

**WICK FARM
ARDLEIGH
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF
SILT POND AND PROCESSING PLANT AREAS
(SITES C AND D (NORTH))
AND MONITORING (QUARRY STAGE 1, PHASE D)**



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

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Client: Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd

NGR: TM 02895 29303 (Silt Pond Area, Site C)

TM 02686 29500 (Processing Plant Area, Site D (north))

TM 03516 29056 (Quarry Stage 1, Phase D monitoring)

Planning Reference: pre-planning consent

Site Code: ARWF 06

ECC FAU Project No: 1938

OASIS No.: essexcou1-65511

Date of fieldwork: 01 September to 26 November 2008

SUMMARY

Two archaeological sites dating to the Late Iron Age (mid-1st century BC to mid-1st century AD) were excavated at Wick Farm, Ardleigh, north of Colchester by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit for Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd. The excavations were carried out as part of preliminary works for the construction of a large reservoir which will be created through a long-term programme of sand and gravel extraction. The Late Iron Age sites (Fig. 1, Sites C and D (north)) were discovered during an earlier trial-trenching evaluation (Germany 2006) and were excavated in the Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas of the proposed quarry. Further archaeological investigation is planned for projected future stages of quarrying (Fig.1, Quarry Stages 1-4).

A small valley runs west to east across the site, with a stream flowing eastwards from it. A palaeochannel, probably of post-glacial origin, was recorded in the valley floor in Site C. The Late Iron Age remains in Site D (north) were located to the north-east of a cropmark identified by the trial-trenching evaluation as a Late Iron Age settlement enclosure (Site D (south); this area has yet to be excavated). A second area of Late Iron Age remains in Site C was located in the valley to the east of the settlement enclosure.

Small-scale prehistoric remains were confined to Site C, consisting of two pits containing burnt flints and two pits containing Middle Iron Age pottery, situated either side of the palaeochannel.

The Late Iron Age remains in Site D (north) and the cropmark enclosure in Site D (south) represent an extensive Late Iron Age settlement spanning the head of the east-west valley. Most of the Late Iron Age remains excavated in 2008 were concentrated in Site D (north). Two boundary ditches aligned on the entrance to the settlement enclosure defined a broad approach to it, within which was a small rectangular ditched enclosure surrounded by rubbish pits. Although no features were recorded within the enclosure, ironworking debris recovered from its ditch suggests it was an annexe to the main settlement used for craft-working. The Late Iron Age features in Site D (north) contained large amounts of pottery, but unfortunately metal artefacts, animal bone and plant remains did not survive due to the acidity of the soil.

Site C in the valley to the east contained a narrow Late Iron Age trackway heading towards the entrance to the settlement enclosure, a pit and a well. The trackway is thought to have demarcated a boundary between the wet area along the valley floor and a field system to the south. The southern edge of Site C, which includes potentially important Late Iron Age remains identified in the trial-trenching evaluation, has not yet been investigated as it lay outside the stripped area for the Silt Ponds.

The medieval and later remains included boundary ditches, gullies and pits in both Sites C and D (north), related to a field system and enclosures predating the existing field pattern. Many of these features predate the present-day Wick Farm, whose farmhouse is dated to the mid-18th century, and a moated enclosure to the south of the farm is thought to have been the site of the original medieval farmstead (Fig. 1). A boundary ditch in Site D (north) was long-lived, originally dating from the late 12th to early 13th centuries, suggesting a medieval origin to the existing pattern of land division. In Site C, medieval and post-medieval ditches and pits lay along the edge of the marginal land in the valley floor, and the post-medieval gullies in this area are interpreted as pens for livestock, possibly for watering animals at the nearby spring. Monitoring of Quarry Stage 1, Phase D near Chilver's Cottages at the south-eastern limit of the site dated two small cropmark enclosures to the post-medieval/modern periods.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological excavation and monitoring carried out during preliminary groundworks for the construction of a large reservoir at Wick Farm, Ardleigh, north of Colchester (Fig. 1). Area excavation took place in the projected Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas, and monitoring in the area of a bund in Quarry Stage 1, Phase D. The archaeological investigation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd, following a recommendation for archaeological work made by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) under the terms of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (DoE 1990). The work was carried out according to the archaeological brief issued by ECC HEM (2008) and the written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2008).

The construction of the reservoir is a long-term project planned to take place over at least ten years, and will be carried out through sand and gravel extraction, with the cleaning and grading of the extracted minerals taking place on site. The quarrying programme is projected as taking place in four main stages (Fig. 1, Stages 1-4) following preliminary works to establish the Silt Ponds, the Processing Plant and a bund at the east end of Quarry Stage 1, Phase D, adjacent to Chilver's Cottages. Archaeological work is projected as taking place within the reservoir/quarry area in a series of investigations as the quarrying progresses.

Previous evaluation of the reservoir/quarry area by trial-trenching (Germany 2006) has identified five significant archaeological sites requiring detailed excavation (Fig. 1, Sites A-E), dating mainly to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Only Quarry Stage 1, Phase C to the south of the main reservoir area has not previously been evaluated. Preliminary groundworks in the Silt Pond and Plant Areas in the centre and west of the reservoir/quarry area would impact upon Sites C and D identified in the evaluation, while the construction of a bund at the east end of Quarry Stage 1, Phase D would impact upon cropmarks adjacent to Chilver's Cottages (Fig. 1).

The written scheme of investigation prepared for this initial archaeological work (ECC FAU 2008) sets out the strategy for the archaeological investigation of all areas of the reservoir/quarry, as well as the detailed specification for excavation of the Silt Pond and Plant Areas. The written scheme of investigation will be updated in detail for each new Quarry Stage.

Copies of this report will be distributed to Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd (including a copy to forward to the Minerals Section of the Essex CC Planning Department), ECC HEM, and the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record. The site archive and finds, and copies of this report, will be deposited at the Colchester and Ipswich Museum. A digital copy of this report can be downloaded via the online access to the index of archaeological investigations website (www.oasis.ac.uk).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The site of the quarry/reservoir lies 5km north-east of Colchester town centre and covers 40ha of mostly open farmland on the north side of the valley of the river Colne (Fig. 1). It is bounded by the A12 and Old Ipswich Road to the west, Wick Lane to the north and Ardleigh Reservoir to the south and east. Wick Farm is located immediately to the north-east of the site and Chilver's Cottages immediately to its south-east. The south-eastern part of the site contains a small agricultural reservoir constructed in the 1990s. The north-western part of the site is currently used to hold car boot sales.

The site undulates between 36 and 41m above mean sea level (OD) and is dissected by a small valley running from west to east across the centre of the site (Fig. 1). Springs within the valley are the source for a stream which flows in an eastward direction through a small area of woodland. The stream is related to several flooded stream valleys which form the Ardleigh Reservoir, and feed a tributary of the river Colne which flows southwards into the main river near the University of Essex campus at Wivenhoe.

The surface geology consists of mixed glacial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation overlying Ardleigh Gravels, a component of the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels. These are overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of subsoil and a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil respectively. Both are soft and silty and have few natural inclusions.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

The following information is derived from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held by Essex CC at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The reservoir area contains two cropmark complexes, mapped from aerial photographs (Fig. 1). One of the complexes comprises a D-shaped enclosure, covering c. 1ha, along with a north-south ditch line, and is situated in the south-western part of the site (EHER 2545). The other cropmarks lie at the eastern limit of the site near Chilver's Cottages and represent two small rectangular enclosures (EHER 2574).

Extensive cropmark complexes have been recorded in the Ardleigh area generally. Investigations of a large complex at Elm Park, immediately to the east of Ardleigh, have recorded the remains of Bronze Age barrows and cremation burials, an enclosed Middle Iron Age round-house, Late Iron Age cremation burials, and a ritual pit from the time of the Roman conquest (Brown 1999).

Old Ipswich Road on the western limit of the site follows the line of the major Roman road from London to Colchester and Caistor-by-Norwich.

Wick Farm farmhouse is a grade II listed building dating to the mid-18th century (Fig. 1, EHER 34576). A small rectangular moat to its south (Fig. 1, EHER 2364) is undated, but is probably medieval.

Archaeological monitoring of the construction of the agricultural reservoir in the south-eastern part of the site in 1988 discovered only a post-medieval field ditch (Fig. 1, EHER 8490).

2.3 Previous archaeological work

This initial phase of excavation and monitoring followed archaeological evaluations by fieldwalking and trial-trenching (Germany 2001; 2006). The fieldwalking located clusters of burnt flint in the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the site, but no other significant concentrations of finds. The trial-trenching established that the D-shaped cropmark enclosure was of Late Iron Age date, and identified five areas of significant archaeological remains (Fig. 1, Sites A to E):

- A. North-east of site (Quarry Stage 3) – Early Iron Age
- B. South-east of site (Quarry Stage 1A) – Middle/Late Iron Age
- C. South-centre of site (Silt Pond Area) – Late Iron Age
- D. West of site (Processing Plant Area) – Late Iron Age
- E. North-west of site (Quarry Stage 4) – Early Roman

The trial-trenching report concluded that Sites A to E represent a shifting pattern of settlement and farming activity from the Early and Middle Iron Age through to the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods. It was suggested that settlement began in the east (Sites A and B), then became more intensive after it shifted to the west (Sites C and D), and finally moved north-westwards towards the Roman road during the early Roman period (Site E).

Further remains found by the trenching largely comprised undatable and post-medieval/modern field ditches. It was concluded that some of the ditches represented a medieval/post-medieval trackway running between Crown Lane to the south and Wick Lane to the north.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the archaeological excavation and monitoring is to preserve by record any archaeological remains within the reservoir/quarry area, i.e. to excavate and record them before they are destroyed by quarrying. The aim of this phase of archaeological work was to record and excavate the areas of initial groundworks for the reservoir construction, the Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas, corresponding with most of Site C and the northern part of Site D (Site D (north)). In addition, monitoring was carried out in Quarry Stage 1D in the extreme south-east of the site to record the area of a bund which impacted upon the cropmarks near Chilver's Cottages.

The project's long-term objectives take into account regional research assessments and objectives (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000). The main objectives of the investigation are to understand:

- The topographical development of the site during the prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods, including changes in settlement pattern and in the exploitation of the landscape.
- The character of settlement and other activities within the site during the prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods, including the analysis of buildings/structures, artefacts and environmental material to determine the status of the inhabitants, patterns of consumption, farming economy and any small-scale craft industry (e.g. smithing).

- The character and development of the medieval and post-medieval landscape, especially field systems, including the investigation of existing ditches to determine their original date

4.0 METHOD

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IFA 1999) and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The subsoil and topsoil within the excavation areas was removed by a tracked excavator with a broad toothless bucket. The stripping of Sites C and D (north) was carried out under archaeological supervision. The topsoil stripping in the east of Quarry Stage 1D was monitored intermittently as it had lower archaeological potential.

All features identified within the stripped areas were recorded and hand-excavated. Within the excavation areas (Sites C and D (north)), the excavation sample was typically 50% of all discrete features (e.g. pits and post-holes) and structural features (e.g. walls and slots), and 10% of gullies and small ditches. Significant features such as ovens, hearths and burials were to be fully excavated. A lower percentage sample of very large pits or major ditches was to be excavated, by agreement with the ECC HEM monitoring officer. The policy was to favour detailed (high percentage sample) of significant features, and much more selective (low percentage sample) excavation of large features where a small number of segments excavated across them would be sufficient to date and characterise the feature. Similarly, in the monitoring of Quarry Stage 1D a low percentage sample of features was excavated, sufficient to date them.

The ECC FAU uses its own recording system (ECC FAU 2006). All features were surveyed into Ordnance Survey, and recorded in plan and section. Individual features and deposits were described on proforma context recording sheets. All finds were recovered for analysis, and, where conditions were suitable, soil samples were taken for analysis of environmental remains.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

Sites C and D (north), in the projected Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas of the reservoir/quarry, had been identified as significant archaeological sites by the trial-trenching evaluation (Germany 2006) and this was confirmed by excavation (Fig. 1). The Silt Pond Area included most of Site C, as defined by the evaluation, although an important group of features at the southern edge of Site C (Fig. 2, evaluation trench 82) lay outside the area that was stripped for the Silt Ponds, and will need to be investigated at a later stage of quarrying. The Processing Plant Area included all of the northern part of Site D, although the western half of the stripped area lay to the west of Site D (north) as defined by the evaluation, and was almost completely devoid of archaeological remains. Site C covered 0.84ha and Site D (north) 1.67ha. Monitoring of the bund in Quarry Stage 1D at the south-eastern limit of the site covered an area of 0.69ha.

The greatest density of archaeological features occurred in Site C and in the eastern half of Site D (north), with few features identified in the monitoring of Quarry Stage 1D. The features recorded consisted almost entirely of ditches/gullies and pits and their fills. There were no in-situ building remains (apart from infrequent post-holes) or burials, and the only horizontal layers encountered were naturally formed. Ploughing had truncated all of the features by around 0.3m. Surprisingly small amounts of metalwork, bone and shell were recovered, most likely because of the acidic character of the natural brickearth. Detailed information about each feature and its finds can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

Five broad archaeological periods have been identified:

- Prehistoric, probably Early and Middle Iron Age (c. 600-50 BC)
- Late Iron Age (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
- Medieval (c. 1000-1250 AD)
- Post-medieval (c. 1500-1900 AD)
- Modern (c. 1900-present)

The sites have been phased by using a combination of finds dates (mainly pottery and tile) and spatial and stratigraphic relationships, although there are relatively few of the latter and the phasing relies heavily on pottery dating and spatial relationships. Most of the features within Site D (north) proved straightforward to phase because they contained large amounts

of relatively closely-datable pottery. By contrast, at least half of the features in Site C proved undatable or only very broadly datable because they contained no or very few datable finds.

5.1 Site C

Site C contained numerous ditches, gullies and pits, with most of the datable features belonging to the medieval period or later, but also with a small number of prehistoric and Late Iron Age ditches and pits (Fig. 2). A palaeochannel ran roughly east-west up the length of the site.

5.1.1 Surface geology and palaeochannel

The ground conditions were largely soft and wet due to the location of the site in the floor of the central part of the east-west valley. The surface geology consisted of brownish orange silt-clay, overlain by a layer of orange brown clay silt up to 0.3m thick across the south-western corner of the site. A palaeochannel running roughly east-west up the centre of the site was indicated by a broad band of brownish grey clay-silt, which overlay natural sand and gravel, although the channel was probably cut through the uppermost silt-clay (Figs 2-4). The palaeochannel formed a slight dip only 0.1m deep. It was the wettest part of the site and was generally flooded with rainwater where it exited at the east (Plate 3), and the standing water meant that this area could not be investigated. The majority of the archaeological features deliberately avoided or demarcated the palaeochannel, probably because it was a known area of boggy ground. The age of the channel is not known, although it is probably post-glacial in origin.

5.1.2 Prehistoric

The excavation recorded prehistoric pits towards the eastern end of the site (738, 849 and 965) and to the north-west (640) (Fig. 3 and Plate 1). Pit 965 contained Middle Iron Age pottery, pit 849 prehistoric pottery that is not closely datable, and pits 640 and 738 abundant pieces of burnt flint. Small amounts of presumably residual burnt flint were found in some of the medieval, post-medieval and undated features adjacent to pit 738 (i.e. 705, 755, 759, 761, 791, 796 and 811).

5.1.3 Late Iron Age

The Late Iron Age remains occurred in the western half of the site and consisted of two pits (633 and 651) to the north of the palaeochannel, and a small number of ditches (984, 1034 and 1036-1039) to its south-west (Fig. 3). Most of the Late Iron Age features contained small

to medium amounts of Late Iron Age pottery. Ditches 984 and 1034 held no finds, but their location and alignment suggest they were related to the other Late Iron Age ditches.

The majority of the ditches ran to the south of and parallel with the nearby palaeochannel. Ditches 1034, 1036, 1038 and 1039 are interpreted as a narrow trackway heading up the valley towards Site D. Ditch 984 lay at right angles to the trackway and possibly indicates the presence of trackside enclosures or fields. The modification of the layout at some point was implied by ditch 1037 cutting ditch 1038. Entranceways linking the postulated enclosures and trackway were probably indicated by breaks between ditches 984 and 1037 and between 1036 and 1037. The depths and widths of the ditches varied widely and suggested that their cutting and maintenance had been fairly haphazard. The eastern end of ditch 1039 was obscured by several undatable intercutting pits (pit groups 1026 and 1027 (Fig. 2)), but the relationship between these pits and the ditch could not be established.

Pits 633 and 651 were situated on the north side of the palaeochannel. Pit 651 contained a sequence of silty fills and is unlikely to have been deliberately backfilled (Fig. 10, Section 1; Plate 2). It extended below the water table and may have served as a well.

A large ditch or possibly a pit (229) which contained a large quantity of Late Iron Age pottery had been recorded in the trial-trenching evaluation (Germany 2006) immediately to the south of the stripped area (Fig. 3, trench 82). If this feature was indeed a ditch, it did not extend into the south-east of the site as its projected line suggests it should. As a result this feature was not properly understood during the current excavation, either in its own terms or in relation to the Late Iron Age trackway 1036-1039 to the north-west.

5.1.4 Medieval

The medieval features were situated in the site's south-eastern corner and consisted of ditches (693, 696 and 1045) and pits (741, 751, 842, 855, 870 and 874) (Fig. 4 and Fig. 10, Section 2; Plate 4). All these features contained small amounts of medieval pottery dated to the 12th-early 13th centuries.

Ditches 1045 and 693 ran parallel to each other and 20m to the south of the palaeochannel. Ditch 693 was extended to the east (696), and although this new ditch contained no datable material it was most likely cut in the medieval period. The ditches most likely defined a trackway along the edge of the palaeochannel. The pits varied in size, shape and depth and were thinly scattered between the parallel ditches and the southern edge of the

palaeochannel. The function of the pits was not obvious, although they were probably rubbish pits.

Also located in the south-east of the site were three further ditches which may have been in use during the medieval period, although none of them contained any datable finds to support this (1043, 1044 and 1046). Ditch 1046 was cut by ditches 693 and 1045 and together with ditch 1043 may have formed two sides of a medieval or earlier enclosure. Ditch 1043 was cut by ditch 1044, which ran parallel with ditches 1045 and 693/696.

5.1.5 Post-medieval

The post-medieval features comprised a large group of intercutting pits (888) and a group of gullies or slots in the south-east of the site (767, 800, 824 and 1047-1049), and a ditch alignment in the south-west (1040 and 1042) (Fig. 4; Plate 5). Some of the undated features (ditches 1041 and 1043-1044, and gullies 619 and 1050-1053) may also have been in use during this period.

