UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
Archaeological Services

An archaeological excavation at Park Hill Golf Club, Park Hill Road, Seagrave, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 6241 1670

ULAS Report No 2019-001

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Grid Ref: SK 6241 1670

Author: Leon Hunt

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An archaeological excavation at Park Hill Golf Club, Park Hill Road, Seagrave, Leicestershire (SK 6241 1670)

Leon Hunt

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Park Hill Golf Club, Park Hill Road, Seagrave, Leicestershire (SK 6241 1670) in advance of the construction of a new football training ground. Park Hill Golf Club lies around 1 mile south-east of the village of Seagrave with the land itself lying within the parish of Sileby.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland records evidence for prehistoric and later settlement remains nearby. These include Iron Age pottery and earlier prehistoric flint from within the village core of Seagrave as well as Roman pottery and a coin found within the golf club site itself.

The archaeological excavations targeted two areas within the Golf Club and followed on from previous archaeological work.

A geophysical survey had revealed a large rectangular enclosure within the former driving range on the higher ground, with internal enclosures and other ditch features. On the lower ground were three distinct rectangular enclosures plus a possible ring ditch and a further rectangular enclosure further to the south. A trial trench evaluation confirmed these as Iron Age enclosures and possible settlement remains.

The two areas targeted the large rectangular enclosure (Area A) and an area containing two further smaller enclosures (Area B).

The excavations revealed a multi-phased site, with a double and a single pit alignment, possibly the same alignment running between the two areas. The remains of a roundhouse lay within a later large rectangular enclosure within Area A. This was apparently superseded by two smaller enclosures, one of which included the southern arm of the roundhouse in its structure.

In Area B, to the south, two smaller enclosures, of a similar form to the later enclosures in Area A, had been excavated across the line of the double pit alignment. A number of narrow and truncated gully features lay nearby and appeared to pre-date the enclosures. The features in both areas did not appear to be isolated and it is likely that they continue beyond the excavated areas.

There were numerous pottery finds, along with animal bones and the remains of a fired clay oven plate. The artefactual evidence dates the site into the Late Iron Age and did not appear to continue into the Romano-British period.

The archaeology is similar to recently excavated sites in Leicestershire, with comparable archaeological features and pottery assemblages with a relatively high proportion of scored vessels giving a date of 2nd - 1st century BC. It most closely resembles a site at Hallam Fields, Birstall, which lies around 7 miles to the south of Seagrave and includes many similar elements.

The archaeological work at Seagrave, although small in scope has still added new information to the study of the later Iron Age within the East Midlands region.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with the accession number X.A93.2018.

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Park Hill Golf Club, Park Hill Road, Seagrave, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 6241 1670; Site 1) in advance of the construction of a new football training ground (Planning Ref. P/18/1269/2).

The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2018) and follows on from a previous phase of archaeological work, consisting of a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation, which had identified archaeological features, including a number of Iron Age enclosures.

The archaeological excavations targeted two areas within the Golf Club and aimed to mitigate the impact of the development by making a permanent record of the archaeological deposits before any new development took place.

Location and Geology

Seagrave lies in the Charnwood District of Leicestershire around 10 miles north of the City of Leicester and 6 miles east of Loughborough. Park Hill Golf Club lies around 1 mile south-east of Seagrave and 1.5 miles north-east of Sileby. It lies to the immediate west of the A46 (Fosse Way) and south of Park Hill Road. The Golf Club is generally associated with Seagrave but the land itself lies within the Sileby parish (Fig. 1).

The Golf Club covers around 70 hectares and lies on slightly sloped ground rising from around 90m aOD at the south-western end of the site to around 100m aOD in the north-east. The land consisted of the usual golf club landscape of fairways, bunkers, ponds and areas of rough woodland, with buildings and a car park located at the northern end of the site.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain website indicates that the underlying geology was likely to consist of Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation overlain by Oadby Member Diamicton.

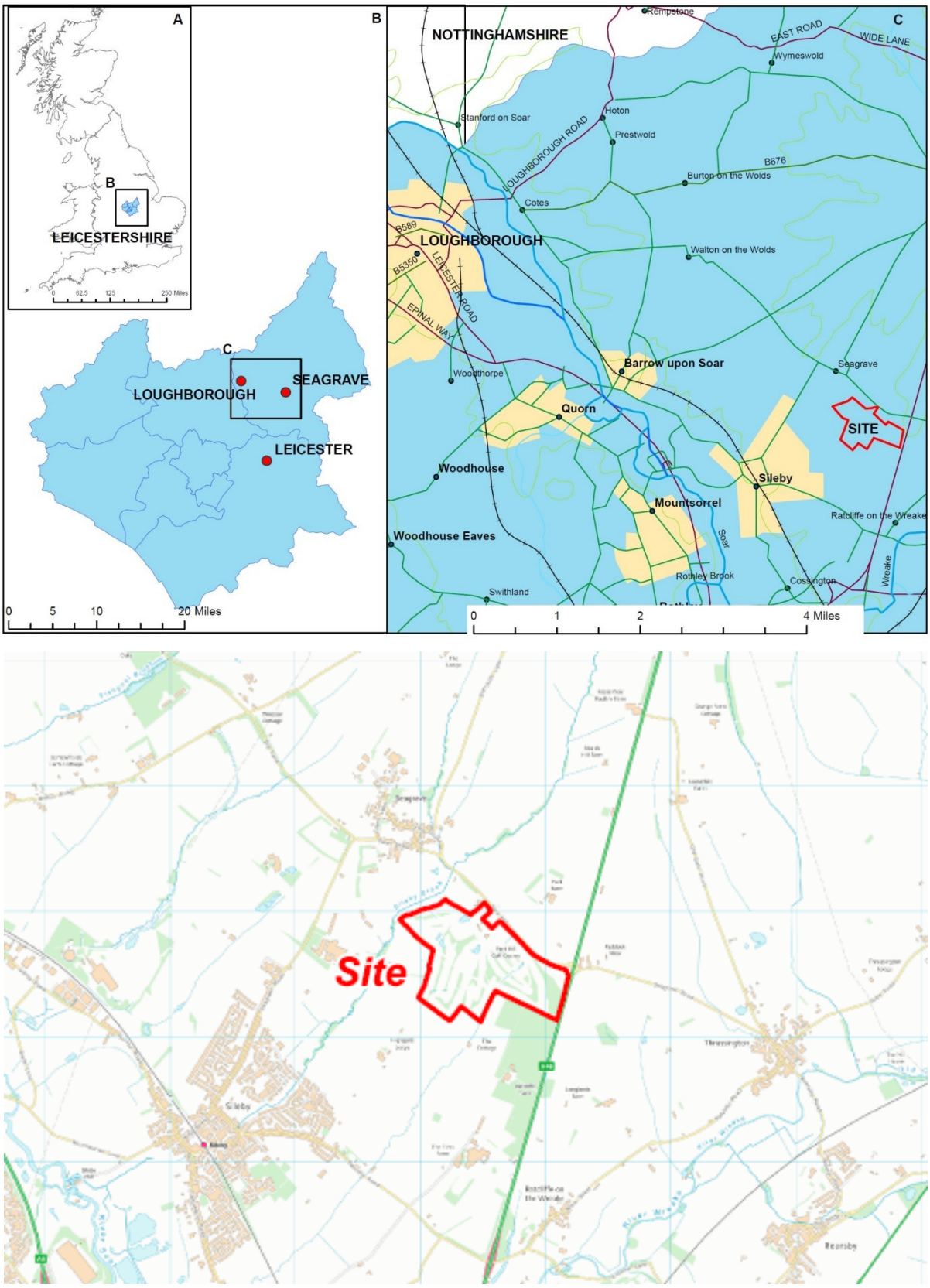

Figure 1: Site Location
Contains Ordnance Survey Data

Historical and Archaeological Background

The earliest recorded human activity in the village is from findspots of Mesolithic (*c.* 10 000 B.C – 4001 B.C) and Neolithic - Early Bronze Age material (*c.* 4001 B.C – 1501 BC) within the parish. The Mesolithic material consists of a pebble hammer, found in the rear garden of No.3, The Banks. The Neolithic - Early Bronze Age finds comprised flint tools, including an arrowhead, discovered in a field to the west of Coronation Farm.

Close to the Neolithic findspot, a scatter of Iron Age pottery (*c.* 800 B.C – A.D 42) was discovered, the quantity of which would suggest an occupation site close to this area.

Iron Age or early Roman querns have been found to the south of the village close to Hanover Farm. These discoveries along with further finds of the Romano-British period (A.D 42 – A.D 409) such as pottery, including amphora may suggest an Iron Age- Early Roman settlement in this area.

The village name of Seagrave is listed in the Domesday survey as 'Setgraue' and is derived from the Old English for 'grove' or coppiced wood and an unknown first element 'set', which may be a person's name or the Old English 'sath' for a pit or pool (Mills 2003). Despite the Anglo-Saxon origin of the village (A.D 410- A.D 849) only one piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery is recorded from Seagrave; found close to Hall Farm.

The medieval core of Seagrave has been established by R.F Hartley. Seagrave appears to have been much larger during the medieval period and is therefore a 'shrunken' village, most likely due to plague in the 14th and 17th centuries or the Parliamentary enclosure acts of the 18th century. Earthworks relating to the shrunken village, including house platforms and closes are located in the field to the south of the village. The area around the southern part of the village has further medieval features such as fishponds to the south east of Hall Farm and the remains of an early 13th century manor house and its garden, which was burned down by Siward in 1232 during a revolt led by Richard Marshal (Clay and Courtney 1996). There is also a medieval trackway, surviving as a hollow way and an area once used as a deer park.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland shows that although the Park Hill Golf Club site lies outside the village core there is also evidence for prehistoric and later settlement remains nearby. These include the Iron Age pottery and earlier prehistoric flint mentioned above (HER Ref No. MLE951; MLE7423) as well as Roman pottery and a coin found within the golf club site itself (MLE17414; MLE7781). A medieval windmill is shown on earlier maps close to the road adjacent to the golf club along with the findspot for a 12th century coin (MLE920; MLE6675).

Previous Archaeological Work

A large part of the proposed area for development has already been subject to archaeological investigation in the form of geophysical survey (Figs 2 - 3; Brunning 2018), and an eight trench evaluation carried out by MOLA in May 2018 (Fig. 4; Elston 2018).

The geophysical survey revealed a large rectangular enclosure within the former driving range on the higher ground, with internal enclosures and other ditch features (Fig. 2: A1). On the lower ground were three distinct rectangular enclosures (A2, A3), plus a possible ring ditch (A4) and a further rectangular enclosure further to the south (A5). There were also other features observed that may be archaeological in nature (P1-P11).

The May 2018 evaluation consisted of four trenches placed across the larger rectangular enclosure (Trenches 1-4), three trenches across the group of rectangular enclosures (Trenches 5-6), a single trench across the rectangular enclosure to the east (Trench 7) and another across

the enclosure to the south (Trench 8) (Fig. 4). Many features were sampled and the work identified several enclosure ditches, some of which had been re-cut, along with other discreet features. Animal bone and 1st century BC pottery was retrieved from several contexts (Elston 2018).

Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the investigation was to provide evidence to understand the nature, date, function, and character of the archaeological remains at the site in their cultural and environmental setting and to preserve it by record.

The objectives of the excavation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits and provide evidence of the nature and extent of surviving archaeological remains on the site.
- To characterise the extent, date range, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits whose future integrity may be compromised by groundworks associated with the proposed construction works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results

Research Objectives

The previous evaluation suggested evidence for settlement dating to the Iron Age in the form of an enclosure, ring ditches, gullies and pits with pottery dating from the late Iron Age to the post medieval period. On this basis it was possible to determine objectives identified within *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13,* (ed. Cooper 2006) and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (ed. Knight et al 2012).

The excavations had potential to contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Specific research questions arising from the results of the evaluation include:

- How are the nucleated settlements related to one another and to other settlements of the period? In particular, is there evidence for a developing settlement hierarchy? [4.5.2];
- Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems? [4.6.1];
- How may agricultural changes have impacted upon settlement patterns? Can the relationship between sedentary and mobile economies be clarified, and how did this vary spatially and over time? [4.8.3];
- How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time? [5.4.4];
- Can we elucidate further the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products? [5.4.6].

Figure 2: Plan of interpreted geophysical survey results. From WYAS 2018

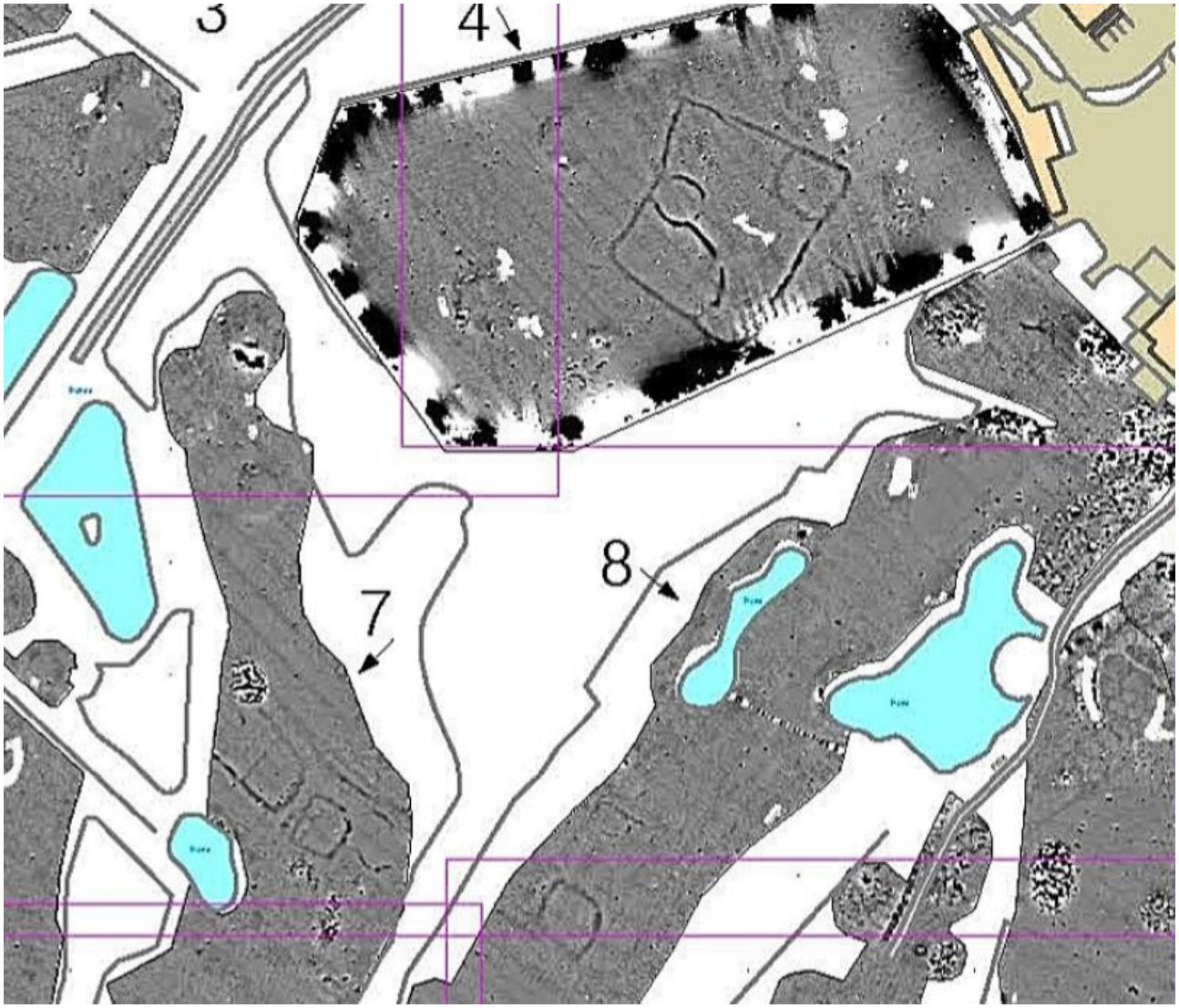

Figure 3: Close up of greyscale geophysical survey results. From Brunning 2018

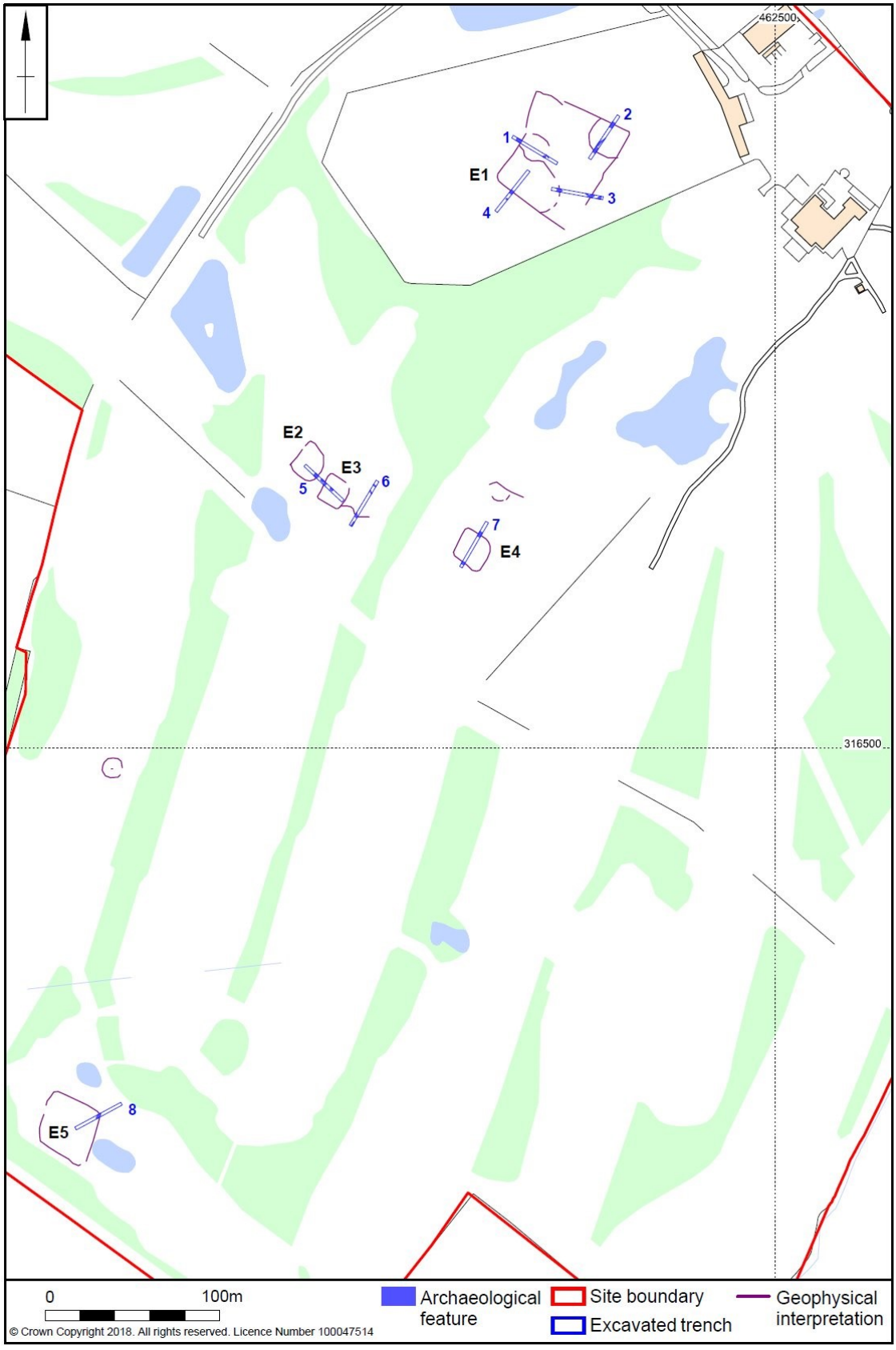

Figure 4: Plan of evaluation trench locations. From Elston 2018

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation* (2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

The areas were stripped using a large tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket (Fig. 5). Spoil was removed and dumped using a small skip dumper. Sections were excavated by hand across all linear features and discreet features were half-sectioned. Further sections were excavated by machine towards the end of the fieldwork in order to increase the percentage of the sample.

Environmental samples were collected from archaeological features providing artefacts were present to provide dating evidence.

Environmental Monitoring

The excavated areas lay close to ponds known to contain Great Crested Newt populations. Although the potential for newts to be present within the study areas was fairly low the more disturbed areas, such as filled in bunkers and the backfilled evaluation trenches, were examined by qualified ecologists (from The Environmental Dimension Partnership) for the presence of newts prior to and during the stripping. No newts were found during the examinations.

Results

The excavations focussed on two areas; Area A (Figs 5-6) was located within the driving range area on the higher ground to the north and Area B within the fairway to the south (Fig. 6).

The cut numbers for the features are shown in square brackets with the fills shown in round brackets. The features are described chronologically as best can be determined.

Figure 5: Work in progress on Area A, looking north-east

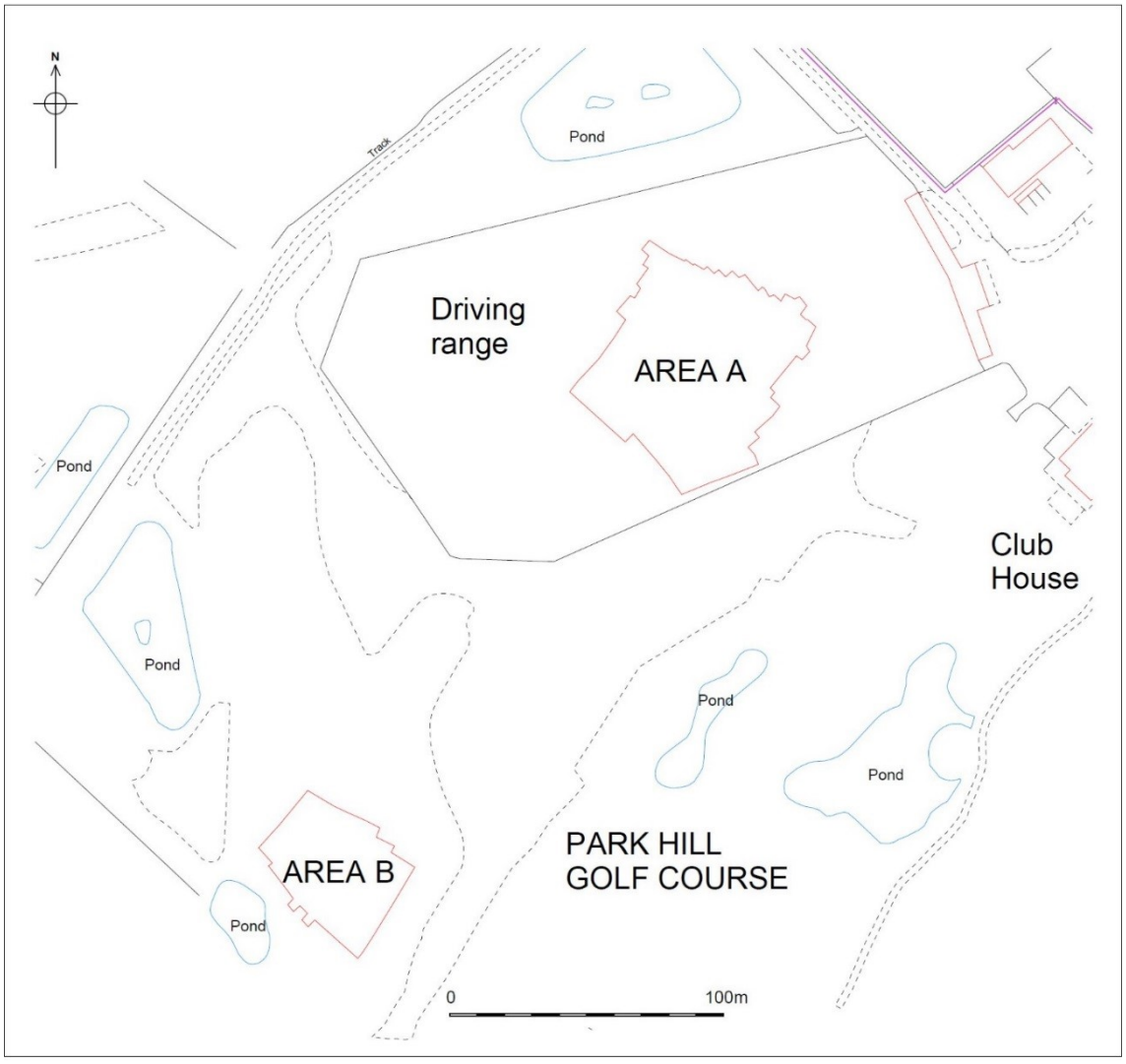

Figure 6: Location of areas excavated (Areas A and B)

Area A

Area A consisted of a broadly rectangular area covering around 4600m^2 on a broadly south-west to north-east orientation, within the former driving range area of the golf club. The land sloped slightly down from north-east to south-west and the eastern extent of the stripped area was defined by a webbing fence, which enclosed the driving range (Fig. 7).

The area was stripped from north to south and was conducted in accordance with the presence of archaeological features, the areas to be checked by the ecologist and the logistics of spoil dumping. The spoil was stored in two large piles to the south-east of the stripped area away from the ponds to the north-west.

The sequence of soils in this area consisted of 0.30m - 0.40m of dark yellowish-brown silty clay topsoil overlying 0.20m - 0.30m of mid yellowish-brown silty clay subsoil. The natural sub-stratum mainly consisted of a brownish-yellow stony clay, containing a large amount of flint nodules and chalk flecks.

The remains of heavily ploughed out furrows were located across the site, broadly running from north-west to south-east. The site also contained several phases of field drains, with the earlier phases of slate and ceramic drains broadly running in a similar orientation to the furrows and a modern plastic system on a north-east to south-west orientation. The topsoil also often contained large numbers of discarded golf balls.

