Lockington, Leics	73.4	21.1	0.4	2.3	2.7
Wanlip, Leics	0	16.0	82.3	0.5	1.2
Elms Farm, Humberstone, Leics	0	2.3	89.4	2.3	0
Manor Farm, Humberstone, Leics	1.4	3.1	82.4	13.1	0
Hallam Fields, Birstall, Leics	0	9.5	88.2	2.0	0
Huntsman's Drive, Oakham, Rutland	0	2.1	0	82.2	15.7
Market Harborough, Leics	0.7	2.1	0.5	86.0	10.7

Table 3: Comparison of Iron Age pottery fabrics found by site and % weight.

The central Leicestershire sites located reasonably close to the Charnwood Forest outcrops are dominated by grantic-tempered wares; whilst quartz-tempered wares are predominant at Lockington (Johnson 2011) situated much further to the north where the underlying geology is quartz pebble beds. This is in stark contrast to this site at Oakham and the Market Harborough site, where shell-tempered wares are dominant. The assemblages are all comparable in respect of vessel forms and decorative styles, irrespective of whether quartz, granitic-tempered or shell-tempered fabrics are most common. This supports the idea that scored ware is a tradition or style widely used for essentially locally made pottery throughout the East Midlands during the mid-late Iron Age (Elsdon 1992a, 84), although a case can be made for some trade or exchange with regard to sites where smaller quantities of granodiorite and shell-tempered wares are found (Knight *et al* 2003).

The Roman Pottery

The Roman assemblage is small and also in fairly poor condition overall and the table below details a summary of the major pottery fabrics present. Figure 2 shows the percentage of fabrics present by EVEs as a measure of individual vessels identified, whilst sherd count is shown to enable comparison with other published sites.

Fabric	**Sherds**	**% Sherds**	**Weight (g)**	**% Weight**	**EVEs**	**% EVEs**	**ASW (g)**
CG1A	13	31.7%	62	31.0%	0.1	35.7%	4.8
GT1	2	4.9%	14	7.0%	0	0.0%	7.0
GW3	2	4.9%	41	20.5%	0	0.0%	20.5
SW2	22	53.7%	81	40.5%	0.18	64.3%	3.7
WW2	2	4.9%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	1.0
Total	**41**	**100.0%**	**200**	**100.0%**	**0.28**	**100.0%**	**4.9**

Table 4: Quantification of the Roman pottery.

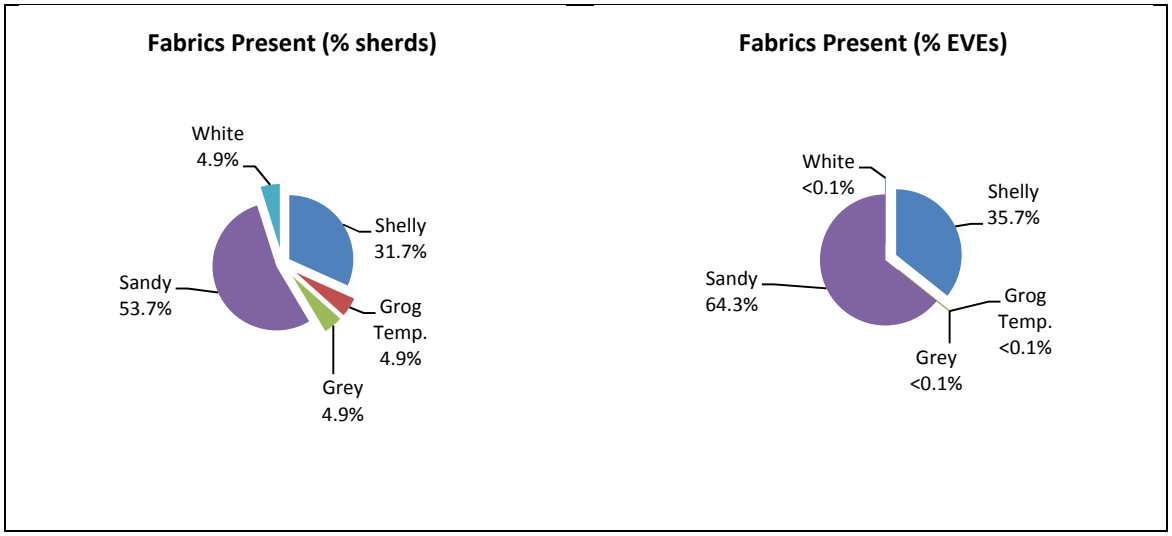

Figure 44: Roman pottery fabrics present by % sherd count and EVEs.

The Roman pottery assemblage is characterised by transitional fabrics and early shelly wares, with sandy wares, shell-tempered and grog-tempered wares accounting for 90.3% by sherd count and 100% of the EVEs. The sandy and grog-tempered wares are sometimes known as 'transitional' fabrics and date within the 1st century AD (Pollard 1994, 74-75).

Sandy wares are most common, accounting for 53.7% by sherd count and 64.3% of the EVEs. All of the sandy wares are in the fine SW2 fabric, with four rims recovered from four separate contexts. Three are rounded outcurved and one rim is everted. Body sherds include carinated and cordoned forms, one with burnished surfaces. These vessels are typical 'Belgic' styles associated with the middle of the 1st century AD. Shell-tempered wares are the second most frequent fabric accounting for approximately one third of the assemblage. The vessels present are all jars, including one rounded outcurved rim. The grog-tempered wares are in the coarse GT1 fabric most commonly used for storage jars.

The remaining Roman pottery comprises two sherds of fine sandy grey ware from [218] (217) and two sherds of fine white ware from [502] (501). The grey ware is from a jar, whilst the white ware is very fine with a sooted outer surface and could be from a jar or bowl. Both date from the later 1st century onwards and are the only sherds dating beyond the middle of the 1st century.

Stratified Features

Roundhouse 1 and Enclosure 1

RH1 contexts: [282] (283), [288] (286), [291] (292), [297] (299)
ENC1 contexts: [103] (104), [413] (415)

Seventeen sherds (130g) of mid-late Iron Age pottery were recovered from contexts within Roundhouse 1. All the material is either S1 or S2 shelly ware and includes an ovoid or ellipsoid jar with inturned rim, two upright flattened jar rims and two scored sherds. Two extremely small and abraded sherds of mid-1st century transitional sandy and shelly ware

were recovered from [291] (292) within Roundhouse 1. It is highly likely that these two sherds relate to the later shallow gully [251] (252), as this feature cuts Roundhouse 1 and the other material from (252) dates to the mid-1st century. The condition of the sherds from (292) also suggests re-deposited material. Two very small and abraded shell-tempered sherds were recovered from [103] (104) and [413] (415) within Enclosure 1.

Roundhouse 2 and Enclosure 2

RH2 contexts: [273] (281), [301] (300)
ENC2 contexts: [208] (207), [430] (429), [431] (432), [460] (461)

Only two small sherds of pottery were recovered from Roundhouse 2, comprising a very small and abraded shell-tempered sherd from (300), and a Q1 sandy ware sherd from (281), both dating to the mid-late Iron Age. Thirty-one sherds of pottery (301g) were retrieved from contexts within the associated enclosure ditch, all dating to the mid-late Iron Age, with the exception of six sherds of mid-1st century shelly ware from [208] (207). The Iron Age material includes two grog-tempered upright jar rims and six scored sherds.

Roundhouse 3

Context: [526] (527)

One abraded sherd of pottery (7g) was recovered from a third possible roundhouse to the north-east of the main enclosures and Roundhouses 1 and 2. The pottery is from a transitional grog-tempered jar dating to the mid-1st century AD.

North East-South West Subdivision Gully

Contexts: [242] (241), [247] (248), [251] (252)

Four sherds (25g) of pottery were recovered from contexts within a shallow gully appearing to sub-divide the main enclosures. One abraded sherd from a mid-late Iron Age S1 jar was recovered from (241). A shelly ware jar with rounded outcurved rim was retrieved from the butt end of the gully (248), whilst a sandy ware jar with everted rim and a grog-tempered jar were found within (252). All the Roman pottery dates to the middle of the 1st century AD. This gully cuts the edge of Roundhouse 1 on its north-western arc and is the most likely explanation for the presence of two small sherds of mid-1st century pottery recovered from [291] (292).

North West-South East Re-cut of Enclosure Ditch 1

Contexts: [218] (217), [223] (226)

Two sherds (16g) of pottery were recovered from fill (226). One sherd was from an S2 mid-late Iron Age jar, whilst the other vessel was a Belgic style sandy ware jar with rounded outcurved rim and burnished surface dating to the middle of the 1st century. Fifteen sherds (80g) of pottery representing four vessels were recovered from fill (217). One sherd was from an abraded S2 mid-late Iron Age jar or bowl. The rest of the pottery is Roman, comprising an abraded shelly ware jar base, a sandy ware cordoned and carinated jar and a fine grey ware jar. The shelly and sandy wares date to the middle of the 1st century, whilst the grey ware would date from the later 1st century onwards. This mixture of material is

common where earlier features have been re-cut and the presence of the grey ware makes this one of the latest datable features in this area of the site.

Gully

Context: [227] (228)

Eight sherds (16g) of pottery representing two vessels were recovered from the fill of a gully (228). This gully is on the same alignment as the re-cut of Enclosure Ditch 1, is adjacent to [223] (226) and is most likely related to that feature. As with the ditch re-cut above, the pottery comprises an abraded S1 mid-late Iron Age jar and a Belgic-style sandy-ware jar with rounded outcurved rim dating to the mid-1st century.

Ditch South of Main Ditch

Context: [502] (501)

Two very small sherds (2g) of pottery were recovered from a ditch south of the north-west to south-east re-cut of Enclosure Ditch 1. As with the small gully [227] above, this feature is on the same alignment as the re-cut of Enclosure Ditch 1. The single vessel is a fine Roman white ware jar or bowl with a sooted exterior dating from the later 1st century onwards. Along with the re-cut of Enclosure Ditch 1, this ditch is the latest datable feature in this area of the site.

