

**FEN FARM
ELMSTEAD MARKET
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

APRIL 2008

FEN FARM
ELMSTEAD MARKET
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Prepared By: Trevor Ennis | Signature: |
| Position: Project Officer | Date: |
| Approved By: Mark Atkinson | Signature: |
| Position: Unit Manager | Date: |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Document Ref.: | 1793Rep |
| Report Issue Date: | April 2008 |
| Circulation: | David Hunter, SRC Ltd |
| | ECC Historic Environment Management |
| | Essex Historic Environment Record |

As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

Field Archaeology Unit,
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ.
fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk
Tel: 01376 331470
Fax: 01376 331428

© **Field Archaeology Unit**, Essex County Council, c/o County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LF

CONTENTS

| | Page No. |
|--|----------|
| SUMMARY | 1 |
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| 2.0 BACKGROUND | 2 |
| 2.1 Topography and Geology | |
| 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background | |
| 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES | 4 |
| 3.1 General aims | |
| 3.2 Research objectives | |
| 4.0 METHOD | 5 |
| 5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS | 5 |
| 5.1 Late Neolithic / Bronze Age | |
| 5.2 Early Iron Age | |
| 5.3 Late Iron Age | |
| 5.4 Roman | |
| 5.5 Post-medieval | |
| 5.6 Undated | |
| 6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL | 11 |
| 6.1 Introduction | |
| 6.2 Prehistoric pottery | |
| 6.3 Late Iron Age pottery | |
| 6.4 Post-medieval material | |
| 6.5 Baked clay and briquetage | |
| 6.6 Worked and burnt flints | |
| 6.7 Hearth waste | |
| 6.8 Environmental material | |
| 6.9 Comments on the assemblage | |
| 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS | 20 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 23 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 23 |

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Context Data

APPENDIX 2 Finds Data

APPENDIX 3 Flint Catalogue

APPENDIX 4 Environmental Sample Data

APPENDIX 5 Contents of Archive

APPENDIX 6 EHER Summary

FIGURES

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Cropmarks

Fig. 3 Excavation areas

Fig. 4 Plans and sections of trenches through southern boundary ditches and dark silt

Fig. 5 Dated features (south area)

Fig. 6 Dated features (north area)

PLATES

Cover photo: ditch 438 under excavation

FEN FARM
ELMSTEAD MARKET
ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Client: Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd

NGR: TM 05382 23685

Site Code: ESFF07

Oasis No.: essexcou1- 39671

Dates of Fieldwork: 24th September to 6th November 2007

SUMMARY

Archaeological excavation was undertaken at Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, in advance of the construction of an agricultural reservoir. Previous trial-trenching (Barker 2003/4) had revealed the presence of a Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery and a post-medieval field system. A number of Iron Age remains were also identified. The barrow cemetery was subsequently removed from the scheme area.

Excavation was limited to the southern half of the development area. No further Bronze Age remains were identified. This confirmed that the barrow cemetery was restricted to the south east of the development area but shed no light as to the location of any accompanying occupation site. The earliest excavated remains dated to the Early Iron Age, and of particular note was a scatter of seven pits, located in the south of the area, that all contained burnt material including charcoal and hearth waste. Similarities in the range of pottery suggest deliberate deposition indicative of 'ceremonial' or 'ritual' behaviour.

The majority of excavated features dated to the Late Iron Age and were part of a small isolated settlement. One curving boundary ditch was identified and a number of other features including two hearths and two four-post timber structures, the latter interpreted as probable granaries. No specific dwelling remains were identified though domestic refuse such as pottery, loom weights and briquetage points to their likely existence in the near vicinity. Although settlement did not continue into the early Roman period, the presence of a few tentatively dated later Roman features might indicate limited agricultural activity.

After a considerable hiatus of activity a series of small rectangular fields were created in the post-medieval period. These were amalgamated over time to leave the development area within one large field by the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1876.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological excavation undertaken at Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, prior to the construction of an agricultural reservoir (planning application ref: ESS/0025/02). The fieldwork was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of SRC Ltd, in accordance with a design brief for archaeological excavation prepared by the ECC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM 2002) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2004). Due to changing circumstances regarding the development, the WSI was subsequently revised in 2007. The project was monitored by ECC HEM on behalf of the local planning authority.

Trial trenching in 2002 and 2004 (Barker 2003 and 2004) had previously identified the position of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery in the south-east corner of the development area and Iron Age remains in the south and south-west. This cemetery area was subsequently omitted from the overall scheme and not subject to area excavation. Consequently, description and discussion of this aspect of the site is restricted to summary information in this report.

The site archive will be deposited in Colchester Museum. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

2.1 Topography and Geology

Fen Farm lies c.0.5km to the south-east of Elmstead Market, approximately 3.5km east of Colchester. The reservoir development is located to the south of the farm, in a large former arable field at a height of between 46.5 and 51m OD. The land slopes gently down to a small stream, the Sixpenny Brook, and hedge which bounds the eastern side of the field. A slightly steeper gradient was noted along the southern edge of the site, where the field was bounded by a drainage ditch and hedge.

The geology of the site comprised clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Kesgrave and Lowestoft Formations overlying London Clay. Surface drift deposits varied from clayey-silt with gravel patches to pure sands around the edges of the site. In the evaluation, up to 0.2m of alluvium was noted close to the stream in the east of the field.

By the time of the excavation the northern part of the development area had been completely quarried away and two areas had been stripped of most of their topsoil (Fig. 1). The more northerly of these previously stripped areas was separated from the main excavation area by a haul road which linked with a second haul road bounding the western side of the excavated areas (Fig. 3). A c.15m-wide area covered with weeds along the southern edge of the site had also been previously stripped of topsoil to create a bund adjacent to the field boundary (Fig. 1). This area was not subject to further archaeological investigation.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

This background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held and maintained at County Hall, Chelmsford

Archaeological features appearing as cropmarks in the gravelly soils are a common occurrence in this part of eastern Essex. Cropmark complexes in the area comprise possible trackways, ring ditches, linear features, ditches, pits, field boundaries and enclosures (e.g. EHER 2522, 2622, 2536) of probable prehistoric and later origin. In the immediate vicinity of Fen Farm, cropmark features identified within and to the west of the development area include linear features denoting field systems, pits and two possible ring ditches (EHER 2597). Further linear features, a possible ring ditch and evidence of mineral extraction have also been identified in fields to the south of the development area (EHER 17559).

2.2.1 Previous Archaeological Work

An archaeological evaluation (in late 2002), covering 10.3 hectares, was undertaken on the site of the proposed agricultural reservoir (Barker 2003). Twenty-eight trial trenches were opened. The majority of the features recorded were post-medieval field boundary ditches and associated land drainage features; however, Prehistoric remains were identified across the southern half of the proposed development area.

Evidence of Middle Bronze Age activity included two ring ditches and a bucket urn cremation of the Deverel-Rimbury type. These are likely to form part of a barrow cemetery in the south-east corner of the site alongside Sixpenny Brook. Ditches, rubbish pits and post-holes of

probable Iron Age date were recorded across the south-western half of the site. A large pit, probably for gravel extraction was also identified. The majority of the identifiable pottery dated to the either the Middle Bronze Age or Late Iron Age, although one sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered.

In June 2004 five additional trenches were excavated to help establish the extent of the barrow cemetery (Barker 2004). This trenching identified the position of a further three possible ring ditches and confirmed that the barrow cemetery was restricted to the extreme south-east of the development area.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

The aim of the work was to determine and record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains threatened by the reservoir development.

Specific attention was to be paid to investigating:

- the nature, form, date and development of Bronze Age and Iron Age remains across the southern central part of the development area
- the ecofactual and environmental potential of features and deposits

3.2 Research objectives

The research objectives for the project were undertaken with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). Possible Bronze Age areas of study include 'the relationship between settlement sites and burial' and 'the development and use of monuments, including burial mounds, as key elements in determining and understanding the landscape' (Brown and Murphy 2000, 10). Iron Age research topics that might be addressed include 'The development of the agrarian economy' and 'Settlement chronology and dynamics' (Bryant 2000, 16).

4.0 METHOD

The 21,728 sq m excavation area was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision by a 360° excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. The two areas where the topsoil had been partially stripped prior to the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork were re-machined (Fig. 1). Visibility on the western re-machined strip was poor due to a number of contributing factors, such as torrential rain during and after the strip, and previous compaction. The fragmentary nature of some of the remains suggest that most of the development area had been subject to some form of previous truncation, probably the result of ploughing, as well as recent machine stripping. In line with the revised WSI (ECC FAU 2007) the barrow cemetery in the south-east corner of the development area was left to be preserved *in situ*.

The southern edge of the excavation area was lower than the rest of the site and became obscured by hill-wash after several heavy downpours. In particular, this masked a dark silt deposit present at the foot of the slope. It was agreed with the ECC HEM monitoring officer that a few sample areas of silt would be cleaned-up and at least one exploratory trench dug through it by hand (Fig. 3).

All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 - 6)

Between 0.3m and 0.5m of dark grey-brown topsoil was removed. The exposed natural deposits consisted mainly of brown gravel and numerous patches of clayey silt, though variations, particularly across the south of the site, included yellow to creamy-light grey sandy silt and creamy-light grey coloured gravel. A linear (north-east/south-west aligned) geological deposit of light brown clay silt was recorded close to the eastern edge of the excavation area (Fig. 3), in addition to a small number of scattered tree throws; one containing a piece of Roman roof tile. Feature clarity was generally fair and improved with weathering. The excavated remains are described and interpreted by broad chronological period and further context information is included in Appendix 1.

5.1 Late Neolithic / Bronze Age

The evaluation identified the position of a probable Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery (Barker 2003 and 2004), restricted to the south east corner of the development area which was preserved *in situ* (Fig. 1). No other archaeological features of Bronze Age date were identified within the subsequent excavation area, confirming the assumption of a geographically tight cemetery group restricted to the south east of the development. This unfortunately sheds no light as to the location of any associated Bronze Age occupation site, although it is possible that the linear geological deposit noted above marked the position of a former stream or hollow that constituted a western boundary to the cemetery.

Amongst the sixteen worked flints recovered from the excavation were a small number of identifiable implements (blades, scrapers and a piercer) dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods. These were all recovered as residual elements from later archaeological features but do indicate prehistoric exploitation of the wider landscape prior to the creation of the barrow cemetery.

5.2 Early Iron Age

The earliest archaeological remains within the excavation area date to the Early Iron Age. Twelve features were identified. Most, including those containing the largest quantities of Early Iron Age pottery (342, 392, 409 and 474), were located towards the south of the excavation area (Figs 3 and 5). Seven of the features were pits, of varying sizes, that all contained burnt material of one form or another. Three pits (390, 392, and 409) were arranged in a line. All contained dark brown sandy silt as their main fill. Pits 392 and 409 also produced abundant pottery, charcoal flecks and burnt flint. The smallest pit (390) produced burnt flint only but similarity in fill and proximity to the other features suggest that it is also of Early Iron Age date. Two other pits (472 and 474) were located to the west (Fig. 5). No finds were recovered from the fill of pit 472 but it did contain a good quantity of charcoal and is again interpreted as Early Iron Age on the basis of its proximity to the other features in the group. In contrast, pit 474, contained over 250g of Early Iron Age, burnt flints, charcoal, and baked clay, some of which was identified as fragments of loom weight.

Two pits (511 and 549) containing burnt material were located further south, where the land began to slope away (Fig. 5). The larger pit, 511, was an irregular oval depression approximately 2.8m long by 2.6m wide and 0.21m deep, containing three main fills, 512, 517, 518 (Fig. 4, Section 2). A possible fourth fill (525 – not illustrated) was probably part of the underlying natural. The upper fill (512) of dark brown silt contained charcoal, burnt flint and a

large quantity of burnt and heat reddened baked earth. Three sherds of pottery of probable Early Iron Age date were also recovered. These were scorched on one side and had burnt soil adhering to them suggesting that they had made contact with the burnt material when it was still hot. Further baked earth, burnt flints and small fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered from underlying orange brown silt fills 517 and 518. Pit 549 was located 1m to the west and contained a similar fill (550) to 512, which produced further fragments of burnt earth and one abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery.

The final Early Iron Age feature to produce a large amount of pottery, over 300g from two fills (343 and 344), was a north-east/south-west aligned gully (342) (Fig. 3). The gully was situated at the north-eastern end of a line of three, perhaps contemporary, inter-connecting linear features (295 and 340) which were truncated at the south-western end by a larger, irregular Late Iron Age gully (297).

