

PRIORS GREEN

TAKELEY

ESSEX

PHASE 3 MITIGATION FOR AREA C/E



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

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PHASE 3 MITIGATION FOR AREA C/E

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager at:

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PHASE 3 MITIGATION FOR AREA C/E

Client: RPS Planning, Transport and Environment on behalf of Countryside Properties PLC

NGR: TL 57326 21765

Site code: TAPG 07

Project number: 2024

Date of fieldwork: 13/4/10 to 7/5/10

Oasis accession number: essexcou1-85745

SUMMARY

The former preservation in-situ area C/E was excavated by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in the spring of 2010, in advance of proposed residential development. The archaeological work was commissioned and monitored by RPS Planning & Development on behalf of Countryside Properties PLC. The main discovery in the phase 3 Area C/E site was a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age water hole and pit complex. Discoveries made during previous phases of archaeological excavation at Priors Green include Early Neolithic pits and stake holes probably representative of phases of swidden agriculture, a probable small-scale later Bronze Age settlement area, Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pits, cremations and water holes, Iron Age and Roman landscape ditches, phases of medieval field-system ditches possibly associated with assarting, and medieval settlement and stock enclosures on either side of Jacks Lane, contemporary with the moated site (Scruby 2009).

The Phase 3 Area C/E water hole occupied part of a semi-natural depression and was a slightly irregular 1.8m-deep feature with stepped sides. The feature is suggested to lie at a distance from areas of settlement and was probably mainly used for the watering of livestock. The basal fills of the feature contained no environmental remains to provide evidence for its landscape context.

The pit complex lay alongside the water hole and consisted of numerous small to medium-sized intercutting pits, which may also have been used for the collecting of water. The excavation found no clear evidence for the use of the water hole / pit complex as a focal point for ritual activity. Leading off from the north-eastern corner of the water hole / pit complex was an Iron Age ditch which may have served as a drain. Notable finds from the

water hole / pit complex comprise residual pieces of Neolithic worked flint, sherds of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and part of a Bronze dress pin.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) undertook the excavation of the former phase 3 Area C/E at Priors Green, Takeley in the spring of 2010 in advance of proposed residential development. RPS Planning & Development, acting on behalf of Countryside Properties PLC, was responsible for overall project management. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced by RPS (RPS 2010) and agreed by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) who also monitored the work on behalf of Uttlesford District Council.

Archaeological investigations in advance of housing development carried out previously at Priors Green phase 3 site have revealed mini clusters of Early Neolithic pits, Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pits, cremations and waterholes, a small-scale later Bronze Age settlement area associate with a well, Iron Age and Roman field-system boundaries, a medieval building inside an enclosure and medieval to post-medieval strip fields (Scruby 2009).

Area C/E was previously uncovered and partially investigated during an earlier phase of archaeological work at Priors Green. However, during the investigation on-going design proposals by Countryside Properties PLC highlighted the potential to preserve some of the remains in-situ within public open space. Following a change of plan for its use, the area was reopened for further archaeological investigation.

The site archive will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum. A copy of this report will be sent to the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the OASIS on-line database (www.oasis.ac.uk). A summary of the excavation will appear in *Essex Archaeology and History*. A fuller account of the Priors Green archaeological project will be published in due course.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The excavation took place in Area C/E within the northern part of Priors Green phase 3 development area. Phase 3 is a former arable field and is situated between Takeley and Little Canfield to the south and the A120 and Bambers Green to the north. Stansted Airport

lies 4km to the north-west. The nearest water courses, the Pincey and the Roding, lie 2.25km and 1km to the west and east respectively.

The phase 3 site as a whole comprises a relatively flat area with a gentle north-facing slope running along most of the north side. The excavation comprising a 210m² area took place within a small hollow within the area of the north-facing slope.

Priors Green rests on Boulder Clay underlain by London Clay deposits (British Geological Survey Sheet 222 (Great Dunmow) Solid and Drift). The surface geology comprises pale brownish yellow clay with frequent flecks and pieces of chalk and infrequent small to large pieces of flint beneath layers and irregular patches of orange brown silt clay.

2.2 Previous archaeological work at Priors Green

The previous archaeological work at Priors Green revealed features and finds dating from all periods, apart from Saxon (Robertson 2006 and 2007; Scruby 2009). Prehistoric remains included Early Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age pits, Middle Bronze Age / Early Iron Age and Roman water holes and Iron Age to Roman ditches.

Analysis of the prehistoric remains suggested that the area consisted of woodland during the Early Neolithic, and of areas of pasture within a light covering of trees during the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age (Scruby 2009). A different approach to land and livestock management during the Iron Age was indicated by an introduction of enclosures and ditches.

The investigations found small-scale evidence for prehistoric settlement remains of early Neolithic and later Bronze Age date, but evidence from other prehistoric periods was sparse, perhaps indicating that the area had been only lightly or transiently settled.

Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age water holes lay dispersed in small groups, mostly within the low lying area along the northern edge of the site. Archaeological excavation of some of the holes established that they were up to 3m deep. The water hole in Area H contained a log ladder. Analysis of palaeoenvironmental remains from the water hole indicated it to have held slightly stagnant water and to have been surrounded by a moderately rich fauna of bushy shrubs and weeds.

Partial investigation of Area C/E before it was (albeit temporarily) preserved *in situ* established that it contained a complex of inter-cutting pits and at least one water hole. The water hole lay in the south-western corner of the site and was at least 1.2m deep. The northern edge of the pit complex was interpreted as being cut by an Iron Age ditch.

2.3 Other archaeological investigations in the Stansted and Takeley area

The results of three large sets of archaeological excavations undertaken in advance of construction work for the A120 and Stansted Airport have enabled a broad reconstruction of how the wider area surrounding Priors Green may have developed during the last 6000 years (Havis and Brooks 2004; Timby *et al.* 2007; Cooke *et al.* 2008). In brief:

Human activity within the area during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age was comparatively slight and is mainly evidenced by scatters of tree throws and pits. Pollen cores taken from various sources reveal that the area continued to be well wooded into the Early Bronze Age.

The transformation of the area to a formalised landscape of all-year-round permanent settlements probably began during the Middle Bronze Age, increasing in intensity from the Late Bronze Age onwards. The main settlement forms of the later prehistoric period are likely to have consisted of farmsteads and small 'villages', often closely associated with localised areas of ditched enclosures and trackways. Pollen cores taken from Middle and Late Bronze Age water holes suggest that the landscape of those periods consisted mainly of weedy grassland beneath a thin covering of trees and shrubs while the well-wooded landscape of the previous era was probably no longer widespread. The mainstay of the economy is likely to have been animal husbandry, with crop production of increasing importance as the period went on.

During the Roman period the area appears to have witnessed major dislocation brought about by an opening up of new areas for agriculture and an introduction of improved farming methods and a more business-like, commercial approach to the production of food. Stane Street, which borders the southern edge of the Priors Green site, provided enhanced communication linking the wider road network and new markets provided by towns. Further dislocation/settlement re-organisation probably occurred again during the Early Saxon period, with the area seeing significant woodland regeneration. Analysis of information held in the Domesday Book suggests that during the 11th century the area mainly consisted of woodland, interspersed with small areas of arable and wood pasture. Later documents and place names record that deer parks were widespread across the area during the medieval period. The intensively farmed landscape of the present day period has its foundation in a combination of Roman and medieval route ways, medieval woodland clearance and early post-medieval enclosure following disemparkment.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the archaeological work was to determine the character, date and environmental potential of the series of large pits and water holes in Area C/E in order to facilitate understanding of how the Priors Green landscape might have been used during prehistory.

The objectives of the excavation were:

- To elucidate the nature and date of the pit / waterhole group and to undertake specialist environmental sampling as appropriate
- To clarify the nature and date of an east-west orientated ditch previously considered likely to be of Iron Age date

4.0 METHOD

The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (IFA 1999; Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all archaeological deposits and features. Further details of the recording strategy and method can be found in the written scheme of investigation (RPS 2010).

A tracked excavator equipped with a broad toothless bucket was used under archaeological supervision to re-strip the site, to remove part of an overlying archaeological layer, and to step some of the sides of two of the deeper features. Archaeological features were excavated by hand. The site was located by using a directional GPS with on-board map-based software. The error margin of the GPS varies, but is always less than 0.2m.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The excavation of Area C/E found an intercutting complex of features comprising one large water hole and numerous pits. It also uncovered the previously-found Iron Age ditch (Figs 2 to 4). The majority of the features lay either wholly or partly within a large shallow depression

with a thin scatter of pits outside the depression, near the south-western and north-eastern sides. Ground water occurred at a depth of c. 0.5m.

The depression had a slightly uneven, irregular base, complete with numerous small dips and hollows. Its outline was very irregular and was partly formed by the outlines of pits.

