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LAND AT POLLARDS WAY
Pirton, Herts.

HN1141

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD
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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

LAND AT POLLARDS WAY
Pirton, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1141
LPA ref.: 12/01795/1
HER consultation: 160/12

Archaeological Assessment Report

Prepared on behalf of Court Homes Ltd.

by

Daniel Phillips, BA (Hons), ACIfA & Helen Ashworth, BA (Hons), ACIfA

Report no. 940

April 2016

11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998

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The cover photograph shows the site looking south

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Daniel Phillips, Mark Sycamore, Robin Densem, Ivor Davies, Jenny Heinzelmann and Frankie Saxton. The processing of bulk environmental samples was undertaken by Trude Maynard and Angela Bain and the environmental assessment was prepared by James Rackham. The artefact assessments were prepared by Andy Fawcett. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Phillips & Helen Ashworth and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	**District:**	North Herts.
Village/town:	Pirton	**Parish:**	Pirton
Planning reference:	12/01795/1	**NGR:**	TL 14449 31768
Client name and address:	Court Homes Ltd, Ladygrove Court, Hitchinwood Lane, Preston, Hitchin, SG4 7SA		
Nature of work:	Residential	**Former land use:**	Field
Site status:	Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS75)	**Reason for investigation:**	Direction of LPA
Position in planning process:	As a condition	**Project brief originator:**	Local authority
Size of affected area:	5600m²	**Size of area investigated:**	4000m²
Site Code:	HN1141	**Other ref. no :**	N/A
Organisation:	Heritage Network	**Site Director:**	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Excavation	**Archive recipient:**	North Herts. Museums
Start of work	04/08/2014	**Finish of work**	17/03/2015
Related HER Nos:	n/a	**Periods represented:**	BA, IA, Roman, Med, P-Med,
Oasis UID	heritage1-180066	**Significant finds:**	Coin, Pottery; Bone, Flint
Monument types:	ditch, pit, post-hole		
Material archive:	Pottery, Animal Bone, Burnt Clay, Flint, Coin		
Previous summaries/reports:	Snee, J. 2012 *Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation report* (HN report no.750)		

Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning permission for a new residential development at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Court Homes Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological excavation in advance of the development groundworks, and a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks.

The fieldwork identified remains dating to the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. A small number of the features investigated were identified as of natural origin. The earliest datable features on the site consist of a series of Late Bronze Age pits and postholes.

Artefactual and environmental evidence was collected from Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval period features on the site, indicating occupation and activity in the vicinity throughout these periods.

From the Late Bronze Age until the 4th century AD the site appears to have been in continuous use for either domestic or agricultural activities as indicated by the quantity of pottery and also the cereal assemblages revealed within the deposits. A number of ditches, pits and postholes have been dated to these periods.

The site appears to have gone out of use toward the end of the Roman Period and no evidence of Saxon occupation was encountered.

Evidence for Medieval and Post-Medieval activity was also identified with a series of wide and shallow, parallel ditches.

1 Introduction

1.1 This assessment report has been prepared on behalf of *Court Homes Ltd.,* as part of the archaeological investigation of a development site located on land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire. The assessment represents Stage 3 of the *Scheme of Investigation*, outlined in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated June 2014.

1.2 Planning permission for development of the site (ref: 12/01795/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), subject to a suite of archaeological conditions issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

1.3 The present works represent Stage 2 of the archaeological fieldwork on the site. Stage 1 consisted of an evaluation by trial trenching, undertaken in 2012 and in advance of the determination of the present planning permission, which revealed a number of features of probable Roman date (Snee 2012). On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological adviser to the LPA, requested further investigation on the site.

1.4 The site is located on the west side of Pirton, to the north-west of Pollards Way, centred on NGR TL 14449 31768. It forms the north-eastern corner of an open field, bounded to the north-east by Pirton School and to the south-east by residential properties on Pollards Way (Figure 1).

1.5 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no.75 as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. This encompasses the medieval settlement of Pirton, recorded in the Domesday Book as *Peritone*. To the east of the site is the Scheduled Monument of Toot Hill (SM13612), a preserved motte and bailey castle. Also to the east is the 12th century church of St Mary. Earthworks around the village suggest extensive medieval settlement and agriculture.