The remaining Early Iron Age features contained only small amounts of pottery. They comprised two irregular pits (361 and 377) in the centre of the site (Fig. 3), one of which, pit 377, may have been the remains of a tree throw and two short lengths of gully (313 and 462) in the north of the site (Fig. 6). Although only a single sherd of pottery was recovered from gully 313 it is included in the Early Iron Age phase because it was clearly stratigraphically earlier than the Late Iron Age features which cut it at either end. Similarly, gully 462 which also produced a single sherd of pottery is likely to pre-date the probable Late Iron Age four-post structure it passes through.

5.3 Late Iron Age

Late Iron Age features were recorded across the bulk of the excavation area; apart from the south-east end, where there was a general paucity of archaeological remains of any date.

The most obvious feature was a long sinuous ditch (208/366/438 and 419) which wound its way through the centre of the main excavation area and was also present in the re-machined area to the north of the haul road (Fig. 3). The ditch was traceable for approximately 110m and was up to 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep. The south-west end of the ditch appeared to peter-out, just before the ground dropped away, close to the edge of an earlier evaluation trench, while to the north-west it continued beyond the excavation area. Finds recovered from its sandy silt fills (209, 367, 368, 439 and 420) included over 2.6kg of pottery and 600g of probable loom weight fragments. In the north, a potentially earlier phase of this ditch on a slightly different alignment (371) was recorded (Fig. 6), It is possible that this feature terminated beneath 366, with a 2m or so gap, before recommencing further south as

undated, but probably contemporary, ditch 375. Pottery recovered from ditch 371 appears to be of an earlier Late Iron Age date than that from ditch 366. The northern continuation of 371 was not identified north of the haul road.

A number of shorter sections of Late Iron Age gully were also recorded. In the north of the site were two gullies (304 and 331) on the same north-west/south-east alignment (Fig. 3). Two further gullies (488 and 519), that both produced over 200g of Late Iron Age pottery, were partly traced and excavated in the re-machined western side of the excavation area. Their function is not apparent.

A concentration of Late Iron Age and undated, but probably contemporary, pits and post-holes were present in the north of the excavated area (Fig 6). It is likely that these remains are part of an occupation site, although no obvious dwellings could be identified. It is notable that approximately half of the 10kg total of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from this area. Other finds included fragments of baked clay loom weights and occasional burnt flints that may have been used as pot boilers. No animal bone or shellfish remains were recovered probably due to the acidity of the gravel. Two possible hearth positions were identified; pit 500 contained large sherds from a storage jar that had a blackened internal surface and may have been deliberately part-buried in the ground for use as a hearth and undated pit 319 contained a dark charcoal-rich fill (320) and showed signs of in-situ burning.

One four-post structure (post-holes 464, 466, 468 and 470) was identified in the northern area (Fig. 6). Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered but it is probably contemporary with the other Late Iron Age features. Four-post structures are usually interpreted as the below ground remains of timber granaries, although no supporting crop processing evidence was found and environmental preservation was poor. A second four-post structure (post-holes 424, 426, 428 and 430), again undated, was located in the southern half of the excavation area (Fig. 5). Several well-dated Late Iron Age pits (e.g. 441, 369 and 379) were also located in this vicinity. Finds included further fragments of loom weights and a form of baked clay (briquetage) used in the production and transportation of salt. The latter is not unexpected given that a number of salt production sites (red hills) are known in the Colne estuary.

5.4 Roman

A small number of tentatively dated Roman features were identified. These attest to the continued use of the landscape in the Roman period but at a much less intense, and probably purely agricultural level, than in the preceding Late Iron Age. Of note were ditch

492/498 and gully 491 that produced single sherds from the same flagon. Both were located toward the west of the area, some 12m apart (Fig. 3). Surface finds 548 were also found nearby.

5.5 Post-medieval

The 2002 evaluation (Barker 2003) identified numerous post-medieval field boundary ditches and associated land drainage features that correspond with linear cropmarks previously identified from aerial photographs (Fig. 2). These all seem to pre-date c.1876, as no subdivisions within the development area are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

Further evidence of this field system was identified during the excavation in the form of four extensive post-medieval ditches running either NW-SE along the southern edge of the site or NE-SW down the middle. Their layout and stratigraphic relationships with one another suggest that the field system comprises at least two phases of development. The first phase is represented by NW-SE ditch 509/537 and by perpendicular ditch 243/245 (Fig.3). The latter ditch stops short of an intersection with 509/537, although this may be a product of subsequent truncating activity discerned along the whole south edge of the site. It is possible that 243/245 originally drained into 509/537.

It appears that boundary ditch 243/245 subsequently filled and passed out of use relatively quickly, as excavation demonstrated that ditch 241/526 cut across it near its south end. However, it is possible that only this south end was deliberately in-filled so as to retain this boundary while facilitating the insertion of the new NW-SE ditch into the existing field system.

It is considered more likely that, as part of the second phase of field system development, 243/245 became wholly defunct and it is further postulated that it was replaced by roughly parallel ditch 200/333/363 c.40m to its west. Although not identified by the aerial photograph cropmark plot, excavation traced this ditch over a distance of c.125m and it may be reasonably assumed that it extended northward to meet other elements of the field system as evidenced by cropmarks and archaeological evaluation; in particular a major north-west/south-east aligned ditch that ran through the centre of the evaluation area and broadly correlates with a boundary shown on the 1844 tithe map (ERO D/CT129B) (Fig 2). This replacement boundary ran south to within a few metres of perpendicular ditch 241/526, ending with definite rounded southern terminal. Although 241/526 could be a replacement of parallel ditch 509/537, it is perhaps more likely that the addition of the former represents the creation of a ditched trackway along the south side of this field system. If so, the width of this trackway varied between 3.5-6m. Alternatively, the two ditches may have flanked either side

of a substantial hedgerow. There are clearly several phases/episodes of maintenance of the southernmost boundary ditch as demonstrated by the repeated re-cuts and inserted drains (528, 531 etc.) recorded in Section 1 (Fig. 4). Cut 531 contained a horseshoe shaped drain which is likely to have been produced prior to the introduction of circular pipes in 1840 (Stuyt *et al* 2005). This implies that cut 531, and the stratigraphically earlier cut 528, both pre-dated this innovation.

A linear spread of dark grey humic silt, 0.2m or more deep, was noted on the downslope to the south of boundary ditch 509/537 (Fig. 3). The plough-soil had been noticeably deeper above the slope and some of the underlying silt deposit had been removed during machining. Burnt flints, Iron Age pottery (558) and fragments of modern drain were all noted in this deposit. Chalk flecks were also present, perhaps indicating agricultural soil improvement or the import of non-local soil. Two hand-excavated trenches were cut through this deposit (Fig. 3) in order to investigate and characterise its nature. The silt in the eastern trench (Fig. 4 – Plan and Section 1) filled an uneven hollow (541) that had probably resulted from root disturbance and two roughly parallel depressions (544 and 546) that might be wheel ruts, but are more probably drainage channels. A sherd of un-diagnostic red pottery recovered from the fill (547) of depression 546 suggests a post-Roman, perhaps post-medieval, date for this deposit. The silt in the western trench (Fig. 4 – Plan and Section 2) comprised the fill of three adjacent and inter-cutting cut features (ditch 551, pit 553 and ditch 557). Ditch 551 contained a small quantity of burnt material and Early Iron Age pottery that were probably residual finds deriving from up-slope pit 511. The fill of pit 553 contained decaying wood suggesting it was of relatively modern date. Further brashy organic material (sticks/twigs) was present in the lower fill of ditch 557 suggesting that this too was of comparatively recent origin. It may be no coincidence that on the 1844 tithe map this area is depicted as part of a long narrow field which is named as Alder Carr on the accompanying Tithe Award (ERO D/CT129A). Alder Carr is a fairly common name for a pocket of woodland on wet or poorly drained soil where Alder is the dominant tree species.

5.6 Undated

Less than one quarter of the excavated features contained no dating evidence. Whilst a few were clearly of natural origin, most, such as fire pit 319 and the two four-post structures, are assumed to be of Late Iron Age date. Two concentrations of undated features were noted, one in the north of the area (Fig. 6) where Late Iron Age settlement remains were most prolific and a second concentration in the south (Fig. 5) where remains were more sparse. The undated features in the south (post-holes 443, 446 etc.) were located close to the Early

Iron Age remains and could conceivably be of this date but are more likely part of the wider Late Iron Age settlement spread.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Joyce Compton

6.1 Introduction

The 2007 excavations produced small amounts of finds from a total of ninety-five contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2 and in the archive. The major assemblage component is pottery of both prehistoric and Late Iron Age date, amounting to a combined total of 1507 sherds, weighing 14219g. Other finds are few, mainly comprising baked clay and flints. A single piece of Roman brick (96g) came from a natural feature (248) towards the eastern edge of the excavated area. Very small amounts of post-medieval finds were also noted.

Evaluation work in 2002 (Barker 2003; 2004) produced small groups of finds, the bulk of which related to the Middle Bronze Age cemetery situated to the east of the 2007 excavations. The cemetery area was subsequently removed from the reservoir scheme. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery amounted to just nine sherds; flint-work was noted in four contexts and burnt flints in three; baked clay was found in a single context. Single pieces of post-medieval brick and roof tile were also recorded. The evaluation finds are not available for current study; those from the excavation are described by category below.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery by Nick Lavender

A total of 424 sherds (3487g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from twenty-four contexts. The material has been recorded using a system developed for prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988; details in archive). The assemblage has been quantified by fabric, sherd count, weight and, where possible, vessel class (after Barrett 1980). Full details can be found in the archive.

Condition and Preservation

The assemblage comprises a fairly wide range of fabrics, including sand and sand-and-flint-tempered, but the greater part is flint-and-grog-tempered (43.6% by sherd count, 66.3% by weight). Most of the material is quite fresh and unabraded although a small amount (slightly more than 3% by sherd count), usually residual sherds from Late Iron Age contexts or in soft fabrics, is quite heavily worn. Attempts at refitting sherds from pit fills 393 and 475 showed

almost no abrasion on the broken edges. Fill 393 (pit 392) also contained a large number of quite substantial sherds, contributing to the average sherd weight of 8.2g.

Three pits in the southern part of the site (392, 409 and 474) produced the bulk of the assemblage (76% by sherd count, 82.4% by weight). A small gully to the east, 342, produced a further 232g of pottery (6% by weight) from a coarse jar. Material recovered from the northern part of the excavated area generally comprised nothing more than one or two abraded sherds, usually accompanied by Late Iron Age pottery.

Date and Affinities

Almost the entire assemblage is of Early Iron Age date, belonging to Cunliffe's (1968) Darmsden-Linton style. Large situlate jar forms dominate the assemblage, comprising straight or tapering-sided vessels with very slight rounded or slightly angular shoulders. The rims are always short and upright, sometimes with cabled decoration. At least four such jars are represented by large unabraded sherds from fill 393 (pit 392), one in a fine sand-and-flint-tempered fabric, but more usually coarse flint-and-grog. A shoulderless, probably bucket-shaped, vessel also came from this context. All of these forms can be paralleled in Early Iron Age assemblages throughout Essex; e.g. Lofts Farm (Brown 1988), North Shoebury (Brown 1995), Slough House Farm (Brown 1998).

The only other identifiable vessel is a small, Form K tripartite bowl in a fine orange grog-tempered fabric, complementing a similar vessel recovered during the evaluation (Barker 2003). This bowl has an almost upright rim, and a slightly rounded shoulder. This vessel was recovered as five large joining sherds, forming 25% of the rim and the profile to just above the base. It is not easy to parallel within Essex, most examples are more angular and tend to have sharply flared necks, as at Lofts Farm and North Shoebury.

The only later prehistoric pottery comprises four small and heavily abraded sherds from a NW - SE ditch (528) to the south of the pits. These sherds include a tiny everted rim which, given its form and fabric, is almost certainly Middle Iron Age (Drury 1978).

The pottery, particularly the large sherds from pit fill 393, has sometimes broken into quite square or rectangular pieces, which may be an indication of slab-building, but the evidence is slight. There are no signs of coils in the breaks of any of the sherds. Rims have sometimes been formed very carelessly and are very uneven, including those that have been decorated on top, and the finger-wiping of the exteriors of the jars is very heavy with no attempt to smooth the surfaces. No base sherds were recovered.

Discussion

The assemblage represents both a very small number and a very small range of vessels. Only seven pots are represented by rims; one bowl and six jars, and nearly all of the body sherds can be assigned to these seven vessels. It could be domestic refuse, but this seems unlikely given the absence of any nearby signs of occupation; prehistoric communities rarely seem to have disposed of their rubbish far from the front door. Whilst it is possible that shallow features such as post-holes have been lost to erosion, drainage ditches, often rich with pottery, would have fared better, as would storage/rubbish pits.