The water hole lay on the south-western side of the complex and consisted of two adjoining areas (2716 and 2769) with off-centre concave bases, 1m and 1.8m deep respectively, separated by an irregular, steep sided slope. Some of the sides of the water hole consisted of irregular steps cut into the natural chalky Boulder Clay. The other sides were generally steep sided.

The pits within the area of the depression varied in size and shape and were often intercutting (2116, 2354, 2708, 2744, 2754, 2760, 2766, 2775, 2777, 2779, 2783, 2785, 2791, 2797, 2799, 2801, 2803, 2810, 2814, 2817, 2820, 2822, 2845, 2848, 2852, 2853, 2855, 2865, 2866, 2867 and 2885). The deepest and largest of them (2744) was 0.9m deep and more than 2.4m wide. Those outside the area of the depression were investigated during the previous phase of archaeological investigation and were found to be largely undatable (2096, 2098, 2160, 2162, 2164, 2166, 2168, 2170, 2172, 2315, 2320, 2329, 2337, 2339, 2363, 2703 and 2886).

There was no identifiable evidence to support the earlier theory that the Iron Age ditch (2102, 2128, 2141 and 2700) cut and continued across the surface deposits at the northern end of the depression. It appears that the ditch fell away from the north-eastern corner of the water hole/pit complex and may have been used as a drain.

Deposits of brown silt clay and redeposited chalky Boulder Clay occupied the water hole and pits and were probably the product of deliberate backfilling and natural silting. Bulk samples taken from the basal deposits of the waterhole produced very few carbonised plant macrofossils, perhaps indicating that the water hole had lain distant from areas of settlement. The deposit sequence of the water hole indicates that the southern part of the feature had filled up quicker than the northern part, although both parts had probably originally started to fill up together.

An undated pit (2773) possibly associated with four stake holes (2828, 2830, 2832 and 2834) cut the latest fill within the southern part of the water hole. Deposits of dark brown sit clay (2713, 2715, 2772, 2790, 2807 and 2819) covered or partially covered all of the features within the depression, apart from some of the pits at the far northern end (2324 and 2793 and possibly 2322, 2323, 2347 and 2354). Two of the pits (2324 and 2793) near the northern

end of the depression lay above the deposits and were probably dug after the depression had filled up.

The excavation found pieces of animal bone, baked clay, prehistoric worked flint and Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery in the water hole (2716 and 2769) and in some of the layers (2713, 2772, 2862, 2805, 2807 and 2715) and pits within the depression (2801, 2810, 2866, 2855, 2779, 2766, 2801, 2810, 2793, 2789, 2760, 2744 and 2708). Pieces of prehistoric pottery and worked flint were also discovered in the Iron Age ditch (2700). Most of the finds from within the area of the depression were found in the latest deposits and were thinly scattered, small and abraded. The worked flint assemblage included a small number of items of Neolithic date, including a scraper (Fig. 5), although most were undatable. Part of a Bronze Age copper-alloy dress pin was found in one of the layers (2715) overlying some of the pits in the north-eastern part of the depression. Most of the animal bone was undiagnostic, although it included part of a horse and a small number of cattle molars. The scarcity of finds and their mostly fragmentary and abraded condition provides further evidence for the water hole and the pits having lain distant from areas of human habitation. This was further implied by most of the layers and fills containing few pieces of charcoal. Artefacts found in the area during the previous phase of archaeological investigation included two small sherds of mid to late 1st-century Roman pottery in one of the layers overlying the northern part of the water hole.

6.0 FINDS AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

Finds were recovered from a total of twenty-six contexts. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in the archive and in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below:

6.1 Worked flint, by H. Martingell

A total of fifty-seven flints was studied; of these two are natural. Of the fifty-five worked flints, thirty-nine are flakes, seven are blades and there are two cores, a core trimming flake and two fragments. The four retouched artefacts consist of two denticulates, one notched flake and a good Neolithic scraper. A catalogue for the worked flint is presented in Appendix 2.

The raw material was probably collected from the local gravels, many with inclusions which resulted in irregularly knapped pieces. Patination is noticeable – six pieces are patinated white and twenty-one pieces lightly patinated with a blue-white surface. In this instance, patination cannot be considered as an indicator for an early date, due to the chalk in the soil.

The flints were recovered from water holes and pits. Twenty-nine worked flints, including the scraper and one of the denticulates, came from the water holes and eighteen, including the other denticulate and the notched flake came from the pits. The remaining eight flints are unstratified. The earliest artefacts are the two patinated blades from water hole 2769. They are probably Early Neolithic. The scraper (Fig. 5) also came from this feature but is of a later date (Middle to Late Neolithic). In total, twenty-two artefacts came from the various layers in this feature.

These artefacts extend the distribution of the Priors Green worked flints within the whole site. People are likely to have been drawn to the area during the prehistoric period because of the close presence of the Roding and Pincey, including their springs.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery, by N. Lavender

The excavation produced a very small quantity of prehistoric pottery: 274 sherds (476g). The pottery was recorded according to a system devised for prehistoric pottery in Essex and adjacent areas (Brown 1988. Details in archive). The pottery was recorded by fabric, class (after Barrett 1980), form, decoration, surface treatment and condition. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight.

Most of the assemblage was composed of very small abraded sherds and crumbs of pottery (with an average sherd weight of 1.7g) all of which were flint-tempered. The state of the pottery may indicate a high degree of residuality, although there does not appear to be any other evidence for this.

As might be expected of such an assemblage, there are very few diagnostic sherds. Water hole 2716, pits 2735, 2760 and possibly layer 2807 produced small rim sherds from fine vessels with internally bevelled rims. These are probably of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, though all are too small for a confident identification. Two uncharacteristically large sherds from layer 2715 are from a possibly tub-shaped vessel or a large jar. These joining sherds are heavily finger wiped on the exterior and have a flat-topped, out-turned rim, and are probably Early Iron Age. The bevelled rim sherd from 2760 (fill 2763) was accompanied by a shoulder sherd from Form K bowl, possibly the same vessel. These sharply carinated tripartite bowls belong to the Early Iron Age Darmsden-Linton tradition. This suggests that the other bevelled rims are also Early Iron Age since they are very similar.

There is no material that appears to be earlier than Early Iron Age and none that is demonstrably later.

The present evidence would appear to confirm that from the earlier excavations, that the water holes were originally excavated in the Late Bronze Age. That they started to silt up and were used for the disposal of pottery shortly afterwards is clear from the small quantities of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery found in a number of these features. Whether this was simply rubbish disposal or took the form of structured deposits is unclear, though the relatively high proportion of featured sherds in some of the larger pits and water holes might indicate the latter.

Whilst there is no obvious Late Bronze Age pottery from 2716 or its associated features, a similar sequence is suggested. However, the very small sherd size and degree of abrasion over most of the assemblage may indicate a high degree of residuality, which is surprising, given that the earlier, Late Bronze Age, material from several of the other water holes is in much better condition. It might be argued that the water holes were dug over an extended period overlapping the LBA/EIA transition, that they were not maintained to any great extent, and that 2716 is late in the sequence. There is so little pottery from any of these features, however, that this model can only be offered as a tentative suggestion.

6.3 Copper alloy, by J. Compton

A single item of copper alloy was recorded (small find 1), comprising the shaft, probably from a pin whose decorative head is now missing. The broken end appears to be square-sectioned and the shaft tapers to a rounded point. The shaft is heavily stained as a result of burial conditions, but is otherwise in good condition. It was recovered from a layer with Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery in association and is presumably from a pin of similar prehistoric date.

6.4 Baked clay, by J. Compton

There are two small undiagnostic pieces of baked clay, with a total weight of 8g. Both are hard fired and red in colour with few inclusions and are perhaps remnants from hearths.

6.5 Animal bone, by J. Compton

Small quantities of animal bone were recovered and amounted to 85 pieces, weighing 343g, from nine contexts. The bone from all nine contexts is fragmentary and in very poor condition and very little could be identified to either type or taxon. A horse metapodial was recorded in fill 2796 or pit 2793, however, and cattle molars in the same fill and in fill 2807 of pit 2806. Unfortunately, very little can be deduced from such a small and undiagnostic assemblage, other than noting that the associated finds are of probable Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age date.

6.6 Plant macrofossils and other remains, by V. Fryer

Two samples for the retrieval of plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the basal fills of the two deepest sections of waterhole 2716/2769.

The samples were processed by manual flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 2. Modern fibrous roots and seeds were recorded at a very low density within both assemblages. The no-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not present.

Although 30 litres of material were processed for each sample, the recovered assemblages were extremely small and sparse, containing only a very low density of charcoal/charred wood fragments and a single piece of very degraded and abraded bone. Waterlogged/de-watered macrofossils were entirely absent.