Gullies 767, 800, 824 and 1047-1049 formed a regular rectilinear layout and may have been the remains of small animal pens. The gullies were all very shallow, and gullies 800 and 1049 contained numerous small stake-holes in their base, suggesting they were trenches for fences constructed of hurdles (Plate 7). The dating evidence for the gullies was slight and consisted of a sherd of late 16th to 19th-century pottery and a fragment of post-medieval brick from gully 1049. Gully 1047 cut medieval pit 751 and must have been dug during the medieval period or later.

Ditches 1040 and 1042, a recut at the east end of 1040, were recorded in the south-western part of the site and were possibly in use during the post-medieval period, although the dating evidence is very slight and consists of a fragment of post-medieval roof tile from one of the segments of ditch 1040. To the north of ditch 1040 was an undated parallel ditch (1041) which may have been its forerunner, as its south-eastern end was cut by ditch 1042. These ditches ran along the south-western edge of the palaeochannel and may represent a boundary. However, a group of gullies (619, and 1050-1052) cut the palaeochannel and may have formed part of a post-medieval enclosure spanning it. The gullies were aligned on the boundary ditches to the south of the palaeochannel and may have been related to them. The gullies were similar to the post-medieval gullies at the eastern end of the site and, like them, may have been trenches for hurdle fences.

Pit group 888 near the eastern end of the site consisted of many intercutting hollows and pits (Plate 6). None of the pits in the group could be individually identified in plan. The pit group was investigated by hand-digging three long sections across it (844, 867 and 888). Many of the pits shared fills and are likely to have filled up together. There was no clear indication as to their possible function. The pits contained fragments of post-medieval brick and tile and a small amount of 10th to 13th-century pottery. The presence of the pottery suggested that some of the pits in the group may have been dug during the medieval period.

5.1.6 Modern

The modern features comprised ditch 1035, hollow-way 637 and natural features 631, 649, 887, 895, 968 and 1054 to 1056 (Fig. 4). The hollow-way entered the site at the north-western corner and was broad and shallow. Its fill contained two sherds of modern pottery and its north-western end turned slightly northwards towards a nearby existing entrance. The natural features were thinly dispersed across the eastern two-thirds of the site. They were mostly small and irregular and were probably hollows left behind by grubbed-out trees and shrubs. They had distinctive, dark silty fills, and were unlikely to be very old because they contained frequent small pieces of semi-decayed wood. Ditch 1035 contained modern finds and extended across the site's south-western corner.

5.2 Site D (north)

The stripping of Site D (north) revealed Late Iron Age ditches and pits, medieval and post-medieval ditches and a modern gravel pits, as well as a small number of undatable, pits, although these are most likely of Late Iron Age date (Fig. 5). Residual Middle Iron Age pottery was also recovered.

5.2.1 Surface geology

The surface geology consisted of orange-brown silt-clay with occasional pockets of silt-sand and gravel. The southern edge of the site dipped into the head of the east-west valley. A deposit of brownish grey silt (Fig. 5, 478), which occupied the head of the valley, was investigated in five locations (Fig. 6, 473, 467, 476, 479 and 551). It overlay the natural silt-clay and was up to 0.4m thick. It was cut by Late Iron Age features and appears to have been a post-glacial silting of the head of the east-west valley. The deposit was similar to the brownish grey clay silt of the palaeochannel in Site C and may have been indirectly related.

5.2.2 Late Iron Age

Late Iron Age features (Figs 5-6) were concentrated in the eastern half of the site between two nearly parallel boundary ditches (568 and 570) aligned on the entrance to the Late Iron Age settlement enclosure to the south-west (Figs 1 and 5). Between these ditches the focus of Late Iron Age activity was a rectangular ditched enclosure (569) measuring c. 20 x 25m, with 24 pits ranged in clusters around its north-western and north-eastern sides, and a small number of undated pits which may also have been of Late Iron Age date (Fig. 5). The corner of a second Late Iron Age ditched enclosure (433) was recorded at the north-eastern limit of the site. In the western half of the site were two Late Iron Age pits (555 and 558/566) which lay separate from the others (Fig. 5). The Late Iron Age features are dated to the first half of the 1st century AD, with very small amounts of early Roman pottery in the upper fills of several features suggesting an end date of mid-1st century AD.

The south-western end of boundary ditch 570 and the south-western side of enclosure 569 were not detected during the excavation because they were poorly defined against the brownish grey glacial silt 478 (see 5.2.1 above). A small concentration of Late Iron Age pottery (557) near the southern edge of the site was situated on the projected alignment of ditch 570 and may have been part of it. No features or finds were recognised within the enclosure, despite careful cleaning, apart from a small undatable post-hole (44).

Boundary ditches 568 and 570 were excavated in five (420, 425, 435, 442 and 448) and four locations (79, 481, 502 and 551) respectively (Fig. 6; Plate 8). Ditch 568 was situated in the south-eastern part of the site and was cut by a modern gravel pit (437). Its north-eastern length possibly represents a recut as it was noticeably wider than its south-western end, although there was no further evidence to indicate this. Both ditches were only 0.4-0.5m deep and had gradually-sloping sides and amorphous fills, although in some ditch segments a sequence of fills was evident (Fig. 10, Sections 3 and 7). There was no clear evidence in the form of tip lines for the former presence of banks alongside the ditches.

The two ditched enclosures 569 and 433 were apparently aligned on each other in the area between the two boundary ditches, although only a small part of enclosure 433 lay within the site area. The latter contained a small quantity of Late Iron Age pottery, and its ditch was similar in size and appearance to the ditch of enclosure 569.

Enclosure ditch 569 was excavated in nine locations (52, 473, 476, 453, 451, 456, 459, 463 and 467) (Figs 6 and 10, Sections 4-6; Plate 9). The ditch was relatively shallow, at 0.3-0.4m

deep, with only moderately steep sides, and most ditch segments contained a sequence of two or three fills, including charcoal and other burnt material (Fig. 10, sections 4-6; Plates 9 and 10).

Charcoal-rich fills in all segments of enclosure ditch 569 and the adjacent boundary ditch 570 were sampled for analysis of potential environmental remains such as charred grain. However, the samples were mainly composed of charcoal and charred wood fragments, some of which appeared to have been subjected to high temperatures, and hardly any other plant remains were present (see 6.8 Environmental material). In particular, samples taken of burnt deposits in the fills of segment 463 on the north-western side of the enclosure revealed evidence for ironworking (Fig. 7), which is described in detail below (see 6.2 Metalwork and 6.4 Baked clay). Small amounts of iron slag were also recovered from segment 476 of enclosure ditch 469 and segment 502 from the adjacent boundary ditch 570 (Fig. 7). Unfortunately, the smithing hearth or furnace itself was not located within the enclosure. Small quantities of calcined bone recovered from the fills of enclosure ditch 569 probably represent burnt food waste (see 6.6 Animal bone). Small amounts of briquetage, related to the storage and transport of salt, and loom weights were also recovered.

The Late Iron Age pits (41, 404, 406, 411, 413, 416, 418, 423, 483, 491, 494, 496, 498, 500, 504, 508, 512, 517, 519, 521, 524, 526, 537 and 539) were almost all situated around the north-western and north-eastern sides of enclosure 569 (Fig. 6). Only two Late Iron Age pits were identified outside that area, pit 555 to the immediate west of ditch 570, and pit 558/566 near the site's south-western corner (Fig. 5). The pits were mainly oval or circular and varied widely in size, with some very large ones measuring 2-3m across, but with the majority less than 1m in diameter. Most pits were quite shallow, less than 0.3m deep, with only large intercutting pits 537 and 539 significantly deeper at 0.64 and 0.78m (Fig. 6; Plate 11). The majority of the pits contained single fills and were presumably used as rubbish pits since they contained moderate to large amounts of Late Iron Age pottery. Four pits adjacent to enclosure 569 contained no datable finds, but are likely to have been of Late Iron Age date (Fig. 5, 486, 514, 546 and 548).

Most of the segments excavated across the boundary and enclosure ditches, and several of the pits, produced large amounts of Late Iron Age pottery, often including very large sherds, suggesting the disposal of rubbish around the perimeter of enclosure 569 (Fig. 7; Plate 8). Most of the pottery occurred in enclosure ditch 569 and the adjacent boundary ditch 570, and some of the surrounding pits (e.g. 404). Relatively large amounts of pottery were recovered

from the south-western length of boundary ditch 568, nearest enclosure 569, but very few sherds from its north-eastern length, further away from the enclosure. This distribution supports the interpretation of the enclosure as the focus for Late Iron Age activity in Site D (north). Only a very few sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from Site D (north), most of them from upper fills of features, suggesting disuse very early in the Roman period.

5.2.3 Medieval, post-medieval and modern

The medieval, post-medieval and modern features comprised frequently recut medieval, post-medieval and modern boundary ditch 571, post-medieval/modern ditch 541, post-medieval post-hole 54 and modern gravel pit 437 (Figs 5 and 8). Sherds of medieval pottery were intrusive in Late Iron Age enclosure ditches 433 and 569 and in Late Iron Age pit 539, probably as a result of plough disturbance. Pit 408 lay near the eastern end of the site and contained 12th-century pottery.

Boundary ditch 571 ran north-south across centre of Site D (north), with boundary ditch 541 extending westwards from it (Figs 5 and 8). Ditch 571 was investigated both in the trial-trenching evaluation and the excavation. It was a long-lived boundary which had been redefined many times (48 and 46 in trench 190; 85, 87, 89 and 91 in trench 184; 67 and 69 in trench 178; and 528, 530, 532 and 535 in Site D (north)) (Fig. 10, Section 8). The ditch almost certainly originated in the medieval period because a large amount of late 12th/early 13th century pottery was recovered from ditch cut 46 (trench 190) near its southern end during the trial-trenching (Fig. 8). Further north, however, the original medieval ditch line was completely obliterated by multiple post-medieval recuts (Fig. 10, Section 8). Ditch cuts 87 (trench 184) and 532 both contained large fragments of post-medieval red earthenware dating to the 17th-19th centuries, while recuts 528 and 532 also contained post-medieval brick and tile fragments. The latest phase of the ditch was the only one of the recuts to be fully traceable. It followed the western edge of the ditch and contained modern pottery and brick fragments (ditch cuts 48, 67, 89 and 535). Ditch 541, at right angles to 571, contained a fragment of post-medieval brick, but there was no equivalent to the modern recut 535 and this ditch had presumably been infilled at an earlier date.

Ditch 571 closely follows the line of a field boundary showing on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1880 (Fig. 12), and suggests that this element of the modern field system had existed continuously from the medieval period. By contrast, ditch 541 to its west is not shown on the 1st edition map, and probably represents a post-medieval sub-division of a larger field that was later suppressed.

Gravel pit 437 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site. It had vertical sides and was at least 1.2m deep (Fig. 5). A seam of white sand and gravel was present to its immediate south-west (440). The pit was excavated by machine in the 1970s and backfilled shortly thereafter (James Blythe, Wick Farm, pers. comm.).

5.3 Monitoring - Quarry Stage 1, Phase D

Monitoring of topsoil stripping to create an earth bund at the eastern limit of the site (Quarry Stage 1, Phase D) recorded five ditches, of which two are of post-medieval date and one is a modern field boundary (Fig. 9). The surface geology comprised brownish-yellow silt sand with frequent pockets of gravel.

5.3.1 Medieval, post-medieval and modern

All five ditches (1200, 1202/1204/1206, 1209, 1210 and 1211) lay perpendicular to the existing field boundary and farm track (Fig. 9). Two of the ditches (1200 and 1202/1204/1206) formed the western corner of one of the small cropmark enclosures near Chilver's Cottages (Figs 1 and 9). Both ditches contained small amounts of medieval pottery, and post-medieval brick, peg-tile, clay tobacco pipe and animal bone. There was no clear evidence for recutting or for the former presence of ditch-side banks. On balance, the enclosures are most likely to be of post-medieval date.

Ditches 1209, 1210 and 1211 were recorded, but not excavated. Ditch 1211 appears on the 1880 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey. Ditches 1209 and 1210 remain undated, but are probably of post-medieval/modern date because of their alignments.

6.0 FINDS

by Joyce Compton

Finds from the first phases of excavation and monitoring were recovered from a total of 129 contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. The main component of the assemblage is pottery, mostly dating to the Late Iron Age and excavated from Site D (north). A large quantity of burnt flints was also recorded, primarily from two pits on Site C. The finds are described by category below.

6.1 Pottery

A large amount of pottery was recovered from 107 contexts and amounted to 4700 sherds, weighing almost 57kg. More than 95% by weight of the total is of Late Iron Age date. The assemblages from each period form the subject of separate reports, as follows.

6.1.1 Prehistoric pottery by N.J. Lavender

A small amount of pottery, seventy-eight sherds, weighing 528g, was excavated. This has been recorded according to a system devised for prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988; details in archive). The pottery was recorded by fabric, class (after Barrett 1980), form, decoration, surface treatment and condition, and was quantified by sherd count and weight. The assemblage is dominated by the flint-tempered fabrics, sometimes with the addition of sand or grog. These account for 68.9% by sherd count, 78.9% by weight, almost the same proportions as the pottery from the evaluation. The proportion of grog-tempered pottery is slightly lower and there is a small quantity of sand-tempered material (8.1% by sherd, 11.6% by weight). The sherds are unabraded and generally undecorated.

Featured sherds are limited to two rims and a flat base, all residual in Late Iron Age enclosure ditch segment 463 (Site D (north)). Both rims are finer than other pottery from the site, as is the sherd from a flat base that accompanies them and this could belong to either vessel. One rim is a bead and the other rounded and everted and they clearly belong to Drury's (1978) Little Waltham Middle Iron Age series. The presence of a small number of sand-tempered sherds in pit 965 (Site C) also indicates Middle Iron Age activity, although the rest of the assemblage could equally well be of Early Iron Age date.

Although the prehistoric pottery assemblage is small, the presence of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery, some of it in Late Iron Age contexts, suggests continuous occupation of the site throughout the Iron Age. A remarkable Roman jar (see below, fabric code FLINT) in prehistoric Fabric D further suggests uninterrupted occupation and an adherence to older traditions well after the conquest.

6.1.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by Joyce Compton

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from eighty-four contexts and amounted to 4582 sherds, weighing just over 55kg. The pottery has been counted and weighed, in grams, by fabric and form, by context, and the details recorded onto paper *pro formas* which form part of the archive. The pottery fabrics were identified using the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit fabric series, and the vessel forms using the *Camulodunum* type

series (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 215-75). The type series devised for Chelmsford (Going 1987, 13-54) was used for the few Roman forms present. Sherds of intrinsic interest were also recorded, for instance, pierced sherds or those with notches, stamps or graffiti. In general, the assemblage comprises large sherds, although the average sherd weight is low at 12.1g. The pottery has been adversely affected by soil conditions, so that, in a number of cases, the surfaces have been entirely eroded; some sherds are encrusted. Burnt sherds were noted in three contexts and two completely-vitrified sherds were recovered from the fill of enclosure ditch segment 451.

The pottery was recorded, in the first instance, to provide dating evidence for site features and layers. Most contexts (68% of the total) contained 30 sherds of pottery or less, and only ten large or very large pottery groups of 100 sherds or more were identified. Reliable dating evidence, therefore, is restricted to approximately a third of the assemblage, although most contexts could be provided with a general Late Iron Age date, even for smaller assemblages. The pottery covers the period from the beginning of the Late Iron Age into the mid 1st century AD, although only one context (top fill of segment 551 of ditch 570) produced substantial amounts of early Roman pottery. Almost all of the assemblage was recovered from contexts on Site D (north). Fourteen contexts on Site C produced small amounts of mainly Late Iron Age pottery, amounting to less than 1% by weight of the total. Some of the Site C pottery is likely to be residual in medieval or later contexts.

Thirteen fabrics and fabric groups were recorded, the range and proportion of which are summarised in the table below.

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	Count	Weight (g)	%Weight
AMPH	Unsources amphora fabric	1	132	0.2
BSW	Black-surfaced wares	80	855	1.6
CGFCS	Central Gaulish cream-slipped ware	2	2	0
ESH	Early shell-tempered ware	15	96	0.2
FLINT	Flint-tempered fabric	11	270	0.5
GRF	Fine grey ware	2	30	0.1
GROG	Grog-tempered ware	4191	52482	95.0
GROGRF	Red-surfaced grog-tempered ware	121	778	1.4
GRS	Sandy grey wares	24	114	0.2
MICW	Miscellaneous Iron Age coarse wares	3	28	0.1
NGWF	North Gaulish fine white ware	101	190	0.3
RED	Unsources red wares	4	2	0
STOR	Storage jar fabric	22	188	0.3
TR	Terra rubra	3	33	0.1
UPOT	Unidentifiable	2	16	0

Note: The code UPOT, used for the vitrified sherds from ditch 451, denotes pottery whose fabric cannot be described or identified.

The assemblage is dominated by local coarse wares of Late Iron Age date, mainly grog-tempered ware, although small amounts of shell-tempered and other coarse wares were recorded. Imported pottery of Late Iron Age date is also present, comprising North Gaulish white ware, *terra rubra* and Central Gaulish cream-slipped ware. There is a single amphora sherd (ditch segment 551), associated with pottery of mid 1st-century date which includes several Roman fabrics. The sherd is unsourced at present and this could be a Roman import rather than Late Iron Age. Some of the grog-tempered pottery also contains sand and this may be a local tradition or may represent pottery-making which is transitional from the Middle to Late Iron Ages. Pottery with many surface voids is also much in evidence and this could be the result of the action of acid soils on shell inclusions. Early shell-tempered ware, therefore, is probably under-represented in the assemblage.

Roman fabrics comprise just 2% by weight of the total and consist entirely of coarse wares, mainly early Roman black-surfaced ware. An unusual vessel was recorded in the top fill of ditch segment 481. This is a Going G3-type jar (1987, fig.7) but the fabric is classic prehistoric-type Fabric D. The fabric has been recorded under the mnemonic code FLINT for convenience, as it does not appear to conform to any Late Iron Age or Roman fabric definitions. The jar is associated with a large amount of grog-tempered Late Iron Age pottery, probably dating to the second or third quarters of the 1st century AD. The pairing of a Roman vessel form with a fabric which is apparently prehistoric is hard to explain, but may indicate an element of local conservatism.