1.6 The proposed development entails the erection of eleven dwellings, with associated access, landscaping and services (Figure 2).

1.7 On the basis of the results of the Stage 1 evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of significance was considered to be *High* for the Romano-British period and *Low* for all other periods. As a result of these findings, the HET required the monitoring of the development groundworks. These involved the reduction of the ground level across the footprint of the new dwellings and the access road; accordingly a strip, map and record strategy was adopted for much of the site (Areas 1-4). The excavation of the footings and service trenches across the remainder of the site (Area 5) was carried out under close archaeological supervision.

1.8 The aim of the investigation was to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of all remains that were liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000 and Medlycott 2011).

1.9 The present report represents an assessment of the data collected in the course of the present project, in accordance with the post-excavation methodology for the project contained in the approved Project Design. It includes an updated research design and proposals for a

further programme of analysis and research, leading to publication and the deposition of the archive with North Hertfordshire Museums Service.

2 Background

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located at a height of approximately 76mAOD, on ground sloping down to the east.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Wantage 2 Association (342d) and are described as '*Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk associated with similar soils affected by groundwater. Deeper well drained coarse loamy soils in places. Complex soil patterns locally'* (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying solid geology across the site comprises chalk from the Zig Zag Chalk Formation. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas (British Geological Survey).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

2.4 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no.75 as identified in the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. This notes the medieval settlement of Pirton, recorded in the Domesday Book as *Peritone*. A study of the HER reveals that there are forty-six sites of archaeological or historical interest within a 500m radius.

2.5 A Bronze Age hoard (HER 553) comprising four socketed and looped axe heads and a lump of bronze, has been recovered within the village, although the exact location cannot be identified.

2.6 The present area of investigation lies in an area of Romano-British activity defined by the floor of a Roman building (HER 1478) excavated in Bury Field, to the southeast, a Roman pit (HER 17170) discovered at Pirton School to the north, finds of pottery (HER 1477 & 1475) to the east and southeast, and finds of a coin (HER 1474) to the southeast and a spindle whorl (HER 1480) to the southwest.

2.7 The pre-determination evaluation on the present site revealed a pit containing a sherd of Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone in the north-western corner of the site. A boundary ditch was also exposed towards the southern end of the study area. A fragment of tile, also of probable Roman date, was recovered from the fill of this feature. These isolated features may be indicative of agricultural use of the landscape in this area in the Roman period.

2.8 A recent extensive programme of test pitting in gardens around the modern village (HER 16620), has produced slight evidence for continuity of settlement from Romano-British to early Saxon periods. However, evidence for middle Saxon occupation is lacking and the establishment of a nucleated settlement doesn't appear to begin until the late Saxon period, continuing into the medieval period.

2.9 The parish church of St Mary, to the southeast of the present site, dates to the 12th century (HER 4315) and was rebuilt in the 14th century. Adjacent to the church is the motte and bailey castle called Toot Hill (HER 32) surrounded by the earthworks of the shrunken medieval village of Pirton (HER 746). It is believed that the village shrank from the 14th century onwards, forming five clusters of farms or cottages, and that it did not begin to recover until the 17th/18th centuries.

2.10 Post-medieval settlement in Pirton was focussed on two greens, Great Green and Little Green.

METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork

2.11 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and both CIfA and ALGAO standards.

2.12 The site was divided into five areas, numbered 1 - 5. In Areas 1 - 4, the stripping of the ploughsoil and subsoil was undertaken, under close archaeological supervision, by a tracked excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless bucket. These areas were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.13 Groundworks in Area 5 were carried out under an archaeological watching brief.

2.14 All potential archaeological features and deposits were investigated to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and function.

2.15 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50.

2.16 Bulk environmental samples were taken from all of the datable features recorded during the fieldwork.

Artefacts

2.17 Where not considered detrimental to their condition, bulk finds such as pottery and bone have been carefully washed in clean water to remove the soil, and have been quantified. All pottery has been marked with the site code and context number.

Ecofacts

2.18 Twenty-six bulk samples, each measuring approximately 40 litres, were taken during the fieldwork. Each was processed by wet sieving and flotation, and the flots and residues have been examined to assess their potential.