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from a group of features cut by post-medieval ditch 509 to the southwest of these pits. These features contained a large quantity of burnt soil, which has given a slightly reddish discolouration to some of the pottery, and two joining sherds from fill 512 (pit 511) show slight signs of scorching and have hard, burnt soil adhering to them. This suggests that the pottery came into contact with the burnt material while it was still hot and is therefore contemporary. Unfortunately, the pottery from these contexts is not closely datable, but is likely to be Early Iron Age.

Whilst several rim sherds were recovered from Fen Farm, there were no bases. Taken in conjunction with the presence of exactly one quarter of the fine bowl, this may suggest that there was a degree of selection involved among the sherds deposited. The fact that over 80% of the material was derived from three quite tightly-grouped pits with no apparent contemporary domestic settlement nearby adds weight to the inference that this is a 'ceremonial' or 'ritual' deposit. Equally, however, there is no real evidence as to why such a deposit should be made here. The Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery, located to the east, seems too far away (c. 140m) for the deposits to be an act of respect for the dead.

6.3 Late Iron Age pottery

Fifty-five contexts produced Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, amounting to 1135 sherds, weighing 10697g. The pottery has been scanned and rapidly recorded by sherd count and weight, in grams, by fabric, using the ECC Field Archaeology Unit fabric series. The vessel forms were noted using the *Camulodunum* type series (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 215-75). Sherds of intrinsic interest were also recorded, for instance, pierced sherds or those with notches, stamps or graffiti. The pottery is fragmentary (average sherd weight 9.4g) but in good condition overall. Several contexts contained burnt sherds. Full details by context can be found in the archive.

The 2002 evaluation (Barker 2003; 2004) found very small quantities of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. Two contexts from the first stage of work produced undiagnostic grog-tempered pottery, amounting to seven body sherds, weighing 80g, and a single body sherd (weight 6g) was recovered from the second stage. A single body sherd (14g) of Roman grey ware was found during the first stage of work.

The pottery from the 2007 excavations was recorded, in the first instance, to provide dating evidence for site features and layers, although few features produced large amounts. Only nine contexts contained forty sherds or more of pottery but, despite this, most contexts could be provided with a general Late Iron Age date. A very small proportion of the pottery (just over 1% by sherd count) comprises body sherds in Roman coarse wares and these are not closely datable within the Roman period. It may be worth noting that most of the Roman pottery occurs as single small and abraded body sherds. The Late Iron Age pottery comprises mainly grog-tempered wares (GROG), normally current from the mid 1st century BC until c. AD70. Since the fully-Romanized component is very small, it is unlikely that the main assemblage dates much beyond the mid 1st century AD. The vessel forms recorded suggest a date range of late 1st century BC to early/mid 1st century AD.

Small amounts of pottery in fabrics other than standard grog-tempered ware were recorded. Four contexts contained pottery in a sandy coarse fabric (MICW), normally considered to be transitional between Middle and Late Iron Age types. Four further contexts produced finer vessels in red-surfaced grog-tempered ware (TR4; Hawkes and Hull 1947, 204), which is a local version of the Gaulish import *terra rubra*. Sherds from the lower part of a single large jar came from fill 439 of ditch segment 438. This is in a vesicular fabric and, although no shell is visible, the sherds are likely to have derived from a shell-tempered jar. A section from a second large jar in a vesicular fabric was recovered from pit 500. The rim from this vessel is present and the jar is reminiscent of north Kent shell-tempered storage jars, current from the mid 1st to early 2nd centuries (Tyers 1996, 193-4). The Fen Farm jar, however, does not have a decorated shoulder and may more closely follow Monaghan's (1987) Class 3G faceted-jar type. These north Kent jars are known to have been used to transport salt (Tyers 1996, 194) and have been found with birch-bark pitch lining the rim and shoulder. The entire internal surface of the Fen Farm jar is blackened, however, and this, coupled with internal sooty deposits, may perhaps indicate use as a pot hearth or similar.

The majority of identifiable vessels are jars, of which many are *Cam* types (Hawkes and Hull 1947). The most common are ripple-shouldered *Cam* 229 and bead-rimmed *Cam* 259 jars. Also present are plain *Cam* 254 jars with thickened bead rims. These jar types are placed

early in the *Cam* series, since they are less numerous at *Camulodunum* (occupied from c. AD5 to AD60) than the more-Romanized jars (Hawkes and Hull 1947, tables pp.277-181). Several contexts contained grog-tempered vessels which could not be paralleled in Hawkes and Hull, some of which follow early pottery types found in ditch 350 at Kelvedon (Rodwell 1988, figs 79 and 80). Also present are seemingly-unique types, such as that from the fill of pit 255, and the Iron Age coarse ware (MICW) vessels.

Butt beakers were identified in grog-tempered ware, in the standard fabric as well as TR4. Sherds of the latter include a single vessel which was found in ditch 371. This is a finely-made beaker with few visible inclusions and may be an example of Silty Ware, first identified at King Harry Lane, Verulamium (Rigby 1989, 195). A rim sherd from a flanged bowl, also in TR4, came from the fill of ditch 492. Other vessel types are scarce, although Roman flagon sherds were identified in ditches 491 and 492.

Vessels with post-firing holes were noted in several contexts. A *Cam* 218 jar from the fill of ditch segment 366 has a 3mm-diameter hole through the neck; a *Cam* 254 jar from fill 436 of ditch segment 422 has a 3mm hole through the shoulder and a body sherd from the same context also has a 3mm hole; the large vesicular jar in the fill of ditch segment 438 has three 15mm-diameter holes through the base. In addition, a large roughly-shaped body sherd (approx. dia. 65mm) in fill 437 of ditch segment 422 has a central 16mm-diameter hole. Normally, these shaped sherds are described as spindle whorls, although this example would appear to be too big for this purpose. Its weight of 34g would also seem to be on the upper range limit for its use as a spindle whorl. Finally, a base sherd in fill 436 of ditch segment 422 has an incised notch across the change of angle between the wall and base.

In conclusion, this is an interesting assemblage, albeit relatively small. The pottery appears to date to early in the Late Iron Age. The identifiable types span the date ranges of c.50-20BC and AD5-60 accorded the Kelvedon and *Camulodunum* assemblages, respectively. Grog-tempered pottery has an accepted phase of production of c.30BC to AD70. The presence of low amounts of transitional fabric (MICW) and the near-absence of Romanized pottery indicate that a date range of c.30BC to AD40 can be provided for the assemblage as a whole. The complete absence of continental imports is noteworthy and probably indicates that Roman dining habits, along with the drinking of wine, had not been taken up by the local population.

6.4 Post-medieval material

Very small amounts of post-medieval material were recorded. A handmade iron nail was probably intrusive in the fill of gully 342. Five contexts produced fragments of roof tile, amounting to seven pieces, weighing 176g. Most are associated with post-medieval ditches which traverse the excavated area, and one piece was recovered from the surface of pit 383. A base sherd from a large vessel in post-medieval red earthenware came from the fill of ditch segment 241, which also contained roof tile. This type of pottery has a nominal date range of 17th to 19th century.

6.5 Baked clay and briquetage

Thirty-seven contexts, most of which are of Late Iron Age date, produced baked clay fragments, amounting to 274 pieces, weighing 5kg. Four of these contexts also contained briquetage or possible briquetage fragments, mostly small pieces and most of which came from the fill of pit 369.

Twenty contexts contained small and undiagnostic baked clay fragments for which no further comment can be made. Most of the remaining contexts contained parts of moulded objects, mainly in the form of triangular loom weights. The baked clay is generally buff to grey, with occasional black patches and few inclusions, but some contexts contained orange-red pieces. Fragments with flat surfaces or grooves were noted in at least nine contexts. These most probably derive from loom weights, although further diagnostic elements are lacking. Certain loom weights were identified in five contexts, with corner pieces occurring in the fills of pits 369 and 474 and post-hole 521. The largest piece was found in pit 369; this has a large-diameter prefiring hole through the apex. A second piece with a prefiring hole through the apex came from pit 474. This loom weight is a much smaller example in red-buff clay and it is interesting to note that the feature also produced Early Iron Age pottery. The loom weight corner in post-hole 521 does not retain a hole. The quantity of loom weight fragments indicates domestic occupation, with associated craft activities, in the Late Iron Age and also during the Early Iron Age.

Part of a baked clay slab, with a depth of c.20mm, was found in fill 298 of pit 297. This appears to be a corner piece, although the slab is roughly-made and the edges are not uniform. These slabs are relatively common finds on Iron Age sites, but their function remains enigmatic.

Briquetage differs from the bulk of the baked clay in that surfaces carry distinctive vegetation impressions and many normally have salt splashes in the fabric. The Fen Farm pieces are relatively small and only two pieces provided depth measurements of 15-16mm. The fragment in the fill of ditch 519 has the remains of a 9mm-diameter prefiring hole.

6.6 Worked and burnt flints by Tony Blowers and Hazel Martingell

A small quantity of worked and burnt flint was retrieved from the evaluation trenches (Barker 2003). Trench 24, which was not covered in the subsequent excavation, produced two possible Bronze Age scrapers, one each from ring-ditch segments 114 and 116.

Worked flints

The 2007 excavations produced sixteen worked flints from twelve contexts. A catalogue can be found in Appendix 3.

Three denticulated blades of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date were recovered (gully 313, pit 484 and surface find 560). These were of a similar brown material suggesting they may be from the same source. A patinated notched blade of Late Neolithic date in gully 313 may be residual. Fine examples of an end scraper (gully 462) and a horseshoe scraper (ditch 366) of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date are present, as is a small piercer (pit 257). The assemblage includes just six waste flakes which suggest low or infrequent flintworking in the area. Most of the worked flints were located toward the northern end of the main excavated area and are residual in later contexts.

Burnt flints

Twenty-three contexts produced a total of 363 burnt flints which were present across the whole of the excavated area, with a higher density to the south. Although not datable in itself, some of this material is likely to be *in situ* and therefore contemporary with the Iron Age pottery found in the same contexts. The presence of burnt flint suggests a more settled use of the landscape implying its use in hearths or as a cooking medium (e.g. pot boilers).

6.7 Hearth waste

Four features (post-medieval gully 509, pits 511 and 549 and ditch 551) in the south-west of the excavated area produced quantities of lightweight, ashy, burnt soil, amounting to 7.5kg, with 96% by weight of the total coming from the fills of pit 511. Most of the material is burnt to a dark red, although a small amount retrieved from the top fill of pit 511 is dark grey to black. Some of the pieces are almost vesicular and many have small white burnt flints

embedded within the matrix. A large piece of burnt soil from fill 525 of pit 511 has dark red burnt flints embedded.

This material is likely to represent the waste from a hearth, deposited in a single feature (pit 511). Small amounts of pottery were also recovered, unfortunately not closely datable but most likely to be Early Iron Age. A sherd from fill 512 has some of the burnt ashy soil adhering to the external surface, suggesting close association with the hearth waste at the time of its deposition. Other finds from the pit were few, comprising quartz pebbles, burnt flints and a small amount of charcoal, and do not clarify the purpose for the hearth from which the waste has derived.

6.8 Environmental material

Bulk soil samples were taken from eleven contexts for the purposes of environmental analysis. Full details can be found in Appendix 4. All were processed by wet-sieving with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh and collecting the flotation fraction (flot) on a 0.5mm sieve. The residues were then dried and separated into coarse and fine fractions using 4mm and 2mm sieves. The material in the coarse fraction (>4mm) was sorted by eye, and artefacts and environmental material extracted and bagged separately. The fine fractions were saved but not sorted. The flots were also dried and bagged by context. Retrieved artefacts were recorded by count and weight, where possible, and these details added to the quantification table in Appendix 4. The finds retrieved mainly comprise pottery, baked clay and burnt flints. Burnt material was noted in samples <10> and <11>, both fills of pit 511. Flots were recorded for ten samples, albeit in small amounts. Charcoal was present in eight of these, with burnt seeds also noted for all but <10>. Sample <7> was sterile.

The flots from eight samples (<2>, <3>, <5>, <6> and <8> to <11>) were submitted to Val Fryer for analysis, who comments as follows:

The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in the archive. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia were present throughout.

The recovered assemblages were all extremely small (mostly considerably less than 0.1 litres in volume) and, with the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils were scarce. Preservation was poor, with most of the grains and seeds being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Single grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were recorded along with a

small number of other grains, which were too poorly preserved for close identification. The few seeds recorded were all of common segetal weeds including brome (*Bromus* sp.), persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*) and larger grasses (Poaceae). A single sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet was also recorded.