Discussion

There is evidence for activity from the mid-late Iron Age through to the 1st century AD and possibly beyond. The earliest datable features are Roundhouse 1 and Enclosure 1, which appear to be occupied during the mid-late Iron Age, possibly from the 2nd century BC through to the early 1st century AD. It is reasonable to suggest Roundhouse 1 is no longer there by the middle of the 1st century, as it is cut by the shallow gully subdividing the enclosures which revealed mid-1st century transitional pottery. Roundhouse 2 and Enclosure 2 also date from the mid-late Iron Age, but there is evidence to suggest they may have continued well into the 1st century AD. There is a hint of this with the presence of mid-1st century shelly ware from [208] within Enclosure 2, but the addition of the shallow gully during the mid-1st century is the most compelling piece of evidence, as it appears to be associated with a re-organisation of the enclosures with Roundhouse 2 as the focus.

The north-west to south-east re-cut of Enclosure Ditch 1 [218] and [223], along with another small ditch to the south [502], are the latest datable features as they include Roman material dating to at least the later 1st century. These two ditches, along with gully [227], are all on the same alignment and contain a mixture of Iron Age and Roman material typical of features re-cutting earlier features.

The Roman pottery is overwhelmingly mid-1st century in date, with Belgic style sandy wares the most common. The assemblage is small and most of the material was recovered from fills of re-cut features, however it does appear to be associated with continuing activity within Roundhouse 2 and the enclosures.

The only pottery dating after the middle of the 1st century comprises two sherds of grey ware and two sherds of white ware, all of which were recovered from ditches on a north west-south east alignment to the south of the roundhouses and main enclosures, suggesting a different type of activity not necessarily associated with the earlier features. There is a known Roman site to the north-west, where pottery dating from the 2nd century through to the 4th century was recovered (Timby 2010, 34). It is therefore possible the later ditch features from this site actually relate to activity from the site at nearby Catmose College, with the land in this area used for something other than occupation after the middle of the 1st century.

Pottery Catalogue

Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Ves part	Shds	Wgt (g)	Diam (cm)	EVEs	Dating
	6	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	4	14			mid-late IA
101	102	S1	Jar	Rim	7	30	14	0.175	mid-late IA
101	102	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	10	12			mid-late IA
101	102	SW2	Jar	Rim	1	9	16	0.08	mid1stC
101	102	SW2	Jar/bowl	Body	5	34			mid1stC
101	102	SW2	Jar/bowl	Body	2	5			mid1stC
103	104	S2	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
	113	S1	Jar	Body	1	10			mid-late IA
	116	S2	Jar/beaker	Rim	1	2	10	0.06	mid-late IA
	121	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	2			mid-late IA
140	139	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
	145	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	3	6			mid-late IA
	158	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	2	16			mid-late IA
	162	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	2	3			mid-late IA
163	164	G2	Jar	Body	1	18			mid-late IA
	200	S1	Jar	Base	4	21			mid-late IA
208	207	CG1A	Jar	Body	6	28			mid1stC
218	217	S2	Jar/bowl	Body	1	2			mid-late IA
218	217	CG1A	Jar	Base	5	20			mid1stC
218	217	SW2	Jar	Body	7	17			mid1stC
218	217	GW3	Jar	Body	2	41			late1stC+
	224	S1	Jar	Rim	19	160	22	0.11	mid-late IA

Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Ves part	Shds	Wgt (g)	Diam (cm)	EVEs	Dating
	224	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
	224	Q1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	3			mid-late IA
223	226	S2	Jar	Body	1	12			mid-late IA
223	226	SW2	Jar	Rim	1	4	14	0.05	mid1stC
227	228	S1	Jar	Body	4	9			mid-late IA
227	228	SW2	Jar	Rim	4	7			mid1stC
242	241	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
247	248	CG1A	Jar	Rim	1	13	16	0.1	mid1stC
251	252	SW2	Jar	Rim	1	4	10	0.05	mid1stC
251	252	GT1	Jar	Body	1	7			mid1stC
	254	S1	Jar	Body	10	47			mid-late IA
	254	S1	Jar	Rim	1	1			mid-late IA
	256	Q1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	11			mid-late IA
	261	S1	Jar	Rim	2	4	14	0.1	mid-late IA

	268	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	2			mid-late IA
	272	Q1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	2			mid-late IA
273	281	Q1	Jar	Body	1	7			mid-late IA
282	283	S2	Jar	Base	6	87			mid-late IA
282	283	S1	Jar	Body	2	14			mid-late IA
282	283	S2	Jar	Rim	1	5	10	0.05	mid-late IA
282	283	S1	Jar	Rim	1	1	14	0.05	mid-late IA
288	286	S1	Jar	Rim	1	1	14	0.04	mid-late IA
288	286	S1	Jar	Base	5	18			mid-late IA
291	292	SW2	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid1stC
291	292	CG1A	Jar	Body	1	1			mid1stC
297	299	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	4			mid-late IA
301	300	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
	317	S1	Jar	Body	1	2			mid-late IA
	342	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	3	7			mid-late IA
	355	G2	Jar	Base	1	52			mid-late IA
	355	G1	Jar	Body	5	23			mid-late IA
	355	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	3	2			mid-late IA
	364	G1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
	373	S1	Jar	Base	1	31			mid-late IA
487	382	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	14	46			mid-late IA
487	382	G1	Jar/bowl	Body	2	7			mid-late IA
390	389	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	8			mid-late IA
393	394	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
408	407	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
413	415	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	3			mid-late IA
430	429	S1	Jar	Body	10	209			mid-late IA
430	429	G1	Jar	Body	2	5			mid-late IA
430	429	G2	Jar	Rim	3	21	12	0.05	mid-late IA
431	432	S1	Jar	Body	2	18			mid-late IA
	445	S2	Jar	Rim	1	8	14	0.075	mid-late IA
460	461	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	7	7			mid-late IA
460	461	G1	Jar	Rim	1	13	16	0.075	mid-late IA
479	478	G1	Jar	Base	3	32			mid-late IA
	486	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	4	9			mid-late IA
493	494	S1	Jar	Body	2	22			mid-late IA
495	496	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA

Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Ves part	Shds	Wgt (g)	Diam (cm)	EVEs	Dating
498	497	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	2	1			mid-late IA
498	497	G1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
502	501	WW2	Misc	Body	2	2			late1stC+
505	506	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
505	506	G1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	2			mid-late IA
526	527	GT1	Jar	Body	1	7			mid1stC
555	554	S1	Jar/bowl	Body	8	4			mid-late IA
	565	S2	Jar	Body	1	44			mid-late IA
689	688	G1	Jar/bowl	Body	1	1			mid-late IA
713	712	S1	Jar	Rim	1	4	16	0.03	mid-late IA

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Appendix 2: The Medieval Pottery *Deborah Sawday*

The Ceramic Finds

Methodology

The pottery, 341 sherds, weighing 2.429 kg, and a vessel rim equivalent of 3.347, (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was examined by x 20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009).

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
ST3	Stamford ware – coarse, fabrics E/F, H A/D (1)	c.850/900-1050+
ST2	Stamford - fine, fabrics G B/(A) (1)	c.1050-12th C.
ST1	Stamford – very fine, fabrics B/C (1)	c.1150-13th C.
LI	Lincoln Kiln type/Lincoln late Saxon Shelly ware (2)	c.870–early 12th C.
OS/OS2	Oxidised Sandy ware? local	c.12th-13th C.
OL	Oolitic ware - ?South Lincs (2)	c.1100-c.1300
UC	Unclassified mineral tempered ware	c.1100-c.1400
CS	Coarse Shelly ware	c.1100-1400
BO2	Bourne A/B wares/type ware (3)	c.1250-1450
EA3	Mottled ware, Staffs	1650-1780
SW4	White Salt Glazed Stoneware, Staffs	1730-1770

(1) Kilmurry 1980, Leach 1987	
(2) Young *et al* 2005	(3) Healey 1973

Table 5: The post Roman pottery fabrics.

The Ceramic Record

Stamford ware accounted for almost 90 percent of the medieval totals by sherd numbers and over 86 per cent by weight, and for the bulk of the identifiable vessel forms, (table 2). The relatively coarse fabrics ST3 and ST2, which were generally more common during the earlier part of the Stamford ware industry; from the mid or late 9th century into the 12th century, predominated, whilst the fine Stamford ware ST1, which dates from *circa* 1150 into the 13th century made up less than 6.9 per cent of this group by sherd numbers. This early date is also reflected in the relatively high proportion of externally sooted Stamford vessel forms present, notably jars in Kilmurry forms 2, 3. Many of the jars or spouted pitchers, Kilmurry forms 4 and 5, and bowl forms 1 and 12/13 also occur, together with the often thin lead glazes characteristic of the earlier part of the industry (Kilmurry 1980) (table 3).

Fabric	Sherds	Weight	Average sherd weight	EVES	% of medieval site total by weight	% of medieval site total by sherd no.
Late Saxon/Medieval						
ST3	20	121	6.05	0.539		
ST2/3	8	29	3.62	0.069		
ST2	51	624	12.23	0.605		
ST2/1	204	1118	5.48	1.095		60.17
ST1	21	218	10.38	0.68		
Stamford sub total	304	2110	6.94	2.988	86.93	89.67
L1	1	2	2.0			
OL	18	140	7.77	0.16		
OS/OS2	3	17	5.66	0.0475		
U/C	1	21	21.00			

CS	10	100	10.0	0.1265		
BO2	2	37	18.5	0.025		
sub-total	339	2427	7.15	3..347	100	100
Post-Medieval/Modern						
EA3	1	1				
SW4	1	1				
Site Totals	341	2429		3.347		

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers, weight (grams) & EVEs.