Documentary Archive

2.19 The documentary archive, comprising the excavation records, has been quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. An overall site summary and a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data have also been prepared.

Material Archive

2.20 The material archive will be prepared in accordance with UKIC guidelines and with the published guidelines for preparing archaeological archives for deposition with North Hertfordshire Museum Service.

3 Assessment

ARCHIVE QUANTIFICATION

Documentary Archive

3.1 The documentary archive incorporates the written, drawn and photographic records from the fieldwork on the present site. The various elements of the documentary archive have been quantified in the table below:

Record Type		Items
Context record sheets		161
Context group record sheets		9
Plot record sheets		5
Trench record sheets		3
Level record sheets		1
Environmental sample record sheets		26
Sketch record sheets		8
Small finds record sheets		1
Attendance record sheets		31
Field Drawings	A2 sheets	11
Photographs	Digital Colour Images	361
	Monochrome negatives	75

Material Archive

3.2 The material archive incorporates artefacts, faunal remains and environmental samples collected during the project, including both stratified and unstratified material. The material archive for the present project includes the following:

Total Artefacts and ecofacts		
Type	**Count**	**Weight (g)**
Pottery	316	1634
CBM	77	2003
Daub	34	105
Fe object	67	67
Animal bone	314	4075
Stone	23	1079
Cu alloy	2	6
Flint	29	20

RECORDED DATA

Introduction

3.3 The site was divided into 5 areas. Area 1, which measured 14.5m by 19m, was located in the northern quadrant, covering the footprint of Plots 7 – 9 (Figure 2, Plate 1). Area 2, which measured approximately 54m by 13.5m, was located towards the south-eastern boundary and covered the footprints of Plots 1 – 6 (Plate 2). Area 3, which measured 24.60m by 13m, was located to the south-west of Area 1 and covered Plots 10 and 11 (Plate 3). Area 4 covered the line of the new access road, an area of approximately 993m^2 (Plates 4 & 5), and Area 5 covered the drainage trenches located to the west and east of the new dwellings (Plates 6 & 7).

Stratigraphy

3.4 The stratigraphy on the site consisted of a layer of black (10YR 2/1) firm silty clay topsoil, up to 0.3m thick, above a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) firm silty clay subsoil, up to 0.3m thick. The underlying natural comprised of a pale grey (10YR 7/1) compact silty clay.

Archaeological Features

3.5 Removal of the top and sub-soils revealed archaeological features cutting the natural silty clay. These comprised seventy cut features including 9 linear features, 15 pits, 16 post-holes and 19 features of natural origin. (Appendix 1).

3.6 The archaeological features could be separated into 5 broad phases of activity (Figures 3 - 7), as follows:

- Phase 1 – Late Bronze Age
- Phase 2 – Iron Age
- Phase 3 – Roman
- Phase 4 – Medieval / post-medieval
- Phase 5 - Modern
- Phase 6 – Undated

Phase 1: Late Bronze Age

3.7 The earliest features on the site appear to date to the Late Bronze Age and comprise five pits [1001], [1003] (Plate 8), [3001] (Plate 9), [4001] (Plate 10) and [4039] (Plate 11) and three postholes, [1009] (Plate 12), [1021] (Plate 13) and [1023] (Plate 14). These have been assigned to this phase on the basis of the finds recovered from within their fills. A further 5 postholes, cuts [1011] (Plate 15), [1013] (Plate 16), [1015] (Plate 17), [1017] (Plate 18) and [1019] (Plate 19) can be dated to this period by association.

Phase 2: Iron Age

3.8 Two parallel linears (group 2049 & 2050) (Plates 20 – 24) and three large pits [4003] (Plate 25), [4035] (Plate 26) and [5001] (Plate 27) have been assigned to this phase on the basis of the finds recovered from within their fills.

Phase 3: Roman

3.9 A very large pit (group 4048) (Plate 28) and two smaller pits [4029] (Plate 29) and [4033], which was cut by undated pit [4031] (Plate 30), have been assigned to this phase on the basis of the finds recovered from within their fills.