Charcoal fragments were present throughout. It is possibly of note that those pieces within <2> had a very 'flaked' appearance, possibly indicative of combustion at a very high temperature. Other remains were exceedingly scarce and consisted entirely of small fragments of black porous and tarry material, all of which were probably derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures.

In summary, the small size and limited composition of the assemblages precludes the identification of any activities associated with the excavated features, although the combustion within fire pit 319 (<2>) almost certainly occurred at a very high temperature. The few plant remains recorded are probably derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse of unknown origin, and most are possibly accidental inclusions within the features.

6.9 Comments on the assemblage

The finds represent a small, but homogenous and interesting, assemblage. The Early Iron Age component comprises approximately one quarter of the total. The nature and type of the Iron Age finds strongly indicate domestic occupation, although structural evidence is mostly lacking. The presence of loom weights in Early Iron Age contexts may preclude perceived ritual connotations in the deposition of the pottery, although quantities of both pottery and other finds are admittedly rather small for constructive comment.

Nothing merits further work, except for the Early and Late Iron Age pottery. Both assemblages are worthy of publication due to the range of forms, condition and date of the pottery present. To this end, the Late Iron Age pottery would need fully recording by fabric and form using rim-equivalence, and for the combined assemblages approximately fifteen to twenty drawings would be required. All of the finds should be retained, although the post-medieval brick and tile could be discarded at the archiving stage. Most of the unworked stone and charcoal have already been discarded following recording.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological fieldwork (evaluation and excavation) has identified a sequence of land use and development dating back as far as the Middle Bronze Age (c.1500-1000BC). However, the sequence is not continuous and there are distinct gaps between periods of activity.

In the Middle Bronze Age a small, closely grouped, barrow cemetery was constructed on a slight slope overlooking a small brook. No evidence for any associated settlement was found within the excavation area although it is likely that this is located nearby. The recovery of residual Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age worked flint does indicate a presence in the landscape prior to the creation of the cemetery.

The earliest archaeological remains within the excavation area date to the Early Iron Age (c.700-300BC), when a number of pits were dug and filled with burnt material. Most of this activity took place along the southern part of the excavation area, just above a slight slope. These remains could have resulted from small-scale transitory occupation but is potentially derived from some form of religious or ceremonial activity, given the selective disposal of pottery and the relative proximity of the barrow cemetery which would have been clearly visible c.150m to the east. Pits 511 and 549 contained a large quantity of hearth waste (burnt earth) in association with fairly undiagnostic sherds of prehistoric pottery. The possibility that this burnt material may have originated from the funeral pyres for the Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery was considered but deemed unlikely.

After the Early Iron Age, there is an apparent 300 year or so gap before apparent permanent settlement is established in the Late Iron Age (c.100BC-43AD). The most prominent feature from this period is curving ditch 208/366/438, which probably had a drainage function as well as forming a definite boundary. The ditch appeared to enclose land to the west, although the majority of the Late Iron Age features were located to its east and to the north of the subdivision formed by interrupted gullies 304, 331 and 315. No convincing dwellings were identified but these may not have survived in an identifiable form due to truncation by later agriculture or might possibly have been located beneath the haul road. The presence of two probable four-post granary structures also implies settlement and subsistence, at least in part, by arable agriculture. The Late Iron Age occupation would appear to be relatively short-lived and the settlement probably had been abandoned before the Roman invasion in 43AD.

There is no evidence for settlement within the development area in the Roman period or later. The recovery of only a handful of Roman finds suggests that the land passed into

limited agricultural use. This is surprising given its location close to Colchester and may point to the unsuitability of the land for more intensive agricultural purposes. A complete lack of Saxon and medieval remains suggests this situation continued up to at least to the 16th century.

Cropmark evidence (Fig. 2) indicates that the development area was divided into a number of smaller, rectangular fields most probably created sometime in the post-medieval period. While the results of the preceding evaluation allowed a fairly convincing reconstruction of the field system (Barker 2003, fig.10), excavation has further refined this. Ditch 243/245, while evident on the cropmark plot and seemingly compatible with the various elements of the field system, is probably an early and short-lived component, or else a precursor. Ditch 200/333/363, which curiously was not identified as a cropmark, in fact fits better into the regular layout-of the field system, aligning more closely with another NE-SW boundary across the northern part of the scheme area. In overview, the major boundaries identified from cropmarks and archaeological investigation formerly divided the scheme area into quadrants, with a trackway along the southern edge. As recognised from the evaluation results, each quadrant seems to have been sub-divided into a number of strip fields.

However, by 1844 the field pattern had been altered to leave two large rectangular fields in the north and centre of the development area and a narrower field (Alder Carr) at the very south. This southern field is likely to have comprised of wet woodland, although it may have been undergoing improvement as indicated by the pre-1840 field drain. Pit 553 (Figs 3 and 4), located at the wide western end of the dark silt, was probably part of a larger pond (or flooded quarry hollow?) which overflowed and drained downhill towards the Sixpenny Brook. This may have formed a boggy channel which subsequently filled and dried-out to form the linear dark silt spread encountered along the southern edge of the site.

By around 1876 the field pattern had changed again to leave the development area within a single large field, which remained the case up until the construction of the agricultural reservoir. It is likely that the lower-lying land at the south of the development area remained prone to water-logging as evidenced by the numerous field drains.

The specific aim of the excavation was to investigate the nature, form, date and development of the Bronze Age and Iron Age remains identified from the previous evaluation work. This was largely achieved, although the results are limited by the lack of Bronze Age remains within the excavation area and the marked discontinuity between periods. A secondary aim was to assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the site, which was low due to

the acidity of the sands and gravels. Where plant macrofossils were present preservation was poor due to charring at high temperatures and little can be discerned from this material about Iron Age farming and environment.

The fieldwork has contributed to our understanding of the Prehistoric period in Essex in that two hitherto unknown sites (a Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery and a Late Iron Age settlement) have been identified. Preservation *in situ* of the barrow cemetery and lack of Bronze Age features within the excavation area meant that potential Bronze Age research topics (Brown and Murphy 2000) could not be considered further. Specific Iron Age research topics that were relevant, such as 'The development of the agrarian economy' and 'Settlement chronology and dynamics' (Bryant 2000, 16) could not be addressed in detail due to an overall paucity of archaeological features, poor environmental preservation and the atypical lack of continuity of settlement from the Late Iron Age into the Early Roman period. However, both the Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery assemblages are worthy of publication and may yet contribute to future Iron Age research. The lack of published Iron Age pottery assemblages in East Anglia has been highlighted in the regional research framework (Bryant 2000, 14).

Although, the archaeological remains from Fen Farm are fragmentary, which hinders the drawing of precise conclusions, they do show the development of the landscape from religious/ceremonial monumental use in the Middle Bronze Age and perhaps Early Iron Age through to agrarian settlement and exploitation in the Late Iron Age. Later usage of the land appears entirely agricultural and of little intensity until the post-medieval period when fairly typical enclosure systems are imposed upon the landscape in pursuit of more effective agricultural regimes and productivity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SRC Ltd are thanked for commissioning and funding this investigation. In particular, the assistance of David Hunter is acknowledged. The archaeological excavation was undertaken by Trevor Ennis, Chris Down, Mark Germany, Dave Smith, Adrian Turner and Marcus Wood of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Survey and illustration by Andrew Lewsey. Finds were processed by Phil McMichael and analysed by Tony Blowers, Joyce Compton, Nick Lavender and Hazel Martingell. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson of ECC FAU and monitored by Adrian Gascoigne of ECC HEM on behalf of the local planning authority.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barker, B. 2003 *Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial-trenching* (ECC FAU Report 862)
- Barker, B. 2004 *Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex: Additional Archaeological Evaluation* (Addendum to ECC FAU Report 862)
- Barrett, J. C. 1980 'The pottery of the later Bronze Age in lowland England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* **46**, 297-321
- Brown, N. 1988 'A Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* **54**, 249-302
- Brown, N. 1995 'Middle Iron Age pottery' in Wymer, J. J. and Brown, N. *North Shoebury: Settlement and Economy in South-east Essex 1500BC-AD1500*, E. Anglian Archaeol. **75**, 87-88
- Brown, N. 1998 'Prehistoric pottery' in Wallis, S. and Waughman, M. *Archaeology and the Landscape in the Lower Blackwater Valley*, E. Anglian Archaeol. **82**, 132-141
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. **8**
- Brown, N. and Murphy, P. 2000 'Neolithic and Bronze Age' in Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. **8**
- Bryant, S. 2000 'The Iron Age' in Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. **8**
- Cunliffe, B. 1968 'Early pre-Roman Iron Age communities in eastern England', *Antiq. J.* **48**, 175-91

| | | |
|--|------|--|
| Drury, P. J. | 1978 | <i>Excavations at Little Waltham 1970-71</i> , Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 26 |
| ECC FAU | 2004 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring at Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex.</i> ECC FAU |
| ECC FAU | 2007 | <i>Revised Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex.</i> ECC FAU |
| ECC HEM | 2002 | <i>Brief for Archaeological evaluation at Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex.</i> ECC HEM |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14 |
| Hawkes, C.F.C. and Hull, M.R. | 1947 | <i>Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavations at Colchester 1930-1939</i> , Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London 14 (Oxford) |
| Institute of Field Archaeologists | 2001 | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation</i> (revised) |
| Monaghan, J. | 1987 | <i>Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery: A ceramic typology for northern Kent, first to third centuries AD</i> , Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 173 (Oxford) |
| Rigby, V. | 1989 | 'Pottery from the Iron Age cemetery', in Stead, I.M. and Rigby, V. <i>Verulamium: The King Harry Lane Site</i> , English Heritage Archaeol. Rep. 12 , 112-210 |
| Rodwell, K. A. | 1988 | <i>The Prehistoric and Roman Settlement at Kelvedon, Essex</i> , Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 6 , Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 63 |
| Stuyt, L.C.P.M., Dierickx, W. and Martinez Beltran, J. | 2005 | <i>Materials for subsurface land drainage systems</i> , F.A.O. Irrigation and Drainage Pap. 60 |
| Tyers, P. | 1996 | <i>Roman Pottery in Britain</i> (London, Routledge) |

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres.

| Context | Type | Filled by | Description | Period |
|---------|------------|-----------|--|---------------|
| 200 | Ditch | 201 | NE/SW aligned, 33m+ x 1.2m x 0.22m | Post-med |
| 202 | Pit | 203 | Elongated oval, 1.9m x 0.58m x 0.14m | Late Iron Age |
| 204 | Pit | 205 | Irregular, 2.06m x 1.02m x 0.34m | Late Iron Age |
| 206 | Pit | 207, 210 | Oval, 1.04m x 0.85m x 0.49m | Late Iron Age |
| 208 | Ditch | 209 | NW/SE aligned, 7m+ x 0.88m x 0.29m | Late Iron Age |
| 211 | Post-hole | 212 | Circular, 0.4m diam. x 0.15m | |
| 213 | Post-hole | 214 | Circular, 0.4m diam. x 0.28m | |
| 215 | Stake-hole | 216 | Sub-circular, 0.35m x 0.22m x 0.12m | |
| 217 | Post-hole | 218 | Oval, 0.63m x 0.46m x 0.16m | Late Iron Age |
| 219 | Post-hole | 220 | Oval, 0.7m x 0.42m x 0.17m | Late Iron Age |
| 221 | Pit | 222, 223 | Cigar-shaped, 2.24m x 0.57m x 0.22m | Late Iron Age |
| 224 | Post-hole | 225 | Sub-circular, 0.62m x 0.53m x 0.39m | |
| 226 | Nat. feat. | 227 | Irregular, 1.5m x 0.6m x 0.33m | |
| 228 | Pit | 229 | Irregular, 1.1m x 1.03m x 0.31m | |
| 230 | Pit | 231, 232 | Pear-shaped, 1.42m x 1.2m x 0.33m | |
| 233 | Post-hole | 234 | Oval, 0.55m x 0.41m x 0.21m | |
| 235 | Nat. feat. | 236 | Oval, 1.16m x 0.85m x 0.2m | |
| 237 | Post-hole | 238 | Circular, 0.33m diam. x 0.26m | |
| 239 | Post-hole | 240 | Oval, 0.4m x 0.34m x 0.15m | |
| 241 | Ditch | 242 | NW/SE aligned, 4m+ x 1.3m x 0.51m | Post-med |
| 243 | Ditch | 244 | NE/SW aligned, 4m+ x 1m x 0.33m | Post-med |
| 245 | Ditch | 246 | NE/SW aligned, 2m+ x 1.2m x 0.38m | Post-med |
| 248 | Nat. feat. | 247 | horse-shoe shaped, c.5m x 3m x 0.52m | Roman? |
| 249 | Nat. feat. | 250 | Sub-circular, 0.6m x 0.38m x 0.2m | |
| 251 | Nat. feat. | 252 | Oval, 0.7m x 0.45m x 0.21m | |
| 253 | Pit | 254 | Pear-shaped, 1.1m x 1.05m x 0.18m | |
| 255 | Pit | 256 | Sub-rectangular, 1.35m x 0.7m x 0.33m | Late Iron Age |
| 257 | Pit | 258 | Sub-rectangular, 1.47m x 0.55m x 0.17m | Late Iron Age |
| 259 | Pit | 260 | Oval, 0.98m x 0.57m x 0.13m | |
| 261 | Post-hole | 262 | Oval, 0.62m x 0.52m x 0.16m | |
| 263 | Post-hole | 264 | Oval, 0.7m x 0.4m x 0.16m | Late Iron Age |
| 265 | Pit | 266 | Oval, 1.08m x 0.58m x 0.16m | |
| 267 | Pit | 268 | Irregular, 0.9m x 0.43m x 0.19m | |
| 270 | Pit | 269 | Sub-circular, 0.78m x 0.72m x 0.1m | |
| 272 | Pit | 271 | Oval, 0.72m x 0.64m x 0.18m | |
| 273 | Post-hole | 274 | Oval, 0.68m x 0.48m x 0.19m | |
| 275 | Post-hole | 276 | Sub-circular, 0.52m x 0.5m x 0.15m | |
| 277 | Post-hole | 278 | Sub-circular, 0.62m x 0.6m x 0.16m | |
| 279 | Post-hole | 280 | Circular, 0.57m diam. x 0.13m | |
| 282 | Pit | 281 | Sub-rectangular, 1.08m x 0.38m x 0.04m | Late Iron Age |
| 283 | Post-hole | 284 | Oval, 0.78m x 0.68m x 0.19m | |
| 285 | Post-hole | 286 | Sub-circular, 0.6m diam. x 0.16m | Late Iron Age |
| 287 | Post-hole | 288 | Circular, 0.4m diam. x 0.17m | |