The stripped area revealed a rectangular enclosure measuring 67m x 61m on a broadly north-east to south-west alignment (Fig. 7; Enclosure 1). Within this area were a roundhouse feature (Roundhouse 1), two smaller enclosures; a sub-rectangular enclosure to the north-east (Enclosure 2), and another formed of a curved linear running from Enclosure 1 to the roundhouse (Enclosure 3). A pit alignment lay to the east of Enclosure 1 (Pit Alignment 1), separated from Enclosure 1 by a narrow gully (Gully 1). A further narrow gully lay to the west of Roundhouse 1 and appeared to continue outside the limits of excavation to the west (Gully 2). There was also a small number of post holes or small pits present within the enclosures.

A post-medieval ditch, most likely a former hedge boundary crossed the site, cutting many of the earlier features. This feature is shown as an enclosure boundary on early OS maps of the area and would have been removed prior to the construction of the golf club.

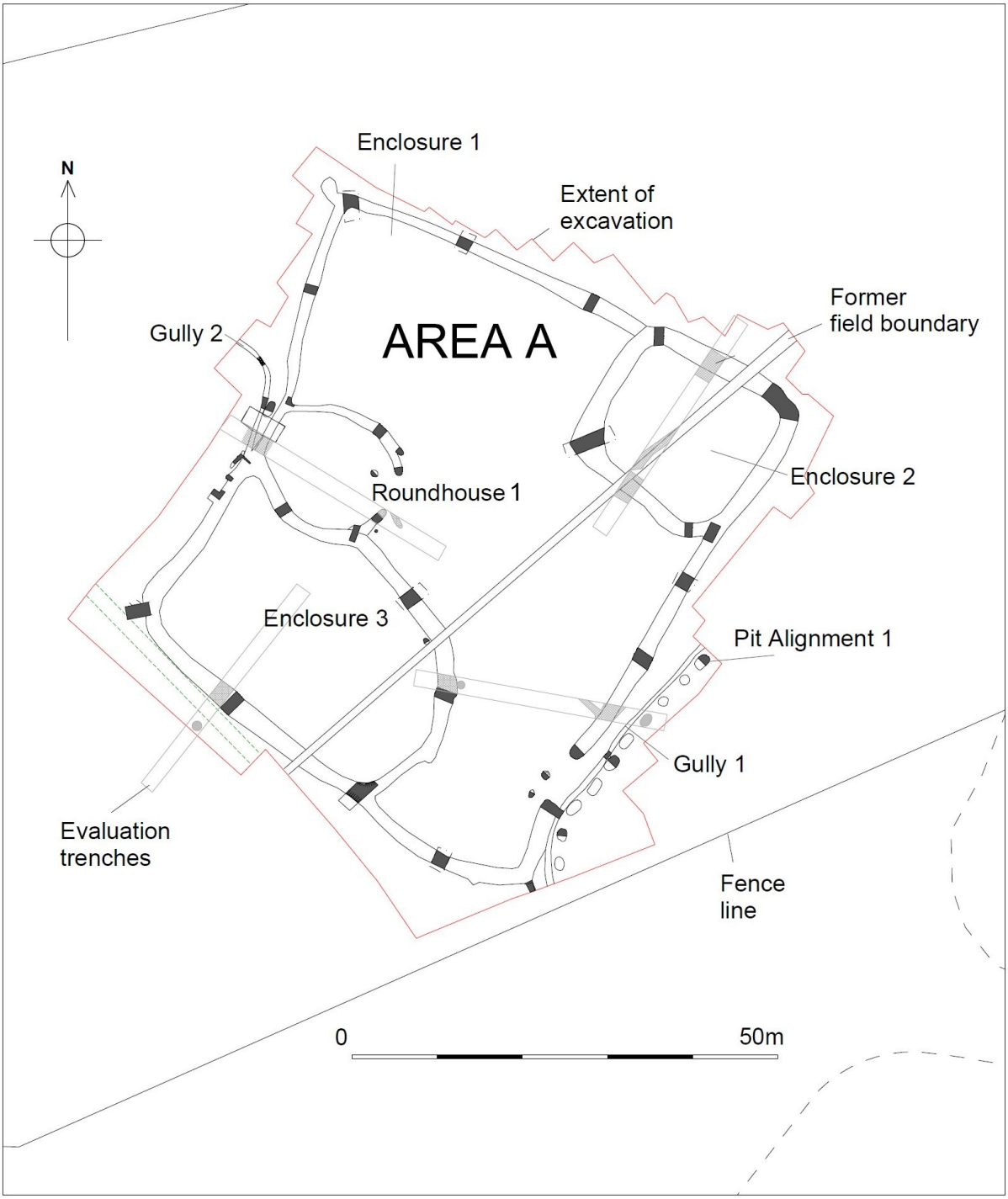

Figure 7: Plan of Area A with previous evaluation trenches and areas sampled shown.

Pit Alignment 1 and Gully 1

There is no finds evidence to place Pit Alignment 1 as the earliest phase of the archaeological remains but stratigraphically the pits lie to the immediate east of the entrance into Enclosure 1, suggesting that they were filled in before the entrance was constructed.

Pit Alignment 1 consisted of ten sub-circular pits, emerging from the southern end of the area and curving to the north-east, continuing beyond the edges of the excavations at both ends of the stripped area. One pit was sampled during the MOLA evaluation [310]. Three more were sampled during the latest excavations (Fig. 8). Pit [82] measured 1.54m by 1.25m with a V-shaped profile, moderate sides and a V-shaped base at 0.31m depth (Fig. 9a). The fill (83) was a mid-orange brown silty clay with charcoal and chalk flecks.

Pit [104] measured 1.30m by 1.90m with a concave profile, shallow sides and a sloping base at 0.30m depth (Fig. 9b, Fig. 10). The fill (105) was identical to (83). The last pit to be sampled was [96]. This measured 1.20m by 1.80m was U-shaped in profile with moderate sides and a sloping base at 0.40m depth (Fig. 9c). The fill (97) was a mid-yellowish brown silty clay with chalk and flint flecks. None of the pits yielded artefacts.

Alongside Pit Alignment 1 and running parallel to it was a narrow gully. Gully 1 [80]/[102], followed the pit alignment and Enclosure 1 by turning to the north-east for 34m, continuing beyond the scope of the excavations. The gully was between 0.40m and 0.45m wide with shallow concave sides and a sloping base between 80mm and 0.12m deep. The fill (81)/(103) was an orange brown or greyish brown silty clay with chalk flecks and charcoal (Figs. 9b & d: Fig. 10).

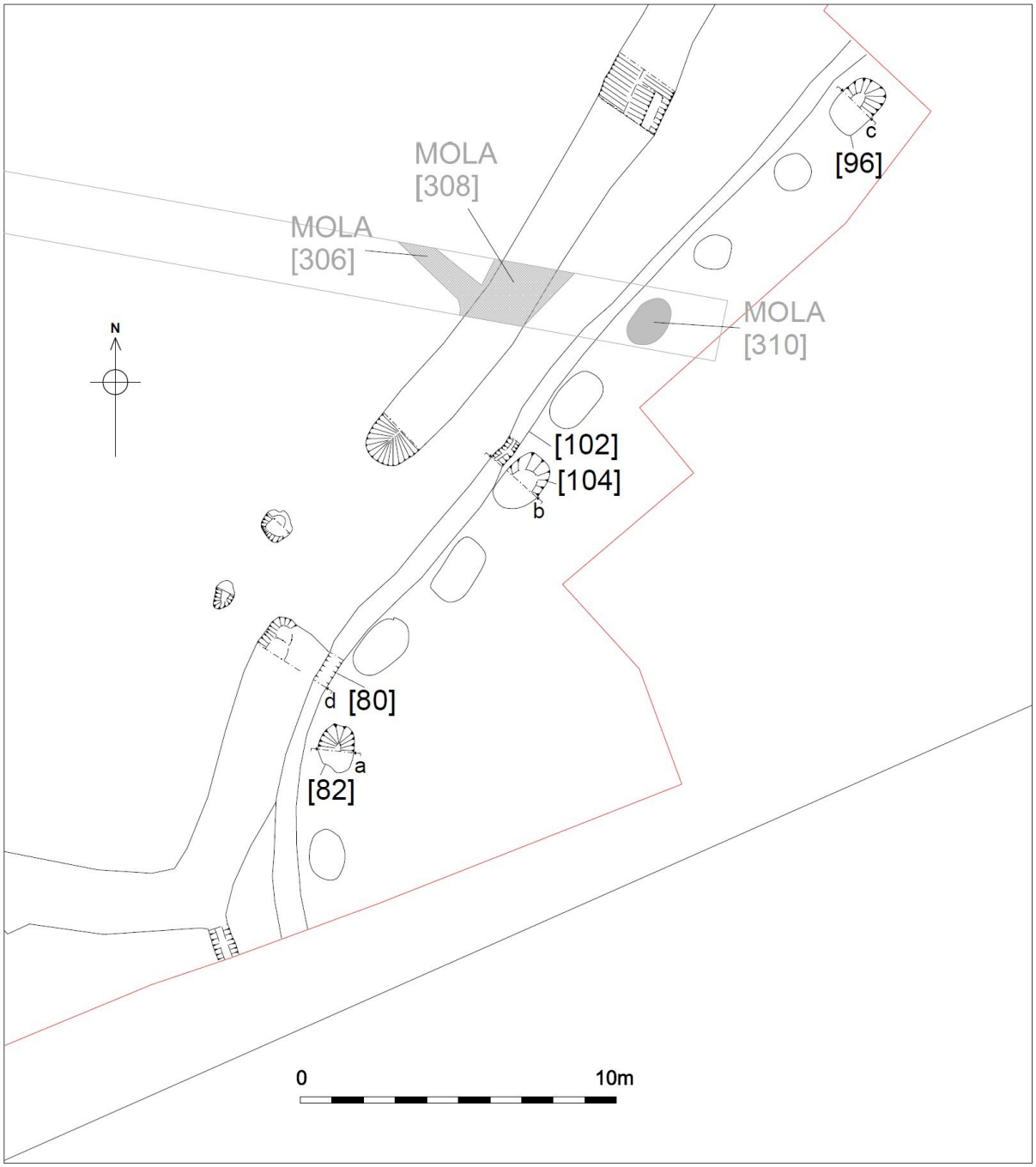

Figure 8: Plan of Pit Alignment 1 and Gully 1

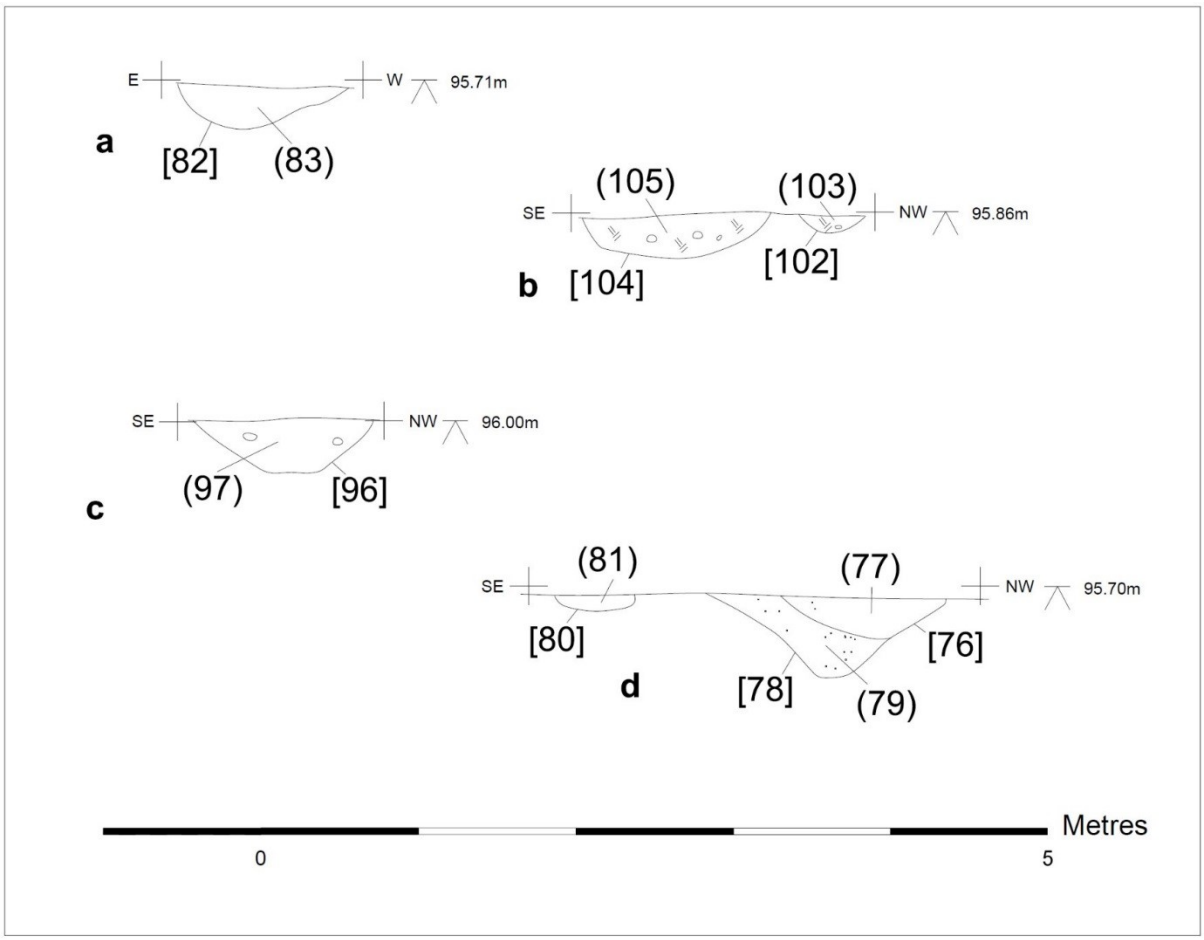

Figure 9: Sections for Pit Alignment 1 and Gully 1

Figure 10: Pit [104] and gully [102] looking south-east

Gully 2 and associated features

On the western edge of Area A lay a narrow curved gully (Gully 2), stylistically similar to Gully 1 to the east. This possibly represents an earlier enclosure that predates the larger enclosures. The MOLA evaluation identified a large feature here at the western end of the trench as a single wide ditch [112] but did not excavate it. Investigation during this excavation proved that it was not a single feature but two smaller separate features in section (Fig. 11).

Gully 2 was a narrow curvilinear gully [88]/[121]/[106], running slightly north-east alongside Enclosure 1/Roundhouse 1. It curved to the west running outside the limits of the excavation ([115]; Figs. 12a-d) and the gully and at the point at which it ran alongside the Enclosure 1 ditch [90] to the south the gully appeared to butt-end ([113). Excavation appeared to show that the enclosure ditch cut the gully at this point making the gully an earlier feature (Fig. 12d).

The fill of the gully (89)/(114)/(116)/(107) was mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, small stones, Late Iron Age pottery and cattle bones. The intermediate butt-end [106] also contained a lower fill (108) of dark greyish brown silty clay with charcoal, stones and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Between gully [88] and the Enclosure 1 ditch [90] lay a long ovoid pit [58], aligned north-east south-west and measuring 2.13m by 0.60m. It was 0.24m deep, with a moderate slope and a fill of mid greyish-brown silty clay with chalk and flint (Figs 12a & b). The base of a large Late Iron Age pot was recovered from the fill (Fig. 13). Close to the junction of the gully, main ditch and the circular enclosure was a further narrow pit or short linear [119] measuring 2.5m long and 0.35m wide also on the same alignment as the ditches with a moderate V-shaped profile, a flat base at 0.25m depth. The fill (120) was a mid-grey silty clay (Fig. 12f).

Roundhouse 1

At the western edge of the stripped area within Enclosure 1 was a large roundhouse 15m in diameter, with a 4m wide entrance facing the south-east. The roundhouse appeared to have been incorporated into Enclosure 1 at a later date; the excavation of sections across Enclosure 1 at the junction with Roundhouse 1 suggest that enclosure ditch [90] cut the northern arm of Roundhouse 1 [52] (Fig. 14a).

Ditch [52] curved to the south-east from the west, with a concave profile and moderately sloping sides to a butt-end [47] (Figs. 13b & c).

The northern part of the roundhouse gully [52] had a concave profile and moderately sloping sides ending in a butt end [47; Figs 14b and c). Around halfway along its length the ditch appears to have been recut (55]), on a slightly different alignment cutting across the earlier gully and also ending in a butt-end further to the north-east (Fig. 14d). The fills of both the original gully and the recut (53) and (56), consisted of orange grey silty clay, often with large amounts of chalk flecks, other inclusions of flint and other stones, plus pottery and cattle and sheep bones. The upper fills (49), (54), (57) and (58) tended to be darker in colour with more charcoal and finds, including large mammal bone fragments.

The southern arm of the roundhouse consisted of a similar 1.6m wide ditch [46], with a U-shaped profile, moderate sloping sides of 0.74m depth (Fig. 14e). Its original length would have been around 19m, leading to a butt-end [86] (excavated during the MOLA evaluation as [108]) (Fig. 14f). Fills consisted of a mottled reddish brown and blueish grey primary sandy silt (45) with chalk and charcoal, under two distinct fills (44) and (43)/(93) both mid yellowish brown silty clay with fill (44) containing considerably more chalk, with (93) containing part of a pig jawbone. The upper fills (42)/(87) were darker and contained several Late Iron Age pottery sherds.

At around 15m along its length the southern arm of the roundhouse had been recut to join Enclosure 3 (recorded as [98] here; recut as [100]), which appears to post-date Roundhouse 1 (Fig. 14g).

A small pit [94], measuring 0.30m in diameter was excavated close to the butt-end of the southern ditch [86]. This contained Late Iron Age pottery sherds, as well as a number of large mammal bones including cattle. A further pit [111] lay close to what would been the original entrance to the roundhouse. This was 0.85m in diameter and 0.45m deep (Fig. 14h). It contained a fill (112) of mid-grey brown silty clay with charcoal, chalk, burnt stones, and Late Iron Age pottery.

A narrow gully was revealed close to the entrance of the roundhouse during the MOLA evaluation [105]. This was not identified during the excavations.

The roundhouse has at least two phases and the excavated sections suggest that the roundhouse is earlier than the Enclosure 1 ditch. The enclosure ditch also curves in at this point suggesting when Enclosure 1 was constructed, it may have curved in to re-use the existing roundhouse gully. At some point later the southern ditch of the roundhouse was recut again and became the northern part of Enclosure 3.

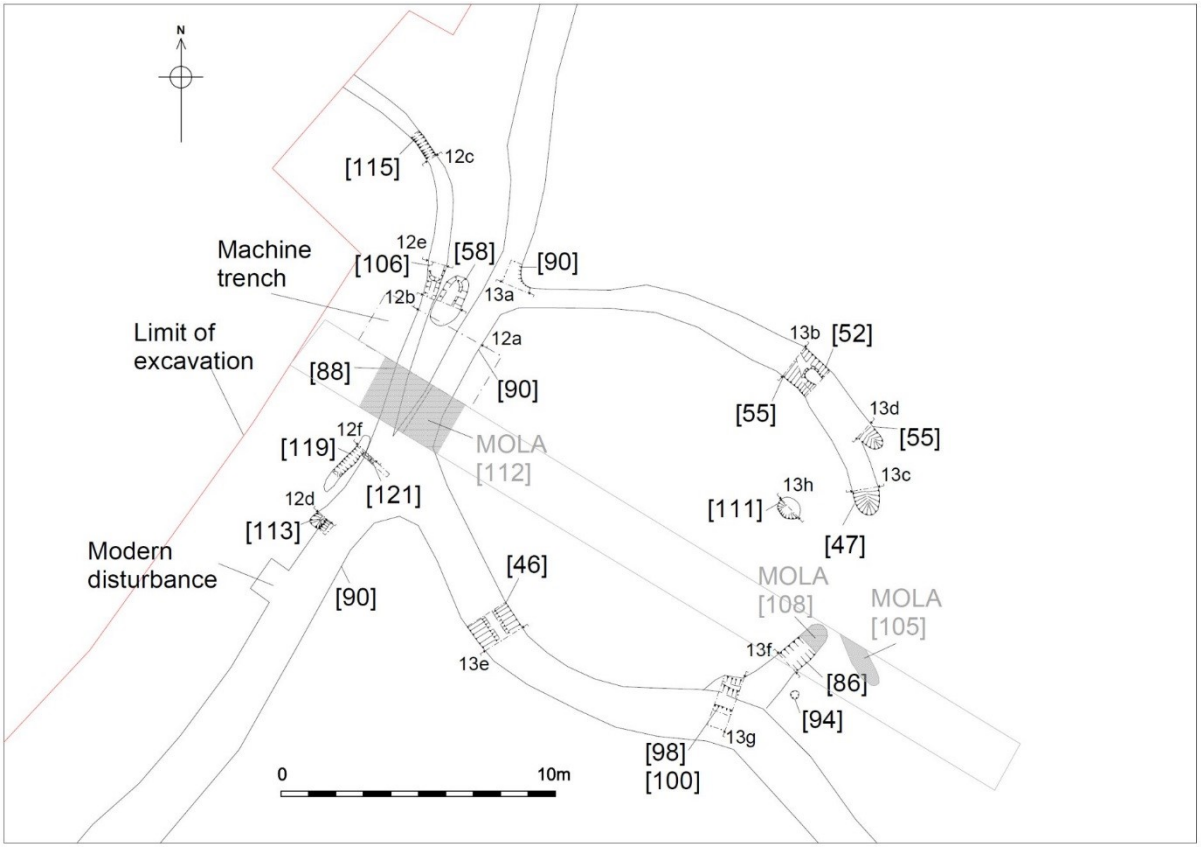

Figure 11: Plan of Gully 2 and Roundhouse 1

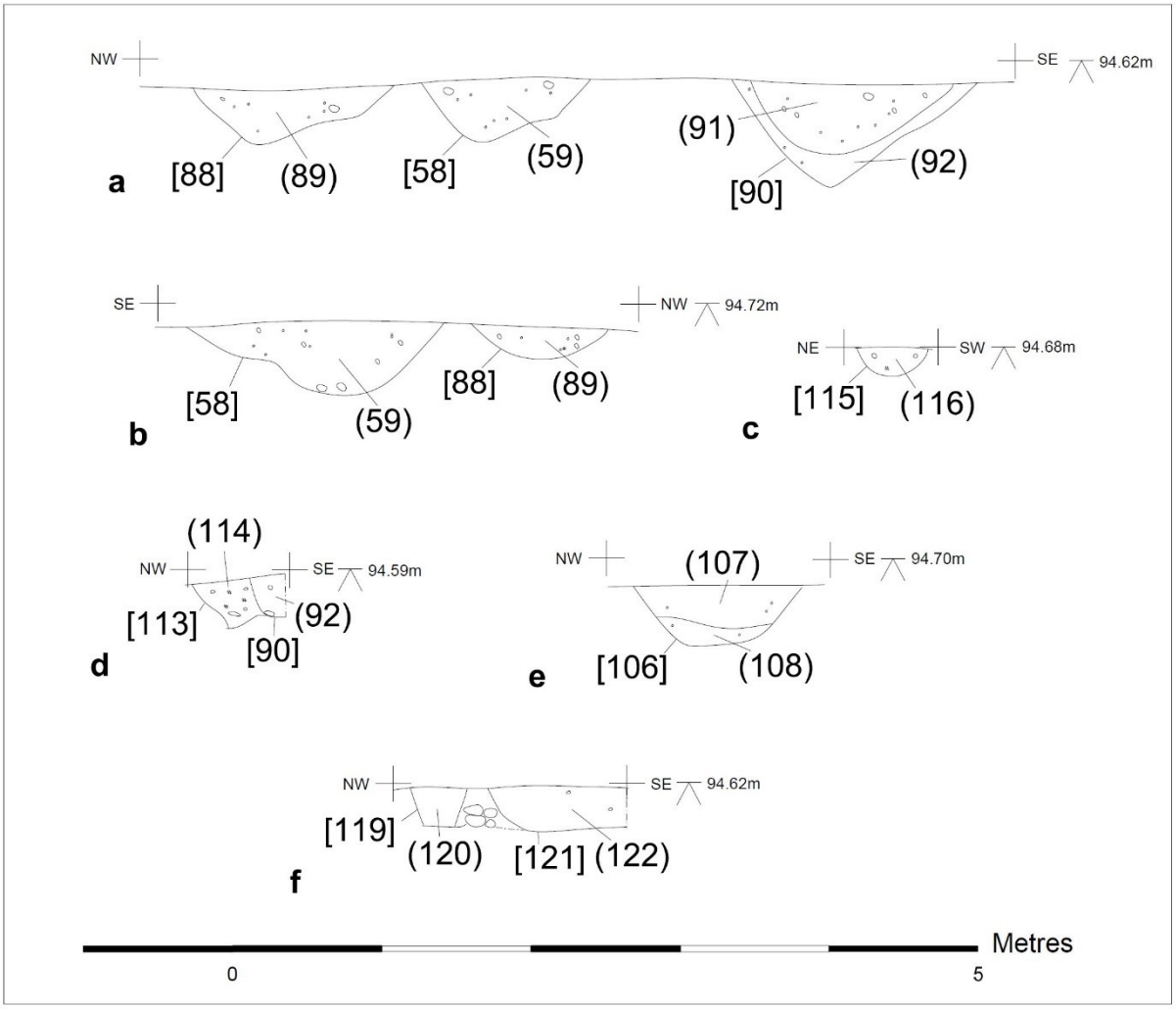

Figure 12: Sections of Gully 2 and associated features

Figure 13: Base of pottery vessel within pit [58], fill (59)

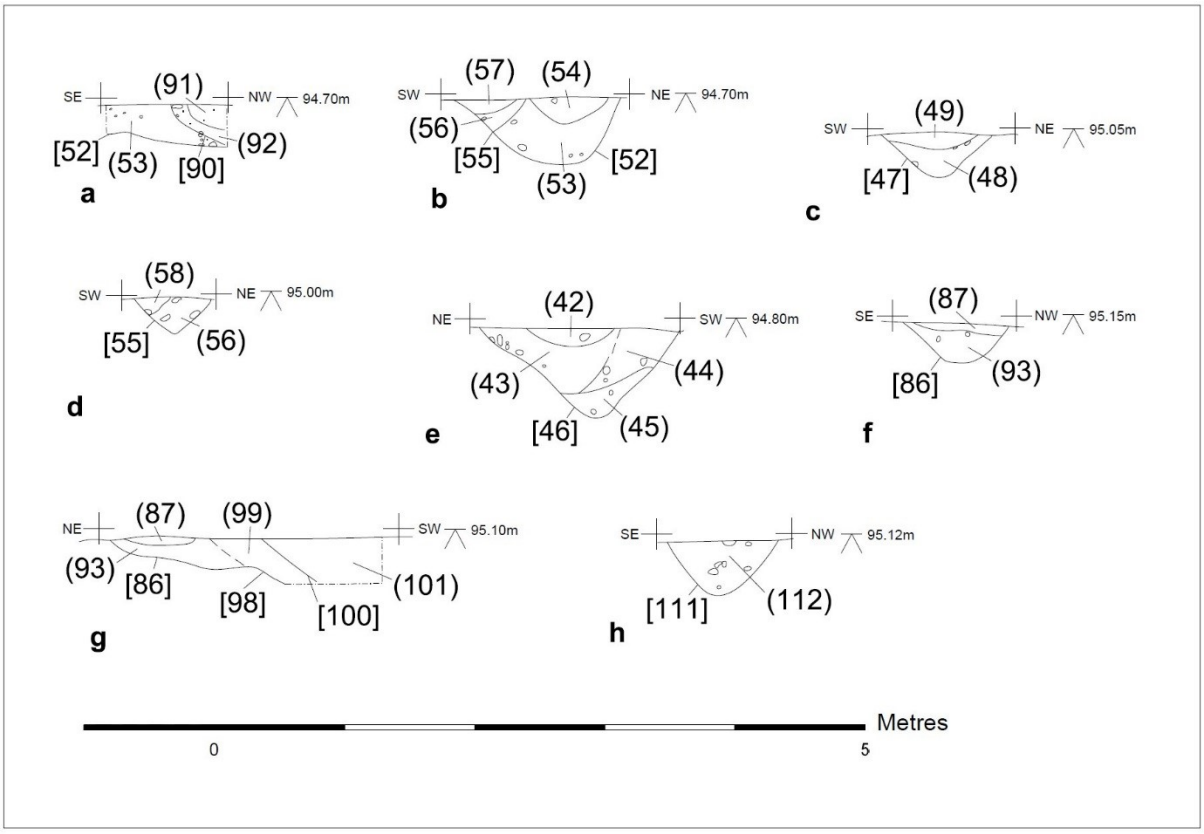

Figure 14: Sections of Roundhouse 1

Figure 15: Aerial view of Gully 2 and Roundhouse under excavation

Enclosure 1

The main feature within Area A, which mainly defined the limits of the stripped area was a large rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 1) broadly oriented north-east to south-west and measuring 65m by 53m, with an entrance to the south-east, on the same orientation as that of Roundhouse 1 (Fig. 16).