Phase 4: Medieval/ Post Medieval

3.10 A series of four shallow and parallel linears, groups [2051] (Plate 31), [2056] (Plates 32 – 34) and [2057] (Plates 35 – 36), together with ditch group [4047] (Plates 37 – 38), have been assigned to this phase on the basis of the finds recovered from within their fills.

Phase 5: Modern

3.11 Two parallel linears (groups 2047 & 2048) (Plates 39 – 43) have been assigned to this period on the basis of the finds recovered from their fills, and their stratigraphic relationships. Linear [2048] cut pit [2013], which also appeared to be of modern date (see Plate 43).

Phase 6: Undated

3.12 Features assigned to this phase, on the basis of a lack of stratigraphic relationships with other features and the absence of dating material from their fills, comprise five postholes, [2001] (Plate 44), [2054] (Plate 45), [3003] (Plate 46), [3005] (Plate 47) and [3007] (Plate 48); a very large pit [2045] (Plate 49) and nine further pits [1005] (Plate 50), [4015] (Plate 51), [4017] (Plate 52), [4025] (Plate 53), [4027] (Plate 54), [4031] (see Plate 35), [4037] (Plate 55), [4057] (Plate 56), [5003] (Plate 57) and the terminus of a small ditch, [4043] (Plate 58).

Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		CBM		Stone		Flint		Fe object		Cu object		Animal bone	
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)
1002	101	639	1	3	20	1480							3	5
1004							17	2						
1010	2	8											2	5
1014									1	5				
1022	4	34			3	125								
1024	2	10			4	10								
2002									1	5			3	5
2004	2	4												
2010			2	45					4	10				
2014									2	25				
2019													30	115
2022														
2024	6	35											8	30
2030	25	70	16	130					2	4			8	15
2032	2	8	7	60									2	3
2034	7	19	8	115					2	5			3	4
2036	2	29	1	40									1	4
2038			2	40									2	10
2040	7	14					4	1					4	15
2042	3	20	3	100										
2046													4	170
2053			3	30					3	10				
2059	2	19												
4002	80	156											4	325
4004	1	2	2	30	1	10	1	4					10	295
4008	6	20	18	1235			1	4					34	455
4010	10	21												
4012													1	4
4014	12	23	1	2							1	3	8	5
4018	10	26			9	65	4	1					38	155

4028													7	40
4032			1	5									33	650
4034	2	7			1	4	1	3					13	20
4036	1	4			1	4	1	5					4	25
4040	4	2												
4051	7	107			1	50							19	865
4053					1	310								
4054	1	1												
5002	13	353	46	273	2	505					1	3	73	855
Total	**316**	**1634**	**111**	**2108**	**43**	**2563**	**29**	**20**	**16**	**67**	**2**	**6**	**314**	**4075**

FINDS ASSESSMENT - ARTEFACTS

Pottery by Andy Fawcett

3.13 A total of 316 sherds, with a combined weight of 1634g, was recorded from the archaeological investigation at Pollards Way, Pirton. This report sets out the distribution of pottery by period and context type, and discusses its general condition and diagnostic element. This will be followed by a methodology of work, and then each time period represented will be analysed individually, succeeded by a general overview and recommendations for further work.

3.14 As Table 1 demonstrates, the larger part of the assemblage is dated to the prehistoric period, with smaller quantities dated to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods (the medieval/post-medieval entry represents mixed deposits).

Table 1: Pottery by period

Period	Sherd No	Weight/g
Prehistoric	237	1298
Roman	12	131
Medieval	19	82
Medieval/post medieval	27	78
Mixed	18	43
Unknown	3	2
Total	**316**	**1634**

3.15 The pottery assemblage was recovered from a series of pit, ditch, post-hole and tree bole contexts, but the majority was recorded from pit fills as can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2: Pottery by context type

Context type	Sherd No	Weight/g
Pit	236	1332
Ditch	68	241
Post hole	10	54
Tree bole	2	7
Total	**316**	**1634**

3.16 As a whole, the pottery assemblage is quite fragmented with an average weight of just over 5g. This figure includes sherds taken from the bulk samples that has undoubtedly dragged the average weight down, however without these, the figure still remains below 10g.