| Context | Type | Filled by | Description | Period |
|---------|------------|---|---|-----------------|
| 289 | Post-hole | 290 | Circular, 0.4m diam. x 0.31m | Late Iron Age |
| 291 | Post-hole | 292 | Sub-circular, 0.38m x 0.38m x 0.26m | |
| 293 | Post-hole | 294 | Pear-shaped, 0.57m x 0.46m x 0.28m | |
| 295 | Ditch | 296 | N/S aligned, 1.3m x 1.1m x 0.29m deep | |
| 297 | Pit | 298, 302 | NE/SW aligned, 3.35m x 2m x 0.45m | Late Iron Age |
| 299 | Finds | | Baked clay spot find | |
| 300 | Post-hole | 301 | Oval, 0.8m x 0.3m x 0.12m | Late Iron Age |
| 304 | Gully | 303 | NW/SE aligned, 20.4m x 0.6m x 0.12m | Late Iron Age |
| 305 | Post-hole | 306 | Oval, 0.86m x 0.6m x 0.29m | |
| 307 | Pit | 308 | Oval, 1.34m x 0.9m x 0.3m | Late Iron Age |
| 309 | Pit | 310 | Irregular linear, 1.92m x 0.52m x 0.18m | |
| 311 | Pit | 312 | Sub-rectangular, 2m x 0.58m x 0.21m | Late Iron Age |
| 313 | Gully | 314 | NW/SE aligned, 7m x 0.72m x 0.29m | Early Iron Age |
| 315 | Pit | 316 | Elongated oval, 1.7m x 0.53m x 0.18m | Late Iron Age |
| 317 | Post-hole | 318 | Oval, 0.36m x 0.3m x 0.15m | |
| 319 | Fire-pit | 320 | Circular, 0.47m x 0.12m | |
| 321 | Post-hole | 322 | Sub-circular, 0.45m x 0.4m x 0.26m | |
| 323 | Pit | 324 | Oval, 0.62m x 0.3m x 0.21m | |
| 325 | Nat. feat. | 326 | Irregular oval, 1.02m x 0.42m x 0.16m | |
| 327 | Pit | 328 | Oval, 0.6m x 0.3m x 0.14m | |
| 329 | Pit | 330 | Oval, 0.9m x 0.6m x 0.25m | |
| 331 | Gully | 332 | NW/SE aligned, 6.45m x 1.1m x 0.18m | Late Iron Age |
| 333 | Ditch | 334, 335 | NE/SW aligned, 1m+ x 0.8m x 0.2m | Post-med |
| 336 | Gully | 337 | S-N/E aligned, 1.5m+ x 0.35m x 0.07m | |
| 338 | Gully | 339 | E/W aligned, 1.2m+ x 0.34m x 0.07m | |
| 340 | Gully | 341 | NE/SW aligned, 1.3m+ x 0.88m x 0.29m | |
| 342 | Gully | 343, 344 | NE/SW aligned, 2.4m x 0.58m x 0.2m | Early Iron Age |
| 345 | Post-hole | 346 | Oval, 0.54m x 0.45m x 0.1m | |
| 347 | Nat. feat. | 348, 349 | Irregular oval, 2.6m x 1.48m x 0.44m | |
| 351 | Pit | 350 | Oval, 0.9m x 0.7m x 0.16m | |
| 353 | Post-hole | 352 | Oval, 0.65m x 0.35m x 0.44m | |
| 355 | Pit | 354 | Oval, 1.05m x 0.5m x 0.18m | Roman? |
| 357 | Nat. feat. | 356 | Oval, 2.5m x 1.2m x 0.36m | |
| 360 | Ditch | 358, 359 | NE/SW aligned, 2.5m+ x 1.1m x 0.3m+ | |
| 361 | Pit | 362 | Irregular, 1.8m x 0.9m x 0.44m | Early Iron Age |
| 363 | Ditch | 364, 365 | NE/SW, 1m+ x 0.56m x 0.2m | Post-med |
| 366 | Ditch | 367, 368 | N/S aligned, 10m+ x 1.3m x 0.44m | Late Iron Age |
| 369 | Pit | 370 | Oval, 1.1m x 0.45m x 0.2m | Late Iron Age |
| 371 | Ditch | 372, 373 | N/S aligned, 6m+ x 0.64m+ x 0.15m | Late Iron Age |
| 374 | Finds | | Surface finds above ditch 366 | Late Iron Age |
| 375 | Ditch | 376 | Rounded butt end, 1.7m+ x 0.6m+ x 0.3m | Late Iron Age? |
| 377 | Nat. feat. | 378 | Sub-triangular, 2.6m x 1.6m | Early Iron Age? |
| 379 | Pit | 380 | Cigar-shaped, 1.85m x 0.5m x 0.26m | Late Iron Age |
| 381 | Pit | 382 | Irregular oval, 0.75m x 0.25m x 0.2m | |
| 383 | Pit | 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 398, 406, 407 | Oval, 3m x 2.75m x 0.9m | |

| Context | Type | Filled by | Description | Period |
|---------|------------|---------------|--|----------------|
| 390 | Pit | 391, 405 | Sub-circular, 0.8m diam. x 0.18m | Early Iron Age |
| 392 | Pit | 393, 399, 400 | Sub-circular, 1.08m diam. x 0.34m | Early Iron Age |
| 394 | Pit | 395 | Sub-circular, 0.45m x 0.35m x 0.13m | |
| 396 | Post-hole | 397 | Oval, 0.55m x 0.43m x 0.18m | |
| 401 | Pit | 402 | Oval, 0.9m x 0.65m x 0.14m | Post-med |
| 403 | Post-hole | 404 | Oval, 0.5m x 0.42m x 0.14m | |
| 408 | Finds | | Surface finds above pit 383 | LIA, P/M |
| 409 | Pit | 410, 413, 421 | Irregular oval, 1.9m x 1.6m x 0.4m | Early Iron Age |
| 411 | Pit | 412 | Elongated oval, 2.18m x 0.56m+ x 0.28m | |
| 414 | Pit | 415 | Circular, 1m diam. x 0.34m | |
| 416 | Pit | 417, 418 | Oval, 1.77m+ x 1.6m x 0.66m | |
| 419 | Ditch | 420 | NE/SW aligned, 3m+ x 1.5m x 0.15m | Late Iron Age |
| 422 | Pit | 423, 436, 437 | Irregular, 1.75m x 1.5m x 0.58m | Late Iron Age |
| 424 | Post-hole | 425 | Circular, 0.33m diam. x 0.27m | |
| 426 | Post-hole | 427 | Circular, 0.46m x 0.34m | |
| 428 | Post-hole | 429 | Circular, 0.34m diam. x 0.31m | |
| 430 | Post-hole | 431 | Oval, 0.48m x 0.38m x 0.25m | |
| 432 | Post-hole | 433 | Oval, 0.7m x 0.5m x 0.38m | |
| 434 | Post-hole | 435 | Sub-oval, 0.4m x 0.24m x 0.33m | |
| 438 | Ditch | 439, 440 | NE/SW aligned, 3m+ x 1.1m x 0.5m | Late Iron Age |
| 441 | Pit | 442, 461 | Pear-shaped, 2.55m x 1.1m x 0.53m | Late Iron Age |
| 443 | Post-hole | 444, 445 | Oval, 0.6m x 0.57m x 0.44m | |
| 446 | Post-hole | 447 | Elongated oval, 0.85m x 0.66m x 0.31m | |
| 448 | Post-hole | 449 | Oval, 0.78m x 0.62m x 0.27m | |
| 450 | Post-hole | 451, 452 | Oval, C.0.7m x 0.48m x 0.33m | |
| 453 | Post-hole | 454 | Sub-circular, 0.62m x 0.6m x 0.15m | |
| 455 | Pit | 456, 457, 458 | Kidney-shaped, 1.38m x 0.81m x 0.32m | |
| 459 | Pit | 460 | Oval, 1.02m x 0.8m x 0.13m | |
| 462 | Gully | 463 | E/W aligned, 4.9m x 0.43m x 0.09m | Early Iron Age |
| 464 | Post-hole | 465 | Oval, 0.44m x 0.4m x 0.3m | |
| 466 | Post-hole | 467 | Oval, 0.47m x 0.4m x 0.3m | |
| 468 | Post-hole | 469 | Circular, 0.4m diam. x 0.25m | |
| 470 | Post-hole | 471 | Oval, 0.49m x 0.42m x 0.27m | |
| 472 | Pit | 473 | Sub-circular, 0.5m x 0.45m x 0.15m | Early Iron Age |
| 474 | Pit | 475 | Oval, 0.98m x 0.9m x 0.3m | Early Iron Age |
| 476 | Pit | 477, 478, 479 | Pear-shaped, 2.7m x 1.75m x 0.45m | Late Iron Age |
| 481 | Pit | 480 | Circular, 0.68m x 0.66m x 0.22m | |
| 482 | Nat. feat. | 483 | Irregular, 1.65m x 0.84m x 0.19m | |
| 484 | Pit | 485 | Oval, 0.92m x 0.6m x 0.26m | |
| 486 | Post-hole | 487 | Circular, 0.44m diam. x 0.18m | Late Iron Age |
| 488 | Ditch | 489 | NW/SE aligned, 13m+ x 0.65m x 0.17m | Late Iron Age |
| 491 | Gully | 490 | N/S aligned, c.5m x 0.4m x 0.15m | Roman |
| 492 | Ditch | 493 | NW/SE aligned, 2.6m+ x 0.7m x 0.27m | Roman |
| 494 | Post-hole | 495 | Circular, 0.39m diam. x 0.14m | |
| 496 | Post-hole | 497 | Oval, 0.48m x 0.4m x 0.2m | |
| 498 | Ditch | 499 | NW/SE aligned, 3.3m+ x 0.97m x 0.37m | Roman |