Along the north-western corner of Area A, Enclosure 1 consisted of a ditch [4]/[36] that had been recut by a later and steeper profiled ditch [34] (Figs 17, 18a & b). The original ditch [4] appeared to be around 0.4m deep, with the recut [34] between 0.2m to 0.6m deep depending on where along its length it was seen (Fig. 18c). Ditch [4] contained a single fill (5)/(35), which comprised an greyish-orange silty clay with small stones, flint and chalk flecks and contained Late Iron Age pottery and cattle bones. The recut [34] contained (in places) a primary orange-grey silt (33), overlain with orange-grey silty clay fill (32), approximately 0.18m-0.28m deep again containing Late Iron Age pottery. Above this was a brownish grey clay (31). The uppermost fill (30) was a mottled orange-grey and brownish-grey silty clay with charcoal and chalk flecks, sheep or goat bones and some Late Iron Age pottery (Figs 17 & 18d).

Where Enclosure 1 met Roundhouse 1 on the west side, the ditch [90], which was around 1m wide at this point, had a V-shaped profile approximately 0.60m deep. The primary fill (92) was a mid greyish-brown silty clay with small flint and chalk stones. Above this was a thicker (0.40m deep) fill (91) of dark blueish-grey silty clay (Fig. 18e).

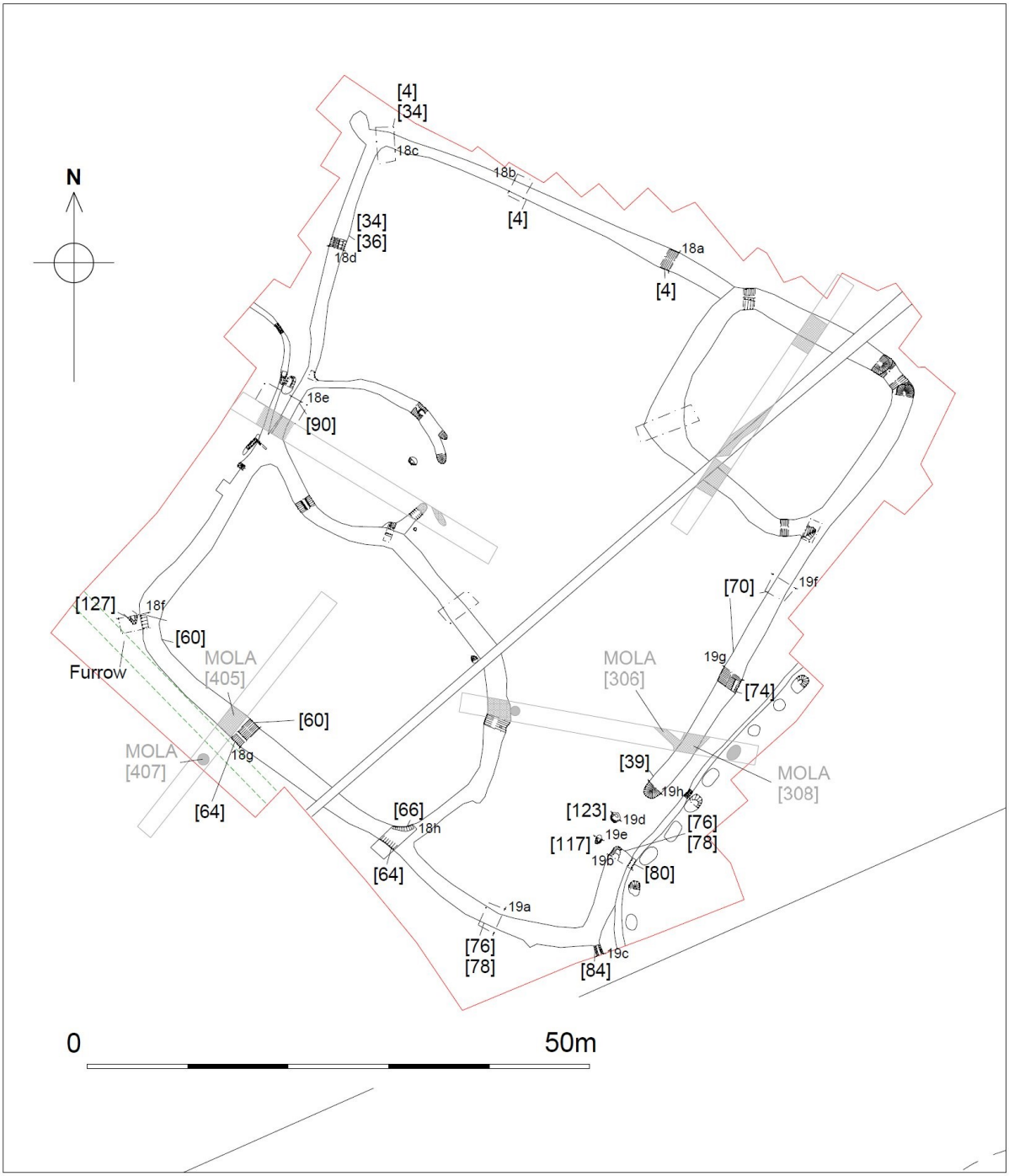

Figure 16: Plan of Enclosure 1

Figure 17: North facing section of enclosure ditch [4]/[36] and recut [34]

The western arm of Enclosure 1 [90] broadened and straightened after the roundhouse to continue south-westwards before turning to the south-east as [60]. Ditch [60] was between 1.7m and 2.2m wide, with a V-shaped profile, moderate sides and between 0.7m-0.8m deep. The earliest fill (61) consisted of greyish-orange silty clay with chalk, charcoal, small stones, Iron Age pottery, plus horse and cattle bones. This was overlain by a greyish-brown silty clay fill (62) with similar inclusions along with larger river cobbles, sheep and cattle bones. The latest upper fill (63) consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty clay containing chalk, flint, Iron Age pottery and horse and cattle bones. Throughout most of its length the ditch had been recut [64], which was a fairly shallow ditch (0.2m-0.3m deep) with a slightly steeper profile and a fill (65) of mid orange-brown silty clay with chalk, charcoal, and flint flecks. It was identified during the evaluation but not excavated (MOLA [405]).

At the south-western corner the ditch lay alongside a pit [127] (or butt-end of a ditch; the feature was masked by a furrow and trench edge here), which was at least 2m long and 1.7m wide with a concave profile, moderate sides and a base at 0.55m depth. The fill of this feature (126) was a mid greyish-brown silty clay with small stones and flints (Figs 18f & 18g).

The Enclosure 1 ditch continued to a junction with a further ditch [66] (Fig. 18h). Here the south-western arm of Enclosure 1 formed a rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 3), which seemed to post-date Enclosure 1 and is described below.

Enclosure 1 was also cut by Enclosure 2 in the north-east corner, also described below.

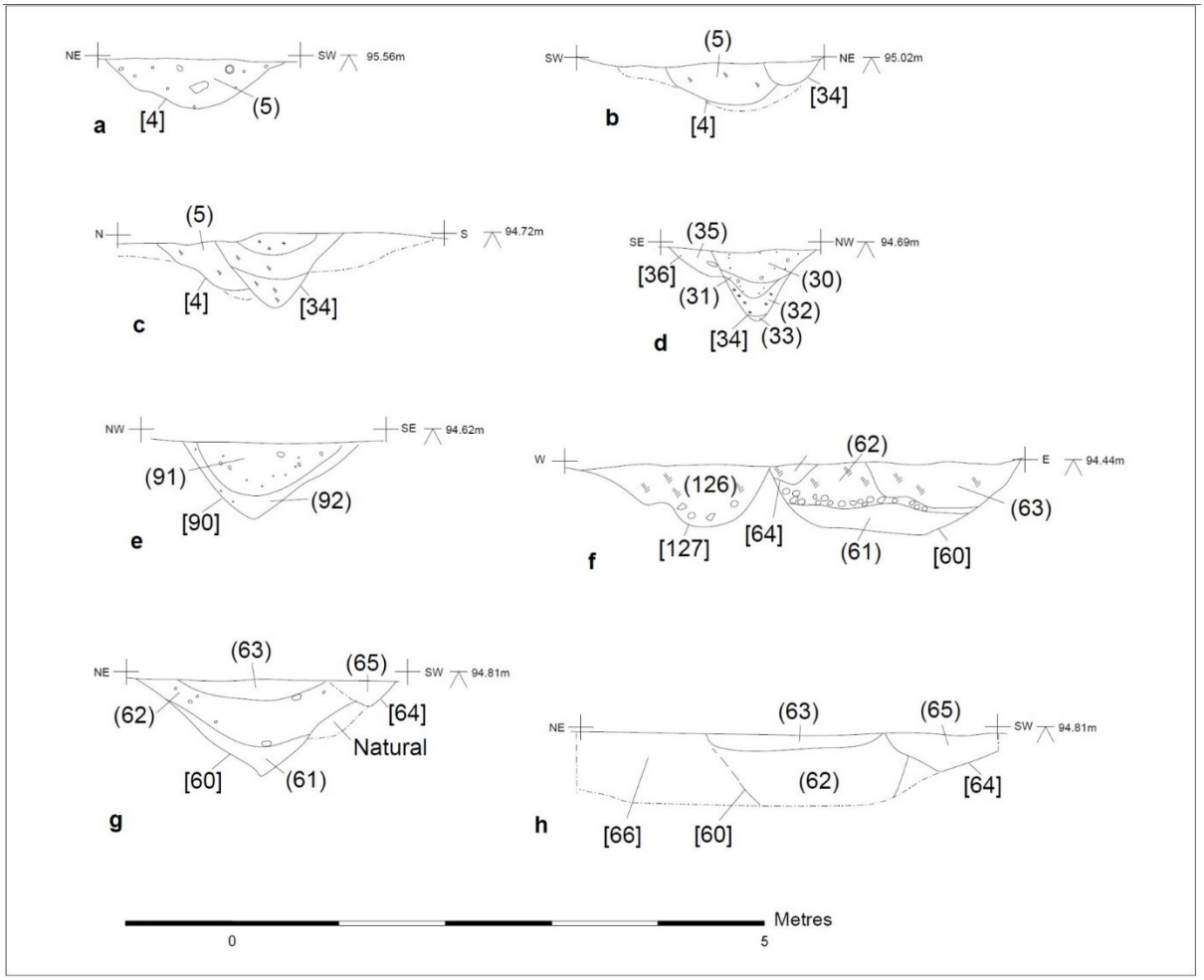

Figure 18: Sections of Enclosure 1, western and southern side

From the junction with Enclosure 3, Enclosure 1 continued in a broad curve for around 20m before turning to the north-east. This continued for around 8.5m to a 5m wide entranceway on the eastern side.

The south-eastern arm of Enclosure 1 consisted of a 1.5m wide ditch [78], which had a V-shaped profile with moderate sides and a fairly flat base at 0.60m depth. This had been recut by ditch [76], which was around 0.30m deep with a more shallow profile (Fig. 19a). The main fill (79) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with small chalk flecks and animal bone. The fill of the recut (77) was a light yellow brown silty clay with charcoal flecks cattle and sheep bones, plus Late Iron Age pottery. The ditch ended in a butt-end close to Gully 1 [80] to form a 5.7m wide entranceway (Fig. 19b).

A small gully [84] led off from the main ditch [78] to the south and beyond the edge of the excavated area. There was no obvious relationship with the enclosure and the gully was on a similar alignment as Gully 1 and Pit Alignment 1. The section of gully [84] was 1.2m long and 0.80m wide, with moderate sides and a flat base at 0.18m depth. The fill (85) was a mid grey silty clay with small pebbles, chalk, Late Iron Age pottery and horse bones (Fig. 19c).

Two small pits (or postholes) lay 2m to the west of the entrance of Enclosure 1. The larger of the two [123] was sub-circular measuring 0.93m by 0.98m, shallow at 0.15m depth with a flat base (Figs 20 & 19d). The main fill (124) was a mid-orange brown silty clay; above this was a small deposit of charcoal (125). The second pit [117] measured 0.90m by 0.06m and was only

0.12m deep with shallow sides and a sloping base. The fill (118) was also a mid orange-brown silty clay with Iron Age pottery and animal bone (Fig. 19e).

From the south-eastern edge of Enclosure 2 the main ditch of Enclosure 1 ran to the south-east for 30m as a 1.70m wide ditch [70], generally with a V-shaped profile, approximately 0.7m deep, with a moderate slope and a V-shaped base. This ditch cut a smaller 0.60m - 0.70m wide gully [74], which ran alongside the ditch on the same alignment (Figs 19f & g). The ditch [70] ended in a butt-end [39], which had the same profile suggesting that the gully [74] did not extend to that point or had been removed by the later ditch (Fig. 19h). The ditch and butt-end had two or three fills; the primary fill (71) was only visible in the middle section (Fig. 23b) and consisted of orange grey silty clay with chalk and small flint flecks. Over this lay fill (72)/(41), which consisted of a similar orange grey silty clay with flint and Late Iron Age pottery. The final fill (73)/(40) was a darker greyish brown silty clay with a large amount of charcoal, chalk and flints, plus Late Iron Age pottery and sheep or goat bones. The enclosure ditch had been identified by MOLA during the evaluation as [308] but not fully excavated. The evaluation revealed a narrow gully (MOLA [306]) cut into the ditch here, which was not identified during the excavation, unless it was associated with gully [74] in some way.

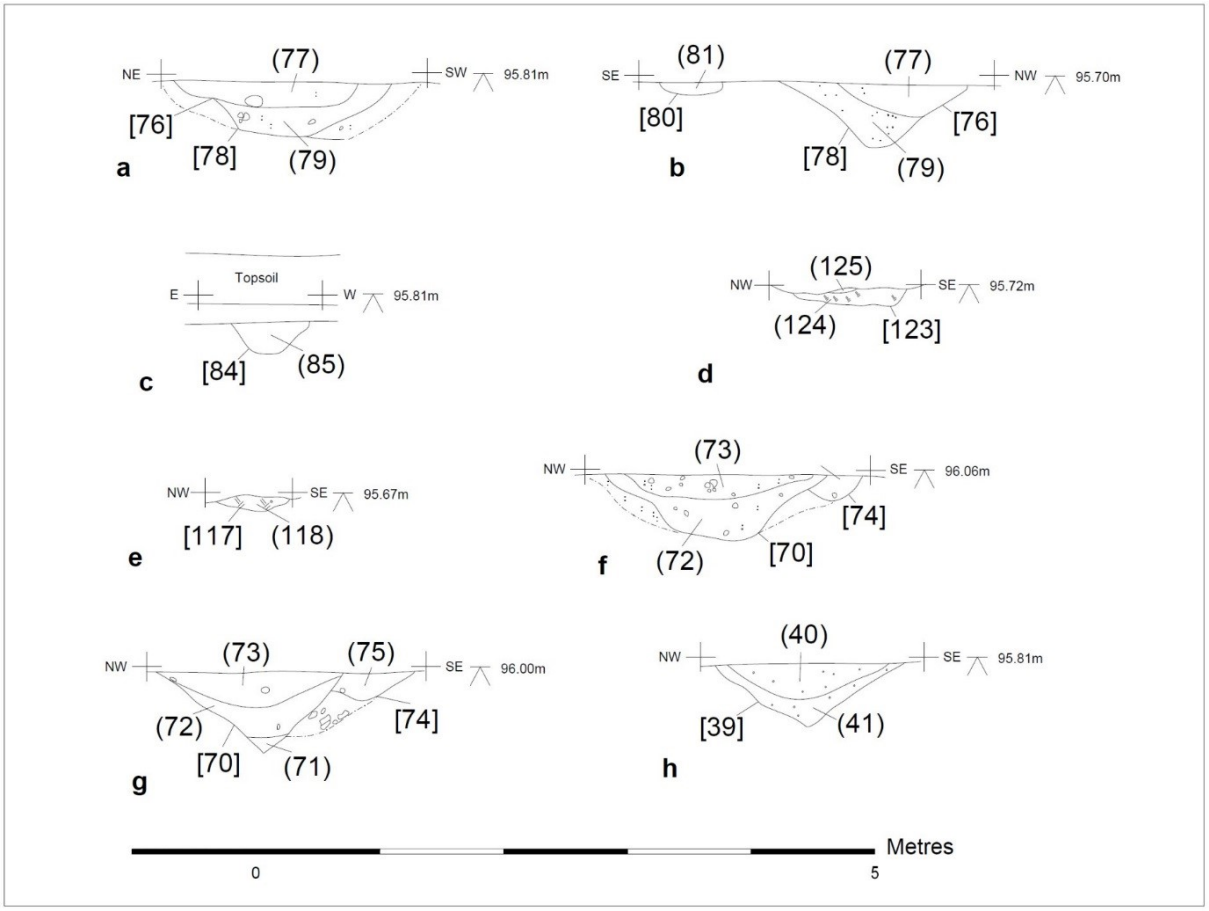

Figure 19: Sections of Enclosure 1, eastern side

Figure 20: Post hole [123] in entranceway of Enclosure 1

Enclosure 2

Enclosure 2 lay in the north-eastern corner of the site. It measured 20m by 22m and seemed to have been cut into Enclosure 1, possibly after this enclosure had become in-filled and fallen out of use (Fig. 21).

Towards the northern corner, the ditch comprised a single moderate to steep sided ditch [1] containing a 0.52m deep lower fill (2) of dark bluish grey silty clay with inclusions of flint and chalk, an amount of animal bone, including sheep and cattle, and sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. Above this was a later fill (3) of a similar nature, 0.5m deep, also with Iron Age pottery (Fig 22a). The previous MOLA evaluation had shown the ditch here to include two phases with an earlier ditch (MOLA [231]) cut by a later ditch (MOLA [226]). At the north-eastern corner of the enclosure the ditch formed a butt-end [23], which appeared to have been cut into the in-filled earlier Enclosure 1 ditch [4] which had been entirely removed by the recut and was only visible in the entrance gap (Fig. 22b). The opposite butt-end of the entrance [14] had a similar profile and sequence of fills to its opposite number [23], with a primary silty fill (27)/(15) of orange grey silty clay with medium rounded stones, cobbles, a notched piece of flint, natural flint, chalk flecks, cattle and sheep bones, plus a small amount of dog bone and late Iron Age pottery, including several rim sherds. Over this lay a dark greyish brown silty clay layer (26)/(16) with similar river cobbles, flint and chalk also with animal bone and late Iron Age pottery (Fig. 22c). The cut [23] also had a deposit of reddish orange clay daub on the northern side of the ditch, later identified as a segment of fired clay oven plate, most likely from the interior of

a roundhouse. The southern butt-end [14] seems to have been recut at this point [17], although this could not be seen in the opposite butt-end [23]. Cut [17] had a primary fill (18); a dark brown silty clay with chalk, flint, cattle and horse bone and Late Iron Age pottery. The upper fill of the feature was a shallow (0.28m-0.40m deep) darker brown silty clay fill (19), similar to the upper fill (3) of ditch [4], which appears to have been the final in-filling of Enclosure 1 at this point. The upper fills contained a large amount of animal bone, mainly cattle, and other large mammals, including horse. Fill (19) also contained several Late Iron Age pottery sherds.

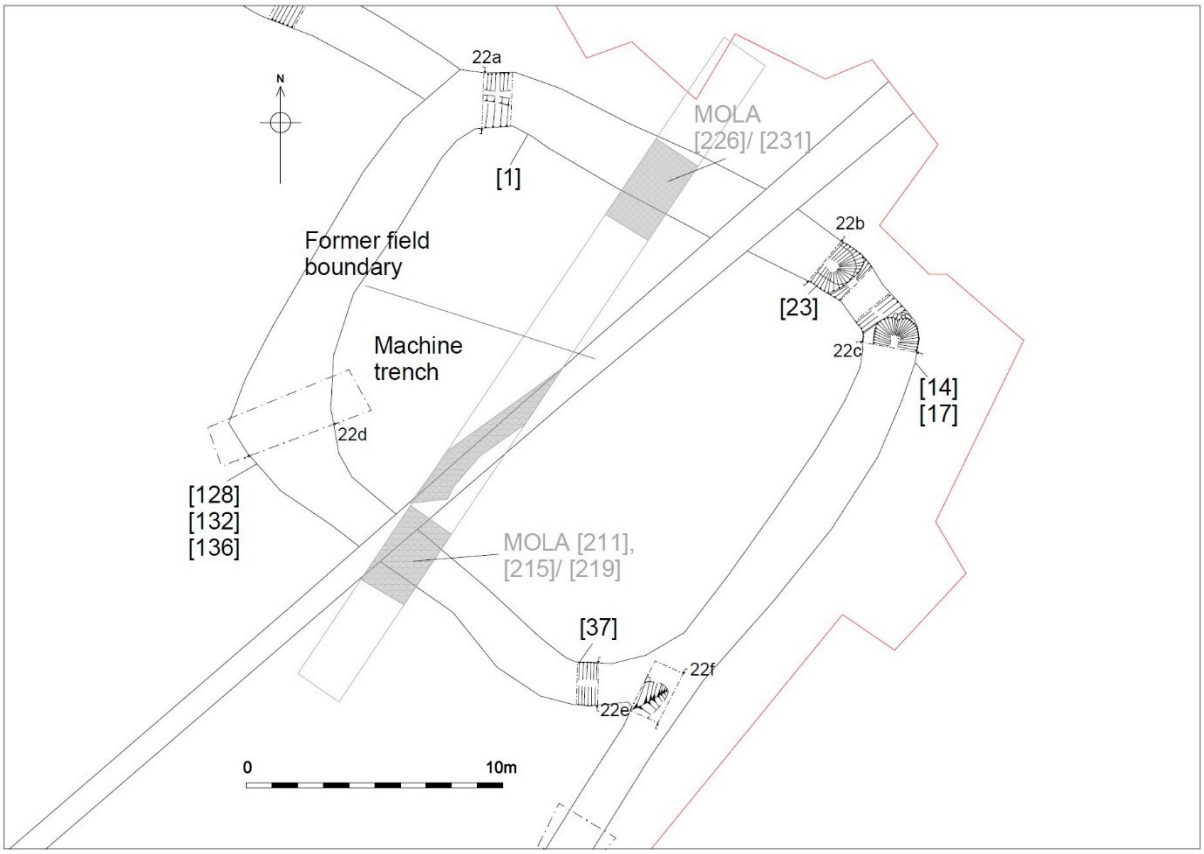

Figure 21: Plan of Enclosure 2

As Enclosure 2 curved round to the south-west it broadened out considerably from around 2m at the north-western corner to around 4.5m. A machine trench through this wide section revealed three separate inter-cutting ditches [128], [132], [136], each with a similar moderate to steep profile, becoming successively shallower and narrower (Figs 22d & 23). Clearly the ditches represent successive recuts of the enclosure ditch, but it was not possible to determine the sequence, particularly as a field drain had disturbed the relationship between [132] and [136], with [136] most likely representing the final shallower re-cut, mirroring the similar sequence at the butt-end re-cut [17]. Each ditch here had a similar sequence of fills, with the primary fills (129), (133) and (137) consisting of orange grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions and no artefacts. Over this lay secondary fills (130), (134), (138) of grey or orange brown silty clay with flint and chalk nodules. Over this were tertiary fills of dark brown silty clay (131), (135) and (139) with chalk, flint and charcoal flecks (136) and some larger stones (135). The previous evaluation revealed only two ditch phases across the southern arm of Enclosure 2 (MOLA [215] and [219]), although a narrow gully (MOLA [211]) could represent a third phase.