3.17 The condition of the pottery may be described as being only slightly abraded, although it should be noted that some elements of the assemblage, in particular those sherds retrieved from the bulk samples, are either abraded or heavily abraded and fragmentary.

3.18 The diagnostic component of the assemblage (rim and base sherds) is very low in all periods. The majority of contexts contain less than ten sherds, but two large groups (dating

from the late Bronze to the early Iron Age) were recovered from pit fills (1002), which contained 100 sherds, and (4002), which contained eighty sherds.

Methodology

3.19 The pottery has been recorded by sherd count and weight. The principle fabrics in each context have been rapidly scanned (where required some fabric examination at x20 vision has also been undertaken). Fabric codes have been assigned using simple letter combinations based upon various national reference systems, for instance Tomber and Dore (1998) and those from Going's Chelmsford corpus (1987). Where present, form types have been allocated plain form descriptions such as jar, jug and so on.

Discussion

Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age or late Bronze Age

3.20 Pit fill (4040) contained two sherds of hand-made flint and grog-tempered pottery. The sherds have a white fabric and are quite thin walled. The arrangement of flint within the sherds is unlike any of the other later flint-tempered sherds across the site.

3.21 The sherds occur alongside two of the more typical flint-tempered pottery fabrics that are dated from the late Bronze to early Iron Age. Grog-tempering is a characteristic of the middle Bronze Age and these sherds may represent the changeover period in fabrics that occurred around the late Bronze Age.

3.22 However, as a word of caution, flint tempered pottery also occurred in the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age and these sherds may possibly represent this period too. There is no difference in the condition of the sherds from this fill, which may well suggest that all are contemporary rather than two being residual. It seems therefore more likely that the fill of this pit is dated to the late Bronze Age rather than earlier.

Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age

3.23 As Table 1 indicates, pottery dated to the prehistoric period forms the largest part of the overall assemblage, around 75% by sherd count and 79% by weight; this figure does not include residual sherds in later contexts. Hand-made flint tempered pottery forms the greatest element within the group.

3.24 A variety of fabrics was noted, which ranged from fine to coarse and contained abundant, common or sparse flint. Most of the sherds had brown or oxidised surfaces. Of the seven contexts that contained solely flint-tempered pottery, four were pit fills (1002), (4002), (4018) and (4054) and three were post-holes (1010) (1022) and (1024). Only one very small jar and base fragment were recorded and these both occurred in pit fill (1002). Features clearly dated to this period are divided between Areas 1 and 4. Flint-tempered pottery was also present as residual sherds in several later contexts, such as ditch fills (2024), (4014) and pit fills (4008) and (4010).

Early to mid/late Iron Age

3.25 This represents the next clearly defined period of activity on the site. In ceramic terms it is marked by the decline of flint-tempered fabrics in favour of hand-made sand based types that incorporate organics, grog, as well as sparse flint. The fabrics tend to be reduced and the most frequent fabric type contains common to sparse organics.

3.26 Fabrics associated with this period were recorded in four pit fills (4004), (4010), (4036), and (5002), one ditch (2024) and the fill of one tree bole (4034). Only one later

context contained sherds from this period, ditch fill (4014). The distribution of these sherds appears to indicate that the focus of activity in this period was firmly within Area 4.

3.27 The mixture of fabrics in pit fill (4010) suggests that this context may date to around the early Iron Age, whereas pit fill 5002 is likely to be dated around the middle Iron Age. The remainder have no clear date within the Iron Age as a whole.

3.28 The assemblage in pit fill (5002) contains a good jar profile that displays a flared rim. Also present is another jar rim (too small for identification) as well as a base fragment.

Roman

3.29 Only four contexts were dated to the Roman period, these include ditch fills (2004), (2042) and pit fills (4008) and (4051). Other contexts that contained potential Roman sherds were post-hole fill (4030) as well as ditch fills (2030) and (2034). However, generally these sherds were too small and abraded to be sure of an accurate identification/date and in reality are more likely dated to the medieval period.