In summary, plant remains are exceedingly scarce within these assemblages, and it would appear most likely that the few remains recorded are probably derived from wind-blown detritus, which accidentally accumulated at the base of the waterhole. Although it was hoped that material suitable for dating purposes would be recovered, neither assemblage contains a sufficient density of material for either C14 or AMS determinations.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The excavation of Area C/E provided a small quantity of Neolithic and later/undated worked flint generally residual in later contexts and the remains of a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age water hole and pit complex.

The worked flint is not closely datable, with the exception of four Early Neolithic flakes and blades and a Middle to Late Neolithic scraper. Other archaeological excavations in the locality (Havis and Brooks 2004; Timby *et al.* 2007; Cooke *et al.* 2008; Scruby 2009) have produced comparatively few Neolithic remains of all types and it may be that the Stansted Airport/Takeley area during that period had only been lightly exploited and settled, with loose concentrations of Neolithic tree throws and pits, perhaps indicating the location of short-lived settlement sites. The distribution of pitting activity over the phase 3 Priors Green Takeley site, and in particular in Areas A, B, C, G and J, does, however, reflect something of a concentration of early Neolithic activity in the area, particularly when compared with just one

such pit from the entire A120 road length between Stansted Airport and Braintree (at the Strood Hall site; Timby *et al.* 2007, 15-17).

The water hole and pit complex overlies a natural aquifer and was no doubt used for the obtaining of water. The users of the complex are likely to have lived locally possibly at or close to the probable small-scale settlement remains located within Area J (Scruby 2009). The depression is speculated to be a natural boggy hollow which was dug into and subsequently eroded by its use as a place for the obtaining of water. The pits are numerous and intercutting and are possibly ad hoc features dug for short term use. The water hole, by contrast, is a substantial feature and was probably used for the obtaining of water in bulk. From these differences it is possible that the two types of feature were not in use at the same time, although the excavation has found no stratigraphic or dating evidence to confirm this. The water hole consists of two distinct adjoining halves and is speculated to have been originally half the size and to have been later extended. The steps in the sides of the water hole, which are clearly intentional, were probably provided to facilitate the collecting of water in hand-held containers when it lay at different levels. Natural sources of water during the prehistoric and Roman periods sometimes served as focal points for ritual activity, although the excavation has found no identifiable structured deposits to indicate that this also occurred at Priors Green. The bands of brown soil and redeposited natural chalky Boulder Clay comprising the fill sequences probably represent alternating episodes of natural silting and deliberate backfilling, with the spoil from each pit being thrown into adjacent pits as it was dug.

Natural silting after the complex had gone out of use is probably responsible for the two or more layers of dark brown silt clay which fill the depression and seal the features within it. The layers produced two small sherds of 1st-century Roman pottery and may have taken a very long time to accumulate, although it is possible that the sherds are intrusive. Roman or post-Roman reuse of the area as a source of water after the depression had silted up is perhaps represented by pits 2324 and 2793, which cut the layers near the northern edge of the depression.

The relationship between the water hole and pit complex and the adjacent Iron Age ditch remains uncertain, although it is now known that the ditch either predated at least some of the pits or extended no further than the north-eastern corner of the complex. The ditch runs down slope from the complex and was possibly used as an overflow, either before the complex was dug or while it was still in use.

The water hole is the shallowest and least well-like of those to have been found at Priors Green, as well as the only one to have steps and, with the possible exception of the Area F/I water hole, a close association with a dense cluster of small to medium-sized pits. The shallow depth of the water hole is very probably due to the water table in Area C/E being prevailingly high, thereby making a deep hole both unnecessary and impracticable. A prevailing high water table is also probably responsible for the area having many pits, as it was probably one of the few places where ground water could be consistently accessed by small to medium-sized features. Use of the water hole by both humans and livestock is a possible reason for it being the only one at Priors Green to have been provided with steps (with water decanted into troughs from the water hole for the latter). When it came to obtaining water from the deeper holes, this was probably accomplished, especially when levels were low, by using a container at the end of a rope or by climbing down a log ladder, an example of which was found in one of the water holes in Area H.

Some of the other archaeological excavations which have taken place within the Stansted Airport / Takeley area (Havis and Brooks 2004; Timby *et al.* 2007; Cooke *et al.* 2008) have also found examples of prehistoric water holes, although most of them are of Middle and Late Bronze Age date and therefore slightly earlier than those at Priors Green. From the collected evidence of these excavations, the wider context of the Priors Green water holes was probably a formalised landscape of farmsteads and small 'villages', often associated with adjacent small areas of ditched enclosures and trackways. The main function of the Priors Green water holes was probably for use by livestock rather than humans as they lie distant from areas of settlement. In support of this is their close association with Iron Age ditches, the arrangement of which appears to imply that they were used for the controlling the movements of cattle or sheep.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The Area C/E water hole compliments the other water holes which have been previously excavated at Prior Green and furthers our understanding of their use and variety. The formation of the archaeological features, however, remains poorly understood and only broadly datable to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age because of complex intercutting stratigraphy and a paucity of closely-datable finds, including items suitable for radiocarbon dating. Furthermore, excavation has failed to contribute to our understanding of the environmental context of the water holes because it produced no environmental remains, probably indicating that it dried out during the past or was in use for a relatively short period of time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RPS Planning & Environment commissioned and managed the project on behalf of Countryside Properties Plc. The Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team monitored the fieldwork. ECC FAU acknowledges the assistance of Simon Blatherwick and Rob Masefield (RPS) and Richard Havis (ECC HEM).

The excavation of the site involved Iain Cropper, Trevor Ennis, Mark Germany, John Hewitt, Phillippa Sparrow and Robert Waldock. The finds were analysed by Joyce Compton, Nick Lavender and Hazel Martingell, and the palaeoenvironmental remains by Val Fryer. Figures 1 to 4 were drawn by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

No.	Type	Description
2700	Ditch (segment)	Linear. Moderately-sloping sides. Concave base. 1m long, 1.38m wide, 0.37m deep. Filled by 2701 and 2702. Above 2707. Below 2701
2701	Fill	Light greyish yellow firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of ditch 2700. Below 2702
2702	Fill	Brownish orange firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill of ditch 2700. Above 2701. Below 2703 and 2708
2703	Pit	Sub-rectangular. Steep sides. Irregular base. 1.62m long, 0.46m wide, 0.29m deep. Filled by 2704, 2711 and 2712. Above 2703. Below 2704
2704	Fill	Light greyish yellow silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of ditch 2700. Below 2702
2705	Pit	Circular. Steep sides. Flat base. 0.38m long, 0.38m wide, 0.2m deep. Filled by 2706 and 2707. Below 2706
2706	Fill	Light yellow soft clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2705. Below 2707
2707	Fill	Light greyish yellow firm/sticky clay with occasional pieces of chalk. Latest fill of pit 2705. Above 2706. Below 2700
2708	Pit	?Square. Near-vertical sides. Concave base. 0.35m+ long, 0.82m wide, 0.33m deep. Filled by 2709 and 2710. Above 2702. Below 2709
2709	Fill	Light greyish yellow firm clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Primary fill of pit 2708. Below 2710
2710	Fill	Light brownish orange firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint. Latest fill of pit 2708. Above 2709
2711	Fill	Orange firm clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Secondary fill of pit 2703. Above 2704. Below 2712
2712	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill of pit 2703. Above 2711. Below 2162
2713	Layer	Dark brown firm/plastic silt clay with infrequent pieces of chalk and flint. Above 2733, 2728, 2740 and 2739. Same as 2772
2714	Artefacts	Unstratified finds from contexts 2719 to 2721, and 2724 to 2732 in water hole 2716
2715	Layer	Greyish orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. 0.22m thick. Above 2790. Below 2793
2716	Water hole	Large oval feature with steeped and steep sides. 7.6m long, 3.1m+ wide, 1.8m deep. Filled by 2717 to 2734 and 2844
2717	Fill	Yellowish brown sticky/plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Secondary fill of water hole 2716. Below 2721 and 2734. Above 2844
2718	Fill	Brownish orange sticky/plastic silt clay with infrequent small pieces of chalk. Secondary fill of water hole 2716. Below 2721 and 2734. Above 2844
2719	Fill	Pale brownish yellow firm/plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Secondary fill of water hole 2716. Below 2720. Above 2844
2720	Fill	Brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Third fill of water hole 2716. Above 2719. Below 2721 and 2734
2721	Fill	Brownish yellow plastic/firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Fourth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2722. Above 2720. Possibly same as 2734