Oddly, at the south-eastern corner as Enclosure 2 met the eastern arm of Enclosure 1 [8] only one 1.6m wide V-shaped cut [37] was visible, with a single fill (38); a mottled yellowish brown silty clay with small and medium pebbles, chalk, flint pieces, cattle bones and Late Iron Age pottery (Figs 22e and 24), although this ditch may well have removed earlier phases.

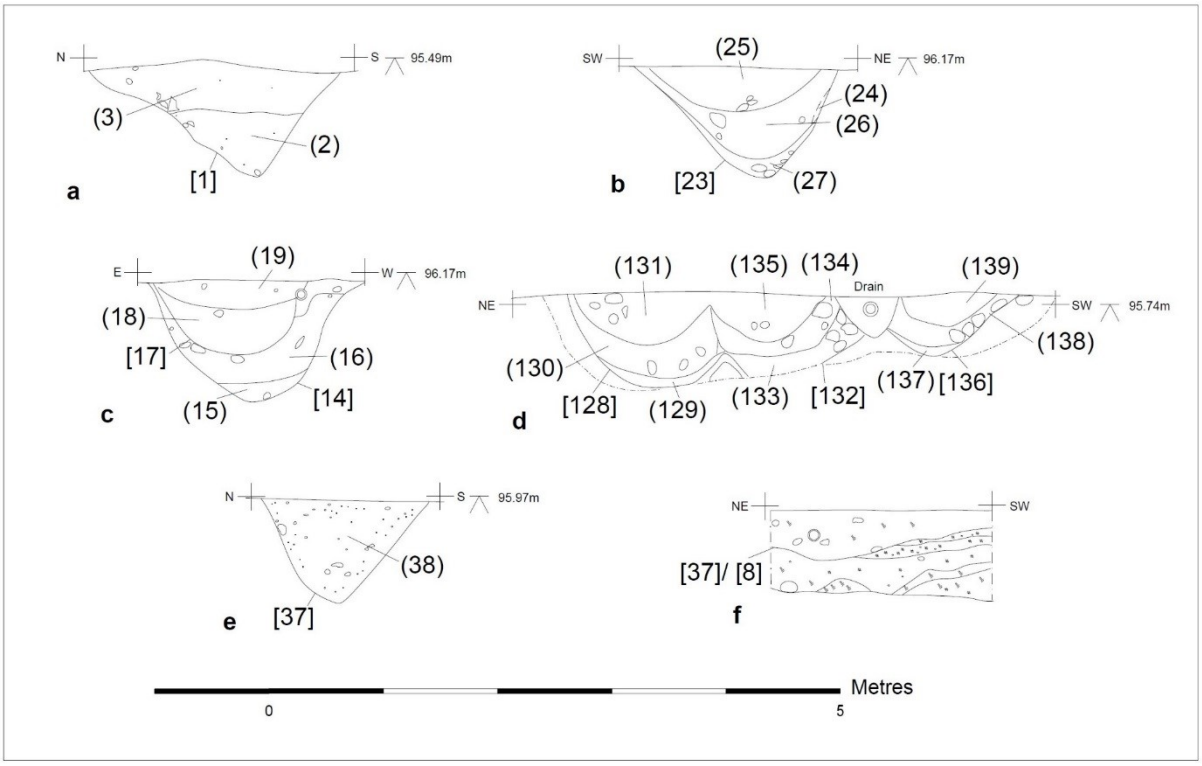

Figure 22: Sections of Enclosure 2

Figure 23: North-west facing machine dug section across south-western corner of enclosure

Figure 24: West facing section of north-eastern enclosure [37] at junction with main enclosure [8]

Enclosure 3

Enclosure 3 was formed of the south-western corner of Enclosure 1 and the southern arm of Roundhouse 1 [46], which appears to have been reused or redirected into ditch [66] to form a broadly sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 37m by 25m, oriented north-west to south-east (Figs 25 - 26).

Ditch [66] was 36m long in total reusing the southern arm of the roundhouse to form the enclosure. The ditch was around 2m wide at its broadest, and was truncated part way along its length by the post-medieval field boundary. The ditch was 0.8m-0.9m deep, with V-shaped moderately steep sloping sides and a convex base. The fills consisted of a primary fill (67) of mottled reddish brown and blueish grey clay with chalk and charcoal flecks, horse bones and teeth. Over this lay a yellowish brown silty clay (68) with frequent chalk, flint, charcoal, horse and cattle bone and Late Iron Age pottery. The final infill (69) was a mid-brownish grey silty clay with chalk, flint, horse bones and Late Iron Age pottery (Figs 27a and b, 28). The ditch was partially excavated by MOLA during the evaluation as MOLA [318]. A small pit (MOLA [312]) lay adjacent.

A further pit lay within the enclosure close to the junction of [66] and the former field boundary. This pit [109] was a sub-circular feature measuring 0.70m by 0.65m and was 0.22m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. The fill (110) was a dark yellowish brown silty clay with charcoal and flint (Fig. 27c).

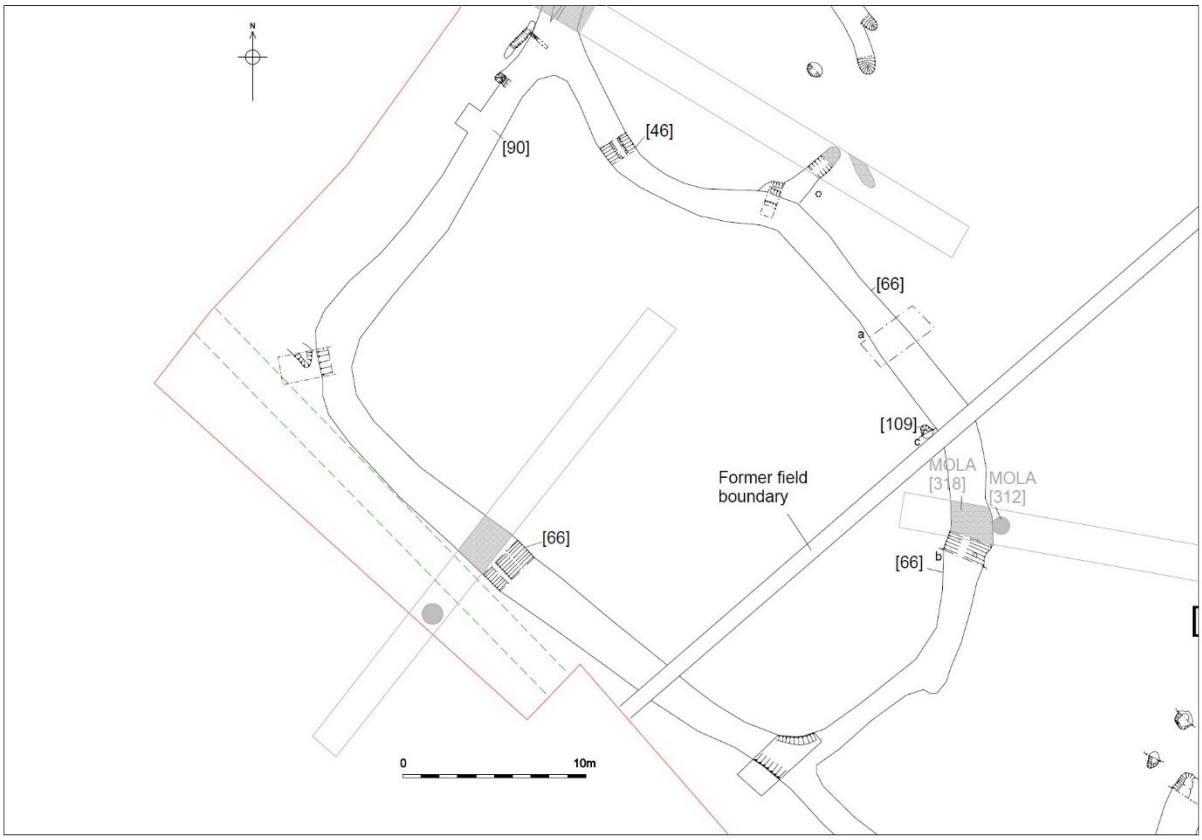

Figure 25: Plan of Enclosure 3

Figure 26: Aerial view of Area A showing Enclosure 3, looking north-east

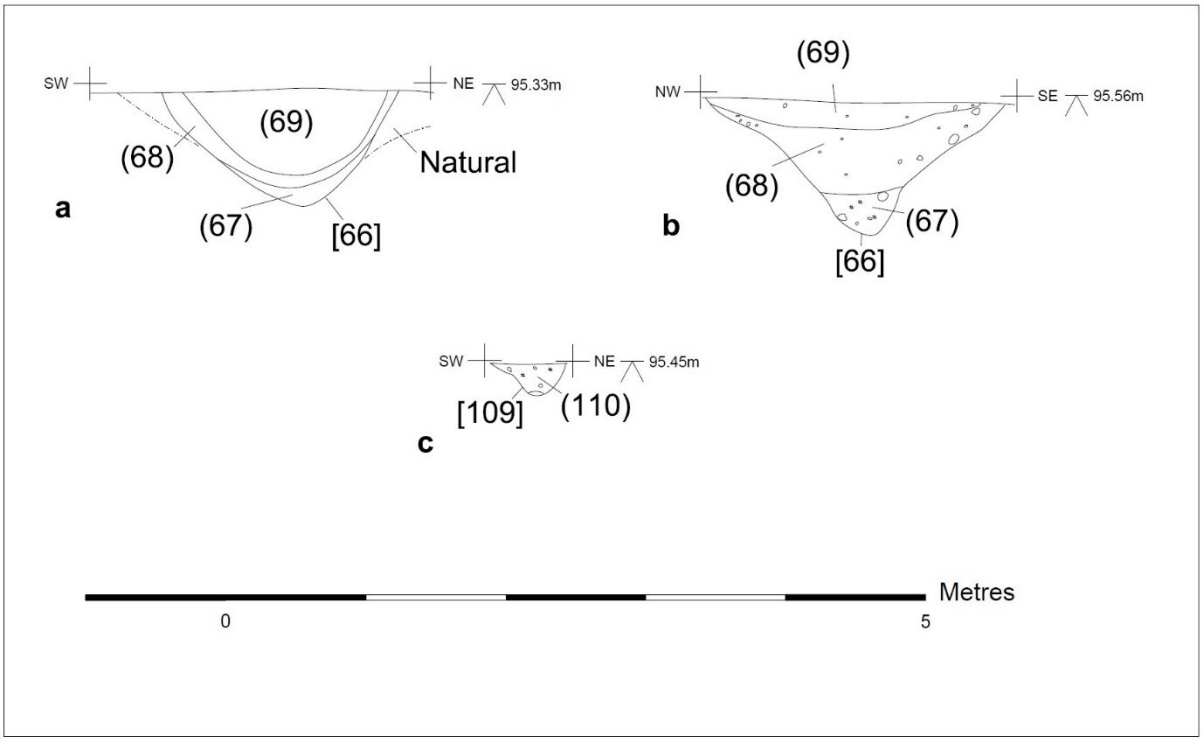

Figure 27: Sections of Enclosure 3

Figure 28: North-east facing section of Enclosure 3 ditch [66], looking south-west

Area B

Area B was stripped using the MOLA evaluation trenches as a guide; from south-east to north-west and south-westwards or north-eastwards from the centre (Fig. 29). The soil sequence was similar to Area A. Spoil was dumped to the north of the excavated area close to the rough grass, away from the pond to the south-west.

Area B consisted of a broadly rectangular area covering 1885m^2, around 185m south-west of Area A within the main fairway of the golf club. The area was aligned north-west to south-east and contained a number of archaeological features, which appeared to be broadly lying on a similar alignment to those in Area A; also north-west to south-east.

The main features within the excavated area consisted of two smaller sub-rectangular enclosures (Enclosures 4 & 5), a double pit alignment (Pit Alignment 2), and a number of other linear features; including two curvilinear gullies. There was also a number of ditches, furrows and field drains forming a large linear feature, which lay to the north of the enclosures on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 30).

As in Area A there were several phases of field drains, including older ceramic drains and a modern plastic system. As in Area B a post-medieval field boundary ran across the site, from north-east to south-west cutting all earlier features.

The features are summarised below in apparent chronological order.

Figure 29: Aerial view of Area B, with work in progress, looking south-east

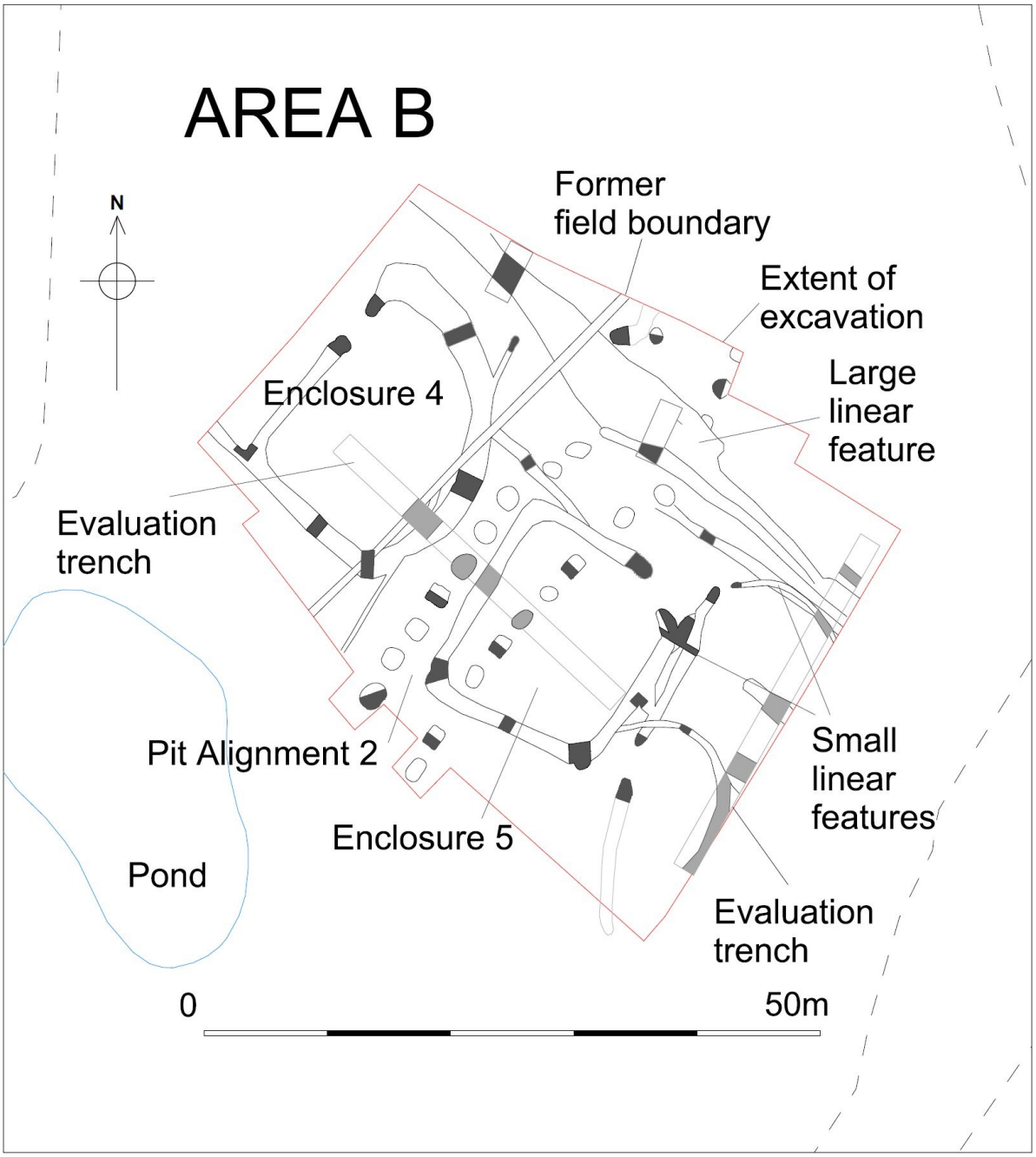

Figure 30: Plan of Area B

Pit Alignment 2

A double pit alignment ran across the excavated area in Area B broadly from south-west to north-east, with a slight deviation to the north at the north-east end (Fig. 31). The two alignments were around 4.5m apart and the pits were spaced around 1.2 - 2.00m from each other (with an average gap of around 1.4m). Enclosure 5 appeared to have destroyed two pits of the eastern alignment and the large group of linear features to the north of the site appeared to have truncated at least one pit of the eastern alignment and may have, judging by the spacing of the pits, destroyed several more.

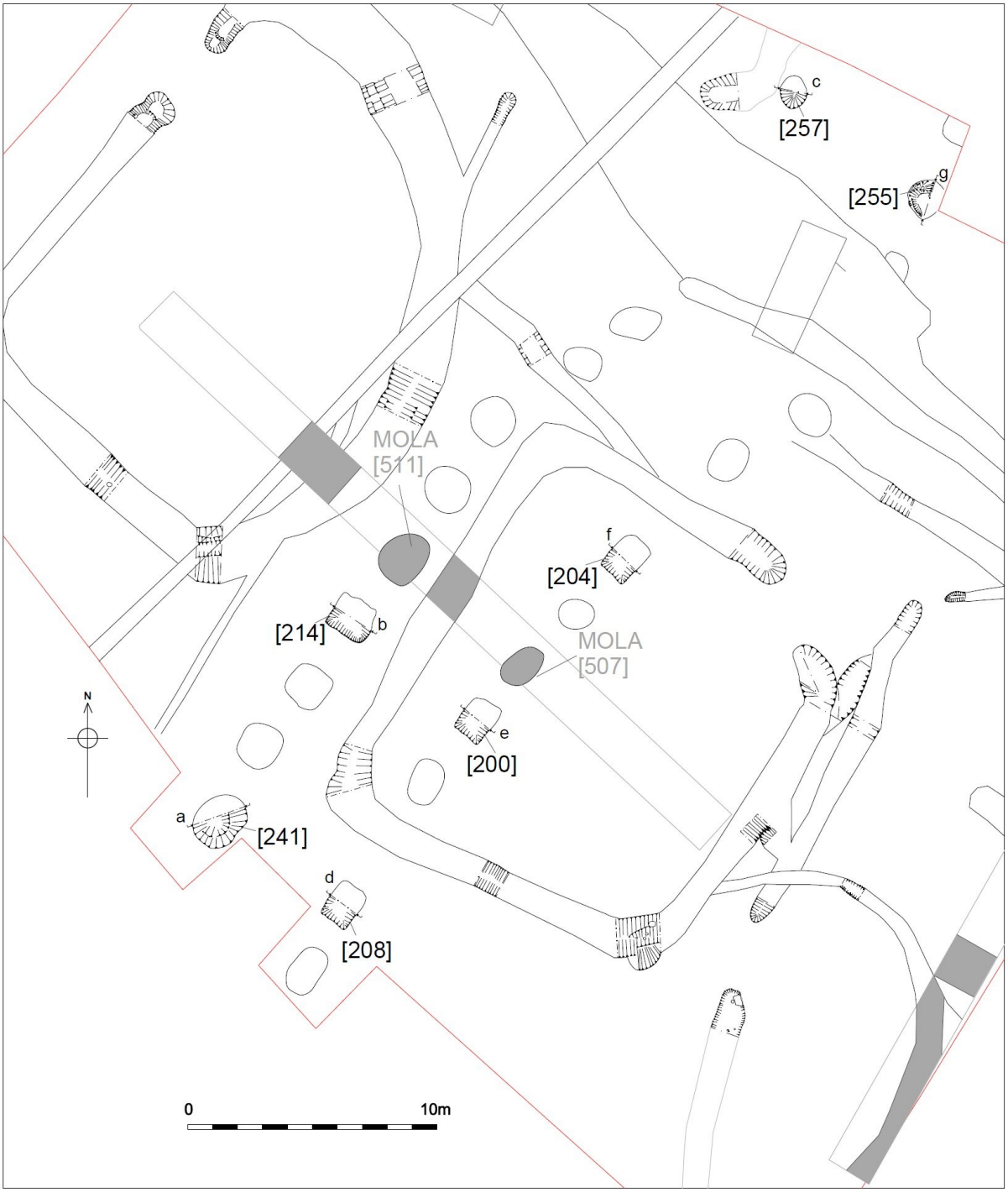

Figure 31: Plan of Pit Alignment 2

Four of the western pits were half-sectioned (including one during the MOLA evaluation) along with five from the eastern alignment (including one during the MOLA evaluation). Another of the western set was partially sampled but became flooded after a field drain was damaged.

Pit [241] was sub-square and measured 2.00m by 2.10m with steep sloping sides and a U-shaped base at 0.66m depth (Fig. 32a). The single fill (242) was an orange brown and grey clayey silt with chalk, flint and pottery. Pit [214] was more rectangular and measured 1.7m by 1.8m with moderately sloped, straight sides and a flat base at 0.62m depth (Fig 32b). The fill (215) was a light orange brown sandy clay with large cobbles as well as flecks of flint, charcoal, chalk and some pieces of animal bone.

The pit revealed in the MOLA evaluation [511] was also sub-rectangular and measured 2m by 2m and was 0.34m deep. Pit [257] was more sub-circular and measured 1.05m in diameter. It had concave, moderately sloped sides and a concave base at 0.52m depth (Fig. 32c). The fill (258) was orange grey silty clay with chalk, charcoal, flint, and Late Iron Age pottery.

Pit [208] was sub-rectangular and measured 1.80m by 1.40m and 0.54m deep, with steep sides and an irregular shaped base (Fig. 32d and 33). The fill (209) was light orange grey sandy clay with charcoal, various sized stones, including large cobbles, animal bone and pottery. Pit [200] measured 1.00m by 1.30m and was sub-rectangular with a steep U-shaped profiles and a flat bass at 0.48m depth (Fig. 32e). The fill (201) was a medium greyish orange sandy clay with rare cobbles, animal bone and Late Iron Age pottery.

The second pit revealed in the MOLA evaluations [507] measured 1.8m wide and was 0.60m deep with a U-shaped profile. Pit [204] was also sub-rectangular and measured 1.44m by 1.09m with a concave profile, moderate sloped sides and a flat base at 0.41m depth (Fig. 32f). The fill (205) was a medium greyish orange sandy clay with rare cobbles, chalk and flint, and Iron Age pottery. The final pit excavated was [255], which was 1.55m wide. Its full size was not discernible as it was partially hidden by the baulk of the excavation edge. It had moderately sloping sides at 0.85m depth (Fig. 32g). The fill (256) was a mid-grey silty clay with chalk, small stones, flint, charcoal and animal bone.

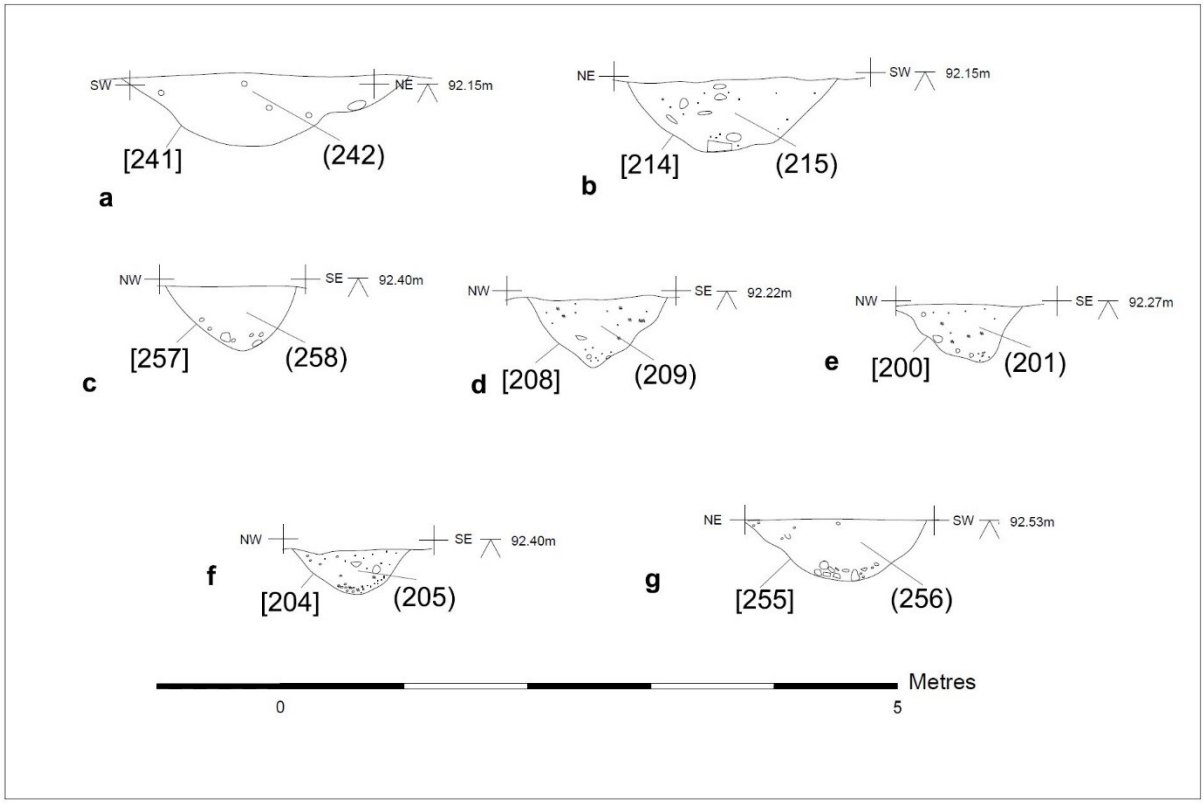

Figure 32: Sections of Pit Alignment 2

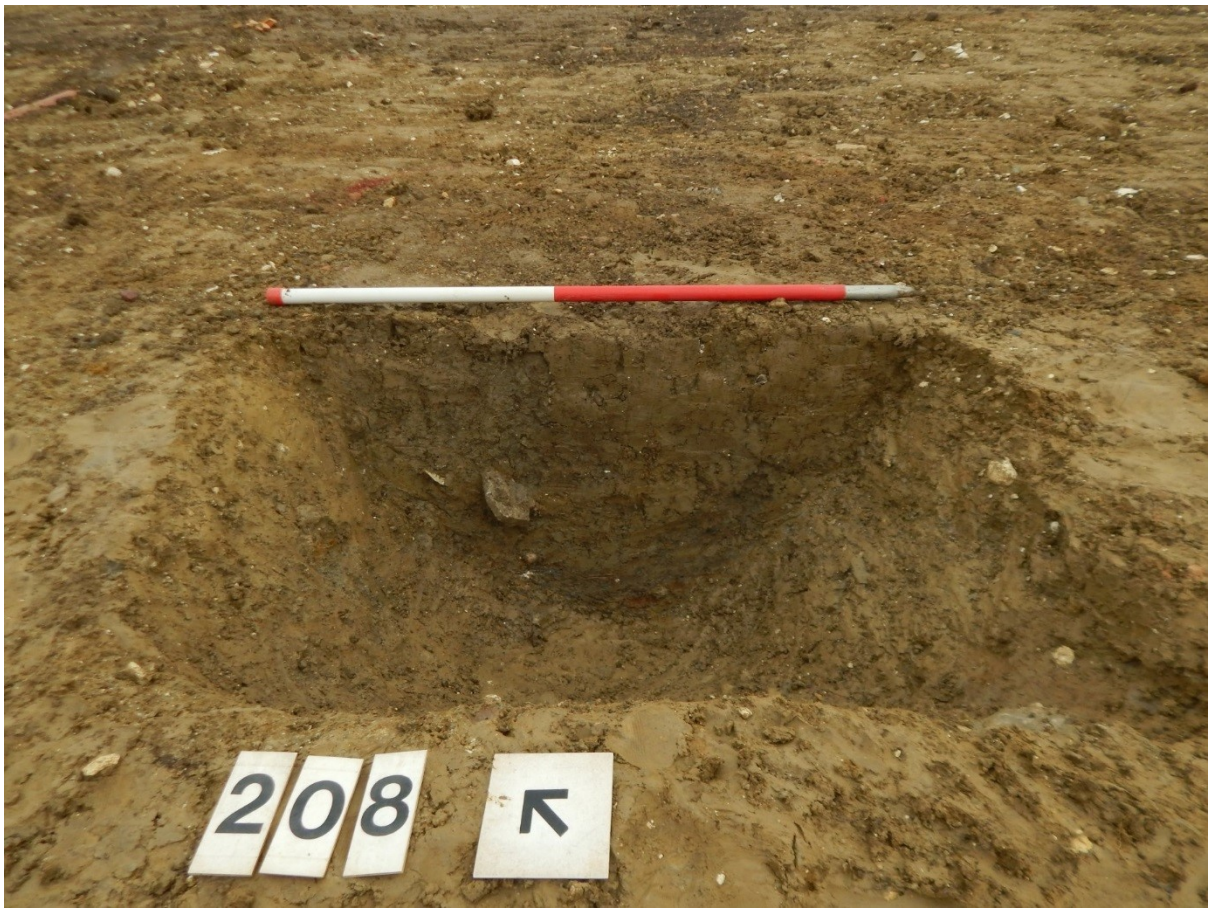

Figure 33: South-west facing section of pit [208]

Earlier linear features

At the eastern edge of Area B were a number of other linear features, which were cut by the later Enclosure 5. Many of these had been identified during the evaluation stage and some had been sampled. They lay on a similar alignment to Pit Alignment 2 and appear to be of two phases with two curvilinear gullies cutting the wider ditches.