3.30 The earliest Roman sherds were recorded in pit fill (4008). This contained some residual prehistoric pottery alongside the neck of a white ware flagon and one wheel-thrown grog tempered sherd. This latter sherd was retrieved as part of the sampling strategy and was abraded; nevertheless the white ware looks no later than the 2nd century, and perhaps is as early as the mid/later 1st century AD.

3.31 Sherds from ditch fills (2004) and (2042) have no clear date within the Roman period. However, pit fill (4051) contained seven sherds, and the presence of a Hadham bowl-jar rim in the E6 or 3 style (Going 1987) points to a late 3rd to 4th century date for this context.

Medieval & post-medieval

3.32 The medieval assemblage was recovered exclusively from seven ditch fills (2030), (2032), (2034) in ditch [2051], (2036), (2040), (2059) in ditch [2058] and (4014). The group retrieved from ditch [2051] amounts to thirty-four sherds. Of these ten were taken from Sample 12, fill (2030) and were too small and abraded, with an average weight of 0.3g, to be clearly identified as medieval.

3.33 A further seven sherds from (2034) were in a similar state of preservation (average weight of 2.5g). This left just seven non-diagnostic sherds that were obviously medieval and dated from the mid 14th-15th/16th century. It is unlikely these date to beyond the 15th century, but the absence of rims makes this impossible to prove.

3.34 The medieval group from ditch [2058] consists of just eleven sherds whose average weight is 5.5g. None of the contexts associated with this feature contain post-medieval pottery. Although two jug rim fragments were recorded, they were too small to be identified beyond their general class of vessel. The majority of sherds from these fills are dated from the mid/late 12th to around the 14th century, possibly slightly later.

3.35 Ditch fill (4014) contained just two very small body sherds of medieval pottery, dated from the mid 12th to 14th century. The remaining ten sherds within the context comprised residual prehistoric sherds.

Conclusions

3.36 Although the ceramic assemblage only provides a snapshot of ancient activity at Pollards Way, it clearly shows that the main period of continuous land use was from the late Bronze to the mid/late Iron Age. It is probable that this usage was of an agricultural nature, however, there is no data from within these assemblages to suggest what type of agrarian activity was being undertaken, and whether it was temporary or of a more permanent character.

3.37 It is difficult to say what the presence of Roman pottery on the site represents, as it is both disparate in its distribution and dating. The focus of Roman activity around the area of Pollards Way may well have been located outside of the area under investigation.

3.38 The limited medieval use of the site appears to have been primarily concentrated within ditches from Area 2. Again, land use during this period probably extended beyond the excavated area. The lack of data and the variable condition of the pottery makes the nature of land use within this period also hard to interpret other than being agricultural, or present perhaps as a result of later manuring/field boundary reorganisation.

Recommendations

3.39 The only possible further work that might have been undertaken on the prehistoric assemblage is that of a more detailed fabric characterisation. However, the general size of the sherds, and more importantly, the lack of rim and base sherds, renders this exercise of little practical archaeological use. The fabrics encountered within this assemblage are well documented elsewhere, for instance at Vale Cemetery (Fawcett 2014) alongside good examples of rims and bases. Any percentage calculations based on fabric division without diagnostic sherds would therefore add little to the existing knowledge of these periods within the Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire area. On this basis, no further examination of the prehistoric pottery is proposed.

3.40 No further work is proposed on the Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Ceramic Building Material

3.41 A total of 77 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 2003g, was recovered from 16 stratified contexts. The assemblage comprised pieces of brick and tile, but no complete examples were present.

3.42 Of this total, 51 fragments, weighing 515g, represented abraded fragments of post-medieval peg tile, probably imported on to the site for field manuring purposes. Where these have been recovered from earlier features they are likely to be intrusive. The remainder of the assemblage, comprising 26 fragments, weighing 1488g, consisted of Romano-British material.

3.43 The largest group of Roman material was recovered from context (4008), the fill of pit [4007]. Two bricks or tiles are represented. Both are in a soft micaceous orange-red fabric, tempered with fine sand grains and occasional larger chalk and quartz pieces. Specks of red iron oxide are also visible. The upper surfaces have been impressed with fine sand, while the lower surface has been smoothed. One of the pieces has been burnt, with a smoke-discoloured surface. This piece shattered in antiquity. A fragment, in a similar ware, was recovered from context (2022). This had also been burnt.