The range of vessel forms is restricted to jars, beakers, bowls and platters, as would be expected for a largely Late Iron Age assemblage, and there is a single *Cam* 31 dish in the top fill of pit 504. Jars predominate, with at least sixty recorded examples. The cordoned *Cam* 218 is the most numerous but the bead-rimmed *Cam* 259 is also much in evidence. Many jar fragments appear to be from large examples and a number of storage jars in coarser fabrics were also recorded. Several narrow-necked *Cam* 231 jars were noted and pedestal bases were recorded in three contexts. Butt beakers, in grog-tempered ware, *terra rubra* and North Gaulish white ware, are present in a number of contexts. Large parts of an everted-rimmed H1 beaker in red-surfaced grog-tempered ware came from the fill of enclosure ditch segment 451. This is decorated with incised lines and panels of combing. Red-surfaced grog-tempered ware (TR4; Hawkes and Hull 1947, 204) is a local version of the

Gaulish import *terra rubra*. A bowl in this fabric was noted in fill 490 of ditch segment 481. Platters and bowls were recorded in fewer numbers. Examples include *Cam* 21, *Cam* 24, *Cam* 28, *Cam* 211 and *Cam* 212. Two handmade vessels with inturned rims (fill 460, enclosure ditch segment 459) could be either jars or bowls. Unsurprisingly, since pottery of Roman date is poorly represented, there are no mortaria, cups or flagons in the assemblage.

Modified sherds, all in grog-tempered ware, occur in three contexts on Site D (north). A body sherd in the top fill of enclosure ditch segment 476 has a 4mm-diameter post-firing hole and another in the top fill of pit 504 has a 2mm-diameter post-firing hole. The top fill of ditch segment 502 contained a base sherd with an off-centre 5mm-diameter post-firing hole, along with a storage body sherd which has been trimmed and drilled centrally, probably for use as a spindle whorl.

The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery appears to be concentrated in features in the central part of Site D (north). Indeed, almost a third of the assemblage by weight came from segments of enclosure ditch 569. Interestingly, this feature produced all of the recorded Central Gaulish cream-slipped ware and almost all of the *terra rubra*. The top fill of segment 463 contained Roman fabrics which probably push the date into the mid 1st century AD. Mid 1st century AD pottery was also recovered from the top fill of nearby ditch segment 551. The pottery from Site C has no notable characteristics, apart from that in fill 665 of pit 651. A complete *Cam* 203-type pedestal base was recorded in this context, along with joining jar rim and body sherds which have 24mm-diameter circles impressed along the shoulder. Except for a single sherd of sandy grey ware in the top fill of ditch segment 720, all of the Site C pottery is grog-tempered.

In conclusion, this is an interesting assemblage, with almost all of the pottery dating to the Late Iron Age. The identifiable vessel types mainly belong to the first half of the 1st century AD. The presence of low amounts of transitional-type fabric and the near-absence of fully Romanized pottery types confirm the date. Most, if not all, of the continental imports are Late Iron Age types. The pottery from the 2008 excavation has neither the earlier Late Iron Age types nor the 2nd-century AD types found during the evaluation. The earlier pottery appears to lie to the south-west of Site D (north), in Site D (south), and the more Roman assemblages to the north-west, in Site E.

6.1.3 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A very small amount of medieval and later pottery was excavated during this phase of work (a total of 104 sherds weighing 868g, from thirty-nine contexts). Three-quarters of the assemblage by weight was recovered from contexts on Site C. All of the pottery has been catalogued in accordance with Cunningham's typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16).

Site C: medieval pottery

Small amounts of pottery dating to the early medieval period were excavated from ditches 1045 (segments 698, 705, 707, 720) and 693 (and 242 in the trial-trenching), and in a number of pits (741, 751, 842, 855, 874), all situated in the south-east corner of the site. Nearly all this pottery is early medieval ware, diagnostic sherds of which comprise cooking pot fragments with simple or thickened everted rims, which can be assigned an 11th to 12th century date. Ditch segment 698 produced sherds that are borderline early medieval ware/medieval coarse ware and may have a slightly later 12th to 13th century date. In addition, ditch segment 720 and pit 741 produced sherds which are borderline early medieval ware/sandy orange ware and could be earlier 13th century. Much of the material is abraded, indicating the pottery may be residual. Pit 867 contained 12th to 13th century pottery; of some interest are sherds of early medieval ware tempered with grog as well as the more typical coarse sand. The pottery indicates that all these features may be contemporary, the latest pottery indicating a 12th to early 13th century date, although much of the pottery is earlier, consisting of 11th to 12th century rim types.

Site C: post-medieval and modern pottery

A very small amount of post-medieval pottery was excavated, comprising a sherd of later 16th to 19th-century glazed post-medieval red earthenware (from gully 785 in the south-east of the site), and a very abraded base sherd of Surrey-Hampshire white ware (from gully 988 at the western end of the site) showing the remains of a yellow internal glaze and dating to the later 16th to end of 17th century. The pottery from hollow-way 637 is modern, comprising a sherd of white earthenware with blue transfer-printed decoration and, more unusually, a sherd of Parian ware, a type of porcelain invented in the 1840s.

Site D (north): medieval pottery

A small number of widely-scattered features produced early medieval pottery (ditch segment 46, pit 408 and intrusive in Late Iron Age pit 539 and ditch 433). A bevelled cooking pot rim dating to the 11th to 12th centuries in pit 539 is intrusive, and pit 408 produced a beaded rim

from a bowl or cooking pot, which is typical of the 12th century, but is very abraded and may be residual. Both these examples are in early medieval ware. Ditch segment 46 (part of ditch 571) produced a relatively large amount of pottery (220g), comprising part of an early medieval ware flange-rimmed cooking pot shaped bowl and fragments from a medieval coarse ware vessel. Both are fire-blackened, most likely from cooking, and provide a later 12th to early 13th century date for the ditch segment. This pottery is therefore contemporary with the medieval pottery from Site C. Ditch 433 produced an intrusive sherd of unglazed slip-painted Colchester ware most likely dating to the 14th to mid 16th centuries, and further intrusive sherds of very abraded slip-painted, sandy oxidised pottery were excavated from ditch 473, which could be of a similar date, and may also be Colchester ware.

Site D (north): post-medieval and modern pottery

A few sherds of glazed post-medieval red earthenware datable to the 17th to 19th centuries were recovered from post-hole 54 and ditch segments 87 and 532 (both recuts of ditch 571). Vessel forms comprise the flanged rim from a large bowl (from 532) and a base sherd perhaps from a jar (from 87). Equally small amounts of modern pottery dating to the 19th to 20th centuries were recovered from ditch segments 48 and 535 (later recuts of ditch 571), finds comprising sherds of modern white earthenware and modern stoneware.

Quarry Stage 1, Phase D monitoring: medieval and post-medieval pottery

A little pottery was excavated from enclosure ditches close to Chilver's Cottages, at the extreme south-east corner of the proposed quarry area. A single sherd of early medieval ware was excavated from ditch 1200, with two further, rather abraded sherds of this ware in adjacent ditch 1204, but as post-medieval clay pipe and brick were also found in ditch 1204, the pottery is bound to be residual. The only other find is an extremely abraded foot from a tripod base, in a sandy orange fabric, in ditch 1206; it shows faint traces of an internal glaze and probably dates to the 15th/16th centuries.

Discussion

Early medieval pottery was recovered from both Sites C and D (north), as well as residually in Quarry Stage 1D. Although it occurs only in small amounts and much is abraded, it indicates activity during the 11th to early 13th centuries. The areas excavated were well away from the medieval moated site adjacent to Wick Farm and most of the pottery is associated with boundary ditches. There is no pottery datable to the 13th to 14th centuries, although there is a little late medieval pottery scattered around, including, not surprisingly, a sherd of Colchester ware. The small amounts of post-medieval and modern pottery could

have been deposited as the result of muck-spreading using farmyard midden material. The fact that boundary ditch 571 on Site D (north) contains pottery dating from the early medieval to modern periods shows this feature existed in the landscape for a long period of time.

6.2 Metalwork

Very little metalwork was recovered; a single copper alloy item came from the fill of Late Iron Age pit 404 on Site D (north); ironwork was recorded in just four contexts. The copper alloy object consists of a curved flat-sectioned strip, approximately 70mm long and 5mm wide, with square terminals which have incised decoration. The outer surface of the strip also has incised decoration. The function of the object is currently unknown but it appears to be purely decorative.

The most interesting metal finds were recovered from fill 466 of Late Iron Age enclosure ditch segment 463, comprising iron smithing flakes and globules of hammerscale amounting to a total weight of 68g. These were recovered from the dried residues of sample 20, along with quantities of charcoal and pieces of vitrified baked clay (see below). The assemblage probably represents disposal of rake-out from a blacksmith's furnace or smithing-hearth. The identification has been confirmed by David Dungworth (English Heritage Research Department) who adds that the amount of material is remarkable for a Late Iron Age context and will not have been deposited far from its point of origin. It is highly likely, therefore, that the enclosure represents a probable craft-working area, certainly with secondary preparation of raw iron blooms taking place and, possibly, manufacture of iron items themselves.

The remaining iron items are unremarkable; an iron nail shaft was recovered from the primary fill of Late Iron Age enclosure ditch segment 459, two pieces of flat strip, c. 45mm wide, came from post-medieval ditch segment 532 (Site D north) and iron sheet fragments came from modern ditch segment 982 (Site C).

6.3 Brick and tile

Small amounts of post-medieval brick and tile were recovered from seventeen contexts in total. The assemblage is fragmentary and several small pieces are intrusive, either in upper fills, or as surface finds over features. Brick fragments were found in seven contexts and some are so small as to be almost unidentifiable. The most substantial pieces were found in post-medieval or modern features (ditch segment 532 [Site D north] and pit group 888 [Site C]). Eleven contexts produced roof tile fragments, with the most substantial piece occurring in post-medieval ditch segment 1206 (Quarry Stage 1D monitoring).

A number of ceramic fragments, probably deriving from the same piece, were recovered from ditch segment 951 on Site C. The fragments are flat with an average depth of 15mm, and there appears to be a tapering edge to some pieces. The fragments have the appearance of flat tile, but are too small and undiagnostic for certain identification and it is not possible to provide a firm date.

6.4 Baked clay and briquetage

Twenty-five contexts produced baked clay, amounting to a total weight of 3.2kg, mostly comprising small and undiagnostic fragments. Briquetage fragments, with a total weight of 200g, were recovered from four contexts on Site D (north), all associated with Late Iron Age pottery. The largest piece came from the fill of pit 566.

Most of the baked clay assemblage is in a fine red-buff fabric, with few inclusions, which has mostly formed into abraded, rolled pieces. Eight contexts contained fragments which are more diagnostic, although those from fills 457 and 458 of enclosure ditch segment 456 have flat surfaces which do not provide further information. All eight contexts are on Site D (north) and all contained pottery of Late Iron Age date; several also contained earlier pottery.

Pit 418 and ditch segment 551 each contained fragments from baked clay blocks. The pieces from pit 418 have an average depth of 30mm and one piece retains a corner. The block fragments in ditch 551 are more friable and the fabric is similar to the briquetage in pit 566, although darker in colour. None of these pieces retains the full depth, although one piece has a corner.

An enigmatic cone-shaped object, now in eight fragments, was recovered from the fill of enclosure ditch segment 451. The base of the object is flat, with a diameter of 45-50mm, and the object is 75-80mm high. The top of the cone is domed and there are no obvious piercings, either pre- or post-firing. Objects such as this in baked clay are infrequent finds on prehistoric and Late Iron Age sites, and their function remains obscure.

Of particular interest are the part-vitrified fragments from two fills of enclosure ditch segment 463. These are remnants of clay furnace-lining which have fused with iron-rich slag at high temperatures. Three of the pieces from fill 466 join, showing the remains of a blowing-hole where air from a bellows was introduced into the furnace. A similar example from Ribchester is shown in Bayley *et al.* (2001, fig.10).

The fill of ditch segment 481 produced several fragments which are apparently from loom weights. Two large pieces in reduced fabric perhaps derive from the same Late Iron Age triangular loom weight. Other, smaller, pieces have curved edges and may be from a cylindrical loom weight of possible earlier date. There is no sign of any piercings, however, so objects with a different function may be represented.

6.5 Worked and burnt flints by Hazel Martingell

Eight contexts produced worked flints and a natural piece was collected from fill 432 of ditch segment 425. Eight of the worked flints are flakes and the ninth is a typical late prehistoric/ Iron Age core. Five of the flakes could also be later prehistoric. None of the flakes are retouched which is another feature of late prehistoric flintwork.

Burnt flints and stone were recorded in eighteen contexts, almost all of which were on Site C. Three burnt flints, with slag adhering, were collected from enclosure ditch segment 463 (Site D (north)); these are likely to have been incidentally burnt. At least three-quarters by weight of the burnt flints came from two features on Site C (pits 640, 738). These appear to be isolated features at some distance from each other. There is no associated dating evidence and the reasons for the burial of quantities of burnt flints in these two features remains unknown.

6.6 Animal bone

Animal bone is poorly represented, probably due to adverse soil conditions, and only calcined bone has survived, except for a number of abraded long bone shaft fragments which were found in the fill of modern ditch 982 (Site C). Calcined bone, with a total weight of 45g, was recovered from nine contexts on Site D (north). Seven of these contexts are segment fills of Late Iron Age enclosure ditch 569 and the remaining two are fills of Late Iron Age ditch 570. All of the fragments are small and abraded, with few diagnostic elements, and are likely to be the remains of domestic food consumption. Large amounts of charcoal and craft residues were also found in various segments of ditch 569 and the burnt bone may represent the remains of artisan's meals.

6.7 Other finds

Small amounts of slag were found in two segments of enclosure ditch 569 and in ditch segment 481, both on Site D (north). Lava quern fragments in poor condition were recovered from the fill of medieval ditch 720 on Site C. A further possible quern fragment

was retrieved from the surface of pit 888, also Site C. Lastly, a small piece of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem came from ditch 1204 (Quarry Stage 1D monitoring).

6.8 Environmental material

Bulk soil samples were taken from fifteen contexts on Site D (north) for the purposes of environmental analysis. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. All samples 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 and charcoal were recorded by count and weight, where possible, and these details added to the quantification table in Appendix 2. A range of finds, mainly pottery and baked clay, was recovered from the residues of eleven of the soil samples. Thirteen samples produced flots, most of which contained only charcoal. Charcoal was also hand-collected from the fill of pit 738 on Site C.

The flots and charcoal were submitted to Val Fryer, who reports:

“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 Appendix 2. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were present throughout.

Results

Although the assemblages varied greatly in volume (from <0.1 litres to 0.8 litres), all were largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, including a moderately high density of pieces larger than 5mm. Some of this material appeared to have been subjected to high temperatures during combustion, as several fragments were flaked, whilst other were fringed with tarry globules. Further fragments were very abraded, possibly indicating either prolonged exposure prior to deposition or subsequent disturbance of the deposits. Only three non-charcoal plant remains were recorded, namely an indeterminate cereal grain and a brome (*Bromus* sp.) fruit from sample 18 (fill 465, enclosure ditch segment 463) and a large grass (Poaceae) fruit from sample 22 (fill 490, ditch segment 481).

Other remains were also scarce. The occasional fragments of black porous and tarry material were all probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Flakes and a globule of ferrous hammerscale were present within samples 20 and 21 (fills 466 and 477, enclosure ditch segments 463 and 476 respectively), and sample 24 (fill 567, pit 566) contained a small piece of coal.

Conclusion

It would appear that ditches, and one or two pits, were being used for the deposition of small quantities of charred waste. That the assemblages are principally composed of charcoal or charred wood may indicate that most are derived from hearth waste, with both the presence of hammerscale and the absence of food plant remains suggesting a metalworking craft source for the material as opposed to domestic refuse. Identification of the larger charcoal fragments may provide data about the local landscape and/or the utilisation of plant resources for fuel.”

6.9 Comments on the finds assemblage

A range of finds was recorded, mainly of later prehistoric and early Roman date. The largest component is pottery; in part, this reflects the date of the assemblage, since the range of artefactual types was more restricted during the prehistoric period. Earlier prehistoric pottery (1.4% by weight) and medieval pottery (1.1% by weight) form very small proportions of the assemblage. Worked flints and metal items are also poorly represented. Finds of the medieval and post-medieval periods other than pottery are also few and far between. For instance, the brick and tile assemblage amounts to little more than 1kg and just one clay tobacco pipe fragment was recorded.

The quantity of Late Iron Age pottery from such a relatively small number of contexts is noteworthy. Apart from the effects of acidic soil conditions on surfaces, the pottery is unabraded and many contexts contain large sherds. Although apparently representing discarded rubbish, the pottery has not moved far, if at all, from its original point of deposition (see Fig. 7 for the distribution of Late Iron Age pottery on Site D (north)). It is interesting that most of the worked flints are later prehistoric and thus they may be contemporary with the bulk of the pottery.

Environmental material is almost entirely absent. The only animal bone to survive has been calcined and there is no shell. Plant macrofossils are also scarce, see above. The acidic soil conditions are probably largely responsible for this, and it has been noted that pottery

surfaces have also been adversely affected. The soil conditions may also account for the lack of metalwork. Large amounts of charcoal were recovered, almost all from segment fills of enclosure ditch 569. It has been noted above that this may represent residues from craft-working (see Fig. 7 for distribution). Its association with Late Iron Age pottery may suggest usefulness in providing Carbon14 dates.

Further work towards publication should be carried out on the prehistoric and Late Iron Age material. Late Iron Age pottery was recorded in a combined total of 126 contexts and that from sixteen of these should be fully quantified by vessel rim equivalence. A minimum of forty-seven illustrations will be required; this includes prehistoric pottery and the flint-tempered jar in ditch segment 481. The copper alloy item has been conserved and a report, including illustration of the object, should be prepared by an expert in the field. The metalworking debris merits publication and this will require illustration (photographic) of the vitrified clay with the blowing-hole. At least one flint implement should be illustrated. As noted above the charcoal ought to be considered for Carbon14 dating so that the transitional period between the Middle/Late Iron Age and the early Roman period can be further clarified.

No further work is required on the post-Roman material or the burnt bone, slag and ironwork. All of the finds should be retained, although those of recent date, and the burnt flints and stone, could be discarded at the archiving stage.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological investigation of Sites C and D (north) and monitoring of Quarry Stage 1, Phase D has recorded prehistoric, Late Iron Age, early Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains. The majority of the remains relate to a Late Iron Age settlement in the west of the reservoir/quarry area, with only limited evidence of earlier Iron Age settlement (Fig. 11), but the investigation has also recorded medieval and post-medieval field boundaries related to Wick Farm and a presumed medieval predecessor (Fig. 12).

7.1 Palaeochannel

Excavation of Site C identified a shallow palaeochannel in the floor of the valley that crosses the site from west to east. The palaeochannel represents erosion of the natural silt-clay capping of the underlying sands and gravels, and is almost certainly of post-glacial origin. The eastern end of Site C remains a naturally wet area at the head of the present-day stream

valley, next to a natural spring that feeds the stream. The southern limit of Site D (north) contained a shallow layer of silt overlying the natural silt-clay, representing a post-glacial build-up of sediment at the head of the valley, which clearly predated the Late Iron Age features in that area.