Whilst the small form 11 jar, which is one of the more common vessel forms here, also appears to be more numerous at Stamford by the second half of the 12th century, a terminal date in the early to mid or slightly later 12th century for the Stamford assemblage as a whole is also indicated by the absence of table ware forms such as jugs and tubular spouted pitchers. These two latter vessels are both dated from *circa* 1150 at Stamford. There is also no evidence of the copper glaze which was often used to decorate the table wares and which came into use at the same time, or of the extremely fine Stamford ware fabric C, which was apparently more common in traded Stamford wares, especially in the late 12th century. (*ibid*. 1980).

The Stratigraphic Record

Single sherds of post medieval or modern pottery in Mottled ware and White Salt Glazed Stoneware respectively, constituted the only finds from the back-fill of the post holes [112] and [641].

Stamford ware dominated the assemblages in the remainder of the contexts. Whilst the dating evidence must be treated with caution; some of the contexts, notably the gullies [660], [662] and [706], the post hole [671], the linear feature [693], the ditches [700] and 711, and the pit 710, produced less than a dozen sherds. However, over-all most of the features on the site contained the fine Stamford wares, fabric ST1 and ST2/1 with a terminal date sometime in the 12th century as noted above.

One exception was the gully [662] which produced two sherds of ST2, with traces of a lead glaze, possibly dating mid or later 11th century; another comprised 37 sherds in ST2 from the gully [713] which all appeared to be from a form 1 bowl, which are also of possible 11th-century date.

The only finds from the pit [727] were two fragments of ST2/3 and a 12th-century thumbed jar rim in Oolitic ware, the vessel form similar to top hat jars in Coarse Shelly ware at West Coton, Raunds, (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.15). The latest medieval material on the site was found within the small assemblage of 23 sherds from the back fill of the ditch, context 10 [2], which included possibly residual Stamford and South Lincolnshire Oolitic ware, both predominantly 11th or 12th century in date, together with two sherds of 13th century Bourne ware.

		Stamford ware vessel forms								
fabric	context	Jar form 2	Jar form3	Jar form	Jar form	Bowl form	Bowl 12/13	Spo form 5	jar	bowl

				11	4/5	1				
ST3	[667]		0.15				0.05			
ST3	[698]		0.124							
ST3	[698]	0.04								
ST3	737	0.075	0.10							
ST2/3	737						0.069			
ST2/1	[667]			0.124			0.122	0.135		
ST2/1	[700]					0.048				
ST2/1	[706]			0.25			0.110			
ST2/1	710			0.005						
ST2/1	737	0.011						0.21		
ST2/1	[682]				0.08					
ST2	[713]					0.475				
ST2	737				0.13					
ST1	[698]			0.175		0.050		0.15		
ST1	[700]					0.057		0.2475		
OS	[667]									0.0475
OL	[700]									0.05
OL	[727]								0.06	0.05
CS	[698]									0.1265
BO2	[2]									0.025
Totals		0.126	0.374	0.554	0.21	0.63	0.351	0.7425	0.06	0.299

Table 3: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, context, vessel forms and EVEs

Conclusion

The single sherd of Lincoln/Lincolnshire Shelly ware is of interest as this fabric has not often been identified by the author in Rutland. Stamford ware, on the other hand, is typical of the late Saxon and early medieval pottery assemblages in Oakham; the production centre lies less than 20km to the east. The sources of the Oxidised Sandy wares and Oolitic wares are uncertain, but are probably fairly local and may include north Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, or even Rutland. The Coarse Shelly ware probably also originates from sources on the Jurassic to the east most probably in Lincolnshire or Northamptonshire

Stamford ware is relatively hard fired, and not vulnerable to the abrasion so often found on medieval pottery in residual contexts or in plough soil. However the relatively small average weight of just over 7 grams (table 2), and the fragmentary nature of even the identifiable vessel types, suggest that much of the pottery, once broken, may have been subjected to several episodes of deposition and re-deposition prior to its final discard on the site.

The pottery lay within a general date range of circa.900-1150 or slightly later and is evidence of late Saxon and early medieval activity in the vicinity, relating to the nearby settlement at Oakham. Similarly large assemblages of Stamford ware have been noted elsewhere in Rutland by the author, for example at Glaston (Thomas 2002) and Whitwell (Meek 2012). The lack of significant quantities of later medieval pottery may indicate that this pottery was deposited during a relatively early phase in the development of the village, and that the focus of settlement then shifted elsewhere.

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Table 4: The medieval pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
10 [2]	ST2/1 – Fine Very Fine Stamford	9	45	Five sherds with traces of sooting.
10 [2]	OL – Oolitic ware	12	66	Misc. body/base sherds, generally reduced, but some with oxidised surfaces, South Lincolnshire, (Young et al 2005, 123), 11th -12th C.
10 [2]	BO2 – Bourne A/B ware	2	37	Join, simple everted bowl rim with internal bevel and light sooting externally, 13th C. Estimated EVES 0.025, no rim diameter.
111 [112] ph	SW4 – White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	1	c.1730-c.1770
640 [641] ph	EA3 – Mottled ware	1	1	c.1650-1780
659 [660] gully	ST1 – Very Fine Stamford ware	2	4	Pale cream body, pale yellow spots of thin lead glaze.

661 [662] gully	ST2 –Fine Stamford ware	2	11	Pale buff body, trace of green lead glaze
668 [667] ditch	OL – Oolitic ware	1	6	
668	OS – Oxidised Sandy ware	1	7	Rounded bowl with squared rim, fabric similar to OS2 – possibly an early Bourne type ware, est rd 240 mm, 0.0475 EVEs, c.1100-1250.
668	ST3 Coarse Stamford ware	1	13	Jar rim, Kilmurry form 3-12 (Kilmurry 1980) 11C. – Diameter 130mm, EVEs 0.15. Sooting inner rim.
668	ST3	1	3	Sooted/burnt externally
668	ST2	3	10	Pale orange/pale buff bodies, one thin lead glaze.
668	ST2/1	1	1	Bowl rim Kilmurry form 12/13-29. Diameter 160mm, EVEs 0.05. Sooted/burnt externally
668	ST2/1	1	18	Rim, Kilmurry form 4/5, traces of light green lead glaze, suggest this is a spouted pitcher. Diameter 140mm, EVEs 0.135, 12th C. c.1125-c.1150+
668	ST2/1	1	9	Bowl rim Kilmurry form 12/13, 200 mm diameter, EVEs 0.0.072.
668	ST2/1	14	72	2 convex trimmed bases, & misc. body, 3 glazed lead, 7 sooted
668	ST1	6	25	Misc. body 2 with thin bluish lead glaze, characteristic of the 2nd half of the 12th C. at Stamford.
669 [667] primary fill	ST2/1	5	36	Misc., 3 sooted, 1 traces of glaze
669	ST2/1	1	11	Small jar rim, ? form 11, diameter c.130mm, EVEs

				0.124
670 [671] ph	ST2	2	9	Flattish base, trimmed & sooted, & body
670	ST1	1	3	
683 [682] gully terminus	ST3	1	4	Sooted externally
683	ST2/1	1	11	Form 4/5 – sooted externally, diameter c.150mm, EVEs 0.08
683	ST2/1	11	40	8 sooted, 2 thin yellow & grey/blue glaze, 2nd half of the 12th C.
685 [682] gully terminus	ST2/1	5	21	2 sooted ext.
694 [693] linear	ST21	13	41	Min 3 pots, 10 (1 pot?) sooted, 1 yellow glazed
694	UC - Unclassified	1	21	Hand-made bowl with carinated rim, mineral inclusions including common Fe & ?grog.
697 [698] ditch	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	10	100	Everted hand-made externally thickened flared bowl rim, estimated diameter c.270mm, 0.1265 EVEs. One pot – externally sooted. 12th C.
697	ST3	1	15	Jar rim, sooted, Kilmurry form 3-13, diameter c.130mm, 0.124 EVEs
697	ST3	1	7	Jar rim, Kilmurry form 2-33, est. diameter c.160mmn 0.04 EVEs.
697	ST3	7	31	
697	ST1	1	12	Spouted pitcher - Kilmurry form 5 rim & strap handle fragment,, est. diameter110 mm, 0.15 EVEs. Traces of glaze.
697	ST1	1	10	Jar - Kilmurry form 11-8, diameter150 mm, 0.10 EVEs.
697	ST1	1	6	Jar - Kilmurry form 11,

				diameter140 mm, 0.075 EVEs.
697	ST1	1	11	Bowl, flanged possibly Kilmurry form 1-13 or 1-14??, estimated diameter c.280mm, 0.050 EVEs
697	ST2/1	7	37	Lead glazed yellow – possibly 1 pot
697	ST2/1	2	59	Over-fired lead glazed – 2nd half of the 12th C.
697	ST2/1	37	149	2 sooted
699 [700] ditch	ST2/1	1	8	Bowl, Kilmurry form 1/12, sooted, estimated diameter c.220mm, 0.048 EVEs
699	ST1	1	10	Bowl, Kilmurry form 1-24, diameter c.270mm, 0.0575 EVEs
699	ST1	2	30	Spouted pitcher rim &strap handle, pale green lead glaze, Kilmurry form 5, estimated diameter c.168mm, 0.120 EVEs
699	ST1	1	18	Spouted pitcher rim – traces of glaze, Kilmurry form 5, estimated diameter c.150mm, 0.1275 EVEs
699	ST2/1	5	16	2 sooted, 2 with glaze
699	OL	1	12	Simple everted & thickened bowl rim fragment, sooted ext., no diameter, est. EVEs 0.05
705 [706] gully	ST2/1	1	22	Small bowl, Kilmurry form 12/13. Traces of external sooting. Rim diameter c. 180mm, 0.110 EVEs
705	ST2/1	2	14	Small jar, Kilmurry form 11, similar 11-23/25. Rim diameter c. 130mm, 0.175 EVEs
705	ST2/1	1	6	Small jar, Kilmurry form 11-21. Rim diameter c. 120mm, 0.075 EVEs
705	ST2/1	7	49	3 glazed 3 sooted ext.
710 pit	ST2/1	1	3	Small jar, Kilmurry form 11-08. Rim diameter c. 120mm, 0.005 EVEs,