3.44 The remainder of the Roman assemblage, from contexts (2036), (4004), (4032) and (5002) consists of abraded pieces, which may be residual in later contexts.

Recommendations

3.45 Post-medieval brick and tile fragments are very common finds from greenfield sites and indicate field manuring to break the heavy soil. The abraded state of the material of this date from the present site suggests that it has been imported on to the site for that purpose and has been pushed into earlier contexts by ploughing. On this basis no further work is proposed on this assemblage and it is suggested that it be discarded.

3.46 The presence of the Roman tile indicates a substantial building in the immediate vicinity, which may have burnt down. The large examples from (4008) are likely to be in their place of primary deposition, other fragments may be residual in later features.

3.47 No further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this assemblage at this stage, but it could contribute to a synthetic volume on Pirton.

Daub

3.48 Thirty four pieces of burnt daub, weighing 105g, were recovered from a single stratified context (5002), the fill of pit [5001]. The material is highly fragmented and has no clear evidence for wattles. It is made from highly micaceous clay, tempered with crushed flint or quartz. Where the surface has survived it has been smoothed, with faint smoothing lines visible.

Recommendations:

3.49 Given the small size of this assemblage, and its fragmentary nature, no further work is proposed on this material.

Iron Objects

3.50 Sixty seven iron objects, weighing 67g, were recovered from 8 stratified contexts. The bulk of the assemblage comprises nail fragments, common finds on sites from the Roman period onwards.

3.51 Three fragments of iron sheet, with nail heads in situ, were found in context (2053), the fill of linear [2052]. No clear purpose could be assigned to these artefacts. The only identifiable non-nail object is a knife blade, recovered from context (2014), the fill of pit [2013]. The slightly curving blade measures approximately 80mm in length, 15mm in width, narrowing to 2mm at the point, and 1mm in depth. The tang measures 45mm in length, 10mm in width at the junction with the blade, narrowing to 4mm at the end, and 2mm in depth.

Recommendations:

3.52 The iron objects should all be x-rayed, to determine the survival of the iron and to potentially identify the purpose of the sheet fragments from (2053). Given that the knife is possibly of Roman date, this should be submitted to a specialist for further analysis.

3.53 Beyond x-raying, no further work is proposed on the nail fragments.

Copper alloy objects

3.54 Two copper alloy objects, weighing 6g, were recovered from two stratified contexts. The assemblage comprised one coin from context (5002), fill of pit [5001] and a bracelet fragment from (4014), the fill of ditch section [4013].

3.55 The coin measures 25mm in diameter by 1mm thick. It has been assessed by Keith Fitzpatick-Matthews of North Herts Museums as being a possible barbarian issue of later 2nd

century AD date. The reverse depicts a standing warrior with shield and spear, flanked by the letters S and C (*Senatus Consulto)*. The obverse depicts a beardless Augustan head.

3.56 The coin is in reasonable condition but has some corrosion products. The figure on the reverse is clearer than the head on the obverse. No lettering is visible around the rim on either side.

3.57 The slightly curving bracelet fragment measures 31mm in length, 4mm wide and 1mm thick. It is broken at either end and no decoration is visible on the upper surface. The lack of decoration suggests that it is of earlier Roman date, 1st-3rd century AD.

Recommendations:

3.58 Both items should be submitted for conservation. The bracelet is fragmentary and no further information of archaeological signifance is likely to be gained from further analysis. On this basis no further work, beyond conservation, is proposed on this item.

3.59 The coin should be submitted to a specialist for definitive identification.

Worked flint

3.60 Twenty-nine fragments of worked flint, weighing 20g, were recovered from 7 stratified contexts. The bulk of the assemblage comprises debitage from flint working. One possible fragment of a Neolithic microlith was recovered from (4018), the fill of pit [4017] (K. Fitzpatrick-Matthews, pers.com.).

Recommendations:

3.61 The worked flint assemblage chiefly comprises debitage of unspecified prehistoric date. Its presence indicates flint working on or in the vicinity of the site. One possible microlith fragment was identified. No further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from specialised analysis. On this basis no further work is proposed on this material.