7.2 Prehistoric - Early and Middle Iron Age?

Prehistoric features were recorded only in Site C and consist of one pit containing Middle Iron Age pottery, one pit containing undiagnostic prehistoric pottery, and two undated pits containing large amounts of burnt flint. The prehistoric finds from both Sites C and D (north) include a small assemblage of Iron Age struck flint and residual sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. This evidence suggests the presence of Early and Middle Iron Age settlement elsewhere in the reservoir/quarry area, although not in Sites C and D (north).

7.3 Late Iron Age

The boundary ditches, enclosures and pits of Site D (north) represent the north-eastern part of an extensive Late Iron Age settlement spanning the head of the stream valley (Fig. 11), with the focus of the settlement represented by a large ditched enclosure to the south-west (Site D (south)). Parallel Late Iron Age ditches in Site C (1036-1038 and 1039) represent the remains of a narrow trackway heading up the southern edge of the stream valley towards the entrance to the main settlement enclosure in Site D (south) (Fig. 11). While Site D (north) was part of the main Late Iron Age settlement, Site C was a peripheral area.

The main settlement enclosure in Site D (south) has not yet been fully investigated, but has been recorded as a cropmark from aerial photographs and dated to the Late Iron Age by the trial-trenching evaluation (Fig. 1, EHER 2545). Two major boundary ditches in Site D (north) (568 and 570) were aligned on the entrance to the Site D (south) enclosure and appear to have formed a broad approach to the main settlement area. The small rectangular enclosure in Site D (north) (569) formed an annexe outside the entrance to the main settlement, and is interpreted as a working area on the basis of ironworking debris found in the enclosure ditch, although large amounts of domestic rubbish were also disposed of in this area.

The distribution of finds indicates that enclosure 569 was the focus of Late Iron Age activity in Site D (north), with large amounts of pottery and other material deposited in the enclosure ditch, the surrounding pits and the nearby boundary ditch 570 (Fig. 7). Although no features were recorded within the enclosure, its ditch contained ironworking debris, representing disposal of rake-out from a blacksmith's furnace or smithing hearth. The bulk of the finds

assemblage comprises pottery, much of it of large unabraded sherds, consistent with disposal of rubbish near to the place of original use. Small amounts of briquetage were recovered, implying the transport and use of salt to preserve food, while fragments of loom weights, used in weaving, were also recovered. Overall, the finds indicate ironworking as a specific activity within the enclosure, with general evidence of domestic consumption and activities.

The Late Iron Age pottery from Site D (north) does not include the early forms recovered from the trial-trenching of the main settlement enclosure in Site D (south), suggesting that the annexe did not come into use until part way through the life of the settlement. The few sherds of early Roman pottery recovered from Site D (north) mainly came from the upper fills of features, suggesting the abandonment of the Site D settlement in the mid-1st century AD.

The Late Iron Age trackway was the main feature in Site C, with a pit and a well to the north of the east-west valley as the only other Late Iron Age features, although there is the suggestion of enclosure and/or field boundary ditches to the south of the trackway. The comparative dearth of Late Iron Age features and finds in Site C confirms that it was situated outside the main area of settlement, as represented by Site D. Although a large amount of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the 2008 excavations, 99% of it came from Site D (north), near the main settlement focus, and less than 1% from Site C. However, the trial-trenching evaluation recorded a ditch (229) containing large amounts of Late Iron Age pottery and charcoal at the southern limit of Site C, outside the Silt Pond Area (Fig. 11; Germany 2006, trench 82). This southern area has not yet been fully investigated, but the ditch may represent the northern boundary of a secondary area of activity, possibly an enclosure, outside the main settlement area in Site D.

7.4 Medieval and post-medieval

Ditch 571 in Site D (north) implies that the existing pattern of land division at Wick Farm may have at least partly originated in the medieval period (Fig. 12). The ditch appears to have been first dug by the late 12th to early 13th century and have been redefined many times through the post-medieval period, surviving until the late 19th century, when it was recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 12).

An area of medieval activity is indicated by a concentration of medieval ditches and pits in the south-east of Site C. Most of the ditches in Site C represent the repeated demarcation of the thin strip of marginal land represented by the east-west stream valley (Fig. 12). Included

amongst these are medieval ditches in the south-east of Site C, and post-medieval and modern ditches towards its western end. Several sets of post-medieval gullies or slots, some of which contained post-settings, are interpreted as remains of pens, implying herding of animals. The modern ditch crossing the south-west corner of Site C does not appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and is likely to have been out of use before the 1860s/1870s. The large modern feature 637 represents recent use of the area as a farm track.

Monitoring of Quarry Phase D adjacent to Chilver's Cottages in the south-east of the reservoir/quarry area dated the western of the two small cropmark enclosures to the post-medieval period (Fig. 12). These presumably represent smallholdings or paddocks. A modern field boundary ditch was also recorded in the west of the stripped area.

Ditches 541 and 571 in Site D (north), and the ditches in Quarry Phase D, are the remains of small post-medieval fields which were amalgamated during the 19th and 20th centuries to create the large fields which currently comprise the field pattern at Wick Farm. Some of the original small fields are recorded on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey (1861-76).

8.0 ASSESSMENT

This section of the report assesses the extent to which the excavation of the Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas (Sites C and D (north)) has addressed the project's research objectives (see 3.0, above), and makes recommendations for future analysis and publication of the excavation results. It concludes with an outline of future archaeological fieldwork required as mitigation for each stage of quarrying to create the reservoir.

8.1 Prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman topographical development

The excavation of the Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas (Sites C and D (north)) confirms the interpretation of topographical development given in the trial-trenching evaluation report (Germany 2006, 23-5 and fig. 14).

The limited prehistoric activity recorded in Sites C and D (north) is probably of Early or Middle Iron Age date. The most likely areas of earlier Iron Age settlement remain Sites A and B, as identified by the trial trenching evaluation in the north-east and south-east of the reservoir/quarry area respectively (Fig. 1).

Excavation has confirmed that Site D represents a Late Iron Age settlement which straddled the head of the east-west valley, with the main settlement enclosure to the south of the valley and an annexe, identified as a working area, to the north (Fig. 11). The area of Late Iron Age remains in Site D (north) was as predicted by the trial-trenching evaluation, as was the almost complete absence of remains across the western half of the Processing Plant Area. Although the main settlement enclosure (Site D (south)) has yet to be fully investigated, the overall layout of the settlement has been clearly established.

The Late Iron Age trackway in Site C traversed the southern edge of the east-west valley and linked the main settlement with the area to its east (Fig. 11). Site C recorded a higher density of features than expected, but most of these were of medieval or post-medieval date with a low density of Late Iron Age features and finds, confirming that Site C was peripheral to the main area of Late Iron Age settlement. However, the southern limit of Site C has not yet been fully investigated (Fig. 1), and it is suspected that one or more Late Iron Age enclosures may have existed to the south of the trackway. Even so, the trial-trenching evaluation recorded very few archaeological features over the wider area to the south of Site C and this was most likely occupied by fields in the Late Iron Age. Monitoring of Quarry Phase D in the extreme east of the reservoir/quarry area established that the rectangular cropmark enclosures adjacent to Chilver's Cottages (Fig. 1, EHER 2574) were of post-medieval date and the hypothesis that these were Late Iron Age can now be discounted.

The almost complete absence of Roman pottery from Sites C and D (north) indicates that the Late Iron Age settlement was abandoned in the mid-1st century AD. This confirms the conclusions of the evaluation report, that early Roman settlement was concentrated in the area of Site E to the north-west of Site D (Fig. 1), close to the major Roman road from London to Colchester and Caistor-by-Norwich. The evaluation report argued that Late Iron Age to Roman settlement continuity was common (Germany 2006, 24-5), but in the case of Wick Farm there appears to have been a distinct shift in the location of the main settlement area at the beginning of the Roman period, even though it is possible that there was continuity in farming the land. Otherwise, topographical development conforms to the pattern proposed by Bryant (2000), in which a larger well-established Late Iron Age settlement replaced smaller earlier Iron Age settlements that frequently changed location.

8.2 Character of Late Iron Age settlement and economy

Evidence of settlement and economy was recovered only from the Late Iron Age settlement area in Site D (Fig. 11). Although the main Late Iron Age settlement enclosure has not been

fully investigated, the excavation of Site D (north) recovered much information about the character of settlement and related activities.

The annexe in Site D (north) outside the entrance to the main settlement was a working area with significant evidence for ironworking. Although no smithing hearth or furnace was found, the ironworking debris that was recovered is diagnostic of the manufacturing process being carried out. Large-scale disposal of rubbish in pits and boundary ditches outside the main settlement area provides evidence of domestic consumption, as well as other activities, such as weaving and storage and salt-preservation of food. Salt would have been readily available locally from one of the many red hills (salt extraction sites) along the Colne estuary and the north side of Mersea Island (Fawn *et al.* 1990, 50). The finds assemblage is biased in favour of pottery, and very few metal or other artefacts survive, most likely due to the acidic soil.

The soil conditions are probably also responsible for the poor preservation of animal bone and plant macrofossils, and there is not even any evidence for charred grain remains from crop processing or food preparation. As a result, nothing is known about the meat or cereal diet of the inhabitants of the Late Iron Age settlement, nor is it possible to analyse the character of animal husbandry or agricultural economy. The evidence from Site D (north) suggests that this was an area of craft-industry, and agricultural activities such as processing of crops most likely took place elsewhere. A better understanding of the Late Iron Age agricultural economy will depend on future investigation of the field system and the survival of features such as agricultural enclosures, corn-driers and deposits of charred grain.

8.3 Medieval and post-medieval landscape development

Long-lived boundary 571 in Site D (north) and the repeated demarcation of the marginal land of the east-west valley in Site C suggest that at least some elements of medieval and post-medieval field systems can be identified (Fig. 12), with potential for understanding the changing pattern of land-use from the medieval period to the present day. The earliest medieval activity is dated to the 12th century, suggesting the existence of a medieval predecessor to the present-day Wick Farm, whose farmhouse dates to the mid-18th century. It is suggested that the moated enclosure immediately to the south of the modern farm is the site of a medieval farmhouse and the focal point of a medieval farm (Fig. 12).

The southern edge of the valley in Site C appears to have been a focus for medieval and post-medieval activity, with evidence of medieval/post-medieval ditches also recorded to the

south-east during the trial-trenching evaluation (Germany 2006, trenches 95, 96 and 105). The evidence is consistent with enclosures and pens for management of livestock. The wet ground of the valley floor suggests that it was pasture and/or woodland for most of its history; much as it is today to the east, where the stream is tree-lined, with copses on either bank (Fig. 12). Small post-medieval enclosures or paddocks were also recorded in Quarry Phase D near Chilver's Cottages in the extreme east of the reservoir/quarry area.

At present, little is known of the medieval field system, although archaeological and cartographic evidence shows that several small post-medieval fields have been amalgamated to form larger fields in modern times, no doubt to increase productivity and to facilitate the use of agricultural machinery. Monitoring as quarrying progresses should enable the earlier, medieval field boundary ditches to be identified and dated.

8.4 Archaeological significance and publication proposals

The Late Iron Age remains recorded in Site D (north), especially the annexe and its evidence for ironworking, are of high significance, and excavation has confirmed the layout, character and date of Late Iron Age activity outside the entrance to the main settlement enclosure. The Late Iron Age remains recorded in Site C are of moderate significance, as they lie outside the main area of settlement, although they contribute to understanding of the wider Late Iron Age landscape. The medieval and post-medieval remains recorded in Sites C and D (north) are also of moderate significance, again mainly for understanding landscape development, and the character of the farming economy preceding the modern farm.

The Late Iron Age evidence in Site D (north) justifies detailed publication at a future date, when other areas of the reservoir/quarry have been investigated, in particular the main area of the Site D settlement (Fig. 1, Quarry Stage 2). The prehistoric and Late Iron Age remains include highly significant finds assemblages which should be published in detail (see 6.9 above, p. 28 for full recommendations), notably the pottery and the metalworking debris. It is also proposed to assess whether Carbon14 dates can be obtained from the large charcoal fragments recovered from the ditch segments of enclosure 569 in Site D (north), to provide absolute dating for the metalworking debris and to help refine dating of the Middle/Late Iron Age pottery. It would also be useful to analyse the charcoal to identify the wood species being used for fuel. Most of the work for preparation of a publication report can be deferred until the end of fieldwork for the overall reservoir/quarry area, but it is strongly recommended that scientific analysis of the metalworking debris and the obtaining of Carbon14 dates be carried out in the near future, as the material to be analysed will deteriorate over time.

8.5 Archaeological mitigation completed

The 2008 excavations and monitoring work have recorded the following areas (Fig. 1) to enable quarrying operations to proceed:

Processing Plant Area. Site D (north) has been recorded in full, except for enclosure 433 at its northern limit. This does not affect overall understanding of Site D (north), and it is proposed that the remainder of the enclosure be recorded during monitoring of Quarry Stage 4 (Phase K).

Silt Pond Area. The majority of Site C has been recorded, except for an area along its southern edge which contains potentially significant Late Iron Age remains. This area will need to be recorded, either during construction of the Silt Ponds or, if not affected by the Silt Pond groundworks, during monitoring of Quarry Stage 2 (Phase E).

Quarry Stage 1, Phases B and D. Fieldwork to date suggests that these areas contain no significant archaeological remains and it is proposed not to carry out any further monitoring.

8.6 Future archaeological programme

The long-term programme of fieldwork within the reservoir/quarry (Fig. 1), as agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, is as follows:

Quarry Stage 1

- Phase C. This area has not been evaluated and will require detailed monitoring (frequent attendance) of topsoil stripping and a contingency for possible excavation.
- Phase A. Detailed excavation of Site B (c. 1.0 ha), a probable Middle/Late Iron Age settlement, with detailed monitoring of topsoil stripping and a contingency for possible excavation over the remainder of the area.

Quarry Stage 2.

- Phase E. Low-level monitoring (occasional attendance) of topsoil stripping.
- Phases F and G. Detailed excavation of Site D (south) (c. 3.0 ha), the main Late Iron Age settlement enclosure, and detailed monitoring of topsoil stripping of the rest of the area.

Quarry Stage 3

- Phases H and I. No archaeological work required.
- Phase J. Detailed excavation of Site A (c. 0.5 ha), a probable Early Iron Age settlement, with no archaeological work required over the rest of the area.

Quarry Stage 4

- Phase K. Detailed monitoring before topsoil stripping of the northern edge of Site D (north), with no archaeological work required over the rest of the area.
- Phase L. Detailed excavation of Site E (c. 1.0 ha), a probable early Roman settlement succeeding the Late Iron Age settlement in Site D, and detailed monitoring of topsoil stripping of the rest of the area, except the southern end, which has already been investigated as part of the Processing Plant Area.

Geological Monitoring

- All Quarry Stages. Low-level monitoring (occasional attendance) by a geologist to record the Ardleigh sands and gravels and especially any organic strata with potential for plant or mammal remains, with a contingency for specialist analysis of samples.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions are in millimetres

No	Site	Category	Length	Width	Depth	Description	Date
800	C	Gully	1100	270	130	Gully segment. Irregular sides and base. Contains numerous post- or stake-holes	Post-med / modern
801	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 796	Post-med / modern
802	C	Pit	970	800	100	Irregular-shaped pit with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
803	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 802	Undated
804	C	Gully	630	400	150	Gully segment. Moderately-sloping sides, uneven base	?Post-med / modern
805	C	Fill				Single fill of gully segment 804	?Post-med / modern
806	C	Pit	1700	500	250	Elongated pit with moderately-steep sides and a concave base	Undated
807	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 806	Undated
808	C	Fill				Secondary fill of pit 806	Undated
809	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 806	Undated
810	C	Fill				Single fill of gully segment 800	Post-med / modern
811	C	Pit	2100	1200	370	Oval pit with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
812	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 811	Undated
813	C	Fill				Secondary fill of pit 811	Undated
814	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 811	Undated
815	C	Pit	1200	1200	250	Circular pit with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
816	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 815	Undated
817	C	Gully	500	300	170	Gully segment. Moderately-sloping sides and a V-shaped base	?Post-med / modern
818	C	Fill				Single fill of gully segment 817	?Post-med / modern
819	C	Pit	3500	600	110	Elongated pit with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
820	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 819	Undated
821	C	Pit	1030	450	360	Sub-rectangular pit with steeply-sloping sides and flat base	Undated
822	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 821	Undated
823	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 821	Undated
824	C	Gully		180	80	Gully segment. Details not recorded	?Post-med / modern
825	C	Fill				Single fill of gully segment 824	?Post-med / modern
826	C	Pit	2500	1000	300	Oval pit with moderately-steep sides and a concave base	Undated
827	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 826	Undated
828	C	Post-hole	700	680	200	Oval post-hole with moderately-steep sides and a concave base	Undated
829	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 828	Undated
830	C	Post-hole	300	280	80	Oval post-hole with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
831	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 830	Undated
832	C	Post-hole	300	280	80	Oval post-hole with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
833	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 832	Undated
834	C	Post-hole	500	400	120	Oval post-hole with moderately-steep sides and a concave base	Undated

835	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 834	Undated
836	C	Pit	100	100	160	Circular pit with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
837	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 836	Undated
838	C	Post-hole	600	500	150	Sub-rectangular post-hole with moderately to steeply-sloping sides and a slightly concave base	Undated
839	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 838	Undated
840	C	Post-hole	200	200	250	Circular post-hole with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
841	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 840	Undated
842	C	Post-hole	550	480	300	Sub-rectangular post-hole with vertical sides and a concave base	Medieval
843	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 842	Medieval
844	C	Pit	880	940	490	Rounded pit with steeply-sloping sides and a slightly concave base	Medieval+
845	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 844	Medieval+
846	C	Fill				Third fill of pit 844	Medieval+
847	C	Fill				Secondary fill of pit 844	Medieval+
848	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 844	Medieval+
849	C	Pit	510	380	60	Oval pit with gradually-sloping sides and a slightly concave base	Prehistoric
850	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 849	Prehistoric
851	C	Post-hole	370	310	140	Oval post-hole with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
852	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 851	Undated
853	C	Post-hole	380	330	100	Oval post-hole with moderately-sloping sides and a flat base	Undated
854	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 853	Undated
855	C	Post-hole	600	520	90	Oval post-hole with moderately-sloping sides and a slightly concave base	Medieval+
856		Fill				Single fill of post-hole 855	Medieval+
857	C	Post-hole	380	300	110	Oval post-hole with moderately-sloping sides and a flat base	Undated
858	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 857	Undated
859	C	Post-hole	450	450	190	Circular post-hole with near-vertical sides and a slightly concave base	Undated
860	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 859	Undated
861	C	Post-hole	400	300		Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
862	C	Post-hole	600	300		Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
863	C	Post-hole				Circular post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
864	C	Pit	1500	1400	490	Oval pit with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
865	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 864	Undated
866	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 864	Undated
867	C	Pit	760	1140	330	Elongated pit with steeply-sloping sides and an irregular base	Medieval+
868	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 867	Medieval+
869	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 867	Medieval+
870	C	Pit	2400	2000	400	Oval pit with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base	Medieval+
871	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 870	Medieval+
872	C	Fill				Secondary fill of pit 870	Medieval+
873	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 870	Medieval+
874	C	Post-hole	500	500	60	Circular post-hole with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Medieval+
875	C	Fill				Single fill of post-hole 874	Medieval+
876	C	Post-hole	750	450		L-shaped arrangement of one or more post-holes. Not excavated	Undated
877	C	Pit	1000	750		Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
878	C	Post-hole	500	480		Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated

879	C	Pit	620	600		Sub-rectangular pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
880	C	Post-hole	300	240		Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
881	C	Post-hole	320	290		Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
882	C	Post-hole				Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
883	C	Post-hole	410	250		Elongated post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
884	C	Pit	850	740		Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
885	C	Pit	1600	1120		Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
886	C	Pit				Oval post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
887	C	Natural feature	2000	1050		Tree-hole. Dark humic fill with small flecks of wood. Not excavated	Modern
888	C	Other		7160	380	Pit group, consisting of numerous intercutting pits with shared deposits	Post-med
889	C	Finds				Surface finds. Pit group 888	Post-med
890	C	Finds				Unstratified finds from fills 899 to 904 in pit group 888	Post-med
891	C	Pit	1300	900	370	Oval pit with near-vertical sides and a flat base	Undated
892	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 891	Undated
893	C	Fill				Secondary fill of pit 891	Undated
894	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 891	Undated
895	C	Natural feature	1300	900	100	Irregular-shaped natural feature, probably hole left by grubbed-out tree or shrub	Modern
896	C	Fill				Single fill of natural-feature 895. Dark and humic. Contains flecks of semi-decayed wood	Modern
897	C	Gully	630	320	80	Short section of gully between pits 870 and 891. Gradually-sloping sides, slightly concave base	Undated
898	C	Fill				Single fill of gully 897	Undated
899	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit group 888	Post-med
900	C	Fill				Secondary fill in pit group 888	Post-med
901	C	Fill				Top fill of pit group 888	Post-med
902	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit group 888	Post-med
903	C	Fill				Top fill of pit group 888	Post-med
904	C	Fill				Top fill of pit group 888	Post-med
905	C	Pit				Irregular-shaped pit. Not excavated	Undated
906	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
907	C	Ditch	900	1000	230	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides. Concave base	Undated
908	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 907	Undated
909	C	Ditch	600	1900	620	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	Undated
909	C	Ditch	600	1900	620	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	Undated
910	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 909	Undated
911	C	Fill				Secondary fill of ditch segment 909	Undated
912	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 909	Undated
913	C	Ditch	1070	1750	630	Ditch segment. Moderately-steep sides, concave base	Undated
914	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 913	Undated
915	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 913	Undated
916	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 913	Undated
917	C	Fill				Top fill of pit group 888	Post-med
918	C	Post-hole	500	480		Oval pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
919	C	Ditch	1200	900	150	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, flat base	?Post-med
920	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 919	?Post-med
921	C	Pit	2000	2000	270	Circular pit with moderately-sloping sides and an uneven base	Undated
922	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 921	Undated
923	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated

924	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
925	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
926	C	Gully				Gully or pit. Not excavated	Undated
927	C	Pit	2740	950	150	Elongated pit or short section of ditch. Gradually-sloping sides, slightly concave base	LIA
928	C	Fill				Top fill of pit 927	LIA
929	C	Ditch	2000	550	250	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	Undated
930	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 929	Undated
931	C	Pit		650	200	Oval pit with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
932	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 931	Undated
933	C	Pit	720	440		Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
934	C	Fill				Primary fill of pit 927	LIA
935	C	Ditch	1170	1680	270	Ditch segment. Moderately-steep sides, concave base	LIA+
936	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 935	LIA+
937	C	Ditch	600	700	180	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	Undated
938	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 937	Undated
939	C	Ditch	800	1100	210	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, slightly concave base	Undated
940	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 939	Undated
941	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 935	LIA+
942	C	Ditch	1150	1000	180	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	?Post-med
943	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 942	?Post-med
944	C	Pit	1150	1120	240	Irregular-shaped pit with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
945	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 944	Undated
946	C	Pit	900	1410	260	Sub-rectangular pit with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Undated
947	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 946	Undated
948	C	Ditch	1500	620	210	Ditch segment. Moderately-steep sides and a flat base	Undated
949	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 948	Undated
950	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 948	Undated
951	C	Ditch	2000	1300	350	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, uneven base	Undated
952	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 951	Undated
953	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 951	Undated
954	C	Ditch	2400	660	300	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, flat base	Undated
955	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 954	Undated
956	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 954	Undated
957	C	Ditch	2400	1000	300	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	?Post-med
958	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 957	?Post-med
959	C	Pit	1040	1000		Rounded pit. Not excavated	Undated
960	C	Gully				Short gully or elongated pit. Not excavated	Undated
961	C	Ditch	1100	1480	330	Ditch segment. Moderately-steep sides, concave base	?Post-med
962	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 961	?Post-med
963	C	Natural feature	600	1510	580	Natural feature. ?Tree-hole	Undated
964	C	Fill				Single fill of natural-feature 963	Undated
965	C	Pit	600	780	230	Elongated pit with gradually-sloping sides and a concave base	Prehistoric
966	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 965	Prehistoric

967	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 961	?Post-med
968	C	Natural feature	1300	800		Irregular-shaped natural feature, probably hole left by grubbed-out tree or shrub. Contains dark humic fill and flecks of semi-decayed wood. Not excavated	Undated
969	C	Ditch	1000	1720	260	Ditch segment. Moderately-steep sides, flat base	LIA+
970	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 969	LIA+
971	C	Ditch	1280	900	120	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, slightly concave base	Undated
972	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 971	Undated
973	C	Pit	790	800	170	Rounded pit with gradually-sloping sides and a flat base	Undated
974	C	Fill				Single fill of pit 973	Undated
975	C	Ditch	2400	1200	280	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, slightly concave base	LIA+
976	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 975	LIA+
977	C	Ditch	1000	1300	400	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, slightly concave base	LIA+
978	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 977	LIA+
979	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 977	LIA+
980	C	Ditch	1000	900	240	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	LIA+
981	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 980	LIA+
982	C	Ditch				Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, uneven base	Modern
983	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 982	Modern
984	C	Ditch	700	1000	210	Ditch segment. Base and sides not exposed	Undated
985	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 984	Undated
986	C	Ditch	760	840	160	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, concave base	Undated
987	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 986	Undated
988	C	Gully	1000	720	70	Gully segment. Gradually-sloping sides, concave base	Post-med+
989	C	Fill				Single fill of gully segment 988	Post-med+
990	C	Ditch	1000	2000	690	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	LIA+
991	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 990	LIA+
992	C	Ditch	2000	2000	320	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, irregular base	LIA+
993	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 992	LIA+
994	C	Ditch	2130	1500	220	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	LIA+
995	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 994	LIA+
996	C	Ditch	750	1600	650	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, narrow concave base	LIA+
997	C	Fill				Primary fill of ditch segment 996	LIA+
998	C	Fill				Secondary fill of ditch segment 996	LIA+
999	C	Fill				Top fill of ditch segment 996	LIA+
1000	C	Natural				Natural deposit to either side of palaeochannel 1002	
1001	C	Natural				Natural layer, south-western corner of site B	
1002	C	Natural			100	Natural deposit forming broad band running east-west across site B. ?Palaeochannel	
1003	C	Topsoil			250	Topsoil	
1004		Layer			120	Subsoil	
1005	C	Ditch	1000	1400	160	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, uneven base	LIA+
1006	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1005	LIA+

1007	C	Ditch	1000	1700	100	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, uneven base	?Post-med
1008	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1007	?Post-med
1009	C	Ditch	800	1200	120	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, concave base	Undated
1010	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1009	Undated
1011	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
1012	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
1013	C	Pit				Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
1014	C	Pit				Square pit with rounded corners. Not excavated	Undated
1015	C	Pit				Elongated pit or natural feature. Not excavated	Undated
1016	C	Pit				Irregular-shaped pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
1017	C	Pit				Irregular-shaped pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
1018	C	Pit				Elongated pit. Not excavated. Fill not recorded	Undated
1019	C	Pit				Large rounded pit. Not excavated	Undated
1020	C	Pit	1200	820		Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
1021	C	Pit	1000	660		Oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
1022	C	Pit	1140	350		Rounded pit. Not excavated	Undated
1023	C	Ditch				Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	LIA+
1024	C	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1023	LIA+
1025	C	Ditch				Ditch. Not excavated	Undated
1026	C	Other				Small group of two or more intercutting pits. Not excavated	Undated
1027	C	Other				Small group of intercutting pits. Not excavated	Undated
1028	C	Other				Oval pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
1029	C	Pit				Pear-shaped pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
1030	C	Pit				Pit or post-hole. Not excavated	Undated
1031	C	Other				Small group of three or more intercutting pits. Not excavated	Undated
1032	C	Pit				Large oval pit. Not excavated	Undated
1033	C	Other				Intercutting group of five or more pits. Not excavated	Undated
1034	C	Ditch				Ditch. Not excavated	Undated
1035	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in one location: 982	Modern
1036	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in two locations: 935 and 975	LIA+
1037	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in four locations: 992, 1023, 980 and 994	LIA+
1038	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in three locations: 977, 996 and 990	LIA+
1039	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in three locations: 927, 969 and 1005	LIA+
1040	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in five locations: 957, 919, 942, 961 and 1007	?Post-med
1041	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in four locations: 937, 929, 948 and 971	Undated
1042	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in two locations: 939 and 951	Undated
1043	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in three locations: 604, 687 and 907	Undated
1044	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in three locations: 234, 909 and 913	Undated
1045	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in four locations: 707, 720, 698 and 705	Medieval
1046	C	Ditch				Ditch. Sampled in four locations: 759, 703, 689 and 691	Undated
1047	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in three locations: 753, 781 and 712	Medieval+
1048	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in two locations: 718 and 779	?Medieval+

1049	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in three locations: 785, 804 and 817	Post-med+
1050	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in three locations: 643, 627 and 629	Undated
1051	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in two locations: 645 and 665	Undated
1052	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in two locations: 672 and 678	Undated
1053	C	Gully				Gully. Sampled in two locations: 657 and 670	Undated
1054	C	Natural feature				Root-hole disturbance from grubbed-out tree or shrub	Undated
1055	C	Natural feature				Root-hole disturbance from grubbed-out tree or shrub	Undated
1056	C	Natural feature				Root-hole disturbance from grubbed-out tree or shrub	Undated
1200	1.D(WB)	Ditch	1500	2000	630	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, concave base	Post-med
1201	1.D(WB)	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1200	Post-med
1202	1.D(WB)	Ditch	1500	2000	460	Ditch segment. Moderately-sloping sides, flat base	Post-med
1203	1.D(WB)	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1202	Post-med
1204	1.D(WB)	Ditch	1540	2150	310	Ditch segment. Gradually-sloping sides, slightly-concave base	Post-med
1205	1.D(WB)	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1204	Post-med
1206	1.D(WB)	Ditch				Ditch segment. Gradually to moderately-sloping sides. Base not investigated	Post-med
1207	1.D(WB)	Fill				Single fill of ditch segment 1206	Post-med
1208	1.D(WB)	Natural				Brownish-yellow silt sand with frequent pockets of gravel	
1209	1.D(WB)	Ditch				Ditch. Not Investigated	?Post-med
1210	1.D(WB)	Ditch				Ditch. Not investigated	?Post-med
1211	1.D(WB)	Ditch				Ditch. Not investigated	?Post-med

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
405	Finds (surface of 404)	2 86	6 2795	Brick and roof tile fragments Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, at least four vessels represented; one large jar has combed decoration on shoulder, a second has stabbing; some sherds in poor condition	Post med. LIA
407	406	70	760	Pottery; joining rim sherds, thick-walled grog-tempered Cam 28 platter; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
409	408	2 2	12 2	Pottery; rim and body sherds Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	Medieval LIA
410	404	1 344	4 5890	SF2 Copper alloy fitting Pottery; rim and rouletted body sherds, North Gaulish white ware Cam 113 beaker, most sherds have crazed surfaces; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered (nearly all coarse fabric version), at least four vessels represented; same vessels as 405, inc sherds with combed decoration and others with stabbing and neck cordons; also four sherds from carinated Cam 218 type bowl; some sherds in poor condition, some burnt	LIA LIA
412	411	2	30	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
414	413	85	940	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
415	413	96	1090	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc joining jar lower wall sherds	LIA
417	416	98	1075	Pottery; cordoned body sherds, grog-tempered, mostly same vessel; rim and body sherds, sandy grey ware	LIA
419	418	1 22 60	6 208 690	Roof tile fragment Baked clay, mostly pieces from a block Pottery; body sherds, mostly coarse grog-tempered	Post med. Prehistoric LIA
421	420	1 13	2 84	Flint flake Pottery; body sherds, fine grey ware; body sherds, grog-tempered	- Roman
422	Finds	5	78	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
424	423	2	10	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
432	425	1 35	36 232	Unworked flint Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered	- LIA
434	433	2 6	6 30	Pottery; body sherds Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	Medieval LIA
436	435	1	108	Pottery; body sherd, black-surfaced ware	Roman
438	437	1	26	Roof tile fragment	Post med.
443	442	3	40	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered and sandy grey ware	Roman
444	442	42	770	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
445	Layer	11	184	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
446	Finds	1 2 6	1 10 32	Baked clay Roof tile fragments Pottery; body sherds, sandy grey ware	- Post med. Roman
449	448	2 2	26 2	Flint flakes Baked clay	- -
450	448	1 3	2 16	Flint flake Pottery; base and body sherds, grog-tempered	- LIA
452	451	- - 13 1 355 5	40 4 166 18 2685 46	Charcoal, inc 32g from sample 14 Burnt bone, abraded, from sample 14 Baked clay, inc small cone-shaped object (8/100g); 1/1g from sample 14 Briquetage Pottery; joining vitrified sherds; body sherds with cream slip; rim, base and body sherds, and crumbs, inc many sherds from an oxidised jar, grog- tempered; 6/14g grog-tempered body sherds from sample 14 Pottery; body sherds, same vessel	- - - LIA LIA Prehistoric
454	453	18	144	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
457	456	- - 35 64 5	64 4 515 795 38	Charcoal from sample 16 Burnt bone, abraded, from sample 16, inc rib and condyle fragments Baked clay, inc pieces with flat surface Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc Cam 218 jar and Cam 210 and Cam 211 bowls; 5/8g grog-tempered body sherds and crumbs from sample 16 Pottery; body sherds, same vessel	- - - LIA Prehistoric
458	456	1 8 36 15	<1 94 545 64	Burnt bone Baked clay, inc pieces with flat surface, as 457 Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc Cam 259 jar Pottery; body sherds, as 457	- - LIA Prehistoric
460	459	1 - - 10 2 279	1 30 62 114 16 3420	Iron nail Burnt bone, inc 22g, abraded, from sample 17, inc long bone fragments Charcoal, inc 42g from sample 17 Baked clay; 3/10g from sample 17 Briquetage Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc storage jar, Cam 218, Cam 211, Cam 259, small jar with upright rim and girth grooves, and jar with inturned rim; rouletted butt beaker body sherds, possible TR; North Gaulish white ware body sherds, crazed surfaces; 16/70g grog-tempered rim and body sherds from sample 17	- - - - LIA LIA
461	459	58	665	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc Cam 218 jar and jar with inturned rim	LIA
464	463	3 1 110 15	<1 18 1175 494	Burnt bone Briquetage Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered and black-surfaced wares, inc Cam 218 jar and storage jar with stabbing and vertical combing Pottery; rim and body sherds, mainly one vessel	- LIA Roman Prehistoric
465	463	- 14	36 210	Charcoal, inc 28g from sample 18 Baked clay, two pieces have vitrified surfaces,	- -

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		8	138	probably part of blowing-hole in 466 Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered; 1/16g grog-tempered Cam 259 jar rim sherd from sample 18	LIA
466	463	- 3 - 37 - 2	68 12 285 434 132 14	Iron flakes, globules and hammerscale from sample 20 Burnt flints, slag adhering, from sample 20 Charcoal from sample 20 Baked clay fragments from sample 20, some have vitrified, iron-rich surfaces, one has remains of blowing-hole Slag from sample 20, inc iron globules Pottery; rim sherd from large jar and body sherd, both grog-tempered, from sample 20	- - - - - LIA
468	467	5	310	Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc large storage jar rim sherd	LIA
469	467	- - 80	20 <1 1442	Charcoal from sample 19 Burnt bone from sample 19 Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc complete circuit of a Cam 231 jar; 7/82g grog-tempered body sherds and crumbs from sample 19	- - LIA
470	467	28	496	Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, same vessels as 469	LIA
474	473	2 16	8 176	Pottery; body sherds, joining Pottery; base and body sherds, grog-tempered	Medieval LIA
475	Finds	1	16	Pottery; jar rim sherd, grog-tempered	LIA
477	476	- 1 1 89 1	<1 24 104 2005 8	Burnt bone from sample 21 Baked clay Slag Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, inc joining shoulder sherds, large jar with shoulder combing and joining sherds, small bowl with bead rim; body sherd with 4mm dia hole; all grog-tempered; 4/12g grog-tempered body sherds from sample 21 Pottery; body sherd	- - - LIA Prehistoric
479	Layer	3	26	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
482	481	1 4 843	2 44 10100	Burnt bone Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, some with cordons, large part of Cam 24 platter, pedestal base; rim and body sherds, flint-tempered jar; white ware sherd	- - LIA
485	483	10	66	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
489	Layer	20	166	Pottery; North Gaulish white ware base and body sherds, butt beaker; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
490	481	1 20 77	226 750 498	Slag Baked clay, inc two large (reduced) pieces from a triangular loom weight Pottery; North Gaulish white ware body sherds, poor condition; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered; 3/4g grog-tempered body sherds from sample 22	- LIA LIA
492	491	3	122	Pottery; joining rim and neck sherds, large jar, grog-tempered	LIA
493	481	6	30	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
495	494	1	30	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	LIA
497	496	1	28	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	LIA
499	498	8 118	20 1505	Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc large cordoned jar	- LIA
501	500	45	488	Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
503	502	4 1 7 385	1 4 44 3364	Burnt bone; 2 from sample 23 Flint flake Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, mainly jars, but substantial parts of at least two butt beakers, one base/lower wall sherd has off-centre 5mm dia. hole; grog-tempered body sherd with oblique off-centre 8mm dia. hole, possible spindle whorl (22g); 46/64g grog-tempered rim and body sherds from sample 23	- - - LIA
506	504	1 128	6 1345	Baked clay Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc Cam 218 jar and Cam 31 bead-rimmed dish (two large joining sherds), a body sherd has a 2mm dia. hole	- LIA
509	508	39	274	Pottery; rim and body sherds and crumbs, grog- tempered, inc Cam 260	LIA
511	510	4	16	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
513	512	7	20	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
516	Finds	3 2	28 10	Baked clay Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	- LIA
518	517	14	118	Pottery; body sherds and crumbs, grog-tempered	LIA
520	519	6	98	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
522	521	7	98	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
525	524	1 12 2	4 76 22	Baked clay Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	- LIA Prehistoric
527	526	5	16	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
529	528	1 1 1	2 20 10	Baked clay Brick fragment Pottery; cordoned body sherd, grog-tempered	- Post med. LIA
533	532	2	210	Iron; flat strip in two pieces	-
534	532	3 1 3	386 30 72	Brick fragments, abraded Roof tile fragment Pottery; rim and body sherds	Post med. Post med. Post med
536	535	1	8	Pottery; white earthenware plate body sherd with blue transfer-printing	Modern
538	537	1 6	2 40	Baked clay Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	- LIA
540	539	1	4	Pottery; rim sherd	Medieval