				sooted ext.
710	ST2/1	9	24	5 sooted, 1 glazed
710	OS2 – Oxidised Sandy ware 2	1	6	base fragment, hand made
711 ditch	ST2/1	6	89	Over-fired, thin bluish glaze, I vessel
711	ST2/1	2	23	1 abraded, I yellow glazed
712 [713] gully	ST2	37	535	Possible profile bowl similar Kilmurry form 1-18 externally sooted. Rim diameter c. 230mm, 0.475 EVEs
722 ditch	OL	1	20	Body, some sand
722	OS2	1	4	Convex base ?wheel thrown
722	ST2/1	20	74	One thin yellow lead glaze, 13 sooted/burnt externally
726 [727] pit	OL	1	5	body
726	OL	1	7	Small rounded bowl with in-turned rim, sooted exterior, estimated diameter c.170mm, 0.05 EVEs.
726	ST2/1	1	11	Strap handle, spouted pitcher or bowl, traces of glaze.
726	ST2/3	2	2	Thin lead glaze on exterior
726	ST2/1	10	33	Body/base – 2 sooted/burnt ext.
730 [727] pit	ST2/3	2	7	
730	OL	1	24	Everted, thumbed jar rim, estimated diameter, c.220 mm, 0.060 EVEs. Similar to top hat jars in Coarse Shelly ware at West Coton, Raunds, (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.15). 12th C.
737 ditch	LI - Lincoln/Lincs Shelly ware-	1	2	
737	ST3	1	11	Jar rim, Kilmurry form 3-13, rim diameter c.130mm, 0.10 EVEs
737	ST3	6	25	Misc. body, 5 sooted, 1

				glazed
737	ST3	1	12	Jar rim, similar Kilmurry form 2-33, estimated diameter c.160mm, 0.075 EVEs
737	ST2/3	4	20	Small bowl, wavy line decoration on rim top. Kilmurry form 12/13, rim diameter c.200mm, 0.069 EVEs
737	ST2/1	1	12	Form 2 jar rim, estimated diameter c.140m, 0.011 EVEs.
737	ST2/1	1	5	Jar/bowl rim fragment – rouletted.
737	ST2/1	21	60	Misc. body/ base/ rim/ handle fragments – 7 sooted/burnt, 5 glazed
737	ST2	7	59	Jar, Kilmurry form 4-51, sooted ext. Rim diameter c.160mm, 0.130 EVES.
737	ST2/1	7	119	Spouted pitcher with strap handle, thin lead glaze & wavy line decoration on body. Kilmurry form 5-35. Rim diameter c.140mm, 0.210 EVES.
737	ST1	4	89	3 with thin yellow lead glaze

Appendix 3: Fired clay *Rebecca L. Hearne*

The assemblage of fired clay comprises 211 fragments (total weight 1.37 kg). The fragments are all miscellaneous and irregular pieces of burnt daub and most likely derive from roundhouse walls or other structures such as kilns or furnaces. Some of the material preserves wattle impressions as well as casts of straw and other organic material originally mixed into the clay. A single fragment from (415) exhibits two perpendicular flat faces suggesting its application to a flat piece of wood/post. Generally the clay is fired orange/red with occasionally black cores, is rarely vesicular and contains 0-5 % inclusions of medium-coarse quartz sand, occasional pebbles and fossil fragments.

The greatest percentages of fired clay occur across areas 1 and 3, accounting for 46% and 41% of the assemblage respectively. In area 1, the greatest concentrations of material occur in contexts (224), a late Iron Age ditch, and (233), the fill of a recut enclosure ditch. In area 3 the densest concentrations are found in a V-shaped Roman gully, (594), and a shallow pit, (604), which also contained a flint

blade. Another concentration occurs in (415), a shallow ditch which also contained frequent slag, pot, bone and flints.

Appendix 4: Lithics *Lynden Cooper*

Some 68 worked lithics were recovered. The flint was mostly semi-translucent grey-brown type typical of till derivation. There was also occasional use of opaque grey and grey-brown flints. Two pieces were of a black flint and may be exotic. One patinated flake was a failed blade removal and had a faceted butt resembling an éperon type, and so of probable Late Upper Palaeolithic date. Another flake with a faceted butt may be of a similar date. The bladelets and patinated core are likely to represent Mesolithic activity. The serrated pieces are probably early Neolithic. Two scrapers are of thumbnail type and are Bronze Age. The remaining pieces are of a general Neolithic – Bronze Age date.

Context	Classification	Comment
A3 u-s	4 x 2ry flake; core on a flake; core	1 flake patinated
102	Thumbnail scraper	All over invasive retouch = fancy
162	2ry flake	
256	flake fragment	
335	3ry flake	
394	2ry flake	
418	3ry flake	
432	2 x 2ry flake	
457	core on a flake	
461	2 x shatter; 2ry flake	
471	2ry flake; core on flake; core	Core patinated
486	flake fragment	
496	2ry flake; 3ry flake	
505	Concave scraper/piercer	
526	2ry flake	
546	Chip; flake fragment; serrated flake	Chip & ff calcined. FF has faceted butt. Serrated flake has sickle gloss and gross wear
556 sf111	Serrated flake fragment	
565	2ry flake	
569	2ry flake; 3ry flake	
600	3 x 2ry flake	
604	3ry bladelet	Soft stone percussion
608	Flake fragment; 2 x 2ry flake	
611	3ry blade	
612	2ry flake	
622 sf112	End scraper	
626	3ry flake	
626	Scraper; 1ry flake; 2 x 2ry flake	Utilised side on scraper
626	3ry flake	
626	2 x 2ry flake; flake fragment; 2ry bladelet	
626	Serrated flake	Sickle gloss

sf114		
626 sf115	Serrated flake	Sickle gloss
626 sf113	Combination tool	3ry blade with piercer (bec-like) and bruised margins
654	2ry flake; 3ry flake	
659	flake fragment	
668	2ry flake	
680	2ry flake; 3ry flake	
695	3ry flake	calcined
697	2ry flake; 3ry flake; retouched flake	Retouch may be recent damage
716	Thumbnail scraper	
738	Flake	Failed blade. Patinated, faceted butt = en eperon
749	3ry flake	Patinated. Faceted butt

Appendix 5: The metal finds *Rebecca L. Hearne*

5 metal objects were retrieved from the Huntsman's Drive excavations. These were all recovered from secure archaeological contexts and are catalogued in table 1 (below).

Table 1. Metal small finds from Huntsman's Drive					**(mm)**		
SF#	**Con**	**Cut**	**Description**	**Context**	**Length**	**Width**	**Thick**
103	283	282	Irregularly rectangular iron strip, possibly folded. Very fragmentary.	Roundhouse 1 gully terminus	<60	<30	<6
116	669	667	Flat iron strip with one rounded and one broken end. Very corroded. Fragmentary. Hinge strap?	Late Saxon ditch terminus	<65	<16	<3
118	705	706	Corroded iron nail/clench bolt shaft without head or tip, rectangular (?) in cross-section.	Late Saxon gully	<50	<15	<15
119	410	409	Flat irregular fragment of iron. Very corroded. One possible sharp edge. Blade?	Roundhouse enclosing ditch	<50	<50	<10
120	697	698	Irregular iron sphere. Nail/clench bolt head?	Late Saxon ditch	<30	<20	<20

All of the metal objects are made of iron and exhibit various degrees of corrosion. 3 of the objects derive from Late Saxon period features. All are too fragmentary for X-ray analysis and the potential for further metallographic analysis is low.

Contextual information

SF103 was recovered from the southern gully terminus of roundhouse 1 and thus may be part of a special deposit ('deliberate placement'; Hill 1995) along with the single quernstone from the site (SF101) as well as quantities of animal bone, fragmentary prehistoric pottery and charcoal. SF116 was located in the primary fill of a late Saxon ditch terminus along with prehistoric, Roman, and possible medieval pottery, flint and animal bone. SF118 was found in the fill of a gully dated as late Saxon and containing frequent pottery and occasional animal bone. SF119 from the roundhouse XXX enclosure ditch was found deposited with fragments of clinker and animal bone. SF120 was retrieved from a late Saxon ditch fill along with prehistoric and Roman pottery, flints, animal bone, and iron and possible copper slag.

Discussion

SF103 and SF119 were retrieved from Iron Age contexts, though corrosion and their generally fragmentary nature preclude more secure identification.

Iron nails (SF118 and SF120) are fairly common on British Saxon archaeological sites, generally exhibit roughly rounded heads and a shaft which is rectangular in profile, and were employed primarily in furniture or in securing iron fittings such as hinge straps (Ottaway, nd), of which SF116 could be an example. Quantities of slag and clinker found in association with the metal objects possibly suggest their proximal manufacture.

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Appendix 6: The worked stone *Rebecca L. Hearne*

A single quernstone was retrieved during excavations at Huntsman's Drive (SF101). The quern comprises a fine white sandstone boulder, roughly squared with a flat underside and sloping edges and a smoothed, flat grinding surface. It does not appear to be heavily worn. The quern is < 350 mm at its widest point and stands approximately < 150 mm high. The slightly iron-stained sandstone boulder upon which the quern is made is a commonly available variety and may derive from local superficial diamicton deposits or from one of the sedimentary bedrock units which underlie Rutland and its environs (Bancroft-Turner and Frearson 2011; British Geological Survey, 2015).

The quern's dimensions and characteristics suggest that it is a saddle base or 'grain rubber'. Such grinding stones originated in the British Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and persisted until the Iron Age advent of rotating hand mills around 100-50 BC (Curwen 1937); however, the contemporary occurrence of saddle and rotary querns at Iron Age archaeological sites is common, e.g. Wanlip (Marsden 1998), Hallam Fields at Birstall (Kenyon 1950), Crick (Hughes and Woodward 1998) and Coton Park, Warwickshire (Chapman 1998).