2722	Fill	Orange/grey (mottled) plastic/sticky silt clay with infrequent pieces of flint and chalk. Fifth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2723. Above 2721
2723	Fill	Brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Sixth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2724. Above 2722
2724	Fill	Brownish yellow plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and chalk. Seventh fill of water hole 2716. Below 2725. Above 2723
2725	Fill	Brownish yellow plastic/sticky silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and chalk. Eighth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2729. Above 2724
2726	Fill	Brown friable silt clay with infrequent pieces of chalk and flint. Tenth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2727. Above 2729
2727	Fill	Brownish yellow firm/plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Eleventh fill of water hole 2716. Below 2728 and 2730. Above 2726
2728	Fill	Brownish yellow firm/plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Twelfth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2713. Above 2727
2729	Fill	Pale brownish yellow firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Ninth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2726. Above 2725
2730	Fill	Pale brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Twelfth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2731. Above 2727
2731	Fill	Brownish prange sticky/plastic silt clay with infrequent pieces of chalk and flint. Thirteenth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2732. Above 2730
2732	Fill	Brownish orange firm/plastic silt clay with infrequent flecks of chalk. Fourteenth fill of water hole 2716. Below 2733. Above 2731
2733	Fill	Pale brownish yellow plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Latest fill in water hole 2716. Below 2713. Above 2732
2734	Fill	Brownish orange firm/plastic silt clay with infrequent pieces of chalk and flint. Fourth fill of water hole 2716. Above 2720. Possibly same as 2721
2735	Pit	Oval. Moderately to steeply-sloping sides. Concave base. 1.3m long, 0.88m deep. Filled by 2736 to 2739, 2774, 2836 and 2837. Below 2736. Above 2836
2736	Fill	Brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with occasional small pieces of chalk. Third fill of pit 2735. Below 2737. Above 2836
2737	Fill	Brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with infrequent pieces of flint. Fourth fill of pit 2735. Below 2738. Above 2736
2738	Fill	Brownish yellow firm/plastic silt clay with infrequent pieces of chalk. Fifth fill of pit 2735. Below 2739. Above 2737
2739	Fill	Dark greyish brown plastic/firm silt clay with frequent pieces of charcoal. Latest fill in pit 2735. Below 2713 and 2772. Above 2738
2740	Fill	Brownish yellow firm silt clay with infrequent pieces of flint and chalk. Fill of water hole 2716. Below 2713. Above 2741
2741	Fill	Pale brownish yellow plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Fill of water hole 2716. Below 2740. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with rest of fill sequence
2742	Layer	Duplicate number for 2772
2743	Artefacts	Unstratified surface finds from site C/E
2744	Pit	?Circular. Stepped and near-vertical sides. Slightly undulating base. 2.4m+ long, 2m wide, 0.99m deep. Filled by 2745 to 1753. Below 2745

2745	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Primary fill of pit 2744. Below 2751
2746	Fill	Brownish orange firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Third fill of pit 2744. Above 1751. Below 2747
2747	Fill	Light greyish yellow firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint and charcoal. Fourth fill of pit 2744. Above 2746 and 2752. Below 2748
2748	Fill	Dark greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint. Fifth fill of pit 2744. Above 2747. Below 2749
2749	Fill	Light yellowish brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Sixth fill of pit 2744. Above 2748. Below 2750
2750	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional flecks of chalk and pieces of flint. Seventh fill of pit 2744
2751	Fill	Light yellow firm clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Secondary fill of pit 2744. Above 2745. Below 2752 and 2746
2752	Fill	Dark orange brown loose silt clay with occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal. Third fill of pit 2744. Above 2751. Below 2747
2753	Fill	Light brownish yellow firm clay with occasional pieces of flint and charcoal. Latest fill of pit 2744. Above 2750. Below 2793
2754	Pit	Identified in section. U-shaped profile. 0.57m wide, 0.33m deep. Filled by 2755 to 2758. Below 2755
2755	Fill	Dark orange brown firm/plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of pit 2754. Below 2756
2756	Fill	Orange brown firm silt clay with infrequent flecks of charcoal. Secondary fill of pit 2754. Above 2755. Below 2757
2757	Fill	Light yellowish brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Third fill of pit 2754. Above 2756. Below 2758
2758	Fill	Brownish orange firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill of pit 2754. Above 2757. Below 2789
2759	Not used	
2760	Pit	Oval. Stepped and near-vertical sides. Slightly undulating base. 2m+ long, 1.5m+ wide, 0.74m deep. Filled by 2761 to 2765, 2787 and 2788. Below 2761
2761	Fill	Light greyish yellow loose silt clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2760. Below 2762
2762	Fill	Orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Secondary fill of pit 2760. Above 2761. Below 2763
2763	Fill	Light yellowish orange firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Third fill of pit 2760. Above 2762. Below 2764
2764	Fill	Orange brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Fourth fill of pit 2760. Above 2763. Below 2765
2765	Fill	Light orange brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Fifth fill of pit 2760. Above 2764. Below 2787
2766	Pit	Rounded. Moderately to steeply-sloping sides. Flat base. 1.2m+ long, 1.6m wide, 0.6m deep. Filled by 2767 and 2768. Below 2768
2767	Fill	Mid to dark greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and frequent flecks of chalk. Latest fill of pit 2766. Above 2768. Below 2782
2768	Fill	Greyish brown / yellowish brown firm silt clay with infrequent pieces of flint and frequent flecks of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2766. Below 2767

2769	Water hole	Oval. Stepped sides. Broad, slightly concave base. 3.8m long, c. 3.2m wide, 0.95m deep. Filled by 2770, 2771, 2772 and 2843. Below 2843
2770	Fill	Pale brownish yellow plastic/sticky silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk. Secondary fill of water hole 2769. Above 2843. Below 2771
2771	Fill	Light orange brown friable silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill of water hole 2769. Below 2735. Above 2770. Possibly same as fill 2721 and 2734 in water hole 2716
2772	Layer	Brown sticky/friable clay silt with occasional pieces of flint. Above 2739. Same as 2713
2773	Pit	Duplicate number for 2735
2774	Fill	Orange brown sticky/friable silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk. Fill in east side of pit 2735. Uncertain relationship with other fills in pit
2775	Pit	Rounded. Gradually-sloping sides. Flat / uneven base. 1.4m long, 0.7m+ wide, 0.35m deep. Filled by 2776. Uncertain stratigraphic relationships with adjacent pits 2777 and 2779
2776	Fill	Greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Single fill of pit 2775. Below 2781
2777	Pit	Rounded. Gradually to moderately-sloping sides. Slightly concave base. 0.5m long, 0.4m wide, 0.4m deep. Filled by 2778. Uncertain stratigraphic relationships with adjacent pits 2775 and 2779
2778	Fill	Greyish brown firm silt clay. Single fill of pit 2777. Below 2781
2779	Pit	Uncertain plan - only partially exposed. Moderately-sloping sides, flat base. 0.6m+ long, 1m+ wide, 0.4m deep. Filled by 2780. Uncertain stratigraphic relationships with adjacent pits 2775 and 2777
2780	Fill	Greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Single fill of pit 2779. Below 2781
2781	Layer	Light greyish brown very firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and infrequent pieces of chalk. 0.4m thick. Above 2776, 2778 and 2780
2782	Layer	Mid to dark greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and flecks of chalk. 0.22m thick. Above 2767 and 2784
2783	Pit	Uncertain extent and plan - only partially exposed. Moderately-sloping west side. 1.4m long, 0.18m+ wide, 0.22m+ deep. Filled by 2784
2784	Fill	Greyish brown firm silt clay with infrequent pieces of flint and frequent flecks of chalk. Single fill of pit 2783. Below 2782
2785	Pit	Oval. Steeply-sloping sides. Flat to concave base. 0.9m long, 0.8m wide, 0.4m deep. Filled by 2786. Uncertain stratigraphic relationship with adjacent pits 2766 and 2783
2786	Fill	Dark grey / brown firm silt clay with flecks of charcoal and occasional pieces of flint. Single fill of pit 2785. Below 2782
2787	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Sixth fill of pit 2760. Below 2788. Above 2765
2788	Fill	Orange brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional flecks of charcoal. Latest fill in pit 2760. Below 2789. Above 2787
2789	Layer	Light greyish yellow firm clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional flints. 0.24m thick. Above 2758 and 2788. Below 2790
2790	Layer	Brownish orange firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. 0.23m thick. Above 2789. Below 2715