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		16	198	Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc Cam 254 and large storage jar	LIA
542	541	1	34	Brick fragment, abraded	Post med.
543	541	1	8	Baked clay	-
544	Finds	2	240	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
547	Finds	26	138	Pottery; base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc joining jar base and lower wall sherds	LIA
549	Finds	5	24	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
552	551	52 4 283 3	340 88 2860 18	Baked clay, most with flat surfaces, perhaps from a block Roof tile fragments Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, mostly jars, inc Cam 266, Cam 21 platter, large part of butt beaker with comb-stabbing between cordons and large jar sherds with combed swirls on shoulder, most sherds in poor condition, some encrusted; amphora body sherd; North Gaulish white ware Cam 113 butt beaker rim and body sherds, some with rouletting, one crazed Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	- Post med. LIA Prehistoric
553	551	6	58	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered; 2/6g joining grog-tempered body sherds from sample 25	LIA
554	Layer	1	4	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	LIA
556	555	4	146	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
557	Finds	20 4	280 22	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc platter base sherds Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	LIA Prehistoric
559	558	1 1 41	1 8 256	Baked clay Roof tile fragment Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	- Med/post med LIA
564	562	-	100	Charcoal from sample 26	-
567	566	4 6 248	86 148 3255	Burnt flints Briquetage Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, grog-tempered, inc large jar sherds; 3/2g grog-tempered body sherds from sample 24	- LIA LIA
634	633	2	56	Pottery; rim and body sherds, Cam 254-type, grog-tempered	LIA
639	637	2	4	Pottery; white earthenware body sherds, one with blue transfer-printing	Modern
642	640	70 1500+	1010 10360	Quartz pebbles, etc Burnt flints	- -
653	652	1	1	Baked clay	-
656	655	1	2	Flint flake	-
665	651	9	278	Pottery; rim and body sherds, grog-tempered, some join, all same jar, with 24mm dia. impressed circles on shoulder; trumpet-type pedestal base, with a small piece missing	LIA

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
695	693	3	14	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
700	698	4	8	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
706	705	2 3	8 8	Burnt flints Pottery; rim and body sherds	- ?Medieval
708	707	12	118	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
721	720	28 6 1	230 36 2	Lava quern fragments, poor condition Pottery; base and body sherds Pottery; base sherd, sandy grey ware	?Medieval Medieval Roman
725	724	1	6	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	LIA
739	738	- 47 806	78 1285 10815	Charcoal fragments, part-mineralised Quartz pebbles, etc. Burnt flints, inc fossil	- - -
742	741	6	16	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
752	751	1	2	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
756	755	2	4	Burnt flints	-
760	759	114	530	Burnt flints and stone	-
762	761	2	30	Burnt flints	-
768	767	14	68	Burnt flints	-
786	785	1 2 1	1 1 10	Baked clay Brick fragments Pottery; body sherd	- Post med. Post med.
793	791	7	24	Burnt flints	-
798	795	8	84	Burnt flints	-
812	811	2	30	Burnt flints	-
813	811	11	168	Burnt flints, inc a pebble	-
820	819	2	1	?Brick fragments	-
843	842	4	42	Pottery; base and body sherds	Medieval
845	844	1	1	Pottery; 'body sherd'	Medieval
850	849	16	50	Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
856	855	1	26	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
868	867	4	20	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
872	870	6	4	Pottery; neck sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
875	874	1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
889	Finds	1 1 10 5	2 8 86 20	Stone fragment, possible lava quern Baked clay Brick fragments (9/16g small pieces discarded) Roof tile fragments (2/4g small pieces discarded)	- - Post med. Post med
890	Finds	3 3	18 64	Burnt flints Roof tile fragments	- Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		5	14	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
928	927	18	76	Pottery; body sherds and crumbs, grog-tempered	LIA
934	927	3	10	Pottery; body sherd and crumbs, grog-tempered	LIA
953	951	15	76	Ceramic fragments, probably tile, all same piece	Undated
962	961	1 1	12 2	Roof tile fragment Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	Post med. LIA
966	965	1 6	54 62	Flint lump Pottery; body sherds	- Prehistoric
970	969	2	18	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
972	971	1	8	Unworked flint	-
976	975	1	12	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	LIA
981	980	1 1	8 2	Burnt flint Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	- LIA
983	982	5 2 1 1	44 18 10 114	Iron sheet fragments (Discarded) Animal bone; abraded long bone shaft fragments (Discarded) Burnt flint Pottery; stoneware bottle base (Discarded)	Modern - - Modern
989	988	1	12	Pottery; base sherd, buff ware, iron-stained	Post med.
993	992	3	4	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered	LIA
995	994	6	6	Pottery; body sherds and crumbs, grog-tempered	LIA
998	996	1 1	24 4	Flint lump Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered	- LIA
1201	1200	1 1	16 4	Burnt flint Pottery; body sherd	- Medieval
1205	1204	1 1 1 1 2	20 2 62 44 8	Burnt flint Clay pipe stem Brick fragment, abraded Roof tile fragment Pottery; body sherds, abraded	- Post med. Post med. Post med. Medieval
1207	1206	1 1	180 34	Roof tile fragment with one peg hole Pottery; tripod foot	Post med. Medieval

Bulk sample data (N.B. Includes evaluation contexts)

Sample	Context	Feature	Bulk weight	Bone	Burnt bone	Charcoal	Seeds/ Grain	Molluscs
1	17	Structure 16 (single fill)	11kg			X	X	
2	32	Ditch 30 (secondary fill)	12kg			X	X	X
3	33	Ditch 30 (primary fill)	13kg			X	X	X
4	36	Vessel 35 (single fill)	2kg			X		X
5	62	Gully 52 (primary fill)	11kg		X	X	X	
6	66	Ditch 79 (single fill)	12kg		X	X	X	
7	113	Ditch 107 (secondary fill)	26kg			X	X	
8	123	Pit 122 (single fill)	10kg					
9	126	Ditch 132 (single fill)	13kg		X	X		
10	134	Pit 133 (single fill)	13kg		X	X	X	
11	192	Pit 191 (single fill)	12kg			X	X	
12	233	Ditch 229 (third fill)	25kg			X		
13	322	Ditch 321 (single fill)	12kg			X	X	
14	452	Ditch segment 451	9kg		X	X		
15	454	Ditch segment 453	10kg					
16	457	Ditch 456	10kg		X	X		
17	460	Ditch segment 459	11kg		X	X		
18	465	Ditch segment 463	10kg			X		
19	469	Ditch 467	10kg		X	X		
20	466	Ditch 463	21kg			X		
21	477	Ditch segment 476	11kg		X			
22	490	Ditch segment 481	10kg			X	X	
23	503	Ditch segment 502	10kg			X	X	
24	567	Pit 566	11kg					
25	553	Ditch segment 551	10kg					
26	564	Pit 562	9kg			X	X	
27	665	Pit 651	10kg					
28	661	Pit 651	11kg					

X denotes presence

Charred plant macrofossil data

Sample No.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Context No.	452	454	457	460	465	469	466	477	490	503	567	553	564
Feature/Segment No.	451	453	456	459	463	467	463	476	481	502	566	551	562
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Pit
Plant macrofossils													
Cereal indet. (grain)					xcf								
Bromus sp.					x								
Large Poaceae							x						
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	x	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	x	x	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	x	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xx	xx	xxxx	x	x	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	xxx	xx	xx	xx	xxxx		x	x			
Other remains													
Black porous 'cokey' material	x			x				x			x		
Black tarry material		x			x				x		x		
Ferrous globule								x					
Hammer scale							x	x					
Small coal frag.											x		
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3	<0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	<0.1	0.8	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.4
% flot sorted	50%	100%	50%	50%	100%	100%	12.50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	25%

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Contained in one box-file and three lever-arch files:

1	Copy of the client report
1	Copy of the archaeological brief
1	Copy of the written scheme of investigation
1	Worked flint report and tables
1	Prehistoric pottery report and tables
1	Late Iron Age and Roman pottery report and tables
1	Medieval and later pottery report and tables
1	Charred plant macrofossils report and table
19	Context register sheets
807	Context sheets
12	Section register sheets
2	Plan register sheets
30	Level register sheets
1	Environmental sample register
1	Environmental sieving register
14	Bulk sample record sheets
6	Black and white photo register sheets
2	Digital photo register sheets
180	Black and white prints and negatives
1	Computer disk containing ninety-eight digital prints

Held separately:

54	Sheets of site plans
12	Sheets of section drawings
9	Boxes of finds

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name/Address: Wick Farm, Wick Lane, Ardleigh	
Parish: Ardleigh	District: Colchester
NGR: Site C: Site D (north): Quarry Stage 1, Phase D (watching brief):	Site Code: ARWF 06
Type of Work: Archaeological excavation	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 1/7/08 to 26/11/08	Size of Area Investigated: Site C: 0.84ha Site D (north): 1.67ha Quarry Phase D (watching brief): 0.69ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum	Client: Sewells Reservoir Construction Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related HER Nos.: 2364, 2545, 2574, 34576, 45455-8
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (summary), East Anglian Archaeology (final publication)	
Periods represented: Prehistoric Roman Medieval Post-medieval Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p><i>Two archaeological sites dating to the Late Iron Age (mid-1st century BC to mid-1st century AD) were excavated during preliminary works for the construction of a large reservoir which will be created through a long-term programme of sand and gravel extraction. The reservoir site is situated in arable land across both sides of a small east-west valley. The Late Iron Age sites (Sites C and D (north)) were discovered during an earlier trial-trenching evaluation (Germany 2006) and were excavated in the Silt Pond and Processing Plant Areas of the proposed quarry. Further archaeological investigation is planned for projected future stages of quarrying.</i></p> <p><i>The Late Iron Age remains in Site D (north) were located to the north-east of a cropmark identified by the trial-trenching evaluation as a Late Iron Age settlement enclosure (Site D (south); this area has yet to be excavated). A second area of Late Iron Age remains in Site C was located in the valley to the east of the settlement enclosure.</i></p> <p><i>Small-scale prehistoric remains were confined to Site C, consisting of two pits containing burnt flints and two pits containing Middle Iron Age pottery, situated either side of the palaeochannel.</i></p> <p><i>The Late Iron Age remains in Site D (north) and the cropmark enclosure in Site D (south) represent an extensive Late Iron Age settlement spanning the head of the east-west valley. Most of the Late Iron Age remains excavated in 2008 were concentrated in Site D (north). Two boundary ditches aligned on the entrance to the settlement enclosure defined a broad approach to it, within which was a small rectangular ditched enclosure surrounded by rubbish pits. Although no features were recorded within the enclosure, ironworking debris recovered from its ditch suggests it was an annexe to the main settlement used for craft-working. The</i></p>	

Late Iron Age features in Site D (north) contained large amounts of pottery, but unfortunately metal artefacts, animal bone and plant remains did not survive due to the acidity of the soil.

Site C in the valley to the east contained a narrow Late Iron Age trackway heading towards the entrance to the settlement enclosure, a pit and a well. The trackway is thought to have demarcated a boundary between the wet area along the valley floor and a field system to the south. The southern edge of Site C, which includes potentially important Late Iron Age remains identified in the trial-trenching evaluation, has not yet been investigated as it lay outside the stripped area for the Silt Ponds.

The medieval and later remains included boundary ditches, gullies and pits in both Sites C and D (north), related to a field system and enclosures predating the existing field pattern. Many of these features predate the present-day Wick Farm, whose farmhouse is dated to the mid-18th century, and a moated enclosure to the south of the farm is thought to have been the site of the original medieval farmstead. A boundary ditch in Site D (north) was long-lived, originally dating from the late 12th to early 13th centuries, suggesting a medieval origin to the existing pattern of land division. In Site C, medieval and post-medieval ditches and pits lay along the edge of the marginal land in the valley floor, and the post-medieval gullies in this area are interpreted as pens for livestock, possibly for watering animals at the nearby spring. Monitoring of Quarry Stage 1, Phase D near Chilver's Cottages at the south-eastern limit of the site dated two small cropmark enclosures to the post-medieval/modern periods.

Previous Summaries/Reports:-

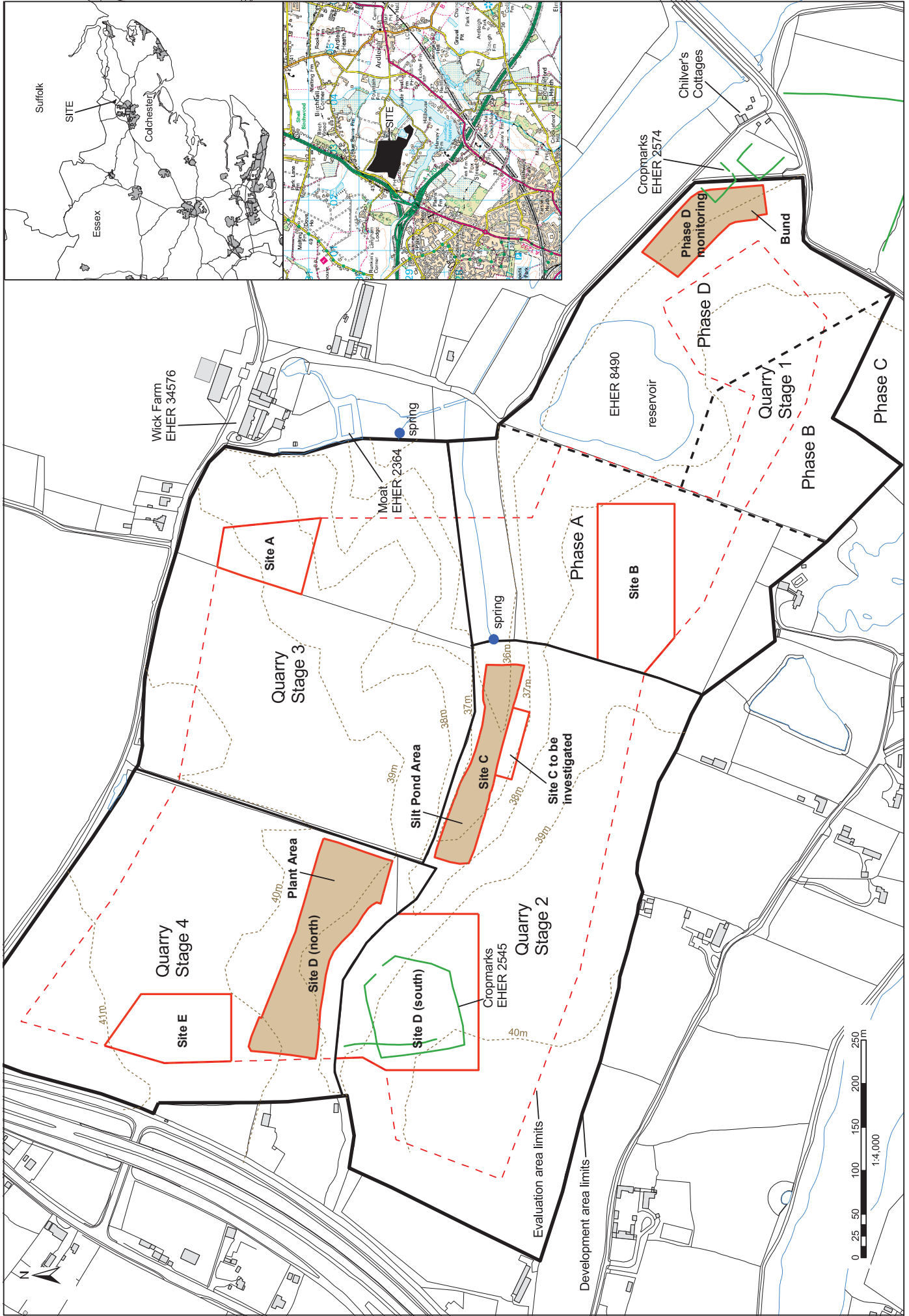
Germany, M. 2001 *Wick Farm, Ardleigh, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation by Fieldwalking.*
ECC FAU report **824**

Germany, M. 2006 *Wick Farm, Wick Lane, Ardleigh, Essex: Archaeological Trial-trenching.*
ECC FAU report **1399**

Germany, M. 2009 *Wick Farm, Ardleigh, Essex: Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring.*
ECC FAU report **1938**

Author of Summary: Mark Germany

Date of Summary: October 2009



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Fig. 1. Site location and plan of excavation areas