Also retrieved was a single whetstone or hone (SF105). This is a roughly dressed stone, triangular in plan, length < 65 mm and width < 40 mm, standing 25 mm high. Use-wear is visible on one face and along the base of an adjacent edge. The whetstone is apparently made on part of a pink-red quartzite cobble, also likely to derive from local diamicton (Bancroft-Turner and Frearson 2011; British Geological Survey, 2015). The whetstone was retrieved from an unstratified context and, as a function artefact, is typologically undateable.

Discussion

The quern was retrieved from the southern terminus of a roundhouse ring ditch (roundhouse 1) along with poorly-preserved pot sherds, animal bone and a folded iron strip (SF103). The fill from which the quern was retrieved also contained frequent burnt stone fragments, post-packing stones and frequent charcoal. Such a deposit may be interpreted as 'deliberate placement', defined by Hill (1995) as the intentional deposition of material culture rather than its casual discard. Deliberate deposition of querns is commonly encountered at Iron Age sites, e.g. Burrough Hill (Taylor et al 2012) and Wanlip (Marsden 1998), and possibly indicates the stones' contemporary socioeconomic significance or, in this context, the quern's importance to the roundhouse within whose ditch it was deposited.

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Appendix 7: Medieval Silver Coin from Oakham *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Sf117 (712) [713] Top Fill. Fragment (half) of silver penny (original diameter 18mm), folded over. Surface worn or obscured. Part of legend,]ED[, visible. Probably Edward I. 1272-1307.

Appendix 8 The Industrial Residues

Heidi Addison and Graham Morgan

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 5166g of industrial residues was collected from 18 contexts: 145, 150, 212, 256, 261, 394, 410, 415, 418, 496, 668, 670, 683, 697, 699, 722, 726 and 737. The assemblage was subject to visual examination and the material was weighed by context as detailed in Table 1 below. The assemblage is summarised by material in Table 2.

Results

Table 1: Quantified record of material by context

Context	Weight in grams	Description
145	41	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
150	18	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
212	20	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
256	3	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
261	8	Fuel ash slag
394	1	Fuel ash slag
410	57	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
415	848	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
418	71	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
496	97	Vitrified and vesicular clay- dark grey - possibly daub
668	44 113	Fe furnace slag Fe hearth slag
670	359	Fe hearth bottom slag
683	100	Fe hearth bottom slag
697	557 181 87 16	Fe hearth bottom slag Fe hearth slag Fe scrap fragments Ceramic hearth lining
699	520	Fe hearth bottom slag
722	1129 246 20	Fe hearth bottom slag Fe hearth slag (evidence of hammer scale particles <1g though too light to weigh) Fe fragments – 2 joining pieces of a blade
726	84	Fe hearth bottom slag
737	317 229	Fe furnace bloom Fe hearth bottom fragment x 3
Total	**5,166**	

Table 2: Quantified list by material

Hearth bottom 2978g

Burnt clay/daub 1137g

Hearth slag	503g
Iron bloom	317g
Iron	107g
Furnace slag	44g
Fuel ash slag	27g
Hearth lining	16g
Hammer scale	<1g

Overview and Discussion

A total of 2,978g (57%) of the assemblage was iron hearth bottom fragments from contexts (670), (683), (697), (699), (722), (726) and (737); context (722) presented 1,129g (38%) of the amount. Contexts (668), (697) and (722) produced 540g of hearth slag with a few particles of hammer scale present in context (722). Two joining fragments 20g of an iron blade also accompany the debris in context (722) providing further evidence of smithing activity. An iron bloom (317g) was found in context (737), although material that would suggest smelting activity, such as ore and quantities of furnace debris, were lacking, other than a slag fragment of 44g from context (668). A total of 1,137g (22%) of burnt clay or more probable burnt daub material was retrieved from contexts (145), (212), (256), (410), (415), (418) and (496); the largest amount (848g) from (415). The material is highly vitrified indicating extreme temperatures in excess of 1,000 degrees centigrade. The suggestion that the melted clay or daub is from an industrial scale oven structure is very probable.

Appendix 9: The Animal Bones *Jennifer Browning*

Introduction

This report presents analysis of the faunal remains which were recovered during excavations at Huntsman's Drive, Oakham, Rutland. A total of 708 animal bone fragments was recovered during hand excavation, with further fragments retrieved during sieving of environmental samples. The dominant phase of archaeological activity dated from the middle to late Iron Age, extending into the 1st century AD and, appeared to represent several phases of settlement. A group of Late Saxon features also produced animal bones.

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. A *pro forma* spreadsheet was used 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). The occurrence of burning, gnawing and pathologies was noted and described. Butchery was recorded using simple coding and description. 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.

Identifiable fragments were considered to be those that could be confidently assigned to element and taxon. Undiagnostic shaft and skull fragments were categorised as large or medium mammal, as were incomplete vertebrae and ribs. If even such basic identification was impossible, the fragments were classed as indeterminate.

Provenance and Dating

The bones were recovered primarily from ditches, gullies, ring gullies, post holes and pits dating from the middle to late Iron Age, with extension into the 1st century AD. There is then a chronological gap before the renewal of activity in the late Saxon period; 1100-1450 AD, represented by ditches, pits and post holes.

Preservation and Taphonomy

The bones exhibited both old and modern breakage; noting the presence of conjoining fragments reduced the total from 708 to 599 specimens. The assemblage was very fragmented; there were only four complete, unbroken bones; these were all phalanges, which are compact elements that are often discarded early in the butchery process. A high proportion of the assemblage (59%) consisted of undiagnostic shaft fragments, there were few epiphyses and 13% of the assemblage consisted of loose teeth. All these factors are

indicative of high fragmentation, probably partially caused by soil conditions (the underlying geology is Marlstone rockbed).

The surface condition was assessed, following Harland et al (2003) (Table 6). The surface of the majority of the bones (51%) was classed as good, permitting examination for butchery marks and other modifications. No bones were considered to be in excellent condition however, 8% were poorly preserved; flaking and abrasion may have obliterated some surface features such as fine cut marks. The surface condition of the remainder of specimens (41%) was between these two stages and classed as fair.

Gnawing was observed on 1.5% of bones in the assemblage and indicates the presence of dogs and other scavengers. Burning was recorded on 27 fragments in the mid-late Iron Age assemblage. Calcined bone was most common and indicates that these bones were exposed to high degrees of heat. Most burnt fragments were very small and not diagnostic to element or taxon; these may represent hearth sweeping incorporated into the features. Scorching noted on a cattle humerus could have occurred during cooking.

The proportion of identifiable fragments was low but fairly typical for a site of these periods and location (30%; n=183). The identified sample size is therefore not large enough for full and reliable analysis.

Taxa and Carcass Representation

The majority of the assemblage, numbering 440 fragments (73%) was recovered from mid-late Iron Age features (Figure 45). Transitional features produced 51 bones (9%); while a further 107 bones were retrieved from Late Saxon features (18%).

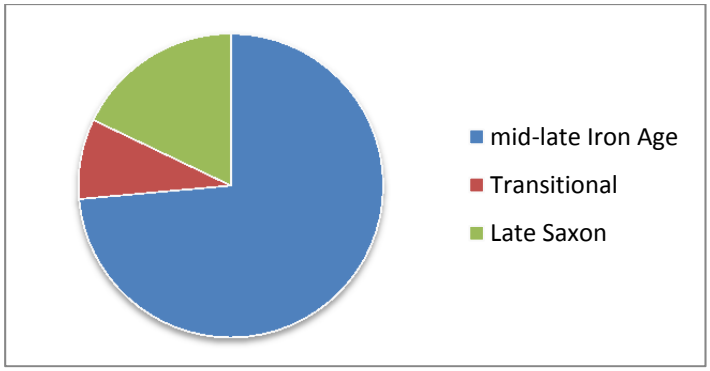

Figure 45: The distribution of the assemblage between different phases.

Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, deer, dog and domestic fowl were represented in the assemblage (Table 7). Domestic fowl and dog were only present in the Saxon assemblage. No fish or small mammal bones were identified. Although sheep and goat bones were mostly indistinguishable from each other, both species were positively identified in the Iron Age assemblage; sheep by cranial fragments and goat by a single metacarpal. No post-cranial deer bones were recovered, however several fragments of antler were identified in the Iron Age assemblage; size and morphology indicated both red and roe deer. Two of the four antlers still retained the burr, indicating that the antler had been collected after it was naturally shed,

rather than taken from hunted animals. A single worked fragment of red deer antler was recovered from a late Saxon feature. Dog was represented by a single incisor from a late Saxon feature.

Sheep/goat bones were most common among the late Saxon features, while cattle bones were marginally more frequent in the larger Iron Age assemblage (Figure 46). Other taxa are represented by only a small number of elements. Interestingly, despite the smaller size of the assemblage there was there was greater species variety among the Saxon assemblage. Pig husbandry is considered to have been at its height in the Saxon period (Albarella 2006, 73), so it is interesting that the proportion of pig bones is comparatively higher in this period.