Parallel to Enclosure 5 was ditch [239], which did not appear to be directly related to the enclosure, but lay alongside a curved feature [261], which seems to have been cut by the enclosure ditch [230]. Ditch [239] was 14.5m long and appeared to terminate with a butt-end at each end. Along its middle section close to feature [261] it appeared to be 0.85m - 1.10m wide with a concave profile with moderate sides and a concave base at 0.20m depth (Fig. 35a). The ditch was slightly narrower at the termini, from between 0.70m-0.85m, but slightly deeper at the south-western end at 0.35m deep (Figs 35b & c).

Feature [261] appeared to be around 10m long, although it had been almost completely truncated by the enclosure ditch [230]. It lay on the same alignment as [230] and [239], with a slight turn to the east where it was truncated by [239]. The single fill (262) a mid-greenish grey silty clay with chalk flecks, animal bone, and Late Iron Age pottery (Figs 34f and g).

To the south of [239] was a further linear [248], which may have been part of the same ditch system as it appears to be broadly on the same alignment. The feature ran for 11m with a slight curve to the south before continuing beyond the limits of the excavated area. The ditch was half-sectioned at the northern butt-end, to reveal a U-shaped, steep sided profile with a flat base at 0.54m depth (Fig. 35d). The fill (249) was a medium orange grey sandy silt with charcoal, medium pebbles, cattle bone and pottery.

To the east of features [239] and [248] was a curved linear feature [267], which had been identified in Trench 6 of the MOLA evaluation as [607]. This feature curved round to cut [239], but was itself cut by the main enclosure ditch [230]. The total length of the feature, including the section within the MOLA trench was 19m. The profile was concave and steep with a sloping base at 0.31m depth and it was between 0.35m- 0.50m wide (Fig. 35e). The fill (268) was a medium orange grey sandy clay with small charcoal flecks, medium to large cobbles, chalk and flint flecks, a goat mandible and pottery.

A similar curved linear feature [220] (revealed in the evaluation as [611]) lay 14.5m to the north-east with a similar form and alignment to [267]. This ran for 10.5m to end with a butt-end close to the butt-end of [239]. Feature [220] was 0.40m wide with a V-shaped sloping profile, steep sides and a concave base at 0.33m depth (Fig. 35f). The fill (221) was a greyish orange sandy clay with chalk, flint and charcoal. The curved feature cut a larger linear feature [228], which ran across Area B from north-west to the south-east to disappear beyond the limits of the excavation. The feature was 18m long and around 1.00m wide and seemed to peter out close to the pit alignment. It had an irregular moderate to steep profile and a concave base at 0.25m depth (Fig. 35g). The fill (229) was a greyish orange sandy clay with chalk and flint flecks and cattle bone.

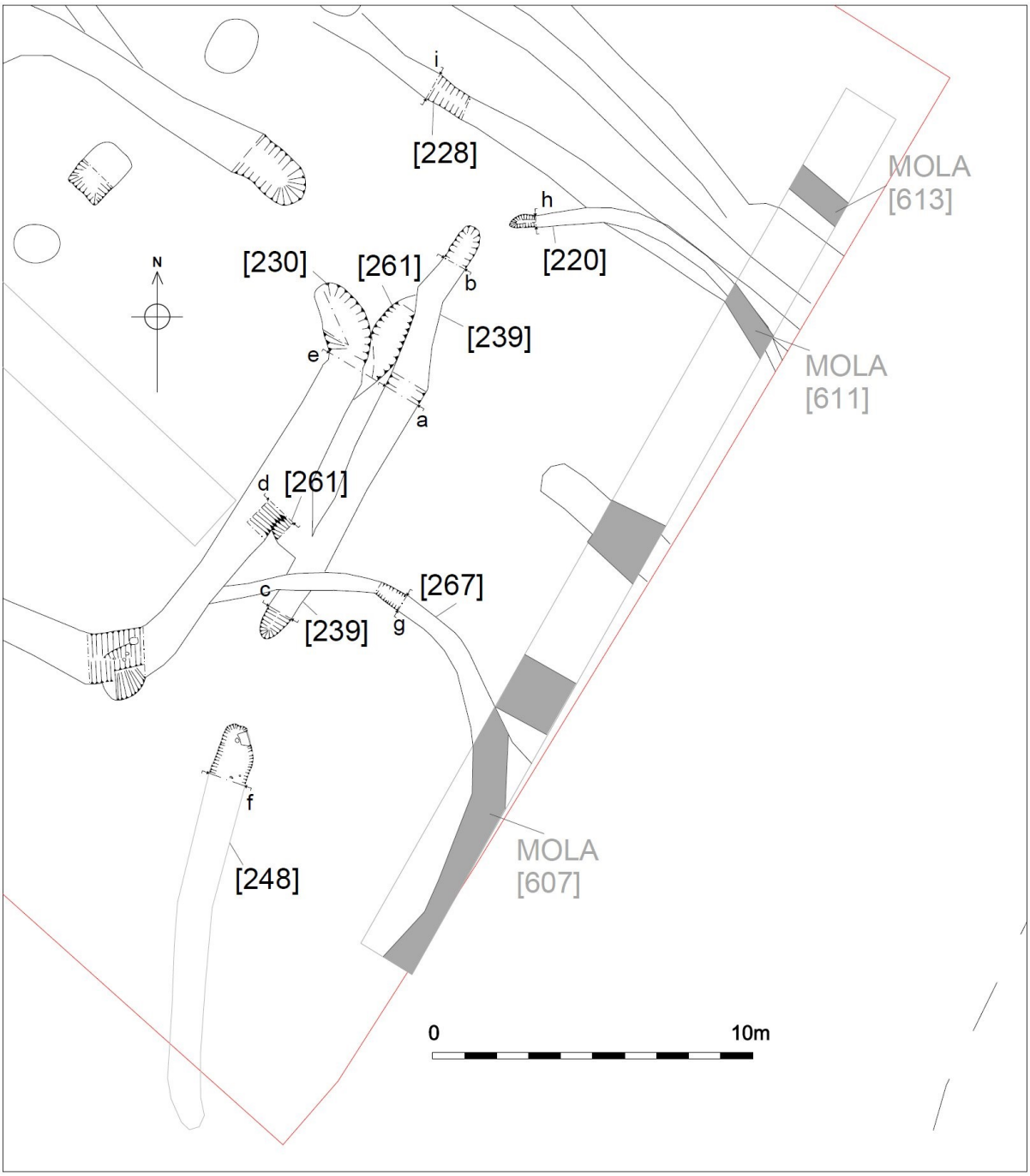

Figure 34: Plan of earlier linear features

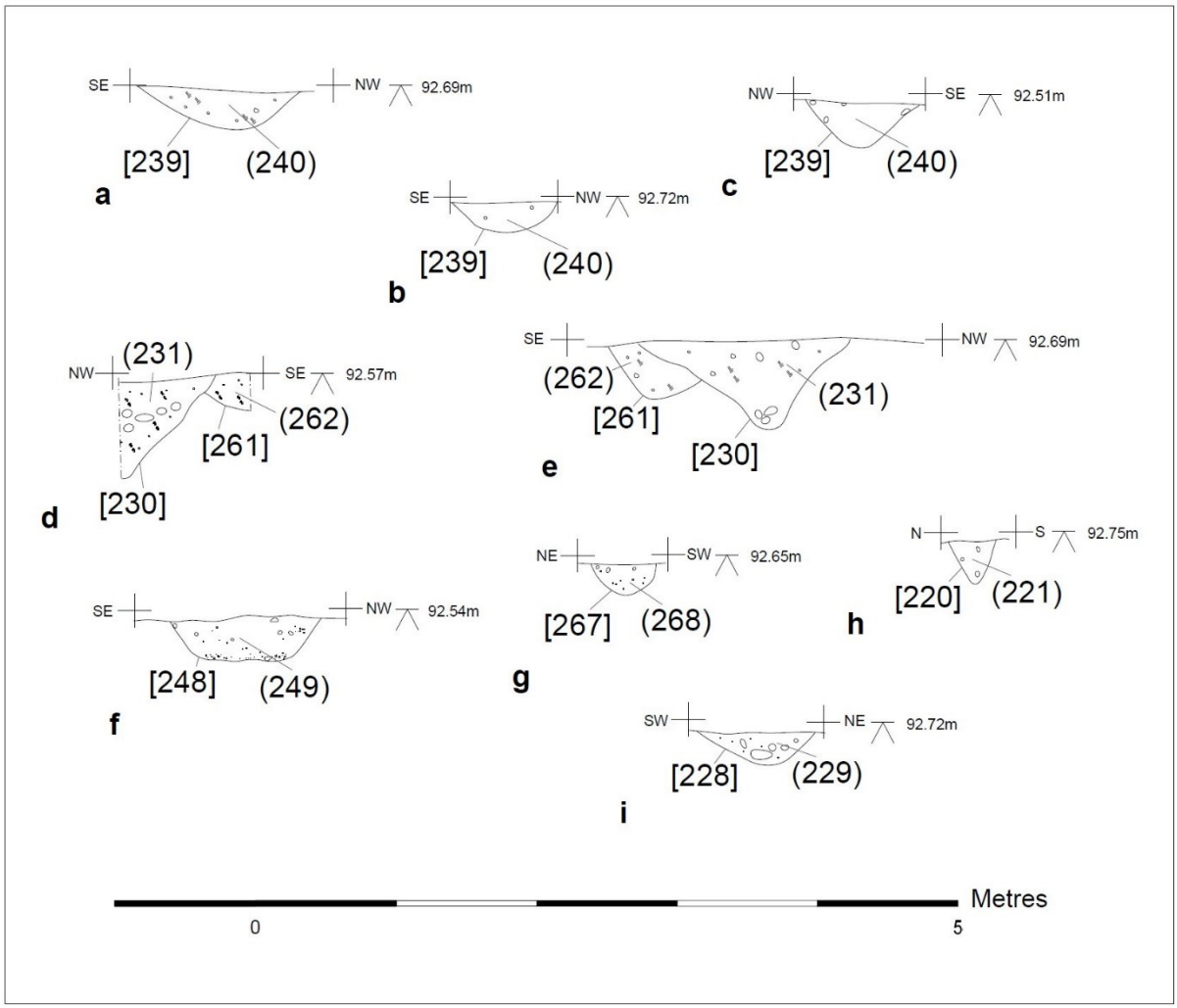

Figure 35: Sections of earlier linear features

Enclosure 4

D-shaped Enclosure 4 lay at the north-western end of Area B (Fig. 36) measuring approximately 21m x 17m with an entrance facing the north-west. The enclosure ditch [247]/[206] along the northern arm varied considerably in width, bulging out towards the northern end, from 1.8m to 2.8m wide. This arm of the ditch consisted of a single cut [247]/[206] generally V-shaped or uneven in profile, 0.6m to 0.7m deep with fairly steep sides and a concave base (Figs 37a & b). Within excavated section [206] a single fill was observed (207); a light brownish-grey clayey sand with flint and chalk, Iron Age pottery and cattle bones. Within cut [247] several fills were observed, with a primary fill (246) of orange grey silty clay with chalk fragments, under (245), a mottled reddish brown greyish brown silty clay, chalk flecks, dog bone and flint. This lay under two upper deposits; (244) an orange/ yellowish brown silty clay only seen on the south-western side, and (243) a final infill of reddish brown and reddish grey mottled silty clay with chalk flecks.

The northern terminal comprised a 1.10m wide butt-end [210], which was U-shaped in profile with moderate sides and a concave base at 0.60m depth (Fig. 37c). The single fill (211) was a greyish orange clayey sand with chalk flecks, animal bone and Late Iron Age pottery.

To the south the ditch terminated in a butt-end [202]. The ditch here had moderate sides and a flat base at 0.46m (Fig. 37g). The enclosure ditch here is relatively narrow; only 1.1m wide, although it broadens out to around 1.4m close to the butt-end. Only a single fill (203) was visible at this point; a mid-dark grey silty clay with the usual chalk and charcoal, but also larger burnt cobbles, animal bone and a sherd of Iron Age pottery.

The southern arm of the enclosure consisted of a single ditch [216]/[250], often with a number of fills. At the corner as [250] it was 2.18m wide and 0.68m deep, with a number of fills; a primary fill (251) of mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, chalk flecks, and a flint scraper, over this lay fill (253), a mid-grey silty clay with frequent stones, Iron Age pottery and a large amount of cattle and sheep bone. An area of slumping was visible on the southern side of the ditch (252), which consisted of a yellowish brown silty clay with charcoal and chalk flecks. The final fill (254) consisted of a mid-orange brown silty clay with charcoal flecks (Fig. 37d). Along the south-western arm of the enclosure the ditch [216] was 1.47m wide and 0.75m deep and had been recut [218] (Figs 37e and 38). It was steep sided with a U-shaped base, with the recut forming a similar profile. The fill of the earlier ditch was (217); an orange-brownish grey clay with flint and chalk flecks and was only 0.10m deep. The later fill (219) was a greyish-brown clayey silt with small pebbles, horse and cattle bone, pottery and a flint scraper.

At the western corner ditch [224] cut gully [222], which then headed to the north-west beyond the limits of the excavation. Enclosure [224] was a 1.3m wide, steep-sided, V-shaped, flat based ditch of 0.54m to 0.64m deep. The primary fill (226) was a mid-greyish brown clay with small chalk fragments and rounded pebbles. Over this was a secondary fill (225) comprising a dark greyish-brown silty clay with similar chalk fragments, flint, Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone, including horse. The earlier gully [222] was 0.85m wide with a V-shaped profile with steep sides and a V-shaped base at 0.6m depth (Fig. 37f). The shallow primary fill (227) was a dark blueish-grey clay. This was overlain by a light greyish-brown silty clay (223), with small rounded pebbles and Late Iron Age pottery.

A narrow gully [212] cut across the eastern part of the western enclosure running for 28m from south-west to the north-east, where it terminated. The south-western end ran beyond the limit of the excavation. The gully was 0.40m wide and only 0.20m deep, with shallow to moderate sides and a concave base (Fig. 37h). The single fill (213) was a greyish orange sand and clay with chalk fragments.

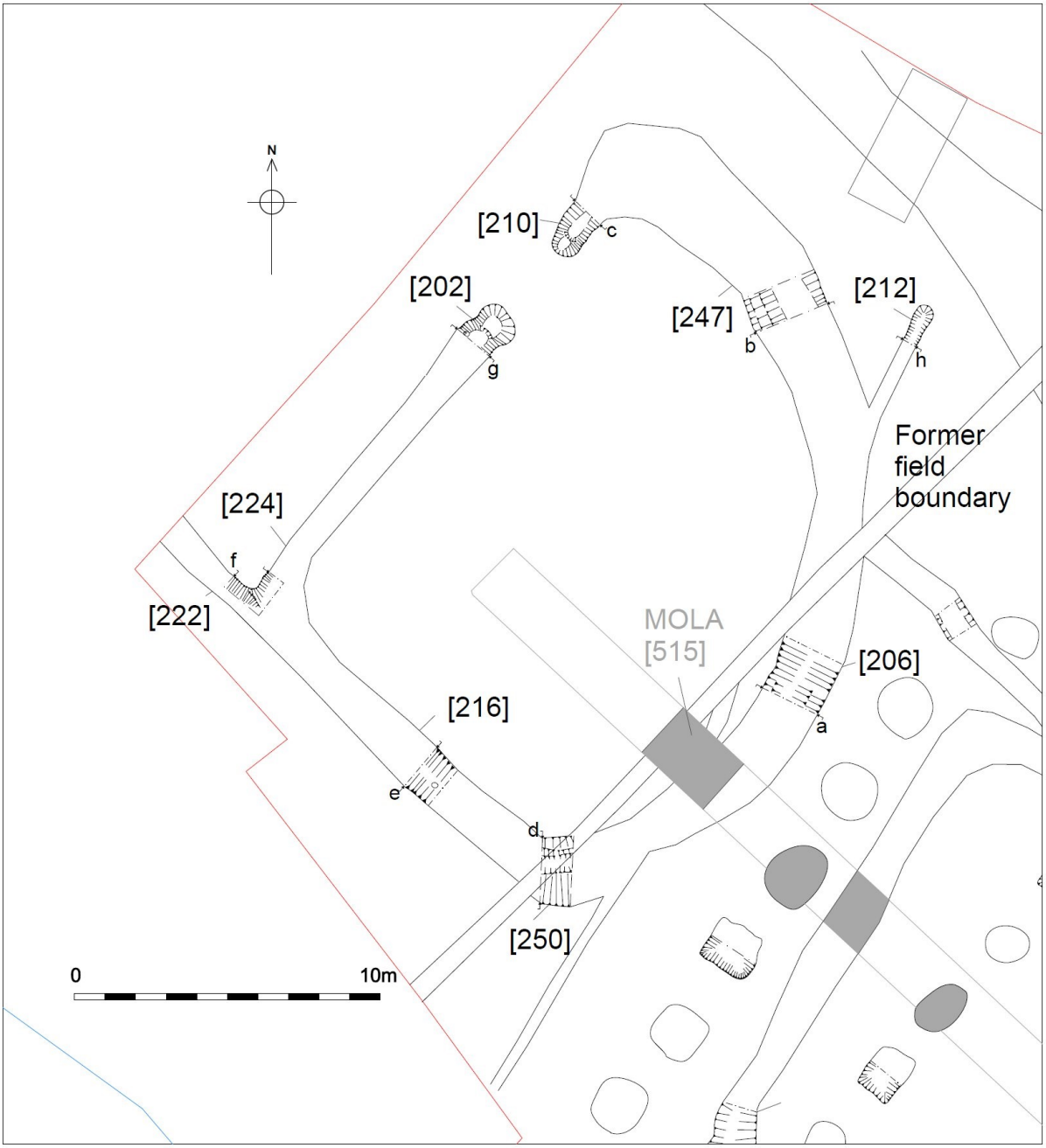

Figure 36: Plan of Enclosure 4

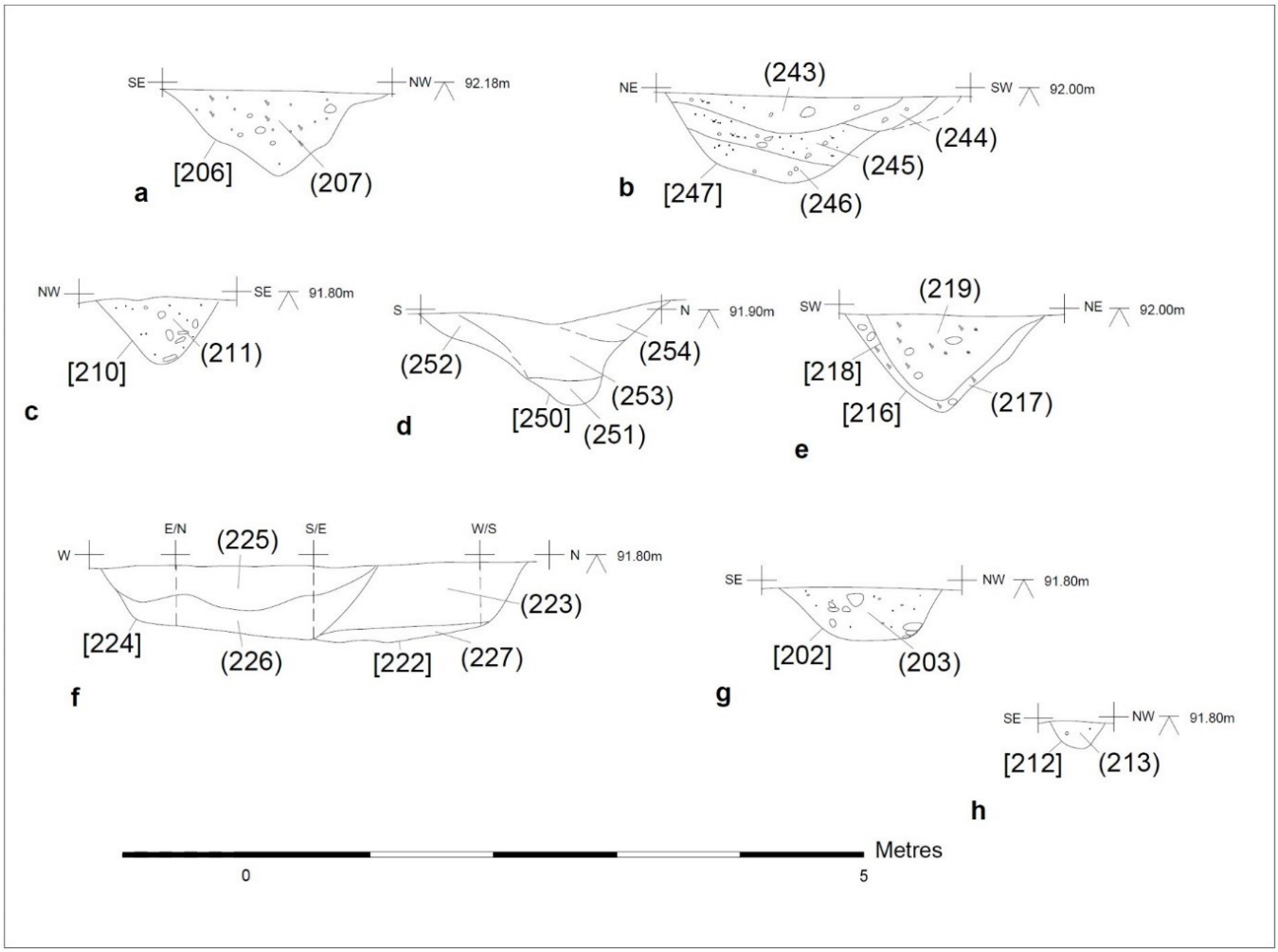

Figure 37: Sections of Enclosure 4

Figure 38: West facing section of north-western enclosure ditch and work in progress, looking east.

Enclosure 5

A second rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 5), measuring 18m by 16m, lay in the centre of the Area B on the same alignment as Enclosure 4 to the west (Fig. 39). The width of the ditch varied from around 1.10m along the southern course, to around 1.80m at the corners. For the most part the ditch was U-shaped with moderate sloping sides and a V-shaped base to around between 0.40m and 0.70m deep (Fig. 40 a - e). Along the southern arm, it appeared to have been recut (although the recut was not visible elsewhere). The recut [238] was steeper sided and 0.30m deep (Fig. 40a). The lower fill of the corner section (277) was a dark greyish-brown silty clay with chalk and charcoal flecks, and the upper fill (274) was a greyish-brown silty clay with a large amount of animal bone, including cattle, pig, and horse, plus several sherds of Late Iron Age pottery; plus a single sherd of medieval pottery (Fig. 41) .

At the south-eastern corner the ditch cut a pit [275], originally around 1.60m wide (not visible in section). The fill of the pit (276) was a mid-orange grey sandy clay with charcoal, small stones, and chalk.