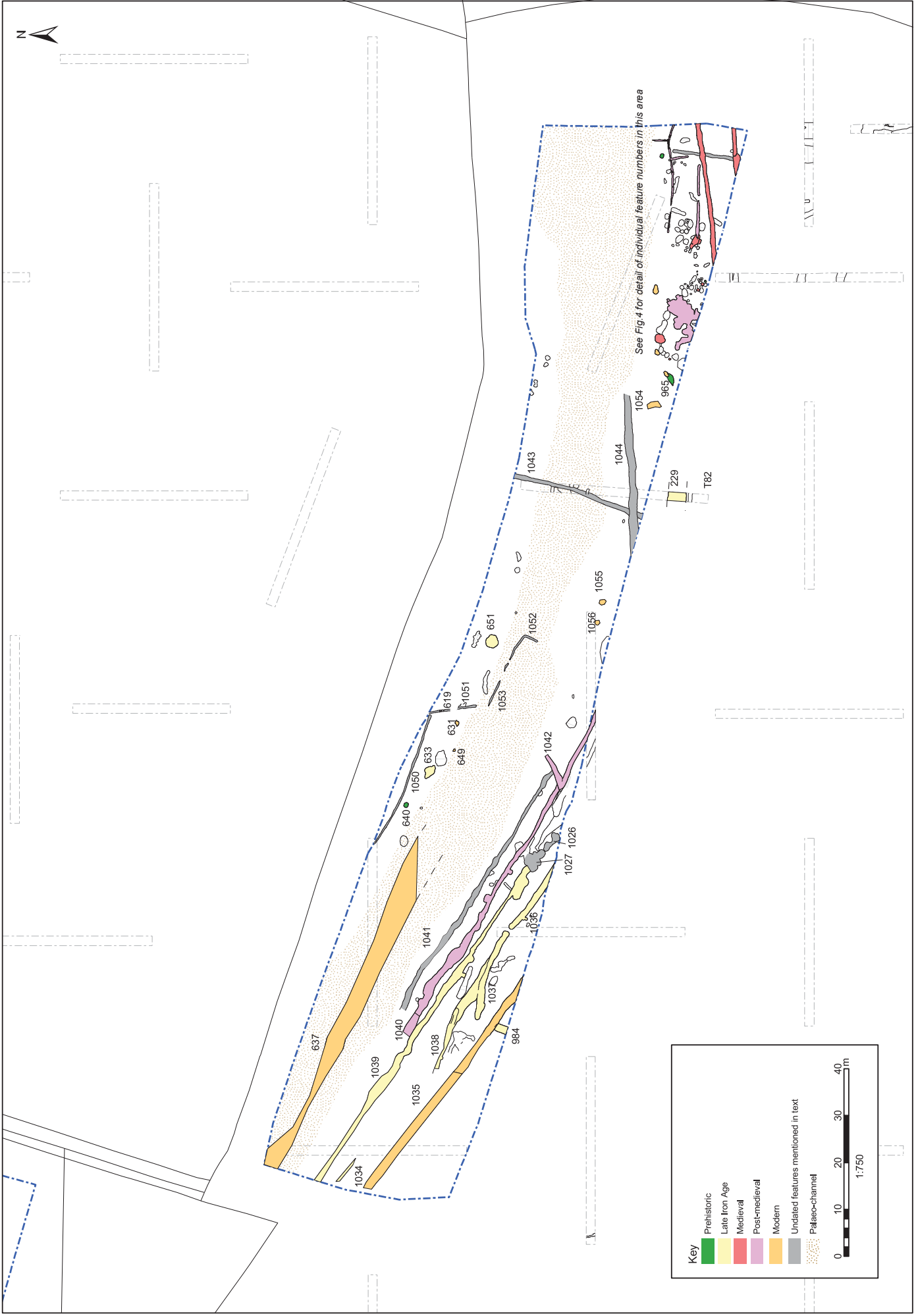
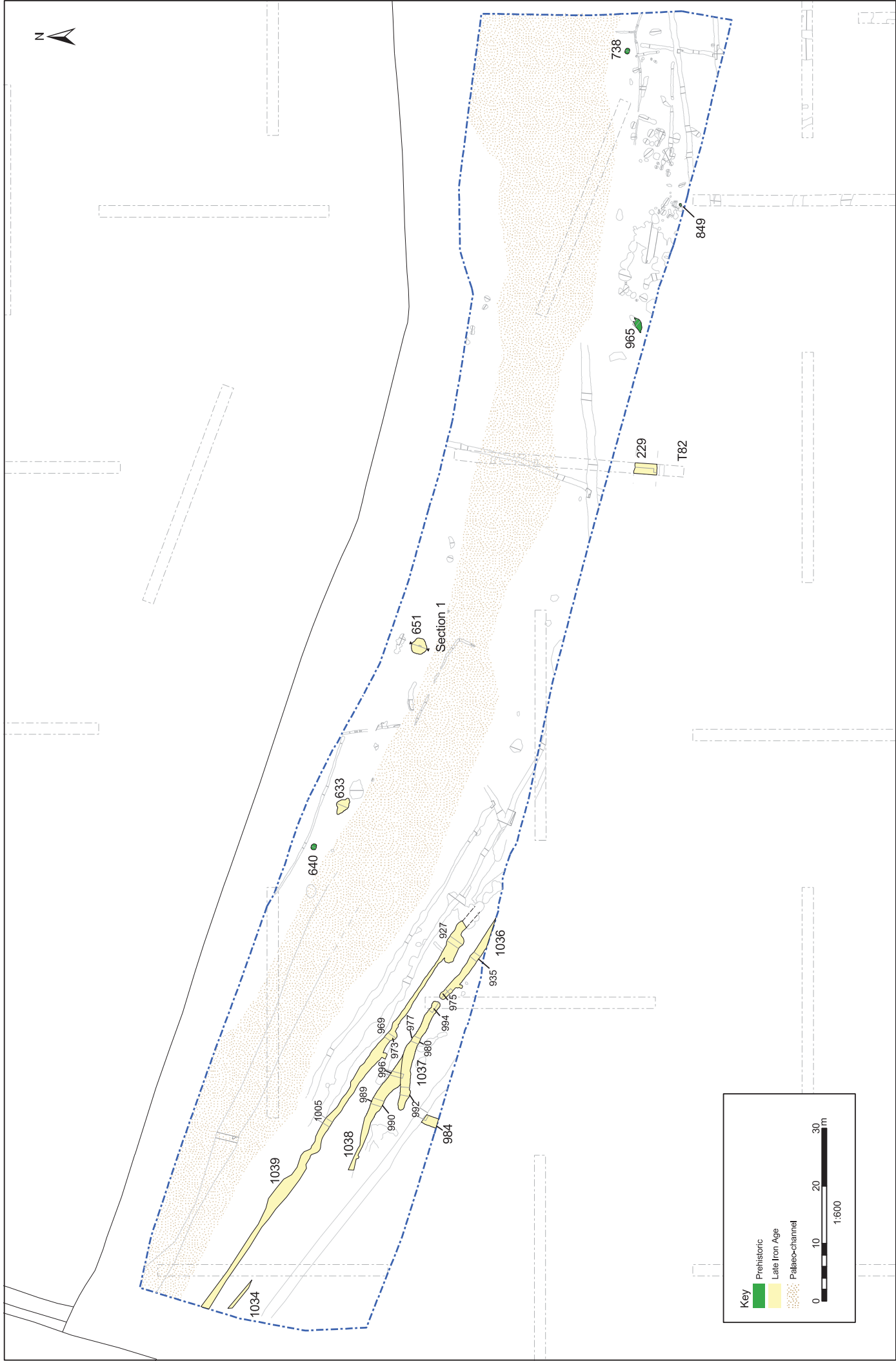


Fig.2. Site C - all features

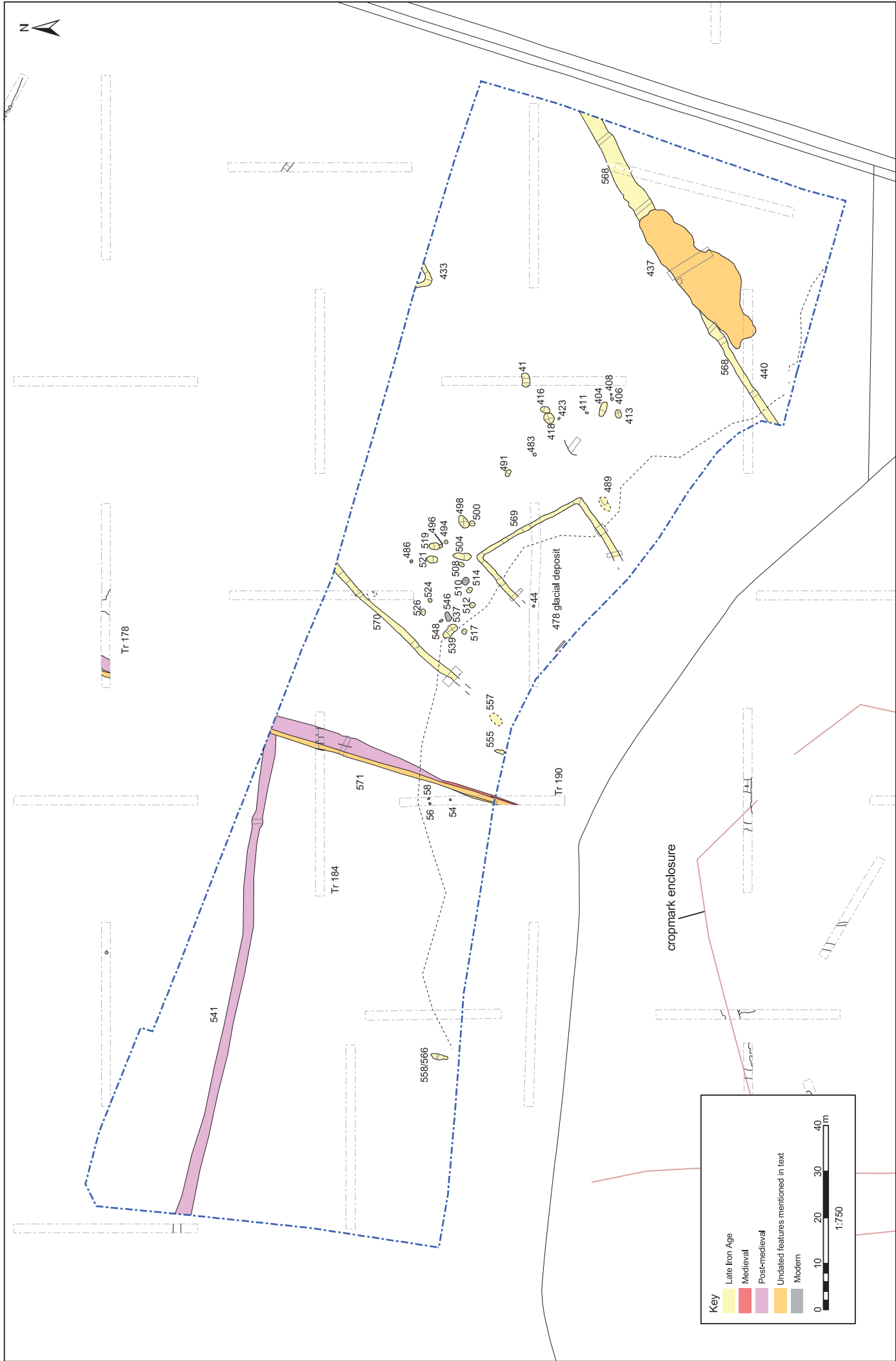


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Fig.3. Site C - prehistoric and Late Iron Age features

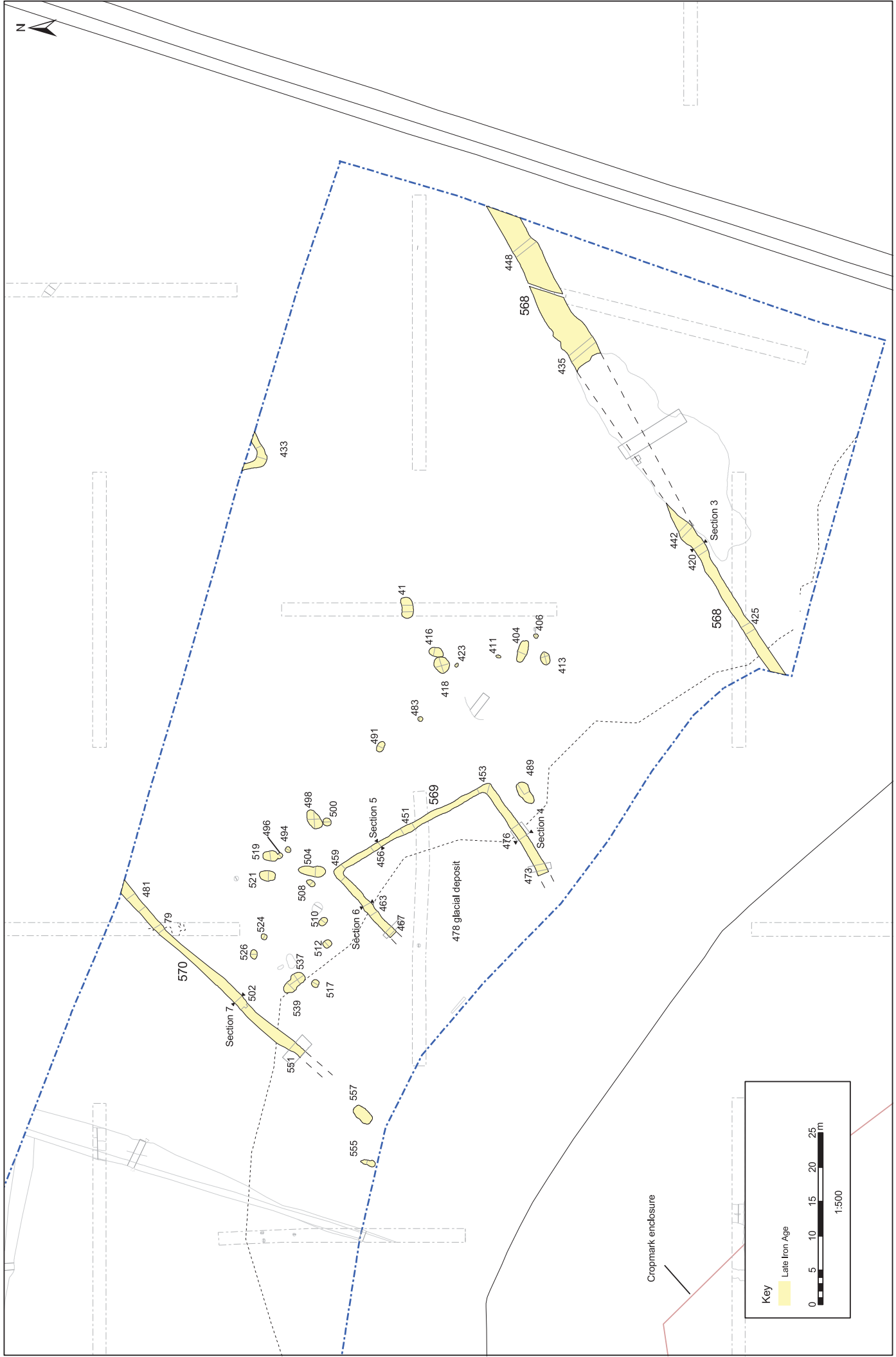


Fig.4. Site C - medieval and post-medieval features



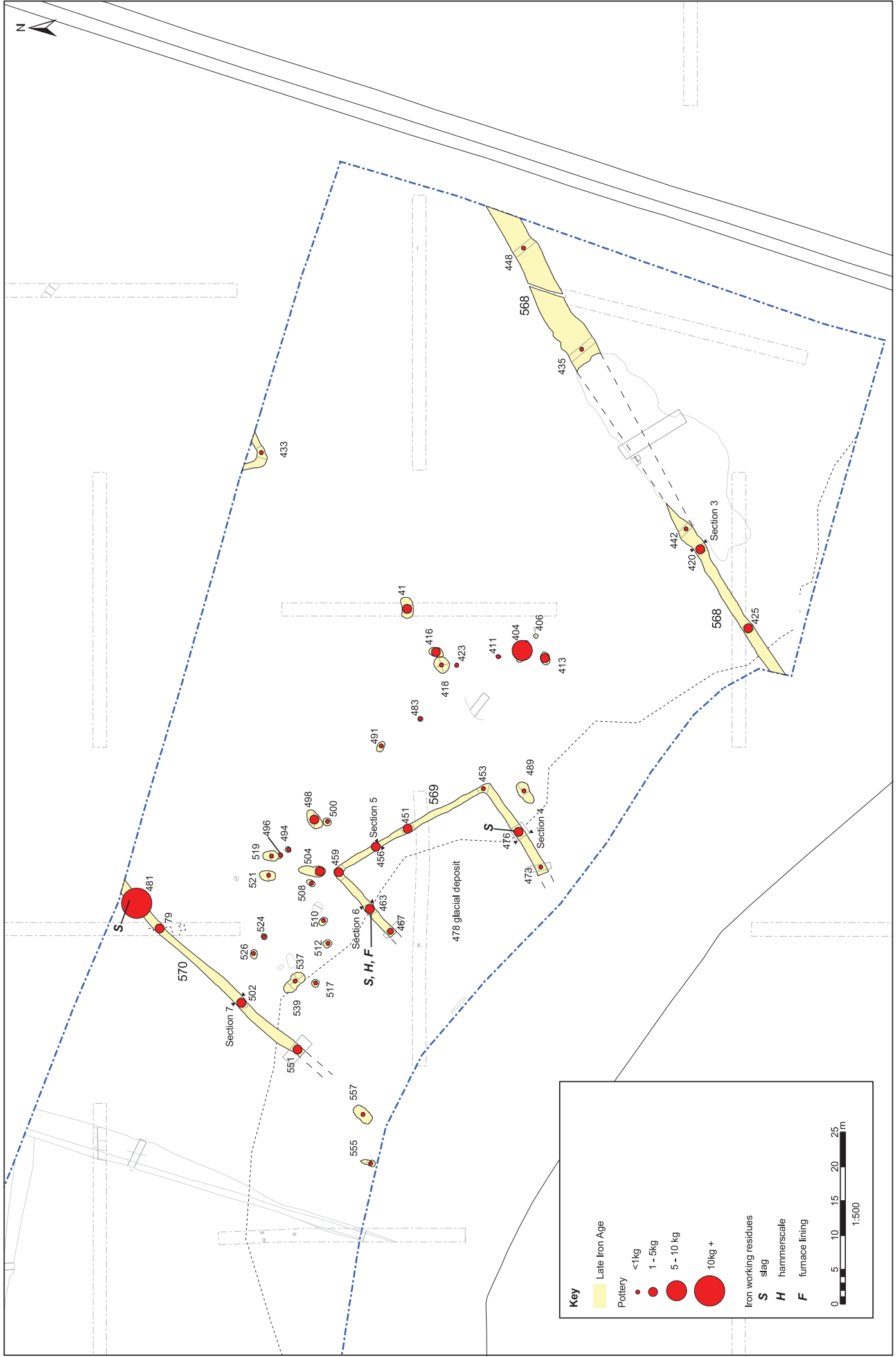
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Fig.5. Site D (north) - all features