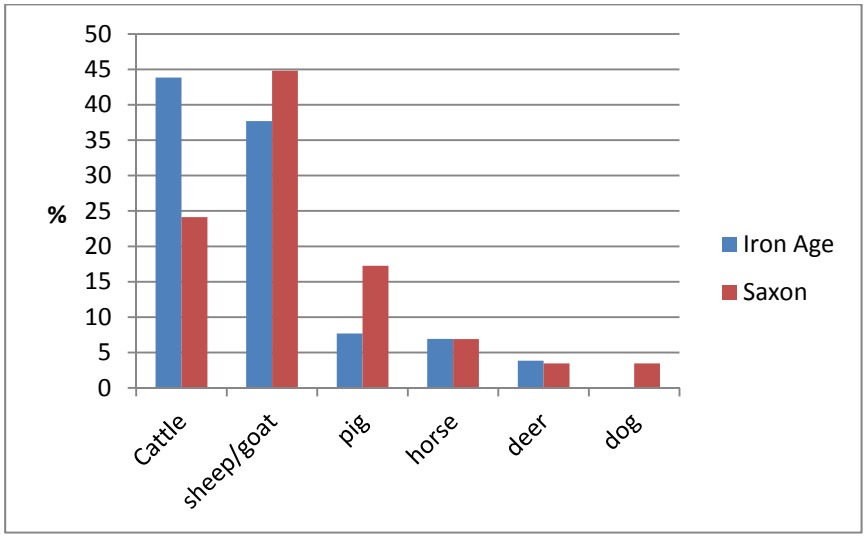

Figure 46: Comparison of taxa represented in Iron Age and in Late Saxon features

Full analysis of carcass representation was not carried out due to the small sample size; however the range of elements recovered from each phase is listed in Table 11 -Table 13. Teeth are better represented than post-cranial bones, reflecting the comparative durability of tooth enamel and the fact that teeth are often distinctive even when broken, unlike the majority of shaft fragments.

In the Iron Age assemblage, the entire cattle skeleton was represented, indicating that animals were raised and processed on site (Table 11). The sheep/goat carcass was not so well-represented but all anatomical regions were present. Both sheep and goat bones were identified; skull and horncore fragments of sheep were noted and a single goat metapodial was present, although it was not possible to separate the remainder of elements. Both the Transitional and the Saxon assemblages were too small to permit comments on the distribution of elements, which has probably been largely determined by their durability; teeth are most common (Table 12 and Table 13).

Age Structure

Analysis of age at death is usually carried out using tooth eruption and wear as a guide, supplemented by the state of epiphyseal fusion of post-cranial bones. The small sample size here precludes detailed analysis but can provide some information concerning husbandry

practices on the site. The porosity of juvenile bones means that they are more easily destroyed than those of adults and they are therefore likely to be under-represented in the assemblage.

Tooth wear stages were recorded for six sheep/goat specimens, two pigs and a single cattle tooth, all from the Iron Age phase of activity (Table 10). Both adult and sub-adult sheep were present, with no very young or elderly animals (after O'Connor 2003, table 31). One pig tooth was likely to derive from an adult over the age of two, representing prime meat, while another was from an elderly individual, possibly a breeding sow. A cow tooth was from an adult animal.

Only a small number of post-cranial bones with epiphyses were present, mostly belonging to cattle. All the Iron Age cattle bones were fused (n=8), with the exception of a vertebral epiphysis, which fuse later than the other bones of the skeleton. Two unfused sheep/goat bones were from animals slaughtered before the age of two. The remaining six epiphyses were fused. Two out of five pig epiphyses were unfused. In the Transitional assemblage the only epiphyses present comprised three fused large mammal vertebral epiphyses and a fused cattle proximal tibia. Epiphyseal fusion data from the Late Saxon phase was negligible.

Measurements

Measurements taken on bones and teeth are recorded in Table 14 and Table 15. There are very few due to the fragmented nature of the assemblage but could potentially contribute to wider comparative studies.

Butchery

Butchery was recorded on thirteen bones and included fine knife marks as well as heavier chopping marks, produced by a cleaver or similar. Cattle bones were most affected in both the Iron Age and the Late Saxon assemblages, although there were too few instances to draw comparisons regarding butchery practices. However, it is clear that the marks mainly represent disarticulation and portioning of the carcasses.

A fragment of red deer antler recovered from a Late Saxon context (697) had been worked. It had been hollowed out and smoothed on both the internal and external surfaces and appeared to represent a curved 'plate' rather than a type of handle. Its function is currently unknown (N. Cooper pers. comm).

Sieved Samples

The coarse fraction from 25 different samples was scanned to look for small taxa, including birds, amphibians and fish, however none were found. The bones from the Iron Age and Roman material generally comprised small undiagnostic fragments of mammal bone, both burnt and unburnt. A small number of contexts contained loose teeth; mostly sheep/goat and pig, but a single context contained a cattle molar.

The coarse fraction from five samples of Saxon date was also scanned (Contexts 254; 670; 697; 726; 712). This consisted of bone and tooth fragments from medium and large mammals, including two cattle tooth fragments and a sheep/goat tarsal. The majority of bones were unburnt but context 254 also contained calcined fragments.

Discussion

An assemblage of animal bones was recovered during an archaeological excavation at Oakham, which revealed features associated with middle to late Iron Age settlement, extending into the 1st century AD, as well as some Late Saxon activity.

The identified assemblage was small in all phases, however a range of taxa including cattle, sheep, goat, pig, horse, deer and domestic fowl were represented. For the Iron Age, these comprise the usual range of farmed domestic animals expected at a site of this type and time period, in addition to the occasional exploitation of wild resources, as represented by fragments of deer antler. No remains from small mammals, amphibians or fish were recovered from the site, despite the fact that bulk environmental samples were taken and processed. However, perhaps this is unsurprising, as variable preservation and extensive fragmentation was noted throughout the assemblage. Juvenile bones are also likely to be under-represented, since they are more susceptible to fragmentation in adverse burial conditions. Cattle bones were marginally more frequent than sheep/goat in the mid-late Iron Age assemblage; while this may indicate economic and dietary basis of the site, it may also reflect better survival for larger bones. Evidence for carcass representation, butchery and age structure are all likely to have been affected by preservational factors.

The Saxon and Transitional assemblages are not sufficiently large to compare with other sites. However, the combined cattle/sheep and pig bones totalled over 100 for the Late Iron Age, which does allow a degree of comparability. While for many sites in southern England a predominance of sheep is usual in this period, more variable regimes of cattle and sheep husbandry are seen in the midlands and east (Hambleton 1999, 89). Wild animals appear to have been rarely eaten. Deer antler was utilised but collected after it was naturally shed. Similar observations have been made at other sites, including a settlement site at Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, where a complete shed red deer antler and cut antler tines recovered from late Iron Age pits were not accompanied by deer bones (Deighton 2005, 23).

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Tables

Table 6: Surface preservation (% of assemblage) Preservation stage after Harland et al 2003

Preservation stage	**Definition**	**%**
2	good: lacks fresh appearance but solid; very localized flaky or powdery patches	51.3
3	fair: surface solid in places, but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen	41.2
4	poor: surface flaky or powdery over 50% of specimen	7.5
Total		**100%**

Table 7: Distribution of hand-recovered assemblage in Iron Age features (Number of identified specimens)

	cattle	**capra**	**ovis**	**sheep /goat**	**pig**	**deer**	**horse**	**indet**	**lge mml**	**med mml**	**Total**
mid-late IA	**57**	**1**	**2**	**49**	**10**	**5**	**9**	**63**	**142**	**102**	**440**
ditch	**13**			**12**	**4**	**1**	**5**	**7**	**41**	**11**	**94**
106					1				10		11
113	1									1	2
162	1				1		1		3		6
200	3						1		4		8
202							1				1
209	4			1	1				5		11
261										2	2
335				1						2	3
415				4					3	1	8
418				3			1		3	1	8
437							1		3		4
461	1			1				7	9		18
469				1	1					4	6
471	2			1		1					4
486	1								1		2

	cattle	capra	ovis	sheep /goat	pig	deer	horse	indet	lge mml	med mml	Total
ditch (recut)	**11**			**2**	**2**			**12**	**7**	**11**	**45**
224	9			2	2			12	7	11	43
470	2										2
gully	**17**			**11**	**2**		**1**	**23**	**49**	**20**	**123**
121				1					2	1	4
128	1			1				3	5	3	13
139								12	1	1	14
150	2								3		5
151	4										4
182	1			1							2
204									2		2
228	1			1			1		7	1	11
236	1										1
248	2							8	4	1	15
287	2			6	1				8	6	23
307	1				1					1	3
348										3	3
359				1							1
367	1										1
412									1		1
429	1								10		11
432									2	3	5
712									4		4
Post hole	**1**			**1**				**3**	**11**		**16**
166	1										1
183								3	1		4
329									8		8
407									1		1
554									1		1
640				1							1
corndryer 136			1							9	10
hollow 185								3	1		4
ring gully	**2**			**9**			**2**	**2**	**10**	**24**	**49**
298				4					2	8	14
299									1	4	5
317									2		2
355	2			5			2		5	12	26
561								2			2
ring gully RH2	**7**		**1**	**7**		**3**		**13**	**3**	**3**	**37**
283	6		1	4				7	3	1	22
286	1			3		3		6		2	15
pit	**1**	**1**		**5**					**1**	**21**	**29**
254	1	1		5						17	24

	cattle	capra	ovis	sheep /goat	pig	deer	horse	indet	lge mml	med mml	Total
259									1	2	3
325										2	2
382 **enclosure ditch (upper fill)**	2			1	1	1			9	2	16
enclosure ditch 494	2						1		10	1	14
enclosure ditch 496	1			1	1						3

Table 8: Distribution of hand-recovered assemblage in Transitional features (Number of identified specimens)

Phase	cattle	horse	sheep/goat	lge mml	med mml	indeterminate	Total
IA/Belgic/1st C.	**3**		**1**				**4**
ditch 212	3		1				4
Transitional	**5**	**1**	**3**	**25**	**1**	**3**	**38**
ditch 722	2			2		3	7
ditch (recut) 226	3		1	7			11
gully 740		1		12			13
pit 726			2	2			4
pit 730				2	1		3
mid 1st century AD	**1**		**3**	**4**	**1**		**9**
ditch 207					1		1
gully 252	1		1				2
ring gully 292			2	4			6

Table 9: Distribution of hand-recovered assemblage in Late Saxon features (Number of identified specimens)

	cattle	deer	dog	domestic fowl	horse	indet	lge mml	med mml	pig	sheep/ goat	Total
Late Saxon (1100-1450)	**7**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**8**	**42**	**23**	**5**	**13**	**107**
ditch	**2**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**6**	**17**	**15**	**1**	**10**	**59**
669							4				4
697	2	1	1	5	1	6	10	14		10	50
699							3	1	1		5
ditch (primary fill)737	1						7	7	3	2	20
gully	**3**				**1**	**2**	**11**	**1**		**1**	**19**
659						2		1			3
685										1	1
705	3						11				14
749					1						1
Post hole 111							1				1