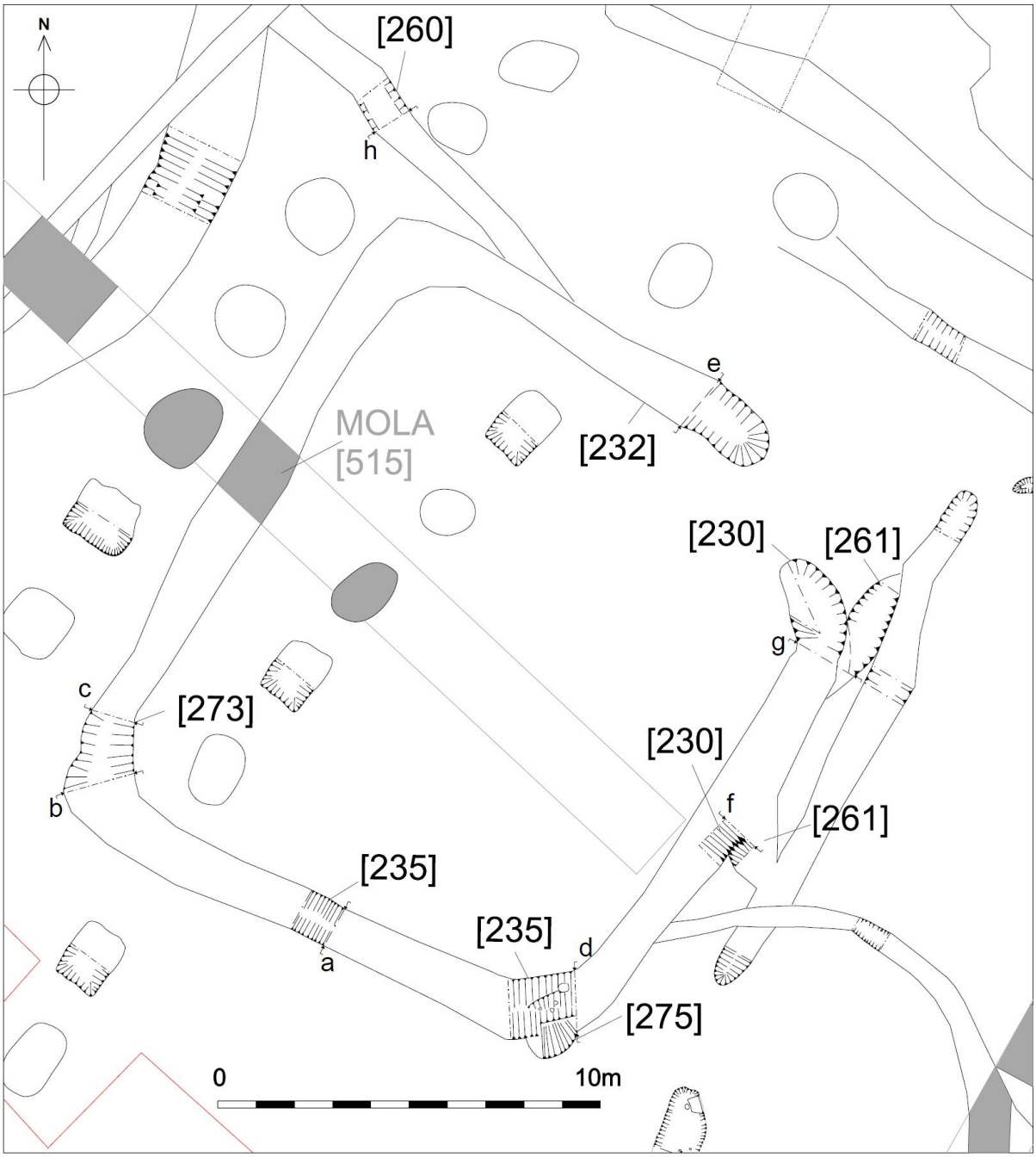

Figure 39: Plan of Enclosure 5

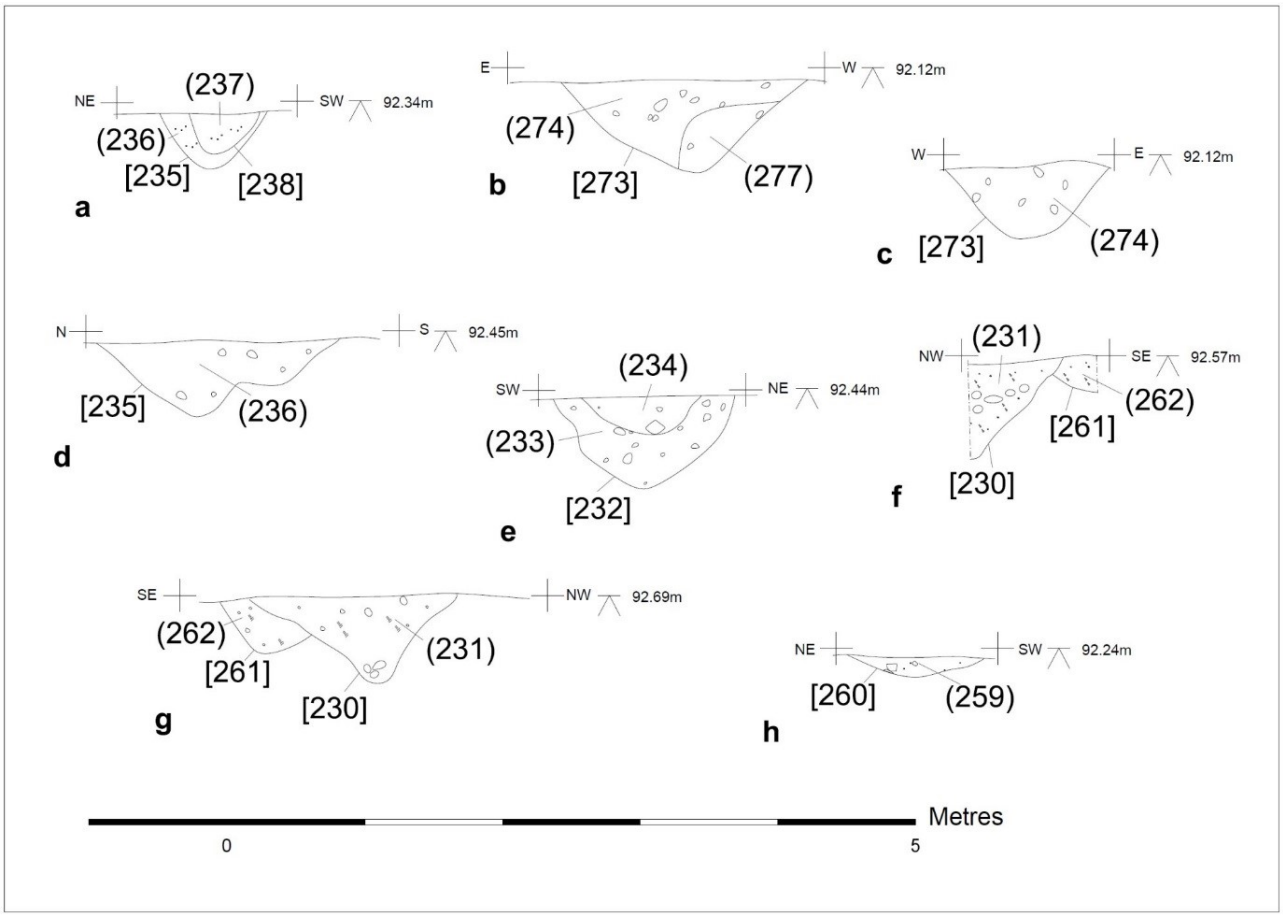

Figure 40: Sections of Enclosure 5

Figure 41: Partial animal skeleton in top layer of enclosure ditch

The western arm of the enclosure ditch had been identified during the MOLA evaluation as [515]. The sample section on the corner had to be abandoned due to flooding from a broken field drain, but ditch [232] as a steep sided U-shaped ditch 1.4m wide and 0.70m deep (Fig. 40e). The lower fill (233) was a mid to dark yellowish brown silty, stony clay with frequent chalk flecks, and other angular stones, sheep bones and Late Iron Age pottery. The upper fill (234) was a dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent stones, including large cobbles, cattle, sheep or goat bones; plus several sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and a small flint bladelet (Fig. 42).

The eastern arm of the enclosure [230] was between 1.00m and 1.60m wide, with a more V-shaped profile (Figs 40f & g). It cut through a curvilinear feature [261] at two points along its length, to turn slightly to the north-west before ending at a butt-end. The terminal was 0.67m deep with a single fill (231), a dark greenish grey silty clay with burnt stones, cattle, sheep or goat bones, flint flakes and a single sherd of Roman grey ware pottery.

Figure 42: Butt-end and south-east facing section of ditch, looking north-west

Other features

At the northern extent of Area B was a curved linear feature [265], which lay close to the final visible pit of the western pit alignment [257]. The visible extent of the feature was 4.5m long and it turned to the west before terminating. It appeared to have moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was 1.55m wide and 0.45m deep with a single fill (266) of dark blueish-grey silty clay with chalk and a flint flake (Figs 43 and 44a).

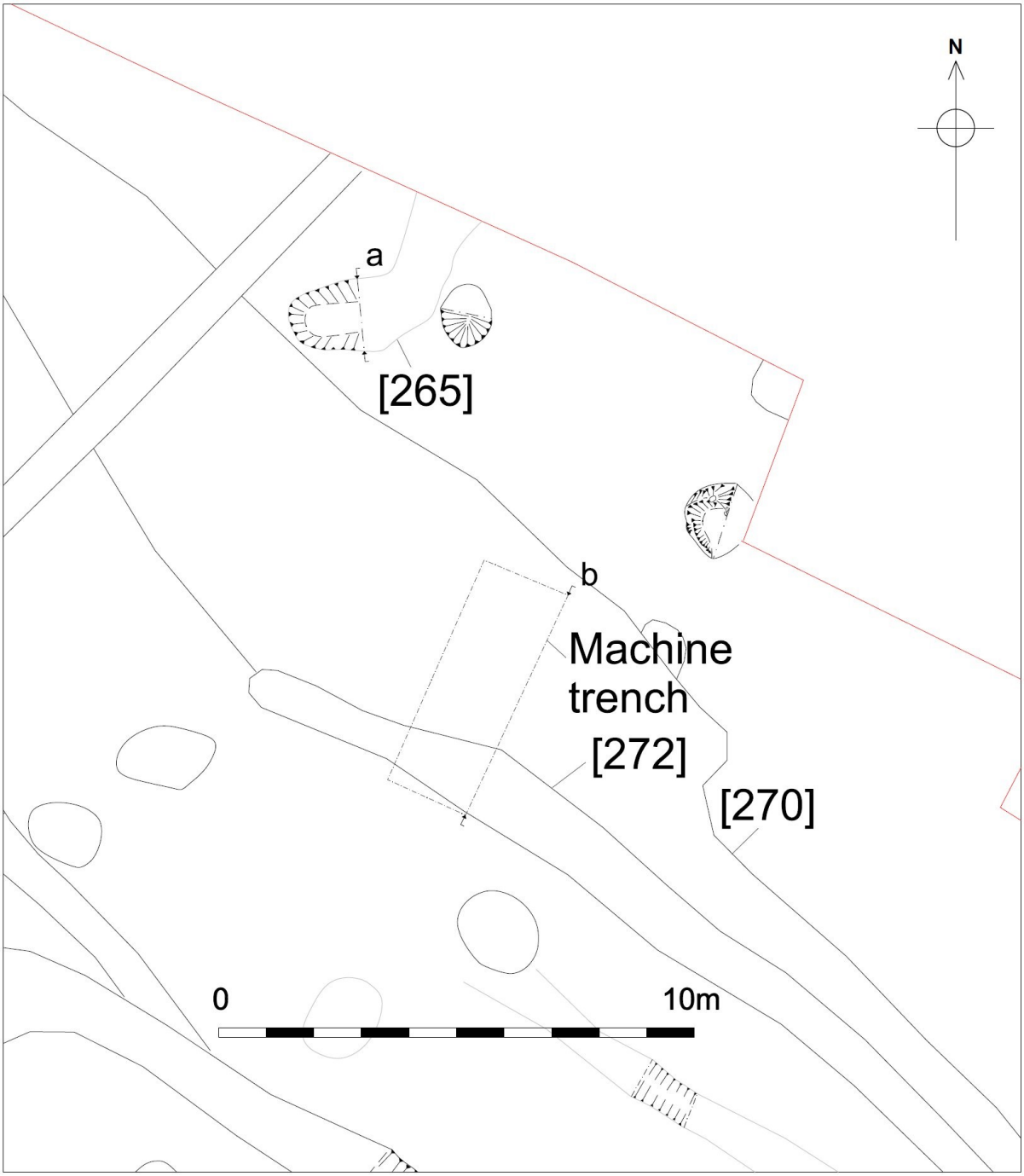

Figure 43: Plan of features at northern end of Area B

Running from north-west to south-east across the whole northern part of Area B for 50m was a large group of linear features, which cut across later features such as Pit Alignment 2. Two machine sections were placed across the area in order to identify separate features. The group of features varied in width from 1.60m to 6.30m. The eastern section identified a ditch [272], which appeared to run for 25m and was around 1.4m wide, and ended in a terminus close to the western pit alignment. The feature had a concave V-shaped profile and was 0.43m deep. This had been truncated by a large ceramic field drain, which appeared to run the length of the area. This also cut a shallow silty feature [270], which appeared to be the remains of a large furrow of variable width, possibly identified during the evaluation as [613]. The fill (271) of the ditch [272] was a mottled greyish brown silty sand with occasional chalk fragments. The infill of the furrow was a yellowish brown silty clay with chalk and flint flecks (Figs 44b, 45).

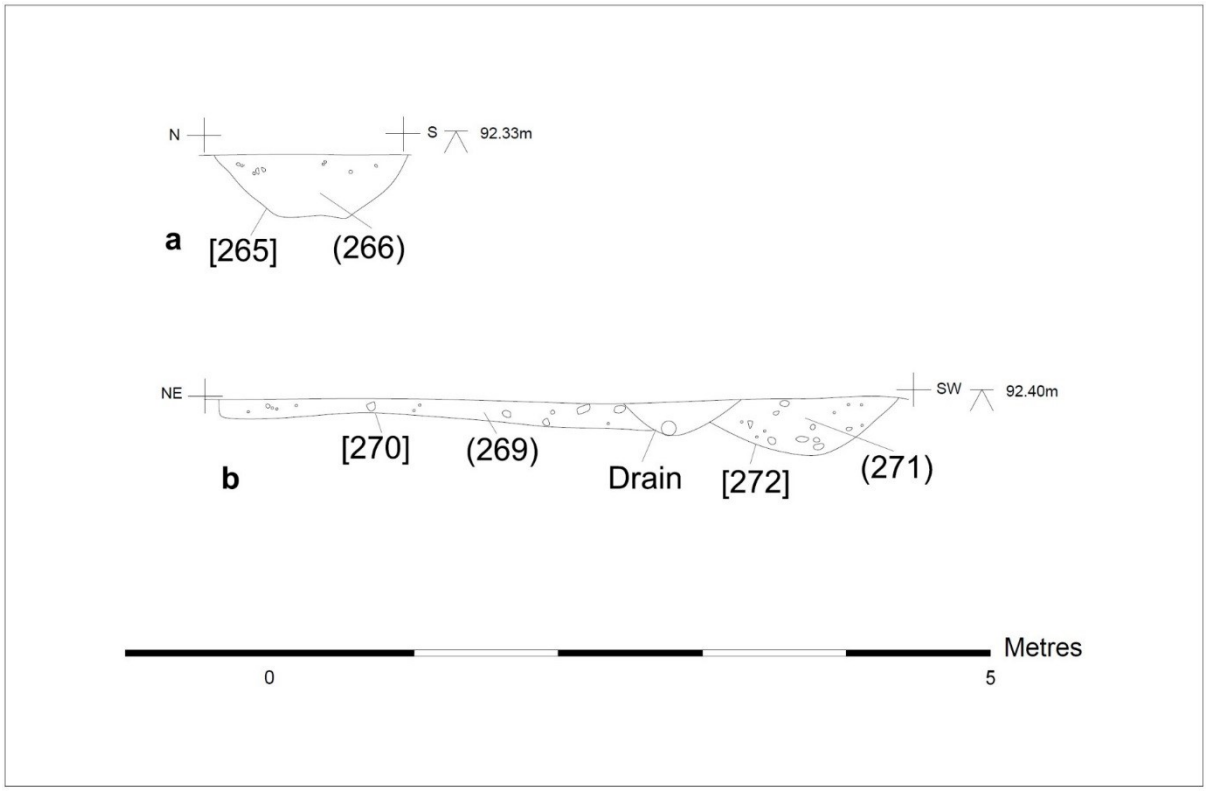

Figure 44: Sections of other features

Figure 45: Ditch [272], field drain and furrow [270] in north-west facing section, looking east

The Iron Age Pottery

Jennifer R. McNulty and Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

The assemblage consists of 1417 sherds weighing 16195g, with an average sherd weight of 11.4g suggesting a reasonably good level of preservation. Pottery was recovered from 64 contexts across the site.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed by fabric and form in accordance with *The Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al*. 2016), using the Leicestershire Prehistoric Fabric Series (Marsden 2011 with amendments, see Table 1 below) and the form typology developed by Elsdon in her study of the pottery from Enderby (1992, see figure 1). The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs) and the information entered on to a Microsoft Excel workbook, from which the summary data are derived (table 2).

Table 1: summary of Leicestershire Prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011 with additions)

Fabric	Description
Sandy	
Q1 *Quartz sand*	Common to abundant sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)
Quartz	
Q4 *Sandy fabric with quartz*	Q1 with rare to sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz (probable pebble source, 0.5–5mm, occasionally larger, up to 10mm)
Granitic rock	
R1 *Granodiorite*	Rare to moderate sub-angular granodiorite (0.5–4mm) and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm). Inclusions include plates of biotite (yellow) mica.
Shell-tempered	
S1 *Shell*	Moderate to very common shell or plate-like voids (1–5mm)
S2 *Sandy fabric with shell*	As S1, but common to very common sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25–1mm)

Analysis of the assemblage by fabric

A summary of the quantified record of the assemblage in terms of the proportions of fabrics represented is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: quantified summary of the Iron Age pottery assemblage by fabric

Fabric	Leics. Code	Sherds	Weight (g)	% sherds	% weight	AvShWt
Granodiorite	R1	1083	12606	76.4	77.8	11.6
Quartz sand	Q1	43	357	3	2.2	8.3
Sandy with quartz	Q4	227	2497	16	15.4	11
Fossil shell	S1	43	617	3	3.8	14.4
Fossil shell & sand	S2	21	118	1.5	0.7	5.6
Total		**1417**	**16195**			**11.4**

As would be expected for a site in this part of the county, the majority of the pottery is made from clay recipes incorporating opening materials of mineral origin, primarily granodiorite rock from the Mountsorrel outcrops in the Charnwood Forest area (Fabric R1) (Knight *et al*. 2003) making 77% of the assemblage. A further 19% comprises fabrics tempered with quartz sand (Fabrics Q1 and Q4), whilst pottery tempered with fossil shell (Fabrics S1 and S2), which is characteristic of Rutland and South Lincolnshire contribute less than 5%. This pattern is broadly mirrored in the assemblage from Manor Farm, Humberstone where granitic fabrics made up 81% by sherd count, quartz fabrics 5% and shell-tempered fabrics an unusually high 15% (Marsden 2011, 64, Table 2).

Form and Decoration

The range of vessels within the assemblage parallel those in the Enderby assemblage above and those from Manor Farm, Humberstone (Marsden 2011, 68, figs. 72-73), dating to the middle to late Iron Age and probably the 1st or 2nd century BC. In summary, the vessel types comprise Form 1 (small to medium-sized jars with diameters of 80-140mm and slightly everted rims that are flattened, rounded or tapered); Form 2/3 (medium-sized, shouldered jars with diameters of 160-200mm and upright or slightly everted flat, undecorated rims); Form 4 (large slack-profiled jars often with diameters of 300mm and upright and flattened rims), Form 5 (small, straight-sided bowls with diameter of 110-150mm) and Form 6/7 (fine ware jars with a bead rim (form 7) a fine smooth finish) (Elsdon 1992a, 39-40).

The most common form at Seagrave appears to be the large jar of Elsdon Form 4 with an upright flattened and externally protruding rim (Catalogue nos.2, 4 and 6; figures 5-7 and 9-10), two large bases of which were recovered (Catalogue nos. 1 and 3; figures 2-4). An example of a small jar of Form 1 came from [70] (72) (Catalogue no.5; figure 8), with an upright rim with diagonal slashes across the top. Other small jars had upright rounded rims, for example from [8] (11). An unusual jar of Form 6 with a pedestal base and smoothed surfaces came from (233) (Catalogue no.7; figure 11) and probably dates to the later 1st century BC based on their occurrence at Enderby (Figs 46-50).

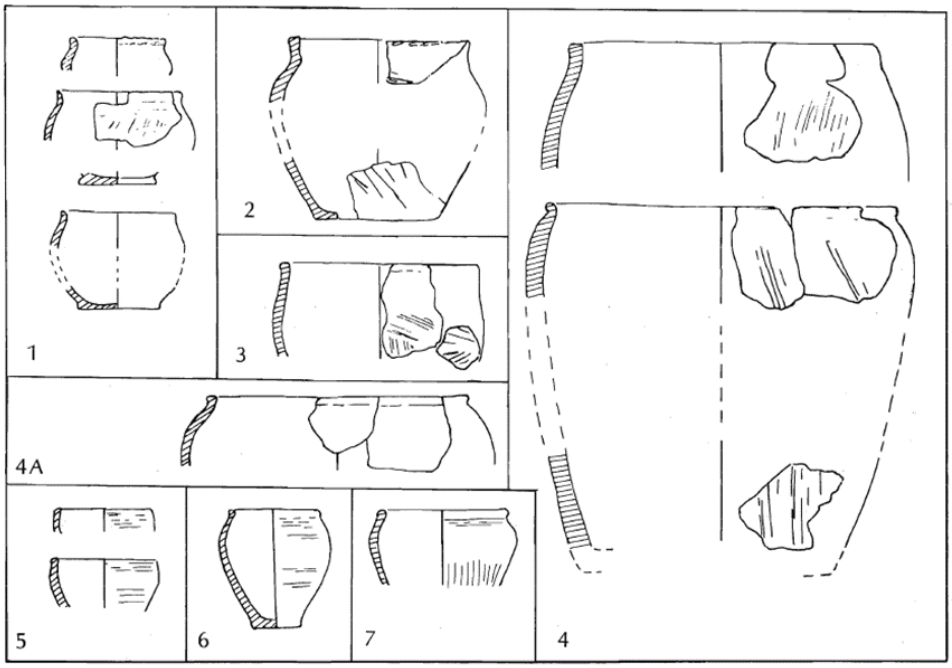

Figure 46: typology of vessel forms from Grove Farm, Enderby (Elsdon 1992a, 39, illus 24)

Figure 47: cut [8] fill (11), fabric R1, Elsdon form 4, large base with scored decoration (cat. 1)

Figure 48: cut [58] fill (59), fabric R1, Elsdon form 4, large base with scored decoration (cat. 3)

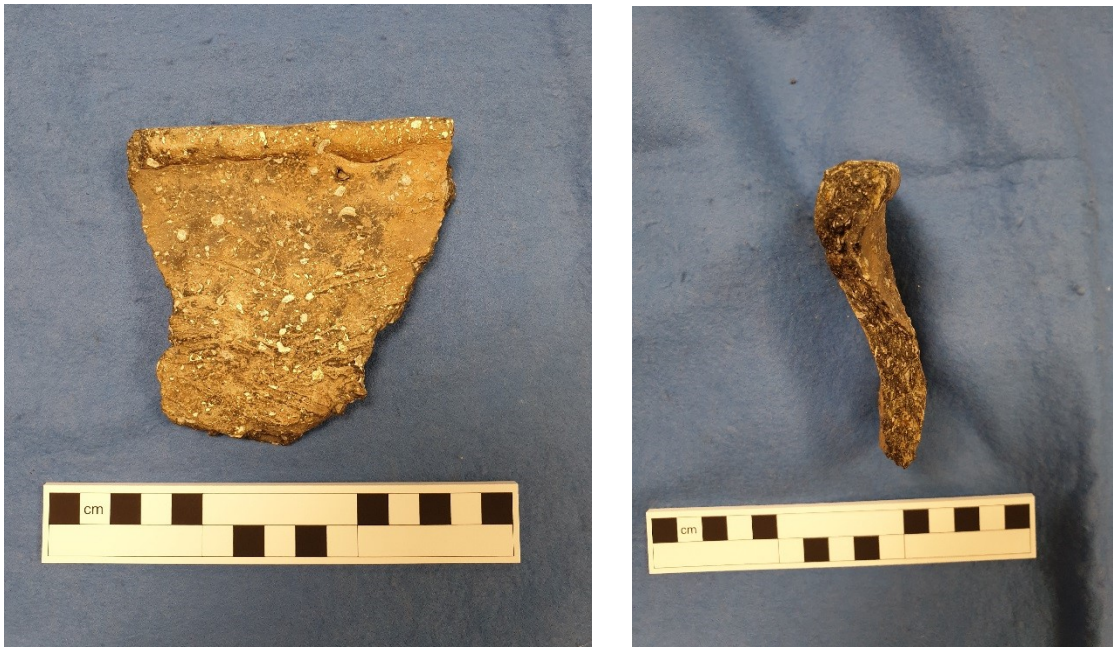

Figure 49: cut [8] fill (21), fabric S1, Elsdon form 4, upright flat rim (cat. 2)

Figure 50: cut [60] fill (62), fabric R1, Elsdon form 4, upright flat rim with thumb impressions (cat. 4)

'Scoring' is a deliberate style of decoration that varies from light twig brushing, single finely scratched grooves to deeper and wider lines, used both alone and in combination (Elsdon 1992b, 84). The East Midlands scored ware tradition is well represented in this assemblage with approximately 33.7% of the sherds displaying some form of scoring. However, this figure could be higher as the quantification of scoring decoration in this assemblage only included those sherds with visible scoring. Therefore, many sherds from a scored ware vessel may not be included in this figure as those particular sherds may not have any scoring decoration.

This assemblage still provides a good comparison with assemblages from archaeological sites at Manor Farm, with 35% of the assemblage displaying scoring decoration, and Elms Farm with 45% displaying scoring (Marsden 2011, 63-65). As a technique, scoring tends to become most common in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC and the proportion of scored sherds at Seagrave would support that date range.