2791	Pit	Oval. Steeply sloping, irregular sides. Concave base. 1.84m long, 1.2m wide, 0.75m deep. Fill sequence inadvertently removed during excavation of adjacent features and not numbered or recorded. Stratigraphic relationships with adjacent features not known
2792	Not used	
2793	Pit	Identified in section. Gradually and steeply-sloping sides. Concave base. 1.66m wide, 0.48m deep. Filled by 2794 to 2796. Above 2715 and 2753. Below 2794
2794	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint and occasional flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of pit 2793. Below 2795
2795	Fill	Brownish orange firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Secondary fill of pit 2793. Above 2794. Below 2796
2796	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk, frequent pieces of flint, and occasional flecks of charcoal. Latest fill of pit 2793. Above 2795
2797	Pit	Oval. Gradually sloping sides. Concave base. 0.4m+ long, 0.2m+ wide, 0.3m deep. Filled by 2798
2798	Fill	Greyish brown silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Single fill of pit 2797. Below 2781
2799	Pit	Oval pit. Not excavated. Filled by 2800
2800	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Fill of pit 2799. Not excavated
2801	Pit	Moderately-sloping sides, irregular base. 1.36m+ long, 1.29m wide, 0.52m deep. Filled by 2802
2802	Fill	Pale yellowish brown friable clay with occasional flints. Single fill of pit 2801. Below 2803
2803	Pit	Gradually to moderately-sloping sides, irregular base. 1.34m+ long, 1.4m wide. Filled by 2804. Above 2802
2804	Fill	Pale yellowish brown friable clay with occasional pieces of flint. Single fill of pit 2803. Below 2807
2805	Layer	Duplicate number for 2807
2806	Pit	Duplicate number for 2822
2807	Layer	Grey brown firm silt clay with occasional small flints and flecks of chalk. 0.4m thick. Above 2808, 2818, 2816, 2841, 2821, 2809 and 2804
2808	Layer	Yellow grey brown firm silt clay with common pieces of chalk and flint. 0.15m thick. Below 2807
2809	Fill	Grey orange brown friable / sticky silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and flint. Single fill of pit 2810. Below 2807
2810	Pit	Moderately to steeply-sloping sides. Slightly uneven base. 1.10m+ long, 0.7m+ wide, 0.3m deep. Filled by 2809
2811	Pit	Duplicate number for 2822
2812	Fill	Duplicate number for 2825
2813	Fill	Duplicate number for 2824
2814	Pit	Steeply-sloping sides. Sloping base. 1.19m long, 0.95m+ wide, 0.75m deep. Filled by 2815 and 2816. Below 2815
2815	Fill	Pale orange brown sticky/plastic clay with frequent small pieces of chalk and flint. Primary fill of pit 2814. Below 2816

2816	Fill	Brown friable clay with occasional small pieces of chalk and frequent small pieces of flint. Latest fill of pit 2814. Below 2807
2817	Pit	Moderately-sloping sides, concave base. 0.94m+ long, 0.83m wide, 0.48m deep. Filled by 2818
2818	Fill	Pale yellowish brown plastic clay with frequent small pieces of chalk. Single fill of pit 2817. Below 2807
2819	Layer	Duplicate number for 2807
2820	Pit	Gradually-sloping sides, concave base. 0.5m+ long, 0.4m+ wide, 0.08m deep. Filled by 2821
2821	Fill	Grey orange brown firm silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Single fill of pit 2820. Below 2807
2822	Pit	Uncertain plan. Moderately to steeply, irregularly sloping sides. Base not exposed. 2.75m long, 1.3m+ wide, 0.85m deep. Filled by 2825, 2826, 2827, 2824 and 2841. Below 2825
2823	Fill	Duplicate number for 2824
2824	Fill	Greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional small pieces of flint and flecks of chalk. Fourth fill of pit 2822. Below 2841. Above 2826 and 2827
2825	Fill	Brownish grey sticky clay silt with frequent flecks of chalk and occasional small flints. Primary fill of pit 2822. Below 2826 and 2827
2826	Fill	Orange grey brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and occasional flecks of chalk. Secondary fill of pit 2822. Below 2824. Above 2825. Possibly same as 2827
2827	Fill	Orange grey brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and occasional flecks of chalk. Third fill of pit 2822. Below 2824. Above 2825. Possibly same as 2826
2828	Stake hole	Oval. 0.9m long, 6.5m wide, less than 0.05m deep. Filled by 2829
2829	Fill	Grey sticky/plastic silty clay with frequent small pieces of flint. Single fill of stake hole 2828
2830	Stake hole	Oval. 0.18m long, 0.16m wide, 0.03m deep. Filled by 2831
2831	Fill	Grey sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Single fill of stake hole 2830
2832	Stake hole	Oval. 0.14m long, 0.11m wide, 0.03m deep. Filled by 2833
2833	Fill	Grey sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent small pieces of flint. Single fill of stake hole 2832
2834	Stake hole	Oval. 0.14m long, 0.11m wide, 0.05m deep. Filled by 2835
2835	Fill	Grey sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent small pieces of flint. Single fill of stake hole 2834
2836	Pit	Duplicate number for 2735
2837	Fill	Pale yellowish brown plastic/sticky clay with occasional small pieces of chalk and flint. Primary fill of pit 2735. Below 2838
2838	Fill	Brown plastic/sticky clay with occasional pieces of flint. Secondary fill of pit 2735. Above 2837. Below 2736
2839	Stake hole	Oval. 0.16m long, 0.13m wide, 0.04m deep. Filled by 2840
2840	Fill	Brown friable silt clay with frequent small pieces of flint. Single fill of 2839

2841	Fill	Yellowish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill of pit 2822. Below 2807. Above 2824
2842	Artefacts	Surface find (rim sherd), found between pits 2845, 2848 and 2865
2843	Fill	Light to mid brown soft silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk. Primary fill of water hole 2769. Below 2770
2844	Fill	Brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with brownish grey mottles. Contains frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Primary fill of water hole 2716. Below 2717, 2718 and 2719
2845	Pit	Identified largely in section. Moderately to steeply-sloping sides. Concave base. 1.6m long, 0.8m deep. Filled by 2881 to 2883. Below 2881
2846	Fill	Duplicate number for 2882
2847	Fill	Duplicate number for 2883
2848	Pit	Identified in section. Steeply sloping sides. Concave base. 0.8m wide, 0.3m deep. Filled by 2849 and 2850. Below 2849. Above 2851
2849	Fill	Orange grey brown firm silt clay with occasional flints, frequent flecks of chalk and occasional flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of pit 2848. Below 2850
2850	Fill	Dark orange brown silt clay with abundant small pieces of flint and occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal. Latest fill of pit 2848. Above 2849
2851	Fill	Dark orange brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint and occasional flecks of charcoal. 0.25m thick. Below 2848. Above 2847
2852	Pit	Oval. Moderately to steeply-sloping sides. Concave base. 0.6m+ long, 0.9m wide, 0.45m deep. Filled by 2856 to 2859. Below 2856
2853	Pit	Rounded. Moderately to steeply-sloping sides. Concave base. 0.73m deep. Filled by 2860 and 2861. Below 2860. Above 2859
2854	Pit	Duplicate number for 2853
2855	Pit	Elongated with off-centre basal depression. 2m+ long, 1m+ wide, 0.5m deep. Filled by 2863 and 2864. Below 2863
2856	Fill	Brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2852. Below 2857
2857	Fill	Yellowish brown plastic silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Secondary fill of pit 2852. Below 2858. Above 2856
2858	Fill	Brownish yellow plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Third fill of pit 2852. Below 2859. Above 2857
2859	Fill	Yellowish brown firm/friable silt clay with infrequent pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill in pit 2852. Below 2853. Above 2858
2860	Fill	Pale brownish yellow soft/sticky silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and infrequent pieces of flint. Primary fill of pit 2853. Below 2861
2861	Fill	Firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk, infrequent pieces of flint and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Latest fill in pit 2853. Below 2862. Above 2860
2862	Layer	Brown firm/friable silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint and infrequent flecks of charcoal. 0.23m thick. Above 2861 and 2864
2863	Fill	Pale brownish yellow sticky/plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2855. Below 2864