Pit 710	**1**										**1**
ditch (upper fill)							**6**		**1**		**7**
668							6		1		7

Table 10: Toothwear stages recorded in the assemblage after Grant 1982 and O'Connor 2003

Date	**Context**	**Taxon**	**Element**	**dp4**	**m1**	**m2**	**m3**	**Age stage**
mid-late IA	128	cattle	lower 3rd molar				g	A3
mid-late IA	224	pig	lower 3rd molar				c	A2
mid-late IA	287	pig	mandible				k	E
mid-late IA	209	sheep/goat	mandible	f	b			I
IA/Belgic/1st C.	212	sheep/goat	mandible	k	h	f		SA
mid-late IA	298	sheep/goat	lower 4th premolar	g				-
mid 1st C AD	292	sheep/goat	mandible		l	h		A
mid-late IA	287	sheep/goat	lower molars-same jaw.		h	g	f	A3
mid-late IA	283	sheep/goat	lower molars-same jaw		g	g	e	A3

Table 11: Anatomical representation in the Iron Age assemblage (raw fragment count only)

		cattle	**sheep/goat ovis** capra***	**deer**	**pig**	**horse**	**lge mml**	**med mml**	**indet**	**Total**
Anatomical part	**mid-late IA**	**57**	**49**	**5**	**10**	**9**	**142**	**102**	**63**	**440**
HEAD	horncore		1**							1
	antler			5						5
	skull		1**							1
	skull fragment						1	1	14	16
	cheek tooth					4				4
	incisor					1		1		2
	upper molar	4	8							12
	upper premolar	7								7
	ldp4		1							1
	lower canine				1					1
	lower molar	6	14		2					22
	lower premolar	1			1					2
	tooth fragment	4								4
	molar	1								1

		cattle	sheep/goat ovis** capra*	deer	pig	horse	lge mml	med mml	indet	Total
	maxilla	2								2
	mandible	4	3		2		5			14
	axis	1								1
	hyoid	1								1
SHOULDER GIRDLE	scapula	3	2					2		7
FORELIMB	humerus	2	2		1					5
	ulna	3								3
	radius and ulna	1			1					2
	radius	5	5							10
HIP GIRDLE	pelvis	1			2	2				5
HINDLIMB	femur	1								1
	tibia	2	5					3		10
FEET	astragalus		1							1
	carpal							2		2
	metacarpal	1	7, 1*							9
	metatarsal	1	1			1				3
	metapodial	1				1				2
	1st phalanx	4								4
	3rd phalanx	1								1
TRUNK	c. vertebra						1			1
	l. vertebra						1	1		2
	t. vertebra						4			4
	Vertebra fragment						2			2
	rib shaft fragment						7	1		8
MISC	shaft fragment						121	91	49	261
	Total	**57**	**49**	**5**	**10**	**9**	**142**	**102**	**63**	**440**

Table 12: Anatomical representation in the Transitional assemblage (raw fragment count only)

Anatomical part	Transitional and 1st century ad	cattle	horse	sheep/ goat	lge mml	med mml	indet	Total
HEAD	mandible	1		3				4
	upper molar	2		2				4
	incisor	1						1
	upper premolar	1						1
	occipital condyle	1						1
	lower premolar	1						1
	lower molar			2				2

SHOULDER GIRDLE	scapula		1					1
HINDLIMB	tibia	1			1			2
FEET	metacarpal	1						1
TRUNK	t. vertebra				2			2
	l. vertebra				1			1
	rib shaft fragment				2	1		3
MISC	shaft fragment				23	1	3	27
	Total	**9**	**1**	**7**	**29**	**2**	**3**	**51**

Table 13: Anatomical representation in the Late Saxon assemblage (raw fragment count only)

Late Saxon (1100-1450)	**Element**									
Anatomical part		**cattle**	**sheep/goat**	**pig**	**deer**	**dog**	**horse**	**lge mml**	**med mml**	**indet**
HEAD	antler				1					
	skull fragment							1		
	maxilla		1	1						
	upper premolar		2							
	upper molar	2	5							
	lower canine			1						
	incisor					1	1			
	lower molar	2								
	mandible		1	2						
	axis							1		
TRUNK	rib shaft fragment							7		
FORELIMB	ulna	1								
HINDLIMB	tibia								1	
FEET	calcaneum			1						
	metacarpal	2	2							
	metatarsal		1							
	1st phalanx						1			
	2nd phalanx		1							
MISC	shaft fragment							33	22	8
	Total	**7**	**13**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**42**	**23**	**8**

Table 14: Measurements taken on bones (mm)

ID	**Date**	**Context**	**Taxon**	**Element**	**GL**	**DL**	**Bp**	**Bd**	**SD/SC**	**Dd**	**Dp**
46	mid-late IA	209	pig	humerus		37			5.4		

177	mid-late IA	355	horse	metatarsal	243		42.8	40.9	27.2		
285	Late Saxon	749	horse	1st phalanx	77.1		47	40.5	27.7	17.6	32.6

Table 15: Measurements taken on teeth (mm)

D	Date	Context	Taxon	Element	Length	Width
11	mid-late IA	128	cattle	lower 3rd molar	33.9	13.4
47	mid-late IA	209	sheep/goat	lower 1st molar	18.2	6.1
47	mid-late IA	209	sheep/goat	lower 2nd molar	13.8	6.4
50	IA/Belgic/1st C.	212	sheep/goat	lower 4th premolar	14.7	5.8
50	IA/Belgic/1st C.	212	sheep/goat	lower 1st molar	12.7	6.8
50	IA/Belgic/1st C.	212	sheep/goat	lower 2nd molar	15.7	7.5
72	mid-late IA	224	pig	lower 3rd molar	32.7	14.5
90	mid-late IA	298	sheep/goat	lower 4th premolar	16.8	6.1
149	mid-late IA	283	sheep/goat	lower 1st molar	11.2	7.1
149	mid-late IA	283	sheep/goat	lower 2nd molar	13.3	8.4
149	mid-late IA	283	sheep/goat	lower 3rd molar	20.8	7.8

Table 16: Butchery marks in the assemblage

Date	Context	Taxon	Element	Butch location	Butch Direction	Butch severity
mid-late IA	150	cattle	mandible	neck, lateral face of ascending ramus	transverse	heavy knife cuts
mid-late IA	162	cattle	radius and ulna	medial side of ulna shaft	oblique	fine cut marks x 2
mid-late IA	209	cattle	pelvis	ilium	oblique	Fine cut mark
mid-late IA	224	cattle	radius	midshaft	oblique	Heavy chop mark
Transitional	226	cattle	mandible	diastema, lateral face	transverse	Fine cut marks x 4
mid-late IA	298	lge mml	shaft fragment	shaft	parallel	Fine cut x 1
mid-late IA	287	pig	mandible	lingual face below m3	transverse	Heavy chop x 2
mid-late IA	418	horse	pelvis	medial surface of ischium,	transverse	light cuts x 2
Transitional	226	lge mml	l. vertebra	body- lat process chopped	oblique	Heavy chop
Late Saxon (1100-1450)	710	cattle	upper molar	base of root	transverse	Cut through
Late Saxon (1100-1450)	705	cattle	ulna	olecranon	oblique	cut through
Late Saxon (1100-1450)	697	deer	antler	beam	Shaped	Antler has been shaved and shaped interally and externally to form a curved plate, function unknown

Late Saxon (1100-1450)	111	lge mml	axis	body	oblique	chopped

Appendix 10: The charred plant remains *Rachel Small*

Introduction

Excavation was carried out at Huntsman's Drive, Oakham and an Iron Age and a Saxon settlement were discovered. Soil samples were taken to recover charred plant remains which provide evidence for past economy and environment. Currently Iron Age agricultural trends in Leicestershire and Rutland need to be verified and few Saxon settlements have been excavated (Willis 2006 and Vince 2006); therefore, further evidence is desirable.

Provenance

In total, 68 soil samples were taken on site; 60 date to the Iron Age and eight to the Saxon period. Only those thought to have the greatest potential to contain charred plant remains were processed. In total 32 soil samples (47.1%) were assessed; 26 dating to the Iron Age and six to the Saxon period. The soil samples came from a variety of features located across the site including roundhouse gully fills, ditch fills, pit fills, posthole fills and a potential corn-dryer**.**

Method

The samples 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; they were left to air-dry and were then sorted using an x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were also transferred into plastic trays; left to air-dry and the fractions over 4mm sorted for all finds. For the Saxon samples, the fractions under 4mm were re-floated and sorted as above to ensure the highest proportion of remains possible was collected. Plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991); counts are tabulated below.

Results – Iron Age

Charred plant remains including cereal grains, chaff and wild seeds were present in the majority of samples but in low frequencies (Tables 1, 2); this pattern is consistent with other Iron Age settlements in the East Midlands such as Manor Farm, Humberstone (Monckton and Hill 2011) and Enderby (Monckton 2004).

Table 1: charred plant remains present in the Iron Age samples. Key: GF gully fill; DF ditch fill; + 0 – 10 items, ++ 10 – 50 items.