Figure 51: cut [70] fill (72), fabric R1, Elsdon form 1, small jar with scored decoration and diagonal slashes on rim (cat. 5)

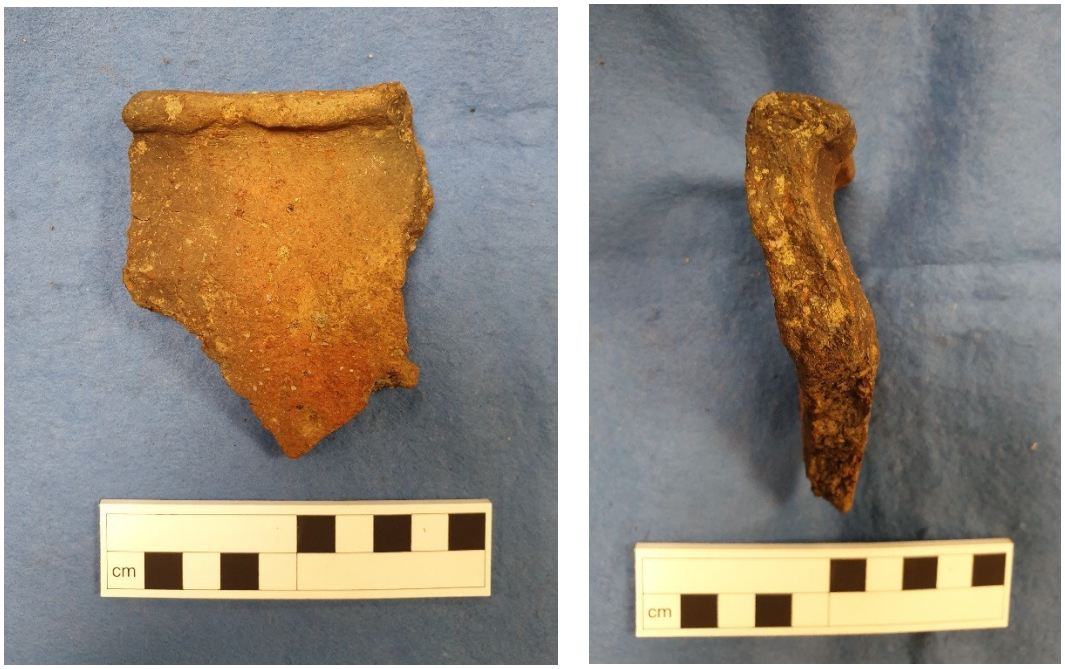

Figure 52: cut [216], fill (219), fabric R1, Elsdon form 4, shouldered form with flat rim (cat. 6)

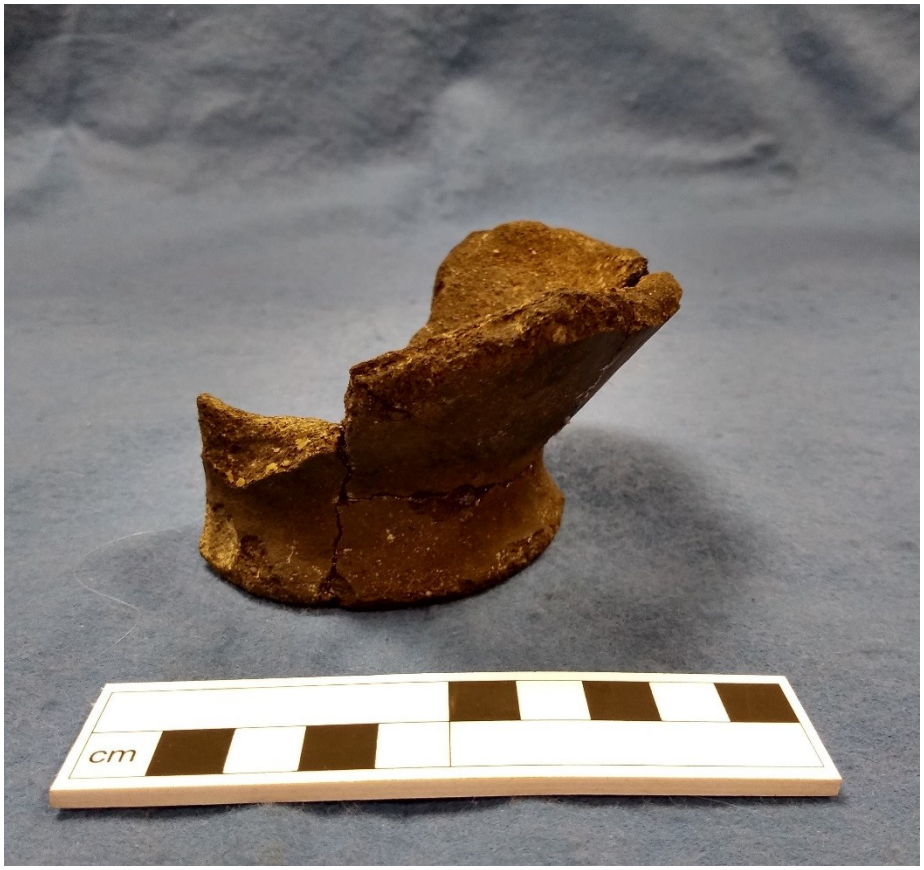

Figure 53: cut [232], fill (233), fabric Q4, Elsdon form 6, pedestal base and smoothed external surfaces (cat. 7)

Catalogue of photographed vessels

1) [8] (11) Fabric R1. Elsdon Form 4. Large base with scored decoration (Fig. 47).
2) [8] (21) Fabric S1. Elsdon Form 4. Upright flat rim (Fig. 48).
3) [58] (59) Fabric R1. Elsdon Form 4. Large base with scored decoration (Fig. 49).
4) [60] (62) Fabric R1. Elsdon Form 4. Upright flat rim with thumb impressions (Fig. 50).
5) [70] (72). Fabric R1. Elsdon Form 1. Small jar with scored decoration and diagonal slashes on rim (Fig. 51).
6) [216] (219). Fabric R1. Elsdon Form 4. Shouldered form with flat rim (Fig. 52).
7) [232] (233). Fabric Q4. Elsdon Form 6 with pedestal base and smoothed external surfaces (Fig. 53).

Spatial Distribution

The best-preserved groups of pottery come from cut [8] fills (11), (20) and (21); cut [70] fills (72) and (73); cut [86] fills (87) and (89); cut [98] fill (99); cut [216] fills (219); and cut [232] fills (233) and (234). Of these features, the majority are located in Area A and all are ditch fills. Only cuts [216] and [232] were located in Area B. Overall, 72.5% of the sherds and 76.1% of the weight of the ceramic assemblage came from Area A. It is therefore perhaps unsurprising that the majority of the best-preserved groups would come from Area A. Most of the ditches were located in enclosures, with only the groups from cut [86] coming from Roundhouse 1. This may indicate a higher level of preservation in ditches in the enclosures rather than the roundhouses.

Conclusion

Overall, given the similarities with other mid-late Iron Age assemblages such as Enderby and Manor farm, Humberstone, and the relatively high proportion of scored vessels, it is likely that the pottery was deposited during the 2nd or 1st century BC and is therefore tending towards the late Iron Age.

The Lithics

Lynden P. Cooper

Catalogue of the assemblage

Fifteen pieces including nine worked flints and six natural pieces were recovered (the latter being discarded). The identifications are tabulated below (Table 3).

Table 3: catalogue of lithic objects from Seagrave

Context	Description
2	Natural
27	Notched piece (shatter)
219	Scraper, dendritic patina
231	Retouched piece with spur
231	2ry flake, patinated
234	2ry bladelet (not true technology), patinated
242	Flake frag, patinated
245	Natural
251	Scraper
256	Natural
262	Natural
266	3ry flake
274	Natural

Discussion and dating

The raw material of the worked pieces was semi-translucent yellow brown, derived material from the underlying Oadby member of the Anglian till. There were four formal tools: two scrapers, a notched piece and a shallow-retouched flake with a slight spur. In the Midlands the presence of patinated pieces often indicates pre-Neolithic pieces, but here this is less certain. The patinated tools are not diagnostic and may have such a surface condition due to the relatively basic pH of the soil (the till has chalk clasts and so would be quite alkaline). The single bladelet is a ‘metric’ bladelet, lacking obvious Mesolithic technology. To conclude, the flint probably indicates later prehistoric activity.

Fired clay oven plate and other fired clay

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

The remains of a perforated oven plate made of clay was recovered from fill (24) of cut [23] in Area A. In addition, small fragments of fired clay or daub were recovered from 20 contexts across the site.

The clay oven plate

The fragmentary remains comprised 122 pieces of orange fired clay weighing 2.849kg. The majority of the fragments (104) weighing 1.205kg are small and undiagnostic (and have been discarded), but 18 larger, joining, fragments (1644g), forming 60% of the circumference of a large central perforation (diameter 140mm) and, at least, two surrounding smaller perforations (diameter 30-40mm) were recovered (fig.1). The two smaller perforations are set 55mm outside the circumference of the larger central perforation suggesting a ring of probably seven at a diameter of 250mm.

Figure 54: Reconstructed perforated oven plate with large central perforation and parts of two smaller perforations along right hand outer edge

It is relatively rare to see survival of such oven plates as presumably they were set into the floors of roundhouses, and truncation by later ploughing will have usually destroyed them. Two similar examples of perforated plates with central perforations of 130-140mm in diameter came from round houses at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams and Hylton 1996, 142, fig.86.148-9) which compare with the Type 2 plates from Danebury, Hants. (Poole 1984, M118). Perforations of the smaller size are paralleled by examples from Higham Ferrers, Northants. (Poole 2009, 272-4, fig.5.56.2), and Empingham, Rutland (Cooper 2000, 70,

fig.33). The function of the plates was to provide a flat surface for cooking and presumably a cooking pot could have been placed over the large central perforation.

Fired clay or daub from other contexts

A small assemblage of 63 fragments (484g) was recovered from across the site as detailed in (diagnostic fragments with surfaces or wattle impressions, alongside vitrified fragments, have been retained in the archive; amorphous fragments have been discarded as indicated below).

Table 4: Fired clay (burnt daub)

Context	Cut	Frags	Weight	Comments
5		2	6	vitrified ?lining
7		15	58	flat surface x2 frags retained
9	8	1	30	wattle impression retained
18		1	1	vitrified ?lining
19		1	10	discarded
25		1	3	discarded
38		9	39	wattle impression retained
45		1	2	discarded
63		1	11	discarded
68		1	5	vitrified ?lining
68		4	26	discarded
73		6	42	discarded
85		1	2	discarded
87		2	14	wattle impression retained
89	88	2	57	discarded
99	98	2	25	vitrified ?lining
101		1	70	flat surface
112		2	3	discarded
207		3	8	discarded
233		3	37	discarded
234		4	35	wattle impression retained
Total		**63**	**484**	

Fragments with wattle impressions were recovered from (9), (38), (87) and (234), indicating the existence of wattle and daub buildings and structures, such as ovens, in the vicinity. Fragments of vitrified clay, perhaps representing the linings of hearths used in high-temperature craft activities were recovered from (5), (18), (68) and (99). No trace of metal working related to such activities was recovered so there is no indication of the crafts involved.

The animal bone

William Johnson

Introduction

This report presents the analysis of an animal bone assemblage recovered during excavations at Seagrave, Leicestershire. Two areas were excavated characterised by Iron Age activity in the form of a series of enclosures. The bone assemblage was primarily derived from the fills of the ditches defining the enclosure areas.

Provenance and dating

In total the assemblage comprised 1185 fragments of bone and tooth recovered by hand during the excavation of 61 contexts split between the two areas with 38 from Area A and 23 from Area B (Table 5). The majority of the contexts (84%) came from the fills of the enclosure ditches while the remaining contexts were split between pit fills and fills of linear features. All the contexts were dated to the mid-late Iron Age.

Table 5: Fragment and specimen counts by area and feature

Feature	Contexts	Fragments	Specimens	%Fragments	%Specimens
AREA A					
Enclosure ditch	37	732	544	61.8	58.7
Pits	1	2	2	0.17	0.22
TOTAL	38	734	546	61.9	59.0
AREA B					
Enclosure ditch	14	347	305	29.3	32.9
Pits	4	23	23	1.9	2.5
Linear Features	5	81	52	6.8	5.6
TOTAL	23	451	380	38.1	41.0

Methodology

Identification to element and taxon was attempted on all fragments of animal bone through comparison with reference material held at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. Recorded information was compiled directly into a standardised Excel spreadsheet. Anatomical zones present were recorded following the eight zones defined by Cohen and Serjeanston (1996).

Determination between sheep and goat was attempted on elements listed in Boessneck (1969). A distinction between horse and donkey was attempted using the folds of the teeth according to Davis (1980).

Grant's (1982) system was used to record mandibular tooth wear in cattle, sheep/goat and pigs. For horse, tooth crown heights of cheek-teeth were measured following Levine (1982). Epiphyseal fusion data was recorded for post-cranial elements and ages were estimated for these following the suggested age ranges by Reitz and Wing 2008.

Where identified, pathologies were recorded in full following Thomas and Worley (2014). Where appropriate a differential diagnosis was carried out considering all potential causes of lesion formation.

Measurements were taken on all mammal teeth and bones where possible following the criteria defined by Von den Driesch (1976) and Davis (1992).

Butchery was recorded for all specimens by type as either a chop, cut or saw mark and the location was described. Burnt bone was also recorded across all specimens and categorised using three stages, singed, burned and calcined.

Joining fragments and those known to belong to the same bone were reassembled and the resulting specimen counted as one, although a record of the original number of fragments present was retained. The 'Number of Identifiable Specimens' (NISP) was calculated by counting the number of bone and loose tooth specimens (Wolverton 2002).

Results

Reassembly of joining fragments and the grouping of bone fragments known to have derived from the same specimen reduced the total counts of the bone from 1185 fragments to 926 specimens. From this point on the analysis will refer to this number of specimens.

The four stages defined by Harland *et al*. (2003) were then ranked one to four with one being the best preservation 'excellent' and four the worst 'poor'. This was used to calculate average preservation scores for the assemblage in order to investigate differences in preservation between feature types (Table 6).

Table 6: Average preservation and items per context by feature

Feature	Contexts	Fragments	Specimens	Fragments per context	Specimens per context	Preservation
Enclosure ditch	51	1079	849	21.2	16.6	2.75
Pits	5	25	25	5.0	5.0	3.52
Linear Features	5	81	52	16.2	10.4	3.13
TOTAL	61	1185	926	19.4	15.2	

Slight differences in preservation conditions between the different features at the site were observed with the bone recovered from pit fills being of a noticeably worse condition. This is potentially due to the fact that only small quantities of bone were deposited in the pits leading to its increased susceptibility to taphonomic processes. These observations are borne out in the analysis of the fragments as none of the bone recovered from the pits was able to be identified to element.

The generally poor preservation of bone across the whole site is most likely the result of a burial environment comprising acidic soils. This caused damage to the surface of the bones characterised by flaking and pitting which hindered the identification of surface features including butchery and pathologies in addition to general identification. This structural damage and the resultant weakening of the bone also contributed to high levels of fragmentation of the faunal remains from the site. This led to many bones being highly damaged with the average element identified to species comprising only three anatomical zones.

The high levels of fragmentation are likely to have artificially inflated the specimen count as in the majority of cases the number of fragments are likely to have derived from a much smaller number of specimens, but were unable to be reassembled due to the complete nature of the fragmentation. In many cases the fragmentation was too severe to enable identification even where some reassembly was possible. These factors resulted in a very high proportion (81.5%) of indeterminate specimens with only 18.5% of specimens able to be identified to species.

Much of the fragmentation was modern, the breaks being fresh and sharp in appearance with a noticeably lighter colour of the exposed surfaces. This is most likely the result of weakening of the material due to the burial environment leading to breaking upon extraction from the surrounding clay matrix.

Root etching was prominent on specimens from nearly all contexts, in some cases causing significant disruption to the surface of the bone and it is highly likely that these actions further contributed to the high levels of fragmentation.

Gnawing was present on a small number of specimens from both areas totalling 2.4% of specimens from Area A and 2.8% of specimens from Area B. In all instances the gnawing was characteristic of canine damage.

The assemblages from the two areas, A and B, where analysed separately and the results are presented below.

Taxon and element representation

The assemblage from Area A was dominated by the remains of cattle which accounted for 50% of specimens identified to species (Table 7). These included a wide range of elements with the forelimb being particularly well represented although bones from all anatomical regions were present. The remains of sheep/goat accounted for 17.7% of the identified specimens and again were spread out across the different anatomical regions. Equid remains were the second most represented comprising 28.1% of identified specimens. These primarily consisted of bones from the feet including metapodials and tarsals although a few long bones were also included. Dog and pig bones were scarce, each taxa accounting for only 2.1% of the assemblage and in both cases represented solely by mandibles.

Table 7: Element representation and NISP of specimens from Area A.

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Equid	Dog
CRANIUM					
Skull				1	
Mandible	4	2	2		2
Loose teeth	15	6		12	
SPINE					
Atlas	1				
Axis		1			
FORELIMB					
Scapula	1	3			
Humerus	6	1		1	
Radius	6	1		1	
Ulna	2				
PELVIS					
Pelvis	3				
HINDLIMB					
Femur				1	
Tibia	4	1			
FEET					
Calcaneum	2			1	

Astragalus	1				
Tarsals		1		3	
Metacarpal	1			3	
Metatarsal	2			4	
Phalanx 2		1			
TOTAL/NISP	**48**	**17**	**2**	**27**	**2**
%NISP	**50.0**	**17.7**	**2.1**	**28.1**	**2.1**

The assemblage from Area B showed some differences with that from Area A. Whilst the Area A assemblage had been primarily comprised of cattle with sheep/goat by comparison contributing a minority, here the two were approximately equal making up 37.3% and 36% of the identified assemblage respectively (Table 8). The distribution of elements was similar with the majority of anatomical regions represented although no cattle humeri were present, the most common element from Area A. Equid remains made up 18.7% of the assemblage and included a range of elements from all anatomical regions. Pig and dog were once again the least represented with pig contributing 6.7% solely from cranial elements while a single dog calcaneum contributed 1.3%.

Table 8: Element representation and NISP of specimens from Area B.

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Equid	Dog
CRANIUM					
Mandible	1	4	1		
Loose teeth	4	10	4		
SPINE					
Atlas				1	
Axis		1			
Cervical		1		1	
Thoracic		1			
FORELIMB					
Scapula	2	3		1	
Humerus		1		2	
Radius	5	4			
Ulna	1				
PELVIS					
Pelvis	2	1			
HINDLIMB					
Femur				1	
Tibia	2	1		3	
FEET					
Calcaneum	2			2	1
Astragalus	1				
Tarsals	1			1	
Metacarpal	3				
Metatarsal	2			1	

Phalanx 1				1	
Phalanx 2	1				
Phalanx 3	1				
TOTAL/NISP	**28**	**27**	**5**	**14**	**1**
%NISP	**37.3**	**36.0**	**6.7**	**18.7**	**1.3**

The contrast between the two areas in the representation of cattle and sheep/goat is further drawn out through analysis of the unidentified specimens. Where specimens had been unable to be identified to taxa they have been split, where possible, into those deriving from large mammals (cattle/equid etc.) and those from medium mammals (sheep/goat/pig etc.). Area A contained 102 specimens identified as deriving from large mammals compared to only 18 attributed to medium mammals. By contrast the results from area B included 19 specimens attributed to large mammals compared to 37 attributed to medium mammals. Whilst these results need to be treated with a degree of caution due to the uncertain nature of the taxa, it is highly likely that they represent a continuance of the previously identified differences between the two areas.

Across both assemblages loose teeth were the most commonly occurring finds. This is most likely a result of the high levels of fragmentation as very few teeth were found socketed despite a relatively high number of mandibles and cranial fragments recovered across both areas. Area A had a loose:socketed ratio of 2.8:1 while Area B a ratio of 6:1. A single equid maxillary tooth was able to be speciated and determined to be horse on the basis of the asymmetry of the protocone.

Age

Epiphyseal data was recorded for 13 elements, 5 from Area A and a further 8 from Area B (Table 9). All of the bones with surviving evidence for state of fusion were derived from the fills of the enclosure ditches.

Table 9: Epiphyseal fusion data, ages in months, based on data from Reitz and Wing (2008: 72).

Context	Cut	Number	Element	Taxon	Pfusion	Dfusion	Age
18	17	1	metatarsal	Cattle		unfused	<36
18	17	3	tibia	Cattle		fused	>24
38	37	1	radius	Cattle	fused		>12
61	60	2	radius	Cattle		fused	>42
93	86	1	tibia	Cattle	fusing		42-48
219	218	1	radius	Cattle		unfused	<48
234	232	1	Calcaneum	Cattle	unfused		<42
253	250	1	Tibia	Cattle	fused	fused	>42
274	273	1	Calcaneum	Cattle	fused		>36
274	273	1	metatarsal	Cattle		fused	>24
236	235	1	radius	sheep/goat	fused		>3
253	250	1	Humerus	sheep/goat	fused	fused	>23
253	250	1	radius	sheep/goat		fused	>33

The fragmentary nature of many of the bones limited the amount of fusion data available. The small range of elements and broad, uncertain age ranges associated do not allow for a detailed picture of the age ranges of the taxa from the site save for attesting to the presence of some older cattle.

In addition to the ageing data provided by fusion two neonatal bones were recovered from the enclosure ditch fills of Area B. One was a fragment of sheep/goat radius whilst the other a metapodial also belonging to sheep/goat.

Due to the highly fragmentary nature of the assemblage only two mandibles had sufficient surviving teeth *in situ* to allow ageing by tooth wear. A cattle mandible from the enclosure ditch of Area A had M2 and M3 present and was determined to be an adult animal (greater than three years). A sheep/goat mandible also from the enclosure ditch of Area A had M1, M2 and M3 *in situ* and was aged 27-36months.

The crown heights of two equid mandibular teeth, both third molars, were measured. These returned ages of 6.25-7.5 years old and 11.5-13.75 years old.

Measurements

No measurements were able to be taken due to the high levels of fragmentation resulting in the survival of no elements that were suitable for measurement.

Butchery

Evidence of butchery at the site was limited with only seven specimens (0.8%) showing butchery marks (Table 10). Of these, all were cuts and came from specimens recovered from the fills of the enclosure ditches. The primacy of fine cut marks evidencing careful disarticulation rather than heavier chops is typical of assemblages of this period (Grant 1987: 55).

The most commonly occurring butchered element was the distal humerus which was represented by three specimens from a single context from Area A with multiple fine cuts around the articulation. This pattern continues an established trend across the region observed at multiple other sites including Elms Farm (Charles 2000: 205) and Manor Farm (Browning 2011: 113) where the distal humerus was also the most commonly occurring butchered element.

A range of possible activities were represented by the butchery including dismemberment of large carcasses and potentially skinning. The cuts to a cattle metatarsal extending around the medial and lateral surfaces could have been caused by the cutting away of the skin as it lies close to the bone surface.

Table 10: Butchery mark descriptions and possible activities

Context	Cut	Area	Element	Taxa	Butchery	Description	Activity
5	4	A	Humerus	Cattle	Cuts	Cuts on the medial and lateral and posterior surfaces above trochlea	Dismemberment
5	4	A	Humerus	Cattle	Cuts	Cuts on medio-anterior surface above trochlea	Dismemberment
5	4	A	Humerus	Cattle	Cuts	Cuts on lateral surface above trochlea	Dismemberment
53	52	A	Scapula	Cattle	Cuts	Two parallel cuts above neck of scapula	Dismemberment

101	100	A	Skull	Large mammal	Cuts	Three parallel cuts across a bony ridge	Skinning
219	218	B	Rib	Medium mammal	Cuts	Three parallel cuts across the shaft	Defleshing
236	235	B	Metatarsal	Cattle	Cuts	Multiple parallel cuts across proximal third of shaft on medial and lateral surfaces	Skinning?

Pathology

A single equid metatarsal (33.3% of equid metatarsals, 12.5% of equid metapodials) from context 274 had abnormal bone growth around the proximal articulation. A lumpy patch of smooth, compact bone measuring approximately 1.5cm in width and 1cm in height was positioned on the medio-anterior surface running along the line of the articulation. In addition, the articulation surface had a series of small pits, located towards the anterior margin. The most likely diagnosis of these changes is degenerative joint disease (DJD).

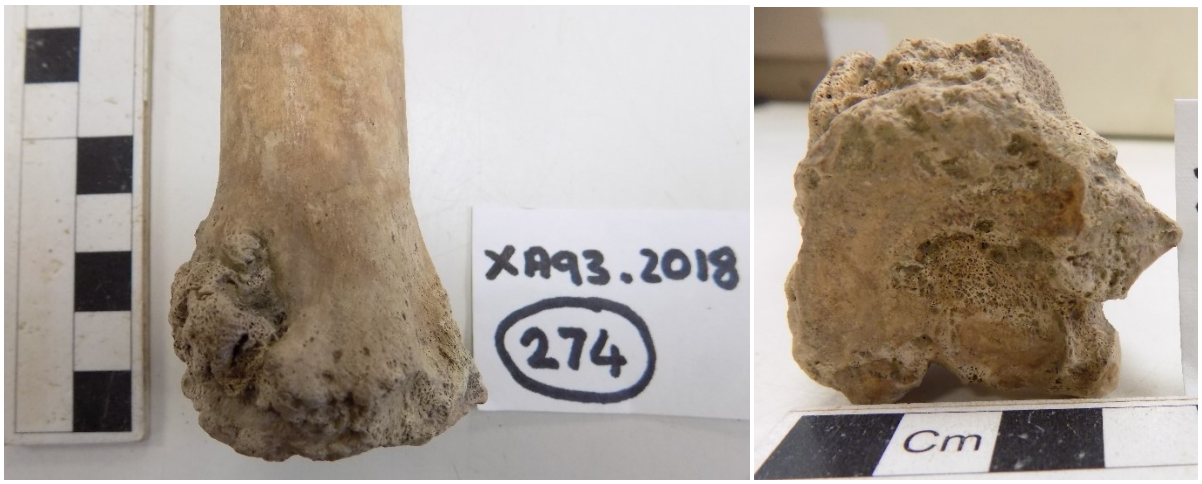

Figure 55: Pathological horse metatarsal

Discussion

The poor preservation is typical of the vast majority of Iron Age assemblages from Leicestershire due to the acidic nature of the natural clays. The combination of high levels of root activity in the area and the conditions of excavation have resulted in a high level of fragmentation. However, the high quantity of bone recovered meant that, although only a small proportion could be identified to taxa, a sufficient identified assemblage was present to allow for the identification of intra- and inter-site patterns.