| Context | Type | Filled by | Description | Period |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|
| 500 | Pit | 501, 502 | Oval, 0.45m x 0.38m x 0.27m. Contained broken vessel | Late Iron Age |
| 503 | Post-hole | 504 | Sub-circular, 0.4m x 0.39m x 0.3m | Late Iron Age |
| 505 | Pit? | 506 | Cigar-shaped, 1.38m x 0.44m x 0.19m | |
| 507 | Ditch | 508 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 0.53m x 0.14m | Post-med |
| 509 | Gully | 510 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 0.74m x 0.22m | Post-med |
| 511 | Pit? | 512, 517, 518, 525 | Irregular oval, 2.6m x 2.8m x 0.21m | Early Iron Age |
| 513 | Post-hole | 514 | Sub-rectangular, 0.8m x 0.54m x 0.35m | Late Iron Age |
| 515 | Pit? | 516 | Cigar-shaped, 1.4m x 0.44m x 0.18m | |
| 519 | Ditch | 520 | E/W aligned, 4.6m+ x 1.1m x 0.19m | Late Iron Age |
| 521 | Post-hole | 522 | Circular, 0.3m diam x 0.27m | Late Iron Age |
| 523 | Pit | 524 | Oval, 1.2m x 0.8m x 0.14m | |
| 526 | Ditch | 527 | NW/SE aligned, 2m+ x 1.28m x 0.63m | Post-med |
| 528 | Ditch | 529, 530 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 1.7m+ x 0.45m | Post-med |
| 531 | Ditch | 532 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 0.8m+ x 0.53m | Post-med |
| 533 | Ditch | 534 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 0.9m+ x 0.39m | Post-med |
| 535 | Pipe-trench | 536 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 0.18m x 0.7m+ | Post-med |
| 537 | Ditch | 538 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 1.5m x 0.41m | Post-med |
| 539 | Pit? | 540 | Sub-rectangular?, 1.4m x 0.44m+ x 0.3m | |
| 541 | Linear | 542, 543 | Irregular, 1m+ x 1.6m x 0.25m | Nat? |
| 544 | Linear | 545 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 1.09m x 0.15m | Post-med? |
| 546 | Linear | 547 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 0.95m x 0.15m | Post-med? |
| 548 | Finds | | Unstratified surface finds | Roman |
| 549 | Pit | 550 | Sub-triangular, 1.4m x 1.1m x 0.06m | Early Iron Age |
| 551 | Ditch | 552 | NW/SE aligned, 1m+ x 2.4m x 0.33m | |
| 553 | Pit | 554 | Uncertain, 1m+ x c.4m x 0.8m+ | Post-med |
| 557 | Ditch | 555, 556 | E/W aligned, 1m+ x 2.1m x 0.75m | Post-med |
| 558 | Layer | | 0.18m thick | Late Iron Age? |
| 559 | Layer | | 0.3m thick | |
| 560 | Find | | Surface find | Late Neo. / Early B.A. |

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 201 | 200 | 2 6 | 12 26 | Roof tile fragments Pottery; base and lower wall sherds, possible pedestal vessel | Post med. LIA |
| 203 | 202 | 18 | 22 | Pottery; body sherds and crumbs | LIA |
| 205 | 204 | 1 2 | 24 52 | Burnt flint Pottery; joining jar rim and neck sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 207 | 206 | 1 83 | 1 1375 | Flint flake Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, two vessels represented, one Cam 254, one Kelvedon type with inturned grooved rim | - LIA |
| 209 | 208 | 2 9 1 | 4 44 4 | Baked clay Pottery; base and body sherds, grog-tempered Pottery; body sherd | - LIA Prehistoric |
| 210 | 206 | 1 | 4 | Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 218 | 217 | 4 | 2 | Pottery; crumbs, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 220 | 219 | 3 | 2 | Pottery; crumbs, as 218 | LIA |
| 222 | 221 | - 3 2 | <1 26 8 | Charcoal fragments (Discarded) Baked clay Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | - - LIA |
| 242 | 241 | 1 1 | 10 46 | Roof tile fragment Pottery; base sherd PMRE with remains of glaze | Post med. Post med. |
| 247 | 248 | 1 | 96 | Brick fragment, depth 28mm | Roman |
| 256 | 255 | 1 5 22 | 18 46 196 | Burnt flint Baked clay fragments, two with flat surfaces Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc hand-made cup (110g, whole profile) | - - LIA |
| 258 | 257 | 1 1 12 | 2 16 54 | Flint flake Baked clay Pottery; rim, combed body sherds and crumbs, grog-tempered | - - LIA |
| 260 | 259 | 1 9 | 1 22 | Flint flake Baked clay | - - |
| 262 | 261 | 6 | 26 | Baked clay; the parent piece had a flat surface | - |
| 264 | 263 | 1 10 | 6 84 | Baked clay Pottery; base and body sherds, some joining, all same vessel, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 266 | 265 | 1 - | 16 8 | Flint denticulated flake Charcoal | - - |
| 276 | 275 | 1 | 34 | Baked clay with flat surface | - |
| 281 | 282 | 1 7 | 1 30 | Baked clay Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 286 | 285 | 3 | 286 | Pottery; body sherds, very large vessel, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 290 | 289 | - 2 | <1 8 | Charcoal (Discarded) Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 296 | 295 | 2 | 6 | Baked clay | - |
| 298 | 297 | 1 2 1 4 17 2 | 22 16 230 92 272 22 | Flint flake Burnt flints Natural stone, ferruginous (Discarded) Baked clay, part of a slab, and crumbs Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered Pottery; body sherds | - - - - LIA Prehistoric |
| 299 | Finds | 26 | 36 | Baked clay, mainly crumbs, three larger pieces each have a flat surface | - |
| 301 | 300 | 2 | 24 | Pottery; joining rim sherds, transitional form | LIA |
| 303 | 304 | 2 2 | 18 12 | Pottery; body sherds Pottery; joining body sherds | LIA Prehistoric |
| 308 | 307 | 3 | 28 | Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 312 | 311 | 1 5 | 4 34 | Burnt flint Pottery; body sherds, four join, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 314 | 313 | 2 1 1 | 32 46 10 | Flint flake and blade Burnt flint Pottery; body sherd | - - Prehistoric |
| 316 | 315 | 4 | 40 | Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 332 | 331 | 9 | 62 | Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 334 | 333 | 4 | 150 | Pottery; base sherd, from large vessel; body sherds, all grog-tempered | LIA |
| 343 | 342 | 1 39 | 6 232 | Iron nail Pottery; body sherds | - Prehistoric |
| 344 | 342 | 6 | 72 | Pottery; body sherds | Prehistoric |
| 346 | 345 | 16 | 154 | Baked clay, some with flat surfaces | - |
| 354 | 355 | 1 | 8 | Pottery; body sherd, burnt or overfired | Early Roman |
| 362 | 361 | 2 | 22 | Pottery; body sherds, one with 5mm pre-firing hole | Prehistoric |
| 364 | 363 | 1 | 2 | Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 367 | 366 | 15 | 272 | Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, one cordoned rim sherd has 3mm post-firing hole through neck | LIA |
| 368 | 366 | 1 2 2 | 26 52 18 | Flint scraper Burnt flint Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | - - LIA |
| 370 | 369 | 15 8 41 | 1150 206 188 | Baked clay, inc corner from a triangular loom weight Briquetage, depth 15mm Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered | LIA LIA LIA |

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 372 | 371 | 3 22 | 46 180 | Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 373 | Vessel | 162 | 300 | Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, all same vessel, Cam 112 butt beaker, 'TR4' or Silty ware | LIA |
| 374 | Finds | 8 | 202 | Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 378 | 377 | 2 | 14 | Pottery; body sherds | Prehistoric |
| 380 | 379 | - 5 14 | 1 36 178 | Charcoal (Discarded) Baked clay Pottery; rim and body sherds, three joining, mainly grog-tempered | - - LIA |
| 386 | 383 | 36 | 930 | Burnt flints | - |
| 388 | 383 | 1 | 48 | Flint lump | - |
| 391 | 390 | 20 | 240 | Burnt flints | - |
| 393 | 392 | 2 163 | 14 2204 | Burnt flints Pottery; rim and body sherds, mainly large parts of two vessels; 28/24g body sherds and crumbs from sample 3 | - Prehistoric |
| 395 | 394 | 2 | 42 | Baked clay | - |
| 400 | 392 | 12 | 110 | Pottery; body sherds and crumbs | Prehistoric |
| 402 | 401 | 2 | 48 | Roof tile fragments | Modern |
| 408 | 383 | 1 1 1 1 | 4 8 12 4 | Flint flake, coloured red Baked clay with flat surface Roof tile fragment Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered | - - Post med. LIA |
| 410 | 409 | - 21 55 | 20 488 300 | Charcoal, coated with mud Burnt flints; 19/438g from sample 5 Pottery; body sherds; 10/10g small body sherds from sample 5 | - - Prehistoric |
| 420 | 419 | 1 1 | 40 28 | Burnt flint Pottery; base sherd, grog-tempered | LIA |
| 436 | 422 | 41 15 | 628 684 | Baked clay fragments, one is pierced (?loom weight); 11/58g from sample 6 Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, one rim sherd and one body sherd have single 3mm post-firing holes; 1/14g base sherd with notch on external change of angle from sample 6 | - LIA |
| 437 | 422 | 16 23 1 | 70 196 4 | Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc base from a 'TR4' butt beaker and a shaped jar body sherd with a central 16mm post-firing hole Pottery; body sherd | - LIA Prehistoric |
| 439 | 438 | 9 92 3 | 612 2300 10 | Baked clay, probable loom weight fragments Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, mostly from one large coarse vessel, the base of which has three 15mm post-firing holes Pottery; body sherds | - LIA Prehistoric |
| 442 | 441 | 1 | 4 | Flint flake | - |

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | | 2 62 | 48 530 | Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 461 | 441 | 1 20 4 | 12 545 30 | Flint flake Baked clay, inc loom weight fragments Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | - - LIA |
| 463 | 462 | 3 5 1 | 10 56 1 | Flint scraper and flakes Baked clay, one with possible wattle impression Pottery; body sherd | - - Prehistoric |
| 475 | 474 | 25 10 60 | 694 206 254 | Burnt flints; 13/372g from sample 8 Baked clay, inc loom weight fragments; 2/4g from sample 8 Pottery; rim and body sherds; 2/2g body sherds from sample 8 | - - Prehistoric |
| 477 | 476 | 1 10 | 4 116 | Baked clay Pottery; base and body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 478 | 476 | 3 9 | 136 94 | Baked clay fragments, two have flat surfaces Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 479 | 476 | 1 | 380 | Stone; natural pebble (Discarded) | - |
| 485 | 484 | 1 2 | 1 10 | Flint blade Baked clay | - - |
| 487 | 486 | 1 3 | 2 12 | Baked clay/briquetage Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 489 | 488 | 1 1 8 39 | 2 14 286 300 | Flint flake Burnt flint Baked clay, inc possible loom weight fragments and briquetage Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered | - - - LIA |
| 490 | 491 | 2 | 6 | Pottery; body sherds, one grog-tempered, one from a flagon | Roman |
| 493 | 492 | 4 1 | 10 1 | Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered; body sherd from a flagon Pottery; body sherd | Roman Prehistoric |
| 499 | 498 | 1 1 7 | 30 4 30 | Burnt flint Baked clay Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered | - - LIA |
| 501 | 500 | 23 | 32 | Pottery; body sherds, one with broad grooving, grog-tempered; 18/8g crumbs from sample 9, part of vessel 502 | LIA |
| 502 | Vessel | 72 | 1240 | Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, all same vessel, possibly North Kent shell-tempered storage jar, blackened internal surface, some sherds have internal sooty deposit | Mid 1st C |
| 504 | 503 | 1 3 | 14 30 | Baked clay with flat surface Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 510 | 509 | 3 | 78 | Burnt material | - |
| 512 | 511 | 88 378 | 514 2030 | Burnt flints; 80/302g from sample 10 Burnt material, as for 510; 340/820g from sample 10, some with burnt flints embedded | - - |

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | | 3 | 128 | Pottery; body sherds, two large joiners have cindery deposit adhering to external surface | Prehistoric |
| 514 | 513 | 1 1 | 20 22 | Pottery; base sherd, grog-tempered Pottery; body sherd | LIA Prehistoric |
| 516 | 515 | 16 | 96 | Baked clay fragments, one with groove | - |
| 517 | 511 | - 2 41 61 5 | 10 160 405 3850 52 | Charcoal Quartz pebbles Burnt flints; 26/310g from sample 11 Burnt material, as for 510, some is friable; 25/175g from sample 11 Pottery; body sherds; 1/6g abraded body sherd from sample 11 | - - - - Prehistoric |
| 518 | 511 | 1 16 3 | 24 635 20 | Burnt flint Burnt material, as for 510 Pottery; body sherds | - - Prehistoric |
| 520 | 519 | 17 1 224 1 | 218 30 448 6 | Baked clay, inc loom weight fragments Briquetage, with remains of a 9mm dia. hole, depth c.16mm Pottery; rim and body sherds and crumbs, mainly grog-tempered Pottery; body sherd | - - LIA Prehistoric |
| 522 | 521 | 7 1 | 86 6 | Baked clay; loom weight corner in pieces Pottery; cordoned body sherd, grog-tempered | - LIA |
| 525 | 511 | 2 1 | 40 715 | Burnt flints Burnt soil with burnt flints embedded | - - |
| 527 | 526 | 1 | 94 | Roof tile, brownish sandy fabric | Med/post med. |
| 530 | 528 | 39 4 | 440 4 | Burnt flints Pottery; rim sherd and crumbs | - Prehistoric |
| 540 | 539 | 11 | 128 | Burnt flints | - |
| 543 | 541 | 1 46 1 | 1 545 4 | Charcoal (Discarded) Burnt flints Baked clay | - - - |
| 545 | 544 | 6 | 106 | Burnt flints | - |
| 547 | 546 | 15 2 | 228 6 | Burnt flints Pottery; body sherds, one grog-tempered, one red ware, but not certainly a Roman sherd | - ?Roman |
| 548 | Finds | 1 1 | 2 2 | Baked clay Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware | Roman Roman |
| 550 | 549 | 5 1 | 176 12 | Burnt material, as for 510 Pottery; body sherd, abraded | - Prehistoric |
| 552 | 551 | 1 1 3 | 1 46 6 | Charcoal (Discarded) Burnt material, as for 510 Pottery; body sherds | - - Prehistoric |
| 558 | Layer | 40 | 402 | Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, some are overfired/burnt | LIA |
| 560 | Finds | 1 | 2 | Flint flake | - |