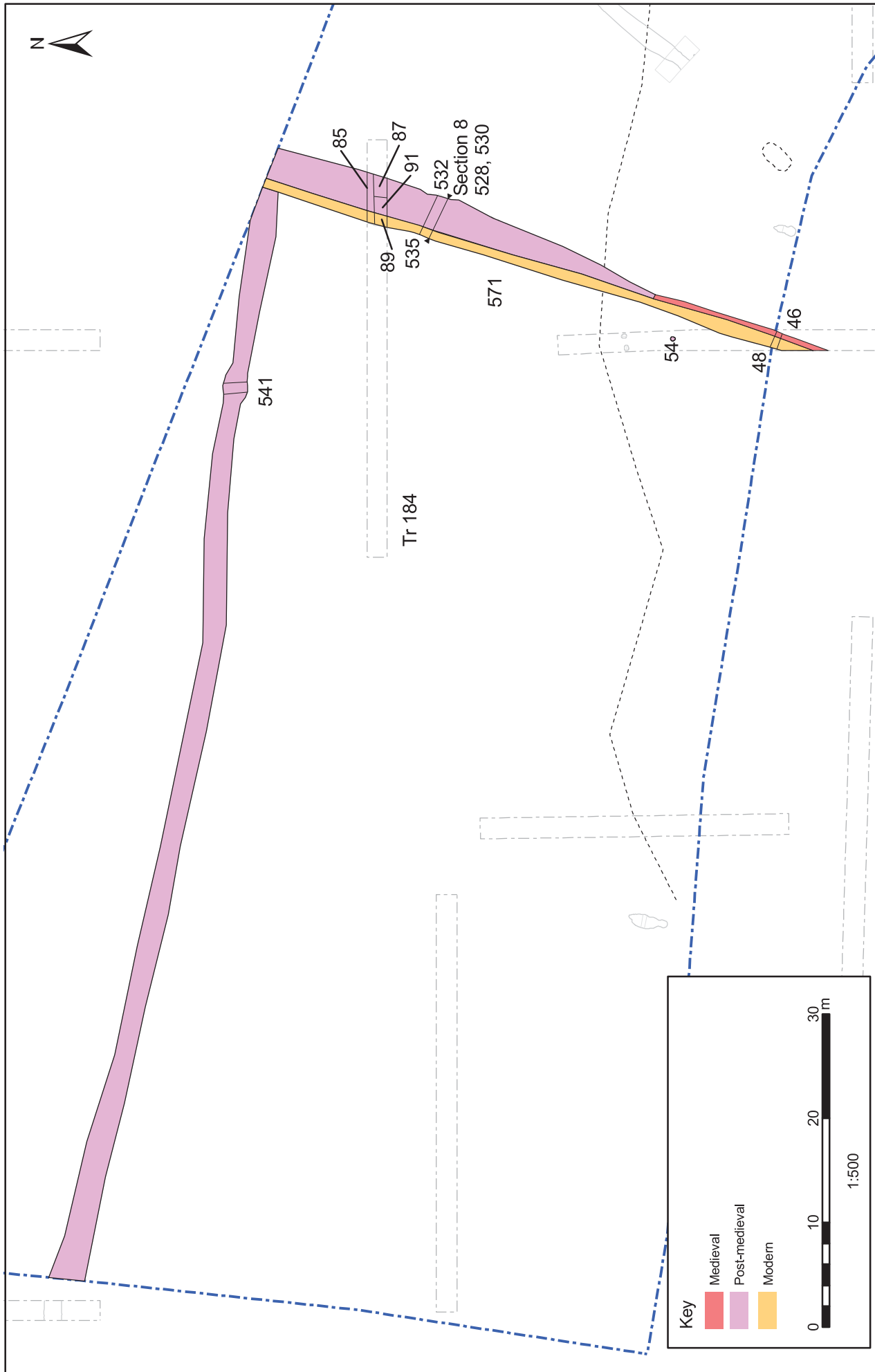
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Fig.6. Site D (north) - Late Iron Age features



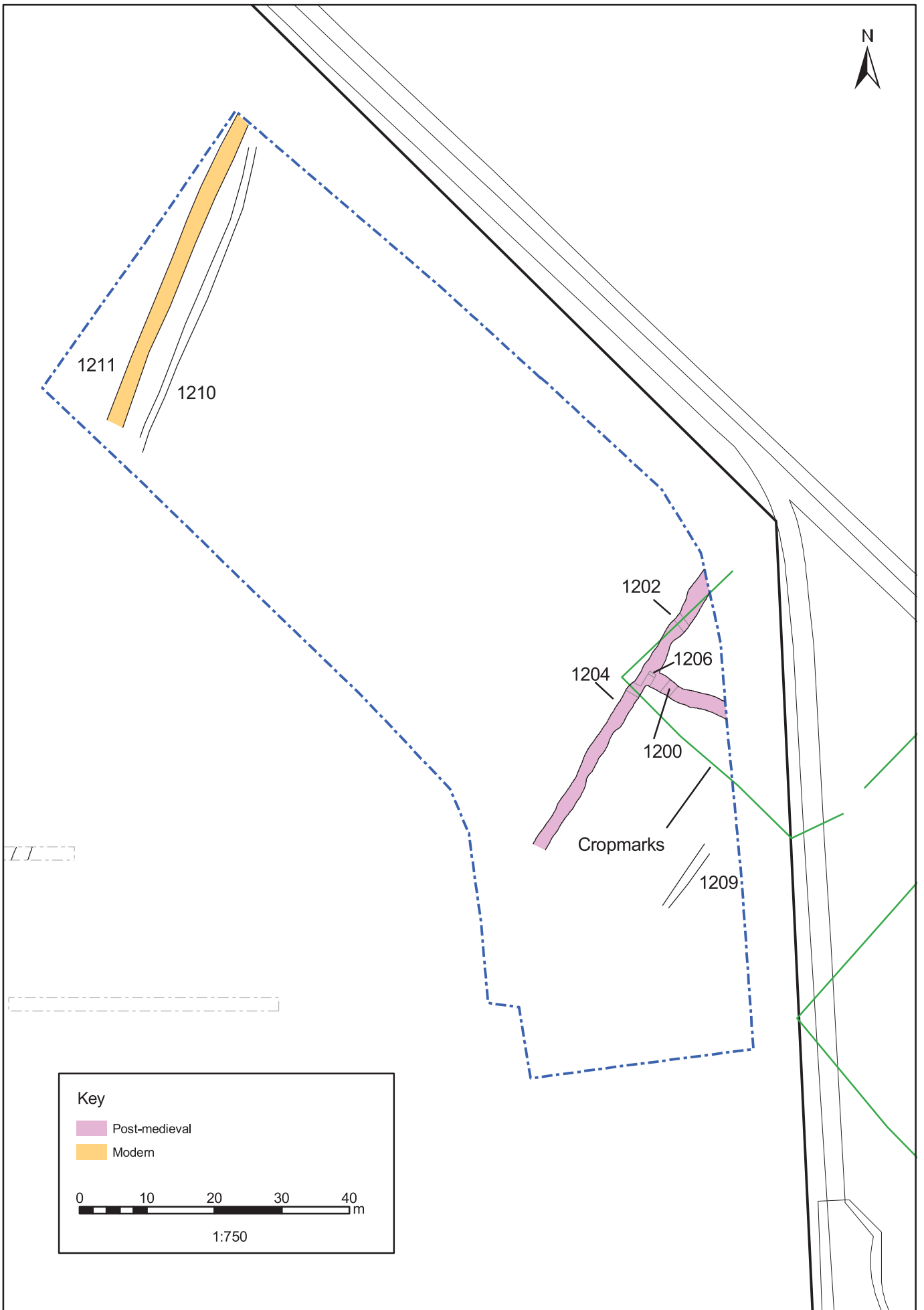
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Fig.7. Site D (north) - Late Iron Age features with finds distribution



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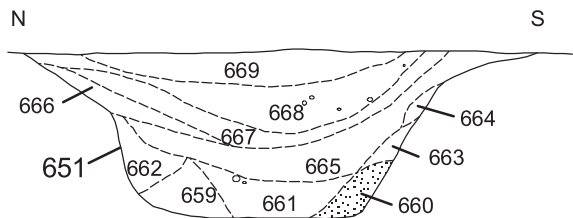
Fig.8. Site D (north) - medieval and post-medieval features



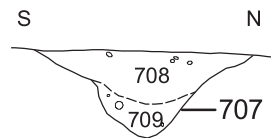
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Fig.9. Phase D monitoring - all features

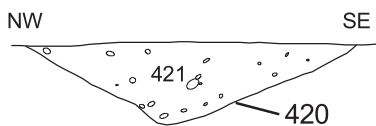
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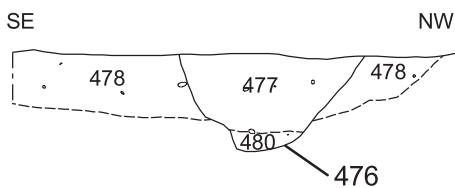
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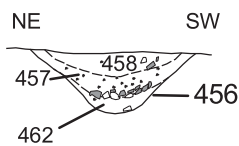
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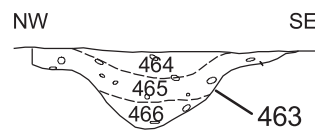
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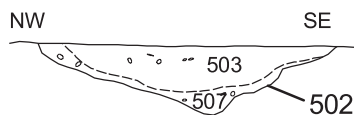
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Section 6



Section 7



Section 8

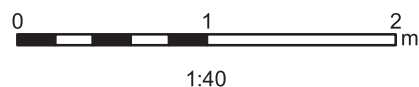
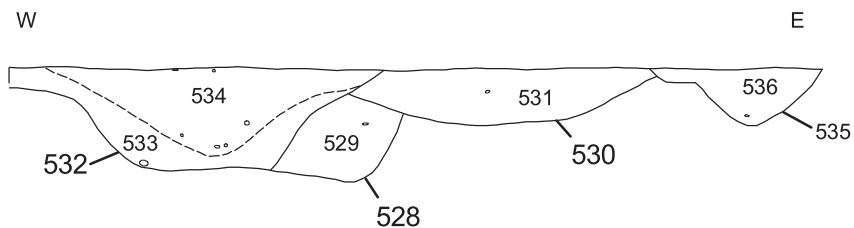
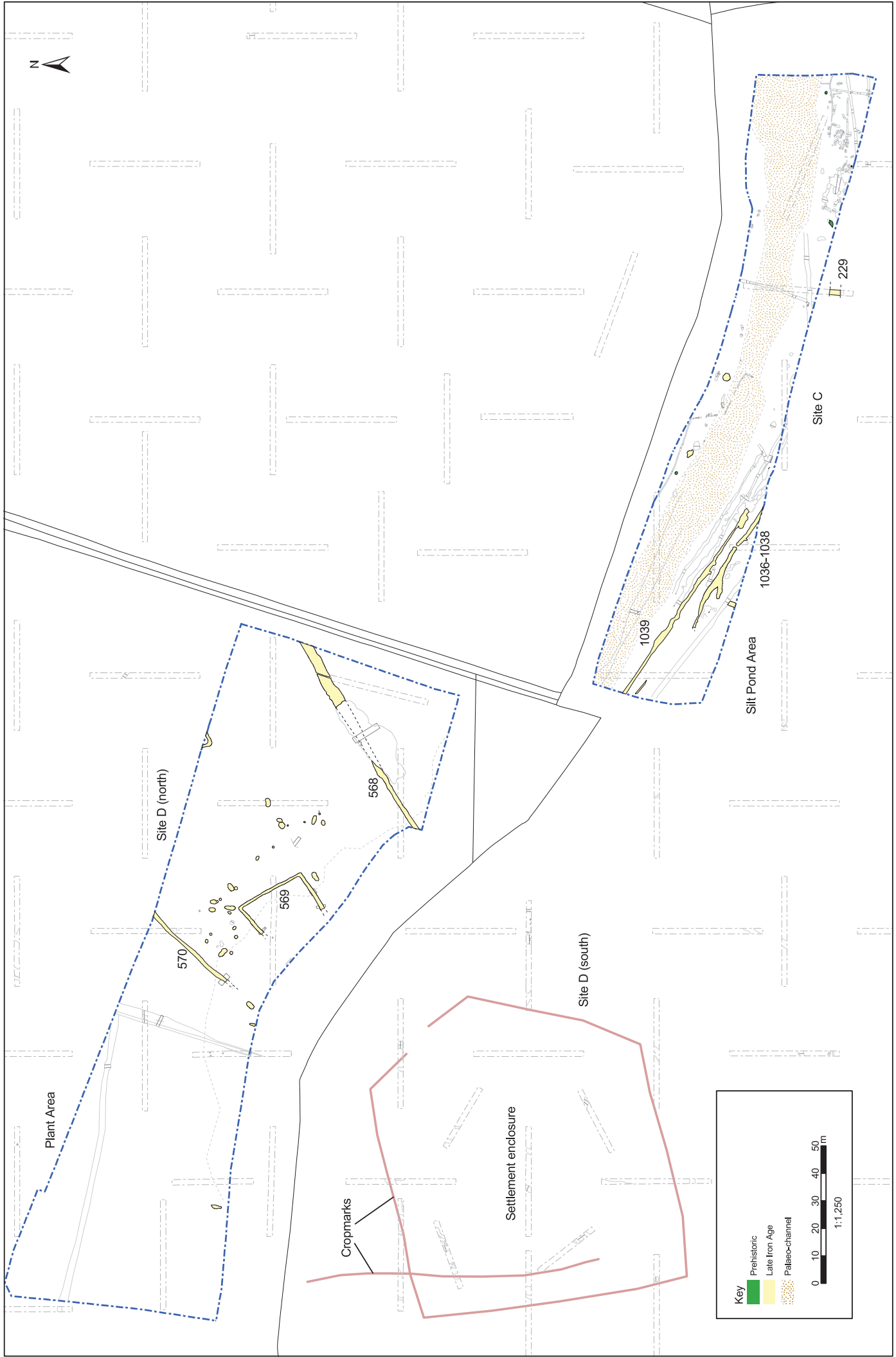
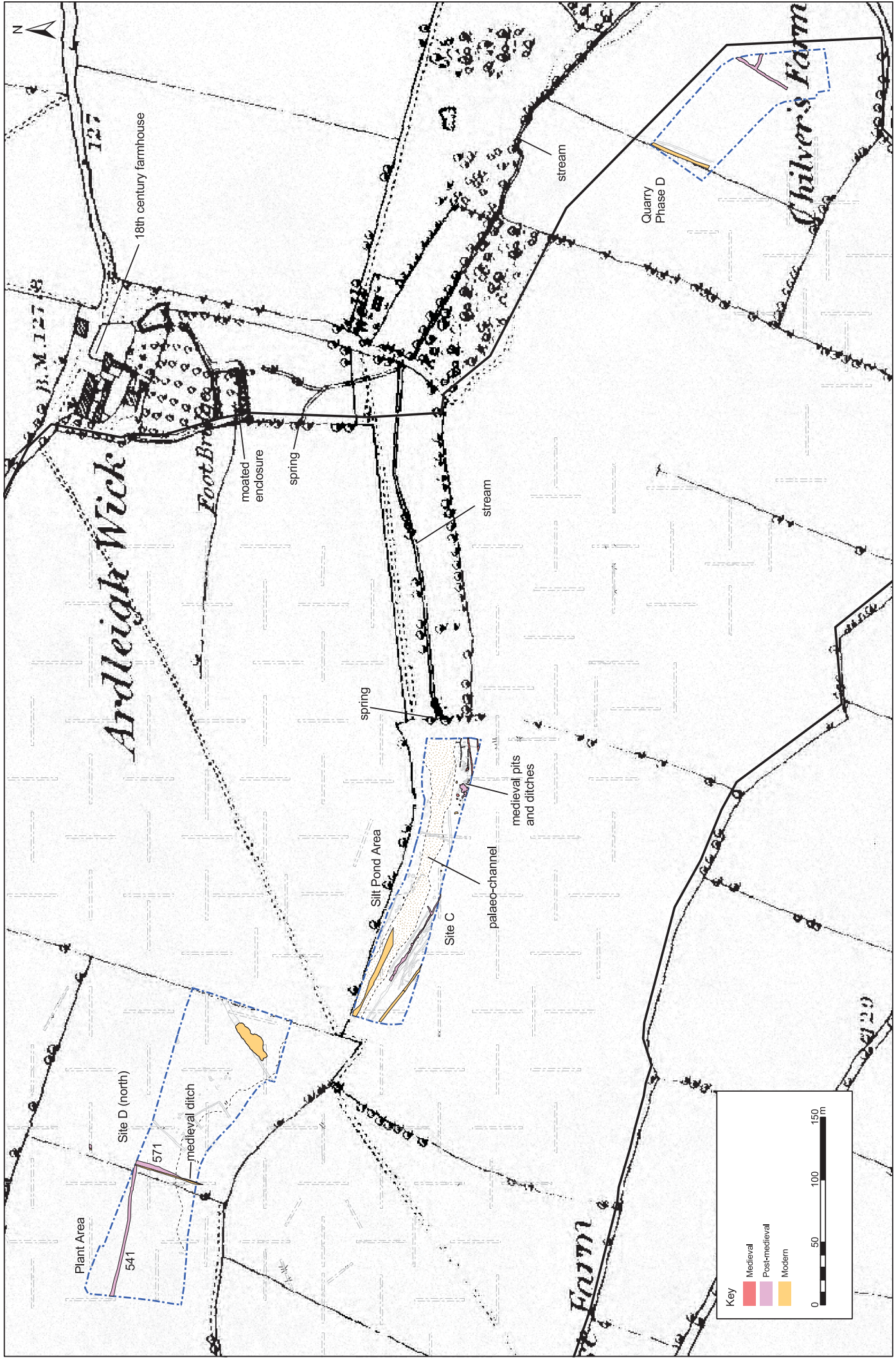


Fig.10. Sections



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Fig.11. All areas - prehistoric and Late Iron Age



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Fig.12. All areas - medieval and post-medieval overlain on Ordnance Survey first edition (1861-1876)



Plate 1. Site C. Prehistoric burnt-flint pit 738. Looking east



Plate 2. Site C. Late Iron Age pit 651. Looking east



Plate 3. Site C. East end. Looking north-west



Plate 4. Site C. South-east corner. Looking west



Plate 5. Site C. West end. Looking west



Plate 6. Site C. Pit group 888. Looking north-east



Plate 7. Site C. Post-medieval gullies 800 and 1049. Looking west



Plate 8. Site D (north). Late Iron Age ditch 570 (section 481). Looking south-west



Plate 9. Site D (north). Late Iron Age enclosure 569 (section 451). Looking north-west



Plate 10. Site D (north). Late Iron Age enclosure 569. Looking south



Plate 11. Site D (north). Late Iron Age pits 537 and 539. Looking north-west