The most notable feature of the two assemblages was the difference between areas A and B in the representation of species. While across the two areas combined cattle made up the majority (44%) of the identified remains compared to sheep/goat (26%), the clear contrast between the two indicates some difference in activity.

That cattle were more abundant overall is typical of the majority of sites from the local area including Beaumont Leyes (Browning 2011: 103), Huncote (Browning 2004: 15), Elms Farm (Charles 2000:198) and Grove Farm (Gouldwell 1992: 60).

These small scale highly local differences are, therefore, unlikely to represent entirely different husbandry strategies but suggests spatial distinctions in the grazing of the animals and potentially the subsequent processing of carcasses.

This pattern parallels results from excavations carried out at nearby Manor Farm, Humberstone. Here two areas were excavated and revealed a similar split with the NISP of Area A primarily sheep/goat and that of Area B primarily cattle (Browning 2011: 106).

Apart from this difference the two areas are very similar. The faunal remains from both sites represent general domestic refuse, primarily composed of the main domesticates. The presence of elements from across the carcass indicates that processing was likely carried out close to the site as elements of a potentially lower value, particularly those of the feet, were unlikely to have been transported far. The relatively high proportion of equid bones also suggests the enclosure ditches were used for the disposal of general waste. The very small quantities of bone recovered from the pit fills indicate that they were not primarily used for disposal. The low levels of canine gnawing on the bones is likely an indicator of their rapid burial within the soil matrix, preventing access by dogs.

The limited evidence for ageing precludes a detailed analysis of husbandry strategies being followed although the presence of neonatal sheep/goat bones indicates that animals were being bred at or in close proximity to the site.

Conclusion

The poor preservation at the site and high levels of fragmentation resulted in only a small proportion of the present bone being identified limiting the interpretations of the roles that animals played at the site. The assemblages were typical of local Iron Age deposits, dominated by domesticates. There was some evidence for a spatial distinction in stock grazing. The vast majority of the bone from the site derived from the fills of the enclosure ditches, indicating their use in waste disposal and rapid burial.

The Charred Plant Remains

Adam Santer

Introduction

During an archaeological excavation at Seagrave, Leicester, thirty-nine bulk soil samples were taken for the analysis of charred plant remains (CPR hereafter). The samples came from Mid-Late Iron Age pits, gullies and ditches. The analysis of the charred plant remains are presented here, together with a discussion of what potential evidence can be obtained regarding past diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

Methodology

The samples mostly consisted of orangey-brown heavy clays and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The fine and course residues were not sorted. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names follow Stace (1991).

Results

Most of the samples contained no CPR at all. Only six of the samples contained any CPR; all of which were of low densities. The samples which produced any CPR all came from two ditches. Samples 1, 2, 4 and 5 all came from the fills (10), (11), (12), and (20) of ditch [8], whereas samples 6 and 7 came from the fills (25) and (26) of ditch [23]. The samples all contained a large quantity of modern rootlets and some modern weed seeds. This is indicative of heavy disturbance to the contexts from bioturbation.

The highest density of CPR came from sample 1 which was the fill (10) of ditch [8]. It contained a density of only 1.31 items per litre. Six barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), two indeterminate cereal grains, two glume wheat spikelets (*Triticum* sp.), one glume base fragment, 1 sedge (*Carex* sp.), three goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) four large grass, two small grass (Poaceae) and four knotweed (*Polygonum* sp.) seeds were found.

The remaining samples contained densities of less than 1 item per litre. Two glume wheat grains and a goosefoot seed were found in sample 2, a single knotweed seed was found in sample 4, a single large grass seed was found in sample 5, an indeterminate cereal grain and a goosefoot seed were found in sample 6, and two glume wheat grains, two glume base fragments, two large grass and a knot weed seeds were found in sample 7.

Table 11: The charred plant remains found in samples 1-2, and 4-7.

Sample	**1**	**2**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	
Context	**10**	**11**	**12**	**20**	**25**	**26**	
Cut	**8**	**8**	**8**	**8**	**23**	**23**	
Feature type	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	
Date	**Mid-Late Iron Age**	**Mid-Late Iron Age**	**Mid-Late Iron Age**	**Mid-Late Iron Age**	**Mid-Late Iron Age**	**Mid-Late Iron Age**	
Grain							
Hordeum vulgare L.	6						Barley
Triticum sp.		2				2	Glume wheat
Indeterminate cereal	2				1		Indeterminate cereal
Chaff							
Triticum sp. Spikelet	2						Glume wheat spikelet fragments
Triticum sp. glume base fragments	1					2	Wheat glume base fragments
Wild seeds							
Carex sp.	1						Sedges
Chenopodium sp.	3	1			1		Goosefoots
Poaceae (large)	4			1		2	Large grass
Poaceae (small)	2						Small grass
Polygonum sp.	4		1			1	Knotweed
Total	**25**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**7**	
Soil volume (L)	**19**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**19**	**9**	
Items per litre	**1.31**	**0.33**	**0.5**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.77**	

Conclusion and statement of potential

The specimens that were present likely represent residual scatter from food waste spillage which had become burnt on a hearth. The ashes from the hearth would have formed a general scatter on the site and collected in open features (such as the ditches). Due to the low density of plant remains found in the sample it was not possible to learn anything about diet, crop husbandry strategies or environment at the site. No further work is recommended.

Discussion

The excavations at the former Park Hill Golf Club focussed on two areas with a distance of around 175m between them. The results of the evaluation carried out by MOLA in 2018 and the geophysical survey showed that the features in the two areas are unlikely to exist in isolation and are part of a wider landscape of Iron Age features within this location. As an illustration of this, a number of the linear features revealed in the excavations extend beyond the confines of the stripped areas; such as features [84] and [115] in Area A and [220], [222], [267] etc. in Area B. Both sets of pit alignments also continue to the north-east and south-west beyond the extent of both Area A and Area B. The site is broadly dated by its pottery assemblage to the 2nd or 1st century BC.

Chronology

The pottery finds cannot provide a precise chronology for the settlement at Park Hill Golf Club save that the assemblage dates from the late Iron Age. Apart from a single Roman pottery sherd, there is no evidence to suggest that the site survived into the Roman period. The flint finds are also not very diagnostic and can only indicate later prehistoric activity.

However, a tentative phasing of the site can be achieved through stratigraphic evidence and the form of the features (see Fig. 56).

Despite the lack of precise dating many of the enclosure ditches show evidence of being recut, suggesting that they were long-lived and that the activity made consistent use of this area during the late Iron Age. For example Enclosure 1 was redefined along the north-western arm and northern arms [36] and [4] being recut as [34], and the south-western and south-eastern sections [60], [78] being recut as [64] and [76]. Enclosure 2 also appears to have been recut over time, possibly several times as is evidenced by the sequence of recuts [128], [132], [136] revealed in the south-western corner of the enclosure. These recuts are also evidence for the remodelling of the enclosures as Enclosure 2 has been excavated into the north-eastern corner of Enclosure 1, with an entranceway inserted into the later enclosure. A similar remodelling of the enclosures had been undertaken in the south-western corner where [66] has been added to the roundhouse southern arm [46] and [60] to form Enclosure 3.

Within Area B, where the line of Pit Alignment 2 is cut by Enclosure 5 and in Area A, where the entrance of Enclosure 1 faces south-east across the line of Pit Enclosure 1, the pit alignments appear to be the earliest features on the site, along with Gully 1, which follows the line of the pits. Later small linear features appear to the east of Pit Alignment 2, also broadly on the same alignment, or perpendicular to the line. The ditches of Enclosure 1 appear to respect and join onto the rear of the roundhouse suggesting this existed originally in an open setting. Enclosure 1 is added later to enclose the settlement, making Pit Alignment 1, at least, redundant. Later smaller enclosures appear to have be added, within Enclosure 1, of a similar size and form to those in Area B, which suggest that all the smaller Enclosures (2-5), along with those identified during the evaluation stages, but not explored during the excavations, are broadly contemporary.

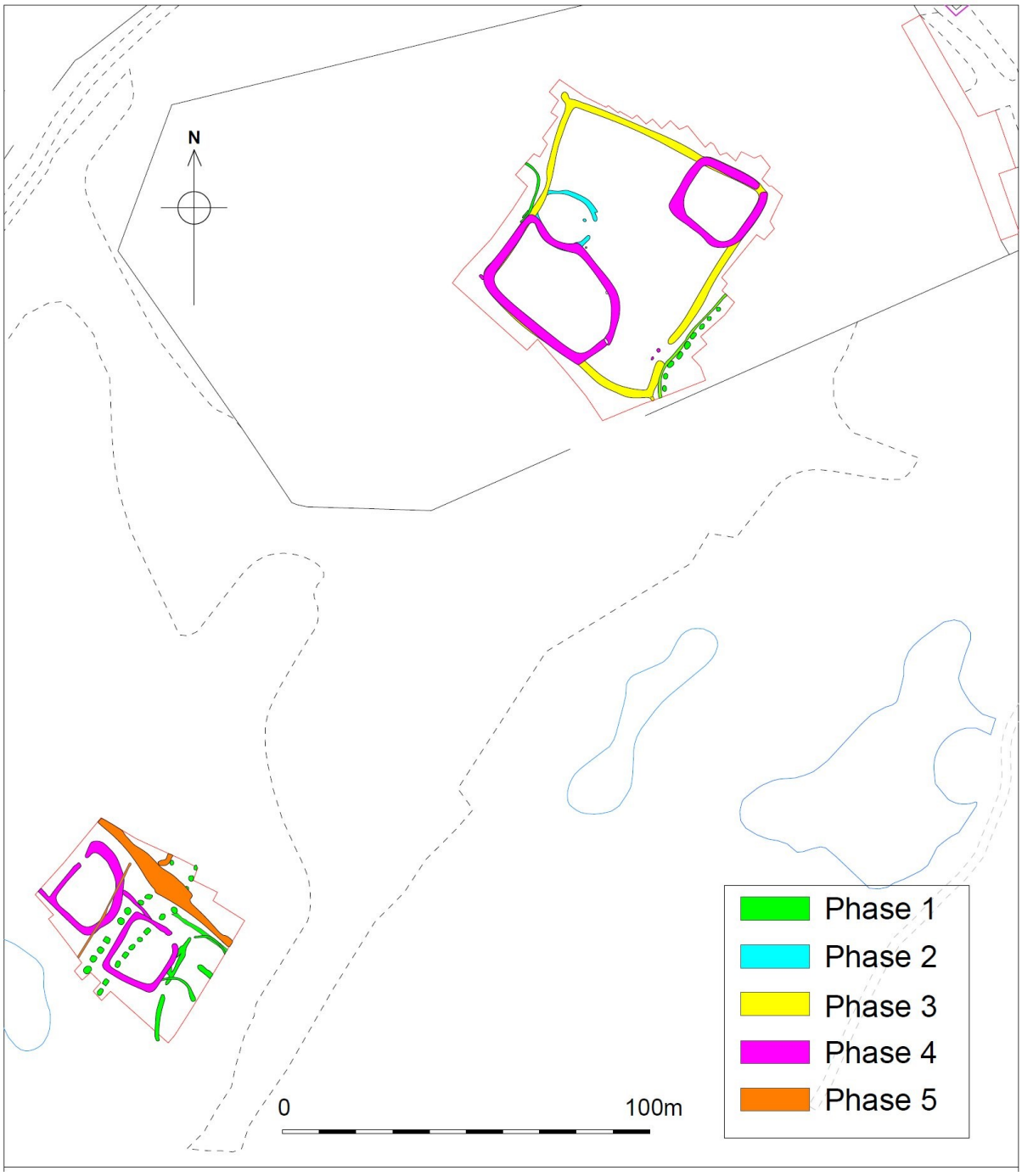

Figure 56: Proposed phase plan of site

Phase 1: The Pit Alignments

Both pit alignments, likely to be the earliest features revealed during the excavations ran from north-east to south-west, but with a turn to the east with Pit Alignment 1 and Pit Alignment 2 may also have a slight kink in the line to the north B (although this is masked by the large group of linear features at the northern end). Pit Alignment 2, although a double line, appears to run on a similar course to that of Pit Alignment 1 in and there is every possibility that they form part of the same system.

There appeared to be no large difference in form or spacing between the pits in the two alignments; in fact there were more differences between the individual pits within each line rather than between the pit alignments in general. Typically, on average, the pits were between

1.7m-2.1m long and between 1.4m-1.7m wide, with a spacing between pits of between 1.4m-1.7m. Shape varied somewhat between sub-rectangular and almost circular, with Pit Alignment 2 showing more variety than Pit Alignment 1, where pits were generally more sub-circular or oval in shape. None of the pits in either alignment showed any sign of being re-cut, with the fills being fairly similar suggesting all the pits were filled around a similar time, possibly during the same event.

The most significant difference between the two alignments was that Pit Alignment 1 appeared to be formed of a single row whereas there were two parallel groups in Pit Alignment 2. Given the small area excavated, it is difficult to ascertain whether the two groups of pits in Area B split and become single lines. It is possible that Pit Alignment 1 is a double alignment as the group lies close to the limit of excavation of Area A, although there was no obvious sign of pits within the small area excavated in Area A between the pit alignment and the trench edge.

Given the close spatial relationship with Pit Alignment 1 and Gully 1 it seems likely that they are related, possibly an attempt to formalise the otherwise broken boundary formed by the row of pits.

Stratigraphically both alignments appear as the earlier, if not the earliest features excavated within the site. Pit Alignment 2 clearly pre-dates the enclosures within Area B, and it would make no sense if Pit Alignment 1 were still active within Area A when the main entrance to Enclosure 1 was constructed as they would at least partially block the access into the enclosure. The main ditch of Enclosure 1 does seem to respect the earlier line of pits, which suggests that they were still been a significant feature in the landscape when the enclosure was constructed, It is not apparent why the line of Pit Alignment 1 deviates to the east slightly after it so resolutely lies on the same north-east to south-west alignment as Pit Alignment 2, but this may be due to some obstacle or feature no longer apparent in the landscape such as a large tree.

Significantly, none of the pits within Pit Alignment 1 yielded artefacts but in Pit Alignment 2 they are common, with all excavated pits yielding Iron Age pottery, with the exception of pit [214], which produced charcoal and animal bone.

Pit alignments generally date from the Late Bronze Age into the Iron Age and appear to be an early form of land division within these periods. They are found mainly in the central and eastern parts of England, although they have been known to appear in parts of Yorkshire and even Wales and Scotland. Once a relatively rare form of archaeological feature, their discovery is becoming increasingly common, particularly within large scale archaeological interventions such as large housing schemes and gravel quarries (Thomas 2003).

They are often situated away from the focus of settlement, and because of this are often low in artefactual evidence, although increasingly they are found being re-excavated into linear features or associated with later features tacked onto them, such as enclosures. The small linear systems within Area B, such as [278] or [272] may be an illustration of the process, as these smaller features appear to pre-date the larger Enclosures 4 and 5. The line of Enclosure 1 in Area A, although not re-using the pits themselves, does clearly respect their line.

Recent excavations on similar rural sites in the East Midlands have shown this process of attaching enclosures to established pit alignments. In Tallington, Lincolnshire the pit alignment had been re-dug as part of the ditch of a trackway and subsequently turned into an enclosure (French *et al* 1993) and at Church Lawford, Warwickshire and at Wollaston, Northamptonshire pit alignments have been used as a spine for later enclosures to be attached (Meadows 1995, Taylor 1996, 2002). This was also in evidence at the more recent excavations at Uppingham Road, Oakham prior to the construction of new housing where nearly 150 pits were respected by later boundary ditches and enclosures (Speed 2017), and at Ashton Green, Leicester where

a small enclosure had been joined on to the east-west aligned double pit alignment of 223 pits on its southern side (Claire LaCombe pers com).

Phase 2 - Roundhouse 1

The roundhouse appears to pre-date the enclosures within Area A and may have been part of an area of unenclosed settlement. Given the way in which the western ditches of Enclosure 1, [34]/[36] and [90] in particular, seem to 'kink' to respect the situation of the roundhouse, it has to be assumed that the enclosure was added later and this was confirmed by the fact that the enclosure ditch [90] cut into northern arm of the roundhouse [52].

Little of the structural remains for the roundhouse were uncovered during the excavations, with only the deeper outer 'eaves-drip' gullies remaining. Only a single post hole [111] remained as a possible structural remnant within the roundhouse. The roundhouse entrance faces east, a typical orientation for a domestic Iron Age dwelling, either to catch the sun in the morning and to face away from the prevailing westerly wind; or because it is simply the 'right' way to situate the entrance.

The roundhouse appears to have recut along the northern arm [52], possibly along a slightly different alignment [55], which may suggest a remodelling of the structure at some point. The southern arm recut forming part of the later 'D'-shaped Enclosure 3 [66]/[100]. Whether these recuts form part of the same phase is not clear, although the reuse of the roundhouse gully does perhaps suggest that the roundhouse was still in use when Enclosure 3 was cut. However, it may have been adapted for a different function at this later phase such as a livestock pen.

Phase 3 - Enclosure 1

Enclosure 1, forming the dominant and largest enclosure of the settlement at Park Hill reuses the roundhouse gully on its western side. This places the earlier roundhouse at the back of the enclosure, with the entrance to the roundhouse facing broadly south-east, on the same alignment as Enclosure 1 itself, creating a symmetry between the entrances of the two features.

Many later Iron Age settlements throughout the region, and throughout southern Britain as a whole, began as unenclosed settlement to be enclosed at a later time, with roundhouses later incorporated into rectangular or D-shaped enclosures. The Iron Age settlement at Enderby revealed roundhouses that were later enclosed by ditches (Clay 1992) and a similar situation was also evident at Birstall (Speed 2010). Other examples of local later Iron Age settlements showing this development are located at Crick (Hughes and Woodward 1998) and Courteenhall (Buteux et al 2005), both in Northamptonshire. Recent excavations at Brooksby Quarry, Leicestershire have identified a large roundhouse with an apparent enclosure attached to the rear of the structure but facing away to the north-west. A D-shaped enclosure lies almost adjacent (Beamish pers. comm.).

There was no evidence of other structures, or rubbish pits within Enclosure 1, save for the two possible post-holes [117] and [123] close to the entrance, which may be evidence of some kind of gate structure. Both these features were very shallow, which may indicate that they are not post-holes, but may also indicate that discreet features within the enclosures may have been heavily truncated by later ploughing or by groundworks during the landscaping of the Golf Club.

Phase 4 - Enclosures 2 and 3

Both Enclosure 2 and 3 of Area A are later insertions into the main rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 1) presumably once the enclosure had fallen out of use, but while it was still a

visible feature in the landscape. This sub-division of enclosed space within the settlement is common on many excavated Iron Age sites; a recent example of this can be seen at Hallam Fields, Birstall where two larger sub-rectangular enclosures had been sub-divided with smaller, rectangular enclosures (Speed 2010).

Given that there is no evidence of industrial activity at Park Hill it is assumed that the sub-enclosures represent stock enclosures, with the smaller rounder Enclosure 2 perhaps being used for a different range of stock to the larger Enclosure 3 (sheep/goats as opposed to cattle etc.). These are broadly similar in form to Enclosures 4 and 5 in Area B and may suggest that these (and the similar enclosures to the east and south-west revealed during the trial trench evaluation), are later additions representing a reorganisation of space in this area, perhaps with different occupation areas located in separate designated areas, outside the focus of the excavation.

The butt-end of the northern arm of Enclosure 2 contained the remains of a fired clay oven plate dumped in the side of the ditch. This is likely to have come from a domestic context, possibly the roundhouse, and may be the result of deliberate dumping of artefacts and material after the settlement was abandoned.

There is also a slight difference in the number and type of animal bones retrieved from the separate areas with cattle more numerous than other faunal remains in Area A, as opposed to Area B where sheep and goat are more abundant. This may represent a difference in where the animals were housed but it also may show that the animals were butchered in separate areas. This pattern parallels results from excavations carried out at nearby Manor Farm, Humberstone. Here the two areas reveal a similar split with Area A primarily sheep/goat and Area B primarily cattle (Browning 2011). Horse bones were also fairly common throughout the site representing the most numerous animal remains next to cattle. Pig and dog remains were relatively few in number, and there were signs of gnawing from dogs on many of the bones.

Phase 4 - Enclosures 4 and 5

The later form of enclosures within the site appear to have been smaller, with the two smaller enclosures in Area B (Enclosures 4 and 5) of a similar size to the later enclosures of Area A (Enclosures 2 and 3). There is no evidence to suggest that the enclosure of one area pre-dated those in the other and so, as they are similar in size, it is assumed that they are broadly contemporary.

Enclosures 4 and 5 are located nearly 200m from the roundhouse in Area A, with the other two smaller enclosures revealed during the trial trenching even further away. As the areas stripped during the excavations represent only a small portion of the potential extent of the site it is not possible to determine whether there are further dwellings closer to the enclosures in Area B.

Enclosures 4 and 5 differ to each other - Enclosure 4 is more an inverted ‘D-shape’, whereas Enclosure 5 is closer to a rectangular form. Both Enclosure 2 and Enclosure 5 have their entrances located to the north-east, whereas Enclosure 4 faces in the opposite direction to this to the north-east. It is likely that the forms of the two enclosures in Area B would lessen the impact on a bottleneck at the entrances if stock is being moved in and out of the enclosures at the same time. Interestingly Enclosure 3 in Area A has no obvious entrance, although it may have been bridged at some point, possibly as extra security for the stock contained therein. Evidence from other, larger groups of enclosures dated to the late Iron Age show that enclosures, as opposed to the roundhouses, which tend to face to the east or south-east, have great variety in their orientation. This is the case at Humberstone (Thomas 2011), Doddington (Thomas and Enright 2003) and Coton Park (Chapman 1998).

As mentioned above it is possible to suggest some differences in how the enclosures were utilised, with slightly more sheep/goat remains within the ditches of Enclosures 4 and 5 compared to Enclosures 1, 2 and 3, although this may be due to the where the carcasses were dealt with rather than different species being kept in different areas. The separate enclosures may also represent different activities, such as slaughter or milking for instance carried out in different 'zones' within a wider area of settlement.

Other Linear Features

Both Area A and B have a number of small gully features between the main enclosure ditches. Most such as Gully 1 [102] and the small possibly enclosures and gullies in Area B appear to be associated with the pit alignment in some way, others appear to join between enclosures, such as [260] that lies between Enclosures 4 and 5, or be slightly later than the enclosures around them (possibly [220] and [267]), but have no clear function, other than as additional drainage gullies. The curved nature of these particular gullies may suggest that they are truncated roundhouse gullies, but there is no evidence to support this. Gully 2 in Area A may have been added to drain an unknown feature beyond the edges of the excavation in Area A into the larger ditches of Enclosure 1. A single narrow gully [212], on a similar alignment to the enclosures 4 and 5 and Pit Alignment 2 within Area B cuts across Enclosure 4 from south-west to north-east, but also has no obvious function save as a much later drainage gully excavated through the enclosure after it had been infilled.

Phase 5 – Large Linear Feature

The large wide linear [270], incorporating [272] that crosses Area B from north-west to south-east was visible on the geophysical results running along the same alignment as the ridge and furrow earthworks. Feature [272] may have been picked up by MOLA as [613] during the evaluation stage and interpreted as a 0.60m wide gully, with [270] probably dismissed as a furrow. During the excavation stage it was revealed to bulge out to around 6m in width, and other than being associated with the medieval earthworks within the area, as an extra wide furrow, its function could not be determined.

Conclusion

The site at the former Park Hill Golf Club has a number of elements, which are common in the archaeological record for the later Iron Age. This includes pit alignments, the single roundhouse, possibly originally in an unenclosed settlement, later enclosed, and later smaller enclosures, possibly indicating segregation of different species or tasks within the settlement.

The archaeology is similar to recently excavated sites in Leicestershire, particularly those at Birstall, Enderby and Manor farm, Humberstone, where it shares not only comparable archaeological features but also pottery assemblages with the relatively high proportion of scored vessels giving a date of 2nd or 1st century BC. It most closely resembles Hallam Fields, Birstall, which lies around 7 miles to the south of Seagrave and includes similar elements such as the original unenclosed settlement of roundhouses and pits later surrounded by rectangular enclosures, with smaller sub-enclosures within them and nearby.

The archaeological work at Seagrave, although small in scope and with the limits of the full settlement unknown, has still added new information to the study of the later Iron Age within the East Midlands region.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A93.2018 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report

1 Context Record (5 sheets)

178 Context Sheets

1 Drawing sheet record (2 sheets)

1 Drawing Record (4 sheets)

21 sheets of permatrace with primary drawings

1 Photo Record ((3 sheets)

1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

1 CD digital photographs

1 Finds record (1 sheet)

1 Sample Record (2 sheets)

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

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

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30/07/2019: Revised 13/09/2019

Appendix I: OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No**	universi1-366898		
	Project Name	Park Hill Golf Club, Seagrave		
	Start/end dates of field work	03/09/2018-25/10/2018		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/ No		
	Project Type	Excavation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Former Golf Course		
	Monument Type/Period	Settlement/ Iron Age		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery Iron Age Animal bone Iron Age		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	Planning Ref. P/18/1269/2		
PROJECT LOCATION	**Site Address/Postcode**	Park Hill Golf Club, LE12 7NG		
	Study Area	0.65 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 6241 1670		
	Height OD	90-100m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	**Organisation**	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Leon Hunt		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	The Environment Dimension Partnership (EDP)		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**
	Recipient	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A93.2018		
	Contents	Pottery, Animal Bone,	Digital Photos	Report Primary Drawings Context Sheets
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	**Type**	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An archaeological excavation at Park Hill Golf Club, Park Hill Road, Seagrave, Leicestershire (SK 6241 1670)		
	Author	Hunt, L		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2019-001		
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