2864	Fill	Dark brownish grey soft/sticky silt clay with occasional pieces of flint and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Latest fill of pit 2855. Below 2862. Above 2863
2865	Pit	Uncertain depth and plan - not fully excavated and only partially exposed. 1m+ long, 1.3m+ wide, 0.7m+ deep. Filled by 2875 to 2880
2866	Pit	Uncertain size and form - only partially exposed. Filled by 2868 to 2870. Below 2868
2867	Pit	Uncertain size and form - only partially exposed. Filled by 2872 and 2873. Below 2872. Above 2870
2868	Fill	Pale orange grey friable silt clay with frequent small pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2866. Below 2869
2869	Fill	Brown friable clay with occasional small pieces of flint. Secondary fill of pit 2866. Above 2868. Below 2870
2870	Fill	Brown plastic silt clay with frequent pieces of flint, occasional small pieces of chalk, and occasional flecks of charcoal. Latest fill of pit 2866. Above 2869
2871	Layer	Duplicate number for 2871
2872	Fill	Pale yellowish brown friable silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2867. Below 2874
2873	Fill	Orange brown friable clay with frequent pieces of flint and chalk. Latest fill of pit 2867
2874	Layer	Brown friable silt clay with frequent pieces of flint. Above 2872. Same as 2871
2875	Fill	Orange grey soft/friable silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2865. Below 2876
2876	Fill	Dark greyish brown firm silt clay with no inclusions. Secondary fill of pit 2865. Below 2877. Above 2875
2877	Fill	Orange brown silt clay with occasional small pieces of chalk. Third fill of pit 2865. Below 2878. Above 2876
2878	Fill	Grey orange brown firm silt clay with occasional flecks of chalk and pieces of flint. Fourth fill of pit 2865. Below 2879. Above 2877
2879	Fill	Yellow grey brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Fifth fill of pit 2865. Below 2880. Above 2878
2880	Fill	Dark greyish brown firm silt clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint. Latest fill of pit 2865. Above 2879
2881	Fill	Yellowish orange silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk. Primary fill of pit 2845. Below 2882
2882	Fill	Light greyish brown friable silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk and occasional pieces of flint. Secondary fill of pit 2845. Below 2883. Above 2881
2883	Fill	Greyish brown friable silt clay with frequent pieces of chalk, occasional pieces of flint and occasional pieces of charcoal. Latest fill in pit 2845. Below 2865 and 2851. Above 2882
2884	Layer	Duplicate number for 2851
2885	Pit	Not excavated. Below 2715
2886	Pit	Large rounded pit to east of area C/E. Half-sectioned during previous phase of excavation but apparently not recorded or numbered

APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Worked flint catalogue

Context	Feature	Description	Date
2702	2700	Fragment, secondary Flake fragment, tertiary Flake, tertiary, fine, patinated	E Neo
2709	2708	Flake, tertiary, slight patination	
2710	2708	Denticulate on a flake, secondary, slight patination Core fragment Blade, tertiary, 37mm, slight patination	
2713	2716	Denticulate on a blade, fine, secondary, slight patination Flake, secondary, slight patination Flake, secondary Flakelet, core trim piece	
2714	Finds	Three flakes, secondary Flake, primary Flake, secondary, irregular Blade off natural block	
2715	Layer	Flake, secondary, waste	
2742	2769	Five flakes, secondary, slight patination Flake, tertiary, slight patination Flake, secondary Blade, tertiary, 60mm, patinated Blade, secondary, 48mm, patinated Blade, tertiary, 43mm, slight patination Blade, secondary, 38mm Core trimming flake, slight patination Natural	E Neo E Neo
2743	u/s	Flake fragment, large, secondary, patinated except for broken surface Flake, secondary, sharp	?Recent
2753	2744	Flake, primary, slight patination	
2767	2766	Notched flake, light grey flint, secondary Flake, tertiary, slight patination	
2770	2769	Scraper on large secondary flake, steep invasive retouch Three flakes, secondary, patinated Flake, secondary Flake, tertiary Fragment, patinated	M-L Neo
2772	2769	Flakes, secondary, slight patination Flake, primary, slight patination	
2787	2760	Flake, secondary, fine, sharp	
2796	2793	Flake, large, secondary Blade, secondary, 38mm, slight patination Natural	
2805	Layer	Flake, converging, secondary, slight patination Flake, tertiary, fine, slight patination	

2809	2810	Core, flake, single platform, one surface slight patination, some later flake removals Flake, secondary, slight patination	
2862	Layer	Flake, tertiary, slight patination Flake, secondary, slight patination	
2864	2855	Flake, primary, slight patination	

Summary of worked flint types

Number	Description
39	Flakes
7	Blades
2	Denticulates
2	Cores
1	Notched piece
1	Scraper
1	Core trimming flake
2	Fragments
2	Natural
57	

Prehistoric pottery

Context	Feature	Fabric	Sherd No.	Sherd Wt.
2702	2700	D	9	27
2710	2708	B	10	20
2713	Layer	B	28	23
2714	2716	B	11	29
2715	Layer	D	10	52
2742	Layer	D	32	28
2753	2744	C	1	11
2763	2760	A	92	104
2765	2760	C	2	2
2770	2769	D	1	2
2780	2779	D	6	7
2796	2793	C	3	15
2800	2799	C	18	35
2805	Layer	C	12	19
2807	Layer	C	18	54
2842	Unstrat.	Z	9	2
2862	Layer	D	6	35
2868	2866	D	6	11
			274	476

Animal bone

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description
2713	2716	9	58	Fragments, all same large mammal long bone, poor condition
2715	Layer	4	1	Fragments
2742	2769	1	8	Fragment, poor condition
2765	2760	2	30	Fragments, poor condition
2796	2793	16	138	Horse metapodial, proximal end damaged; cattle tooth enamel fragments; fragments; all poor condition
2802	2801	9	52	Mandible fragments, large mammal, poor condition
2807	2806	31	28	Cattle molars; maxilla or mandible fragments, large mammal; fragments; all poor condition
2862	Layer	6	4	Fragments, poor condition
2868	2866	7	24	Fragments
		85	343	

Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	230	231
Context No.	2843	2844
Charcoal < 2mm	x	x
Bone		x
Sample volume (litres)	30	30
Volume of flot (litres)	< 0.1	< 0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%

Key: x = 1 to 5 specimens

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

- 1 Client report
- 1 Written Scheme of Investigation
- 1 Worked flint report and drawing
- 1 Prehistoric pottery report
- 1 Copper alloy, baked clay and animal bone report
- 1 Charred plant macrofossil assessment
- 4 Matrices
- 6 Context register sheets
- 185 Context sheets
- 2 Environmental sample record sheets
- 6 Level register sheets
- 1 Photo register
- 58 Photographs
- 5 Large sheets of site plans
- 9 Large sheets of section drawings
- 1 Box of finds

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name/Address: Burgettes Road, Priors Green, Takeley	
Parish: Takeley	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 57326 21765	Site Code: TAPG 07
Type of Work: Archaeological excavation	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 13/4/10 to 7/5/10	Size of Area Investigated: Excavation area: 414m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Client: RPS Planning, Transport and Environment on behalf of Countryside Properties PLC
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.:
Final Report: To be decided	
Periods represented: Prehistoric	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Former preservation in situ phase 3 area C/E was excavated by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in advance of housing development in the spring of 2010. The work was commissioned and monitored by RPS Planning, Transport and Environment on behalf of Countryside Properties PLC. The main discovery in the phase 3 Area C/E site was a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age water hole and pit complex. Discoveries made during previous phases of archaeological excavation at Priors Green include Early Neolithic pits, flint and pottery, Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age water holes, and Iron Age ditches (Scruby 2009).</p> <p>The Area C/E water hole occupied part of a semi-natural depression and was a slightly irregular 1.8m-deep feature with stepped sides. The feature is suggested to lie at a distance from areas of settlement and was probably mainly used for the watering of livestock. The basal fills of the feature contained no environmental remains to provide evidence for its landscape context. The pit complex lay alongside the water hole and consisted of numerous small to medium-sized intercutting pits, which may also have been used for the collecting of water. The excavation found no clear evidence for the use of the water hole / pit complex as a focal point for ritual activity. Leading off from the north-eastern corner of the water hole / pit complex was an Iron Age ditch which may have been used as a drain. Notable finds from the water hole / pit complex comprise pieces of Neolithic worked flint, sherds of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and part of a Bronze Age dress pin.</p>	
<p>Previous Summaries/Reports:- Scruby, A. 2009 <i>Priors Green (Phase 3), Takeley, Essex. Archaeological evaluation and excavation assessment</i>. ECC Field Archaeology Unit report 1795</p>	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: November 2010