Sample	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	
Context	116	118	121	128	130	136	150	158	162	200	202	207	226	
Description	GF	GF	GF			Corn dryer ?	GF	GF	DF	DF	DF	DF	DF	
Cereal chaff														
Triticum spelta L. glume base		1	1	1			1							Spelt wheat
Triticum spp. glume base				2	3	1	1				1			Glume wheat
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis		1												Barley
Cereal grains														
Triticum spp. (glume wheat) grain						1	3			2				Glume wheat
Triticum aestivum/turgidum L. grain									3					Bread/rivet wheat
Hordeum vulgare L. grain	1		1			1								Barley
Cereal grain					1									Cereal
Wild plants														
Brassica spp.				1								1		Cruciferous vegetables
Cerastium spp.														Chickweeds
Chenopodium spp.														Goosefoots
Galium aparine L.														Cleavers
Large poaceae			2				1							Large grasses
Large poaceae tuber root														Large grass tuber root
Small poaceae														Small grasses
Polygonum spp.														Knotweeds
Rumex spp.										1				Docks
Sambucus nigra L.														Elder
Trifolium spp.														Clovers
Urtica spp.														Nettles
Vicia spp.						1	1							Vetch/tares
Veronica spp.							1							Speedwell
Indent. seed								1		1				Indent. Seed
Total	1	2	4	4	4	4	8	1	3	4	1	1	0	
Sample Volume	8	7	9	6	7	9	9	9	8	7	7	5	9	Litres
Flot volume	10	3	30	15	20	30	30	10	5	3	5	20	3	Millilitres
Part sorted	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Percentage
Charcoal	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

Table 2: Charred plant remains present in the Iron Age samples continued. Key: GF gully fill; DF ditch fill; PF pit fill; RH roundhouse; T terminus; + 0 – 10 items, ++ 10 – 50 items.

Sample	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**20**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	
Context	254	230	233	266	283	252	300	309	317	319	299	299	353	
Description	PF	DF		GF	RH T	GF T	RH GF	GF T	RH GF T	RH T	RH GF	RH GF	PF	
Cereal chaff														
Triticum spelta L. glume base										**5**				Spelt wheat
Triticum spp. glume base	**2**	**5**		**1**	**5**					**3**	**1**			Glume wheat
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis														Barley
Cereal grains														
Triticum spp. (glume wheat) grain	**2**			**2**					**1**	**1**				Glume wheat
Triticum aestivum/turgidum L. grain														Bread/rivet wheat
Hordeum vulgare L. grain		**3**												Barley
Cereal grain			**1**											Cereal
Wild plants														
Brassica spp.							**1**							Cruciferous vegetables
Cerastium spp.	**1**		**1**											Chickweeds
Chenopodium spp.	**1**									**2**	**2**	**3**		Goosefoots
Galium aparine L.	**1**													Cleavers
Large poaceae	**2**	**1**			**1**				**1**			**2**		Large grasses
Large poaceae tuber root						**1**								Large grass tuber root
Small poaceae		**2**												Small grasses
Polygonum spp.	**1**										**2**			Knotweeds
Rumex spp.	**1**										**1**			Docks
Sambucus nigra L.			**1**											Elder
Trifolium spp.	**1**													Clovers
Urtica spp.			**1**											Nettles
Vicia spp.	**1**													Vetch/tares
Veronica spp.	**2**													Speedwell
Indent. seed	**3**	**2**		**3**		**2**								Indent. Seed
Total	**18**	**13**	**4**	**6**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**11**	**6**	**5**	0	
Sample Volume	**9**	**8**	**8**	**8**	**9**	**8**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**9**	10	Litres
Flot volume	**20**	**10**	**10**	**25**	**20**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**30**	**40**	**10**	**15**	20	Millilitres
Part sorted	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	100	Percentage
Charcoal	**++**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**+**	**++**	**++**	**+**	**++**	+	

The cereals: glume wheat (*Triticum* spp.) was the most common type of grain in the assemblage; this is typical of the region. It was possible to identify over a quarter of *Triticum* spp. glume bases as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.). A piece of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) rachis was present in sample 2 and barley grains in the assemblage. The barley grains had been hulled; this is where the inedible outermost layer is removed for human consumption. Three free-threshing grains (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* L.) were identified in sample 10 which dates to the late Iron Age. Bread wheat became popular at this time and across the region occasional grains of bread wheat type have been found such as at Wanlip but with no chaff to confirm its presence (Willis 2006: 31). It is plausible that the free-threshing wheat grains found at Oakham date to the period but they could be intrusive.

Wild seeds: a variety of plant remains were identified that are classed as weeds of arable fields and disturbed land, such as, docks (*Rumex* spp.) and nettles (*Urtica* spp.). The leaves of some, such as cruciferous vegetables (*Brassica* spp.), are edible and may have been collected. Possible hedgerow species were also present including elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.).

Discussion – Iron Age

It was suggested that sample 6 came from a corn dryer; however, the lack of remains does not support this. Rather the charred plant remains from samples represent small-scale domestic waste from processing cereals for consumption. In the Iron Age, glume wheat cereal crops would have been harvested and then put through initial processing to remove straw and weeds before storage. The ear of glume wheat breaks into spikelets which consist of two glumes containing two grains and the cereal can be stored in this form. Small amounts would be taken out of storage on a day-to-day basis and go through a second stage of processing to prepare them for consumption. This requires parching and pounding to free the grain; followed by winnowing to remove light chaff fragments, coarse sieving to remove large weed seeds and fine sieving to remove glume bases and small weeds. Finally hand sorting would be undertaken to remove any weed seeds left which were similar in size to the grain. The waste would have been disposed in domestic hearths and become charred along with any grains spilled during cooking. This would have formed a general scatter that might accumulate in open features such as roundhouse gullies as well as formal disposal in pits (Monckton and Hill 2011: 130).

Results – Saxon

Charred plant remains were present in all samples and all except for sample 67 contained over 50 remains (table 3). The general pattern was greater numbers of grain and weed seeds with little chaff, nutshell and legume fragments were also present.

Table 3: charred plant remains present in Saxon samples (flot and fine fraction). Key: DF ditch fill; PHF posthole fill; GF gully fill; PF pit fill; T terminus; ++ 10 – 50 items.

Sample	**61**	**62**	**65**	**66**	**67**	**68**	
Context	669	670	712	697	705	726	
Description	DF T	PH F	GF	DF	GF butt-end	PF	
Cereal chaff							
Triticum aestivum L. rachis		4			1	2	Bread wheat
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis		1					Barley
Cereal grain							
Triticum aestivum/turgidum L.	16	14	16	18	6	10	Bread/rivet wheat
Hordeum vulgare L.	4	4	7		2	3	Barley
Cereal grain	7		6	5	2	10	Cereal
Avena spp.			3				Oat
Possible food plants							
Vicia/pisum	3						Bean/pea
Corylus avellana L.	19	1	7			3	Hazel nut
Wild seeds							
Anthemis cotula L.	2		6	2		7	Stinking chamomile
Brassica spp.	2	2	2	2		2	Cruciferous vegetables
Carex spp.					1		Sedges
Centaurea nigra L.		1					Common knapweed
Chenopodium spp.						1	Goosefoots
Phleum spp.		1					Timothy
Small poaceae				8	1	3	Small grasses
Large poaceae	4	6	14	2	1	2	Large grasses
Rumex spp.	1		3			3	Docks
CF. *Veronica* spp.		1					Speedwell
Vicia spp.		2	2	18	1	2	Vetch/tares
Indent. Seed	8	15	11	7	1	22	Indent. Seeds
Total	66	52	77	62	16	70	
Sample volume	9	8	9	9	7	8	Litres
Flot volume	20	10	15	10	5	25	Millilitres
Part sorted	100	100	100	100	100	100	Percentage
Other							
Charcoal	++	++	++	++	++	++	

The cereals: grain was poorly preserved in the samples and grain fragments were abundant. Only complete specimens or fragments including the embryo were counted. Most of the grain was free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* L.); the chaff was identified as bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). Hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) grains were present in smaller numbers and a single piece of barley rachis was identified in sample 62. Three oats (*Avena* spp.) were present in sample 65; due to their large size they could possibly have been cultivated but no chaff was present to confirm this.

Possible food plants: broken fragments of legumes, possibly cultivated beans or peas (*Vicia/Pisum*), were identified in sample 61. Small fragments of hazel nut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) were present; the nuts are generally considered a snack food and the waste thrown directly onto the fire (Van der Veen 2011: 194). They would have been gathered from hedgerows/woodlands.

Wild seeds: weeds of arable and disturbed land were present such as stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.). Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* L.) was identified and the species is usually found in hedgerows and grasslands. Sedges (*Carex* spp.) were present and this species thrives in wet soils (Jones et al 2004: 34).

Discussion – Saxon

When free-threshing wheat is processed the grain is easily separated from the ear during threshing. Winnowing removes light chaff whilst coarse sieving removes the larger pieces of chaff and weed seeds. Fine sieving removes small weeds and finally hand sorting removes the last contaminants including weed seeds similar in size to the grain (Hillman 1981).

Like the Iron Age samples, the Saxon samples are representative of domestic waste; by-products from the final stages of cleaning the grain and cooking spills (cereals and legumes). The difference between the two periods is that the Saxon samples have a higher density of remains.

The species present are similar to other Saxon deposits in the region; for example from Causeway Lane, Bonners Lane and Freeschool Lane in Leicester (Browning *et al*. 2015). A similar pattern of remains was found during excavations at Anstey, Leicestershire. The archaeology dates from the Late Saxon to early medieval period; deposits from house platforms had roughly equal numbers of grain and weed seeds, with low numbers of chaff, and this was interpreted as domestic refuse (Browning and Higgins 2003).

Coarse fractions

Artefacts present in the coarse fraction including animal bone, fired clay and pot; these are addressed in other reports.

Conclusion

Soil samples were taken during excavation at Huntman's Drive, Oakham for the recovery of charred pant remains which are a useful indicator of past economy and environment. A total

of 32 out of 68 samples were assessed from Iron Age and Saxon contexts. Charred plant remains were present in the majority of samples and the pattern is indicative of domestic refuse. There is an increase in remains over time and a transition from spelt wheat to bread wheat as the main cereal crop. The potential evidence for bread wheat type grains in sample 10, dating to late Iron Age, is notable. The site shares similarities with others in the region such as Manor Farm, Enderby, and Anstey and this is of value to the regional data set.

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