APPENDIX 3: FLINT CATALOGUE

| Context | Feature | Description | Date |
|---------|---------|---|--------------------------|
| 207 | 206 | Chip, tertiary | |
| 258 | 257 | Piercer on secondary flake | Late Neo/EBA |
| 260 | 259 | Flake, secondary | |
| 266 | 265 | Denticulated flake, secondary | |
| 298 | 297 | Hinge-fractured flake, secondary, with fine denticulation along three sides | |
| 314 | 313 | Denticulated blade, tertiary, 35mm Notched blade, large, patinated | Late Neo/EBA Late Neo |
| 368 | 366 | Horseshoe scraper on a tertiary flake, large | Late Neo/EBA |
| 388 | 383 | Naturally-fractured piece | |
| 393 | 392 | Natural piece | |
| 408 | 383 | Flake, primary | |
| 442 | 441 | Natural flake | |
| 461 | 441 | Flake with slight patination, thick, secondary | |
| 463 | 462 | Flake, secondary Flake, tertiary End scraper | Late Neo/EBA |
| 485 | 484 | Blade, tertiary, finely denticulated, media section, 25mm | Late Neo/EBA |
| 489 | 488 | Flake, tertiary | |
| 560 | Finds | Denticulate blade, tertiary, 35mm | Late Neo/EBA |

APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE DATA

| Sample | Context | Feature | Bulk weight | Bone | Burnt bone | Charcoal | Seeds/ Grain | Molluscs |
|--------|---------|--------------|-------------|------|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | 254 | Pit 253 | 13kg | | | X | X | |
| 2 | 320 | Fire pit 319 | 13.5kg | | | X | X | |
| 3 | 393 | Pit 392 | 13.5kg | | | X | X | |
| 4 | 386 | Pit 383 | 14kg | | | X | X | |
| 5 | 410 | Pit 409 | 12kg | | | X | X | |
| 6 | 436 | Pit 422 | 11.5kg | | | X | X | |
| 7 | 440 | Ditch 438 | 12.5kg | | | | | |
| 8 | 475 | Pit 474 | 12.5kg | | | X | X | |
| 9 | 501 | Pit 500 | 12kg | | | | | |
| 10 | 512 | Pit 511 | 14kg | | | X | | |
| 11 | 517 | Pit 511 | 14kg | | | | | |

X denotes presence

APPENDIX 5: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Fen Farm, Elmstead Market

SITE CODE: ESFF07

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ECC HEM Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU Written Scheme of Investigation (2004)
- 1.3 ECC FAU Revised Written Scheme of Investigation (2007)

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (200 to 560)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 2 x A4 plan sheets
- 3.6 Levels Register
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Registers
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (2 Sets of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on CD-Rom)
- 3.10 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

12 large plans and 9 large section drawings

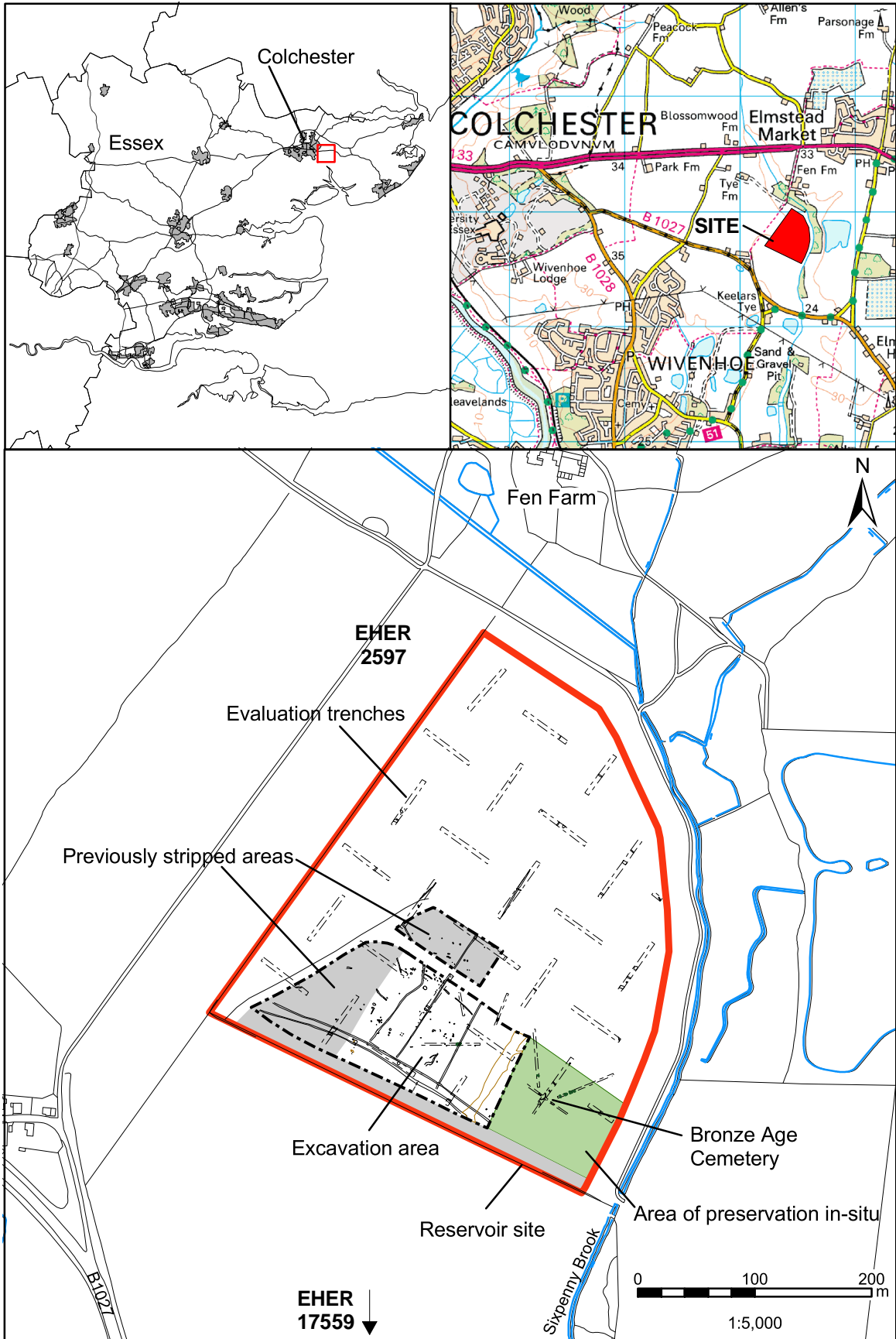
Finds

The finds occupy four boxes.

APPENDIX 6: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|--|--|
| Site name/Address: Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex | |
| Parishes: Elmstead Market | District: Tendering |
| NGR: TM 05382 23685 | Site Code: ESFF07 |
| Type of Work: Archaeological Excavation | Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit |
| Dates of Work: 24th September to 6th November 2007 | Size of Area Investigated: 21728 sq m |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum | Funding source: Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: No | Related HER Nos.: 2597, 17559 |
| Final Report: EAH round-up, EAH Shorter Note? | |
| Periods Represented: Middle Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Roman, Post-medieval | |
| SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: | |
| <p>Archaeological excavation was undertaken at Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, during autumn 2007 in advance of the construction of an agricultural reservoir. Previous trial-trenching (Barker 2003/4) had revealed the presence of a Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery and a post-medieval field system. A number of Iron Age remains were also identified.</p> <p>No Bronze Age remains were identified within the excavation area. This confirmed that the barrow cemetery was restricted to the south east of the development area but shed no light as to the location of any accompanying occupation site. The earliest excavated remains dated to the Early Iron Age, and of particular note were seven pits, located in the south of the area, that all contained burnt material including charcoal and hearth waste. Similarities in the range of pottery suggest deliberate deposition indicative of 'ceremonial' or 'ritual' behaviour.</p> <p>The majority of excavated features dated to the Late Iron Age and were part of a small isolated settlement. One curving boundary ditch was identified and a number of other features including two hearths and two four-post timber structures, interpreted as granaries. No specific dwellings were identified though domestic refuse such as pottery, loom weights and briquetage points to their existence in the near vicinity. Although settlement did not continue into the early Roman period, the presence of a few tentatively dated later Roman features might indicate limited agricultural activity.</p> <p>After a considerable hiatus of activity a series of small rectangular fields were created in the post-medieval period. These were amalgamated over time to leave the development area within one large field by the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1876.</p> | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: | |
| <i>Fen Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial-trenching</i> (ECC FAU Report 862) + Addendum | |
| Author of Summary: T. Ennis | Date of Summary: April 2008 |