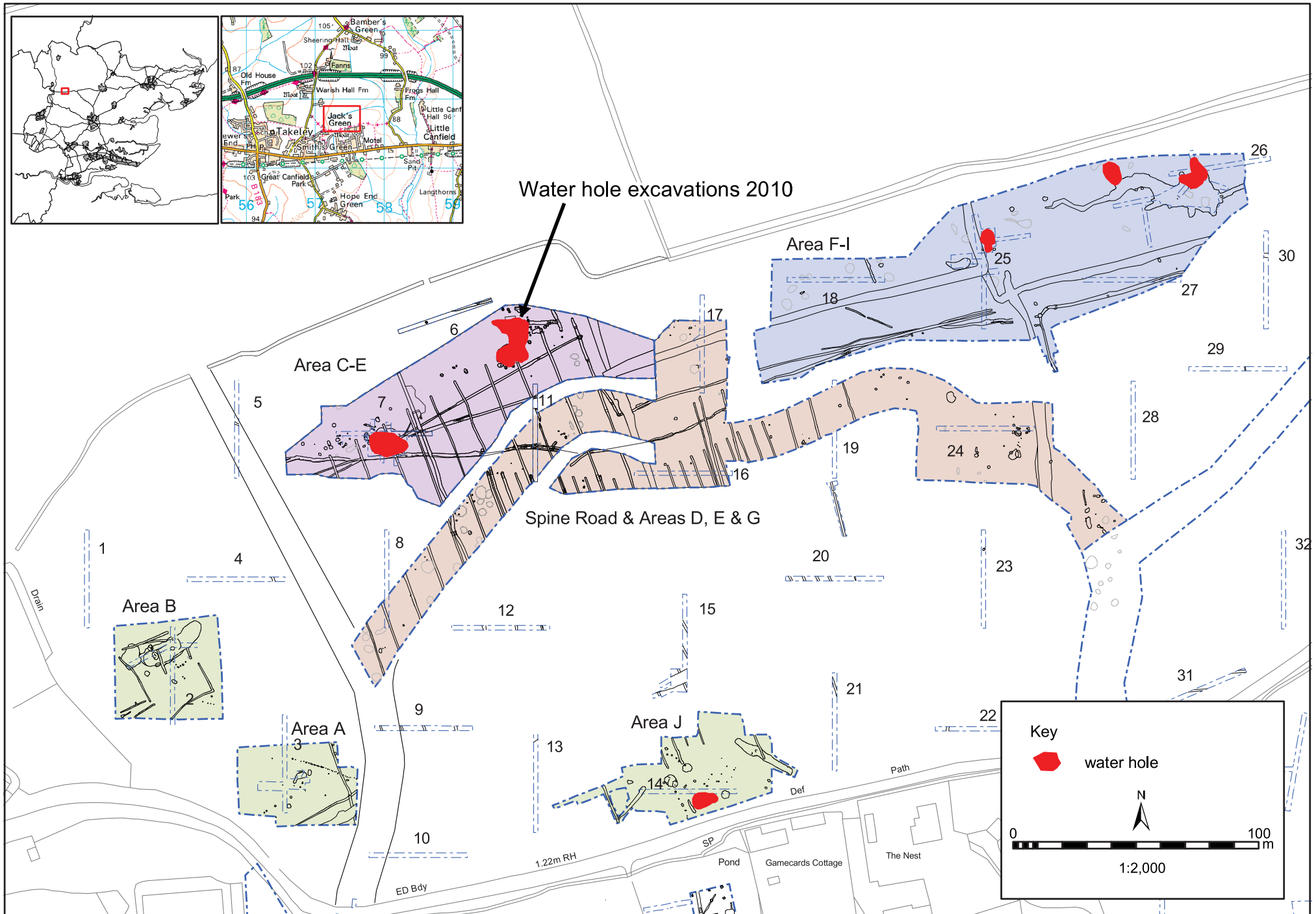


Fig.1. Site location

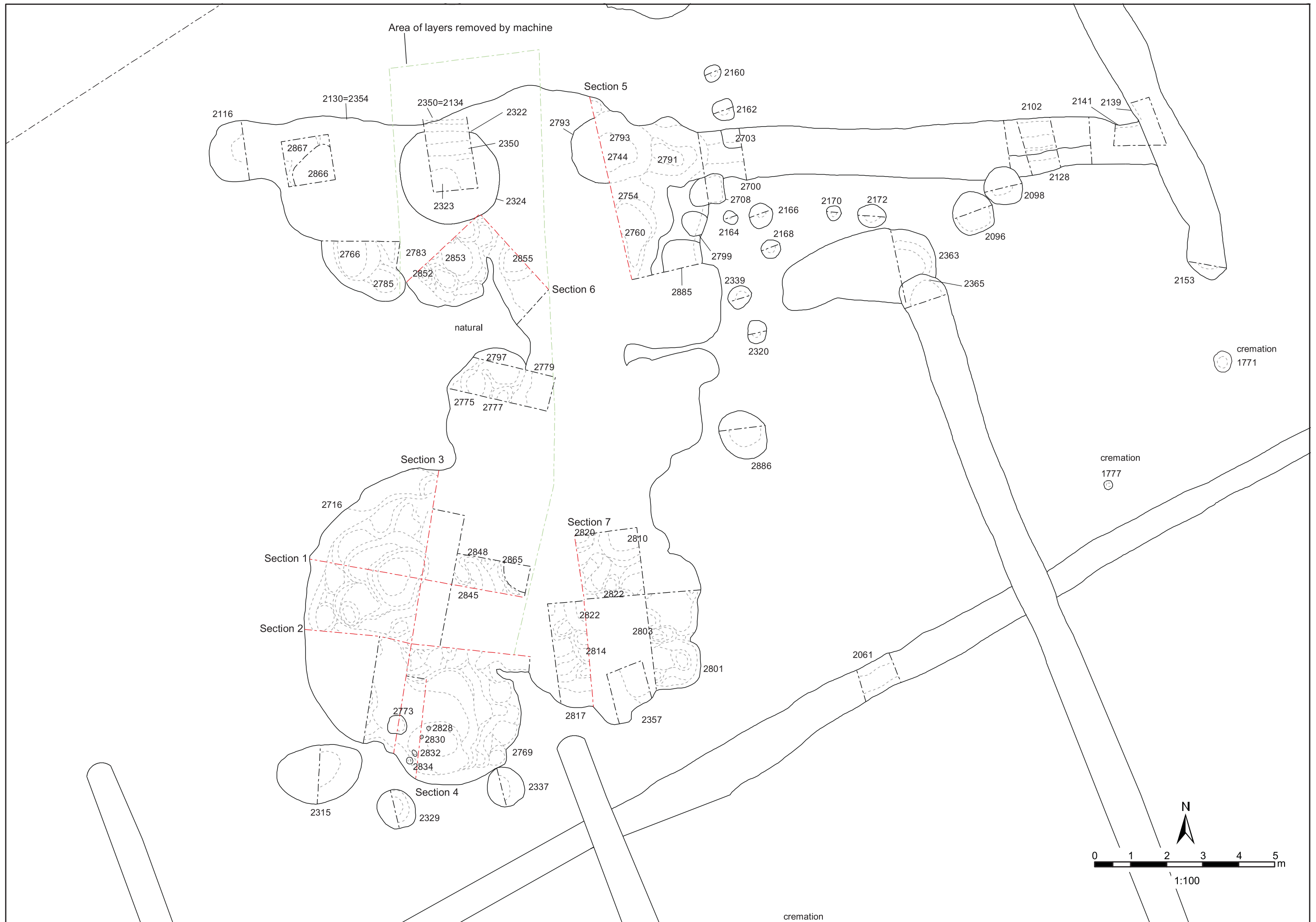


Fig.2. Area C - E water hole excavations 2010

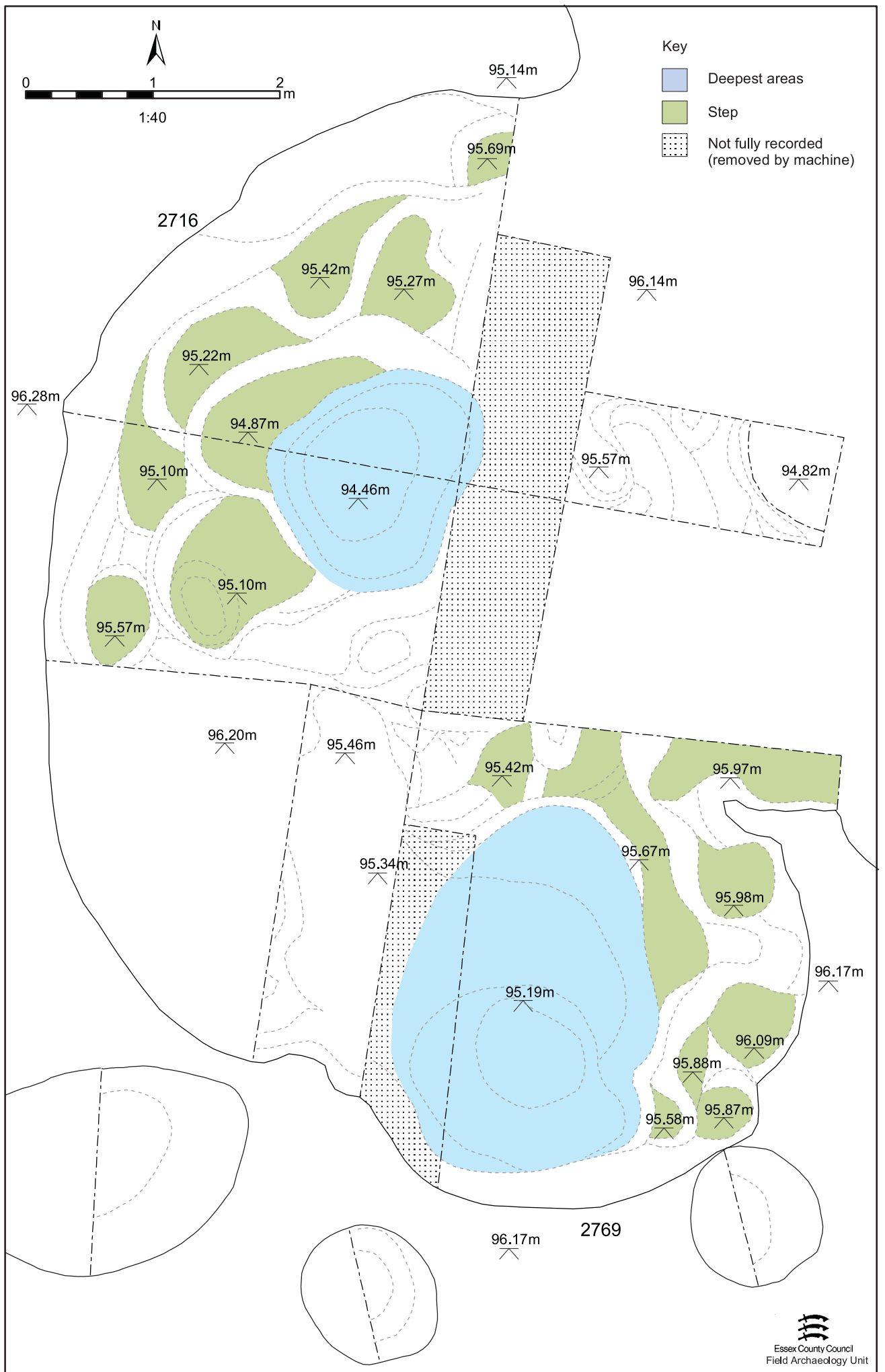


Fig.3. Area C - E water hole excavations 2010

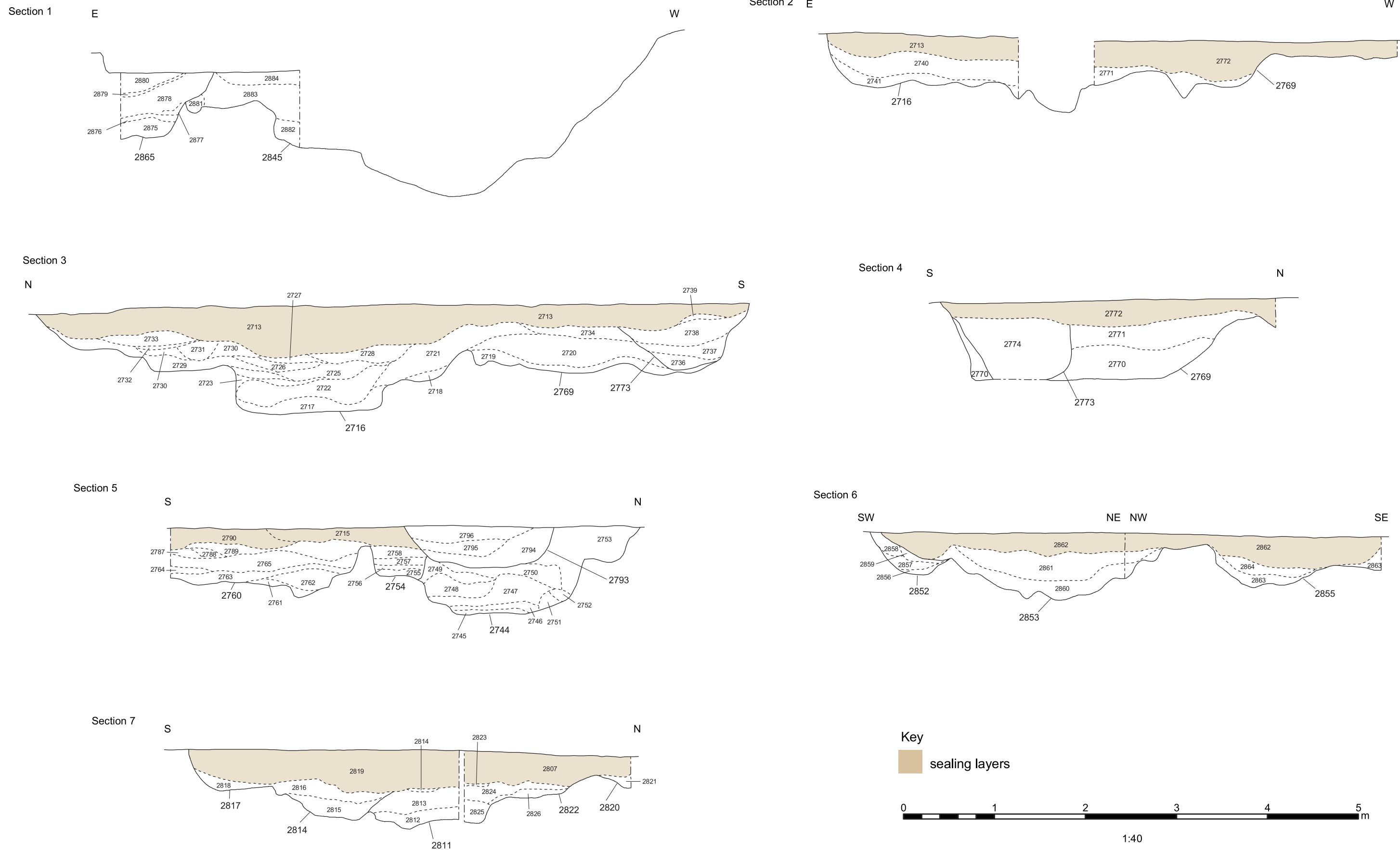


Fig.4. Sections 1 - 7

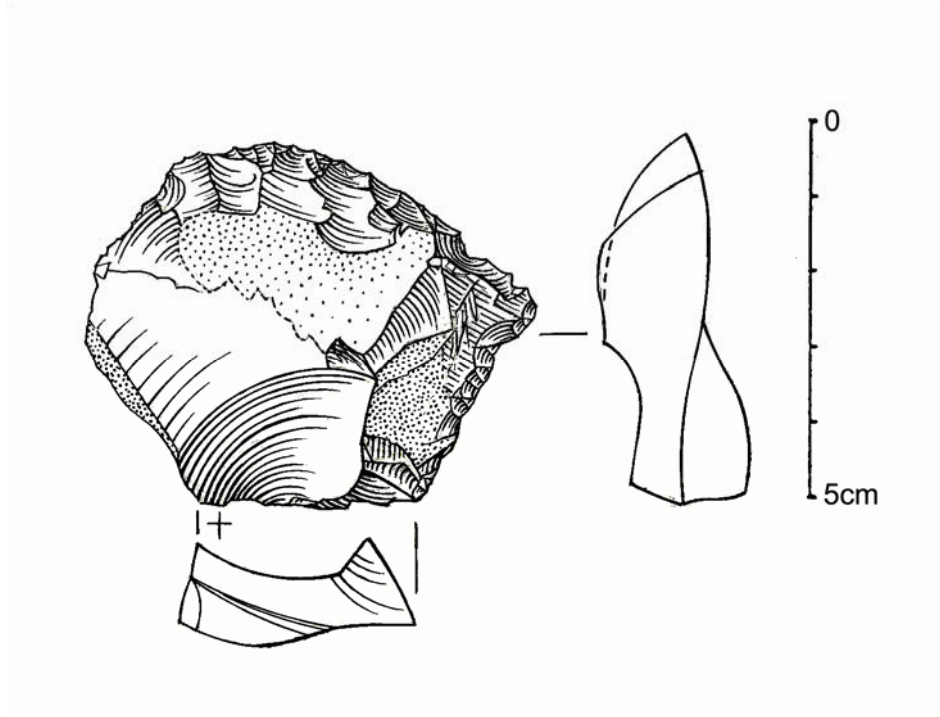


Fig. 5 Middle to Late Neolithic scraper



Plate 1. Water hole 2716, looking east towards section 3



Plate 2. Water hole 2716, looking east



Plate 3. Water hole 2716, looking west



Plate 4. Water hole 2769, looking south-west towards section 4



Plate 5. Pits 2744, 2760 and 2793, looking north-west towards section 5



Plate 6. Pits 2852 and 2853, looking north-west towards the western half of section 6



Plate 7. Water holes 2716 and 2769, looking north