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Site location



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.2. Cropmarks

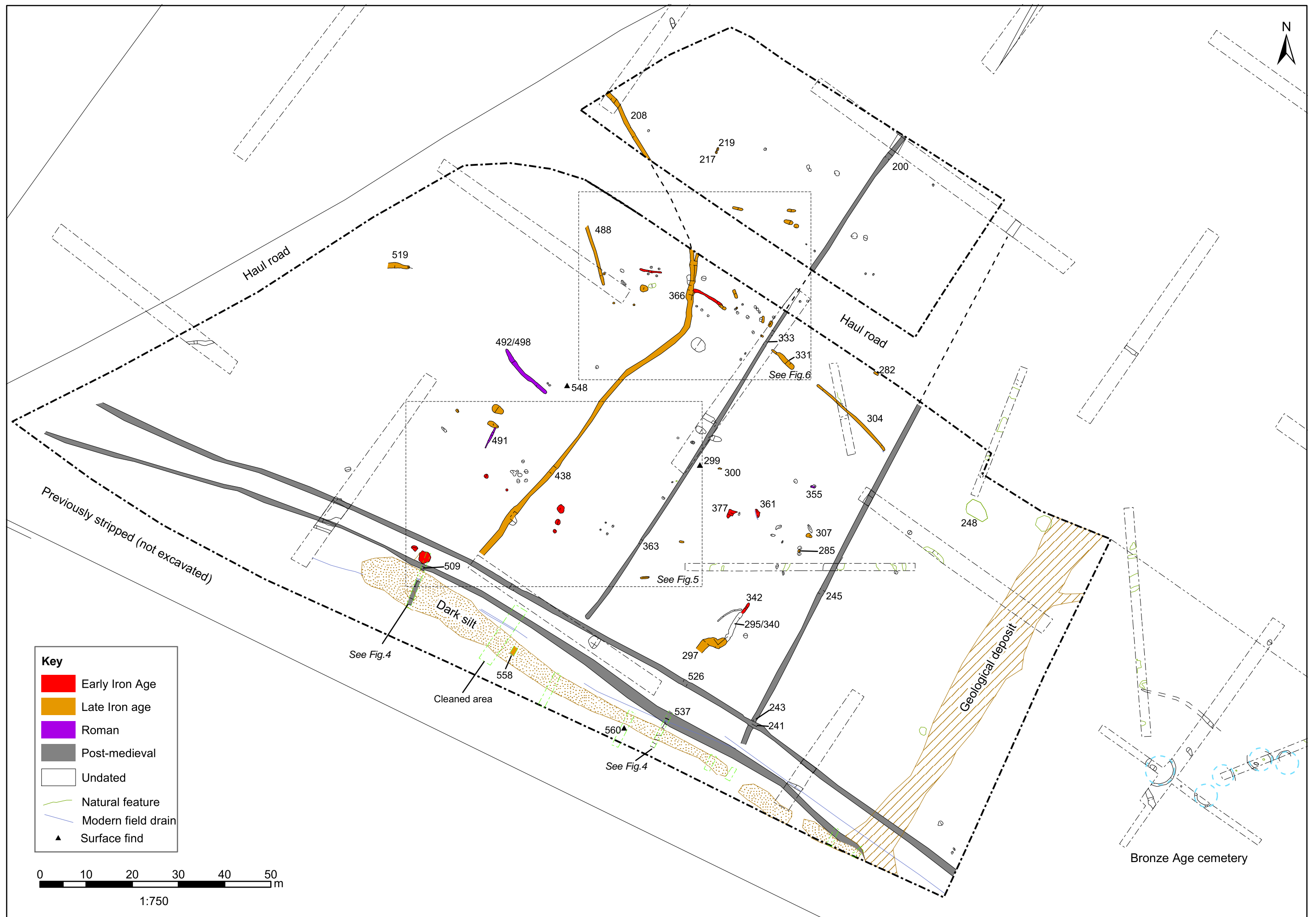


Fig.3. Excavation areas

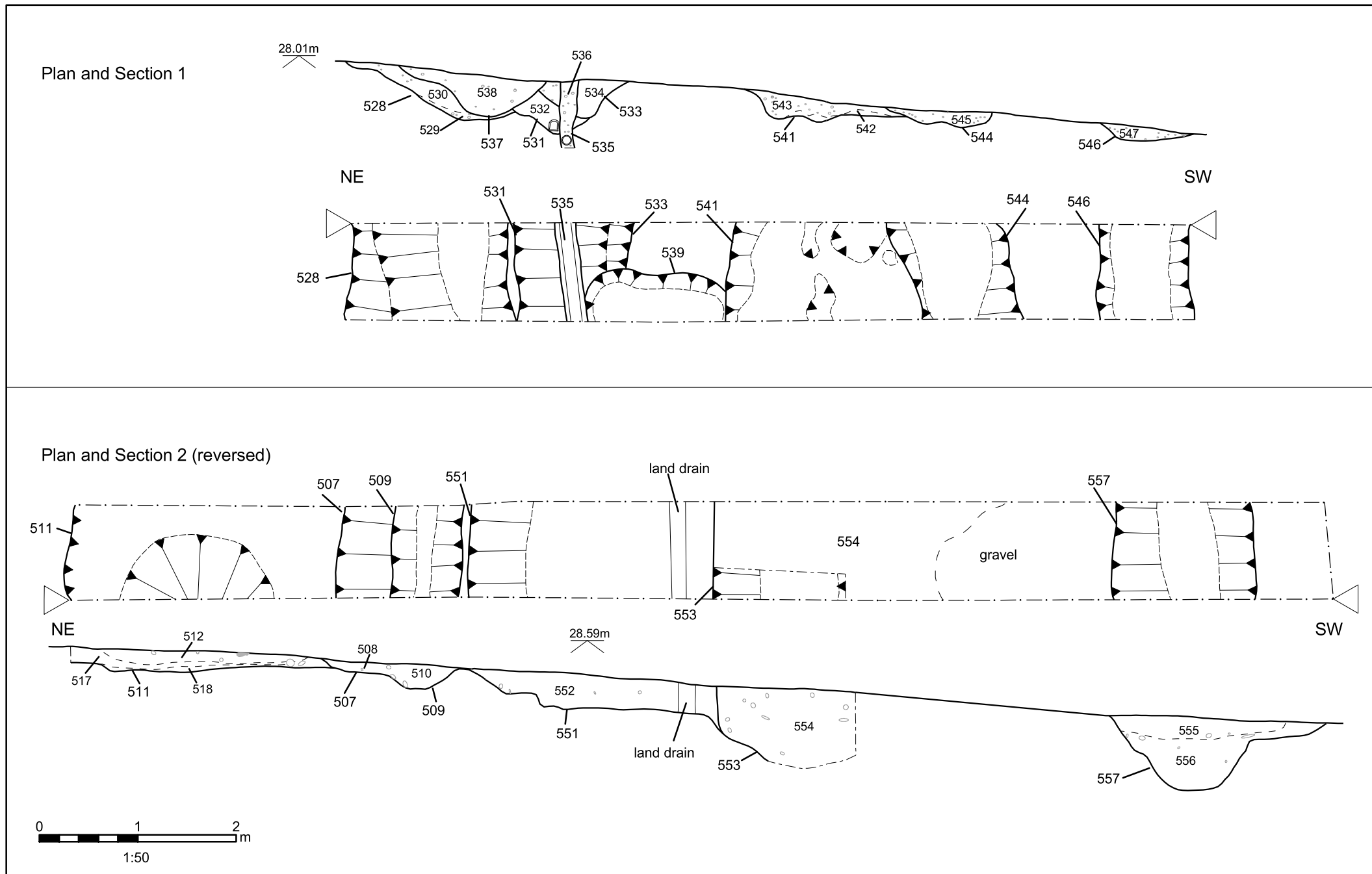


Fig.4. Plans and sections of trenches through southern boundary ditches and dark silt

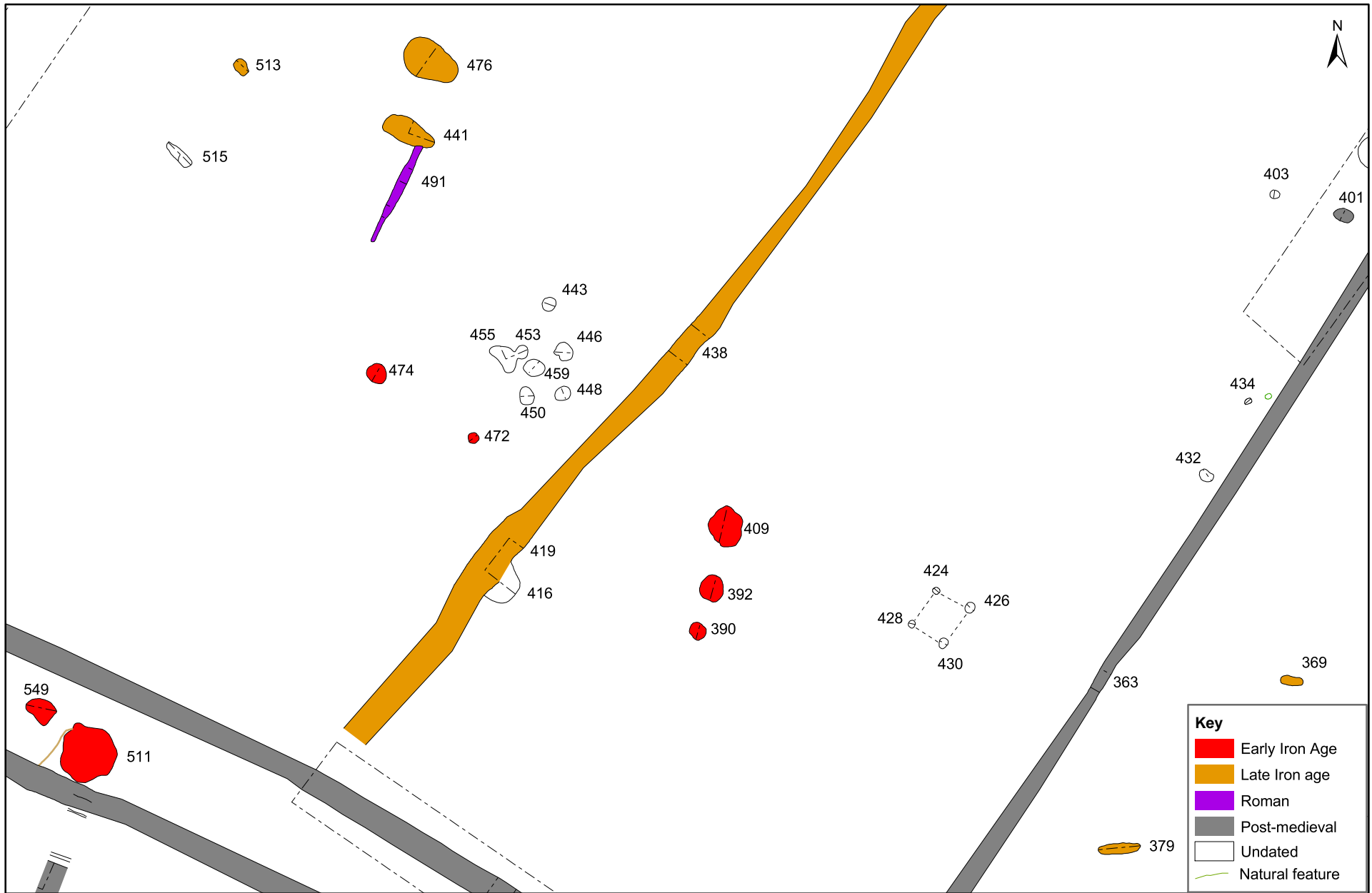
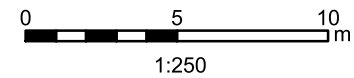


Fig.5. Dated features (south area)



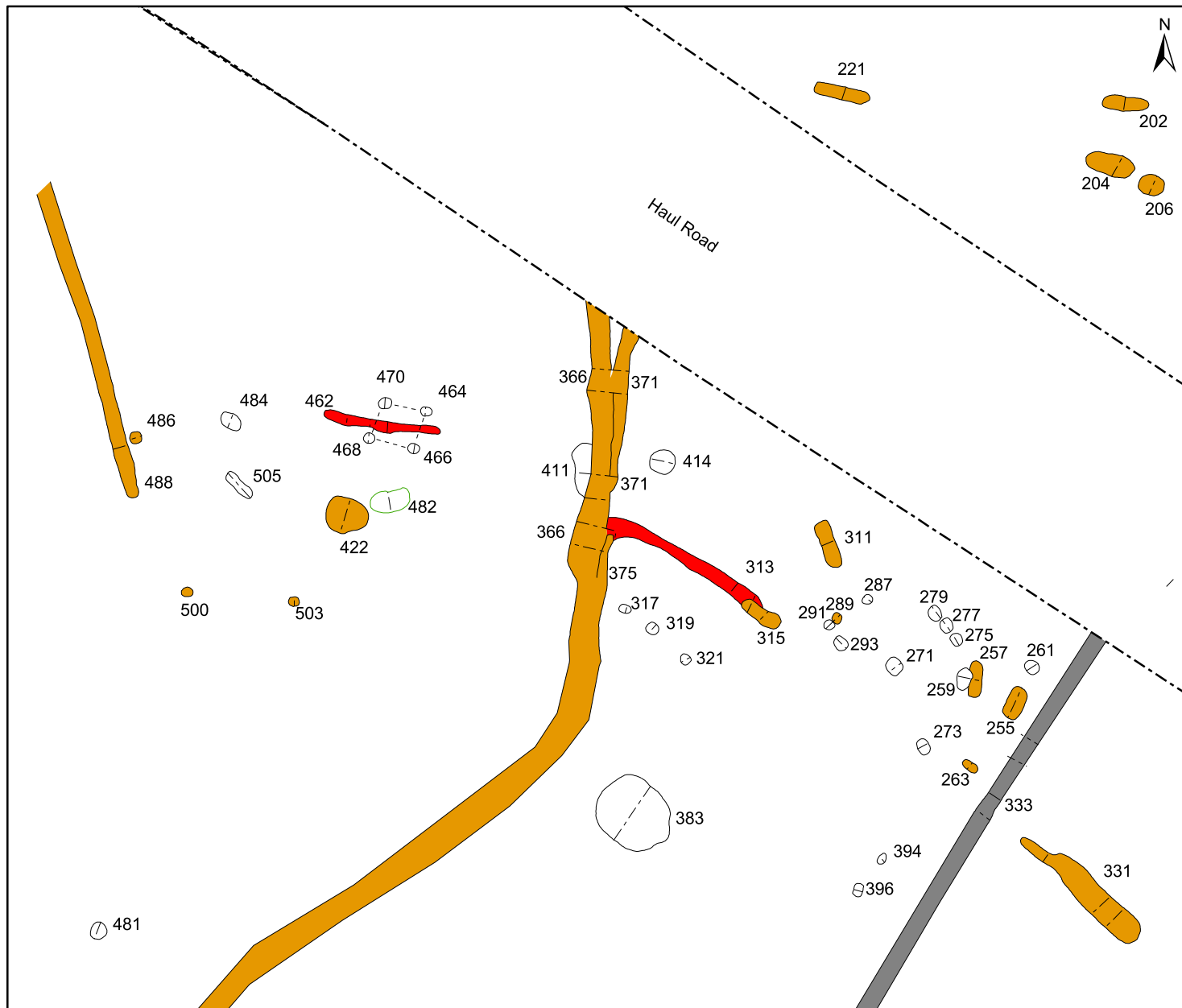


Fig.6. Dated features (north area)