Stone

3.62 Twenty-three pieces of stone, weighing 1097g, were recovered from 4 stratified contexts. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fire cracked sandstone. The exceptions are two pieces of burnt flint, recovered from (4018), the fill of pit [4017], and one fragment of lava quern stone of probable Medieval date, recovered from (4053), the fill of pit [4003]. The fragment of quern is roughly square in shape with a slightly curving outer edge. It measures 75mm by 85mm and 24mm thick.

Recommendations:

3.63 No further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from specialised analysis. On this basis no further work is proposed on this material

FINDS ASSESSMENT – ECOFACTS

Animal bone

3.64 A total of 337 animal bone fragments, weighing 4102g, was recovered from 24 stratified contexts. The animal bone assemblage was generally in fair condition, although fragmentary, with generally large pieces of 6-8cm in length.

3.65 Where identifiable, the assemblage was made up of a range of domestic animal species, including fragments of bovine bones from contexts (4010), (4008) and (5002) and a probable horse femur from (4032).

3.66 An unidentifiable horn was also found in (5002), which showed evidence of butchery marks at either end.

3.67 The majority of the faunal assemblage, representing approximately 50% of the animal bone found on the site, was recovered from features within Area 4.

Recommendations

3.68 The assemblage represents a range of species, of which the larger ones have been identified. Further analysis of the spectrum of species is recommended. As it is likely that this assemblage comes from domestic refuse, further analysis for signs of butchery is also recommended.

BULK SAMPLES by James Rackham

Introduction

3.69 During excavations conducted by Heritage Network at Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, a total of 26 environmental bulk samples were collected for assessment. The samples were taken from a range of features (Table 3) including pits, postholes and ditches that have been provisionally dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, late Iron Age, the Romano-British period and the medieval and post-medieval periods, although a number of the sampled deposits are undated by archaeological finds. The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

Table 3: Samples collected for environmental assessment.

sample no.	context no.	samp. vol (l).	sample wt (kg)	Feature	Phase/spot date
1	1002	35	38	Pit [1001] fill	LBA/EIA
2	1010	4	5.75	Posthole [1009] fill	LBA/EIA
3	1014	3.5	5	Posthole [1013] fill	None
4	1022	15	17	Posthole [1021] fill	LBA/EIA
5	1024	7.5	8	Posthole [1023] fill	LBA/EIA
6	3004	16	20	Posthole [3003] fill	LBA/EIA?
7	2002	17	20	Posthole [2001] fill	None
8	2004	28	31	Linear [2003] fill	EROM
9	2022	26	37	Linear [2021] fill	RB?
10	4030	40	44	Pit/posthole [4029] fill	RB?
11	4040	25	28.5	Pit [4039] fill	LBA/EIA
12	2030	37.5	41.25	Linear [2029] fill	post-med
13	2040	36	40	Linear [2039] fill	Med.
14	2042	38	43	Linear [2041] fill	Roman
15	4002	21.5	24	Pit [4001] fill	LBA/EIA
16	4008	36	39	Pit [4007] upper fill	RB with residual LBA/EIA
17	4010	32	37	Pit [4009] upper fill	LBA/EIA
18	4004	37	41	Pit [4003] upper fill	LIA/EROM
19	4053	39	44	Pit [4003] lower fill	Undated-? prehistoric
20	4054	38	43	Pit [4003] lower fill	LBA/EIA
21	4050	38	40	Pit [4009] middle fill	LBA/EIA
22	4051	37	42	Pit [4007] middle fill	RB (Late 2nd-early 3rd C)
23	4052	40	40	Pit [4007] lower fill	RB?
24	4049	40	43	Pit [4009] lower fill	LBA/EIA?
25	4018	28	31	Pit/Posthole [4017] fill	LBA/EIA
26	5002	40	42	Pit [5001] fill	LIA

Methods

3.70 The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the

residue. Both residue and float were dried, and the residue subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flot was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. A total of 755 litres of soil weighing 844.5 kilogrammes were processed in this manner.

3.71 The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of the sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged.

3.72 The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in tables 3 - 7.

Results

3.73 The samples washed down to a residue of pebbles, angular and sub-angular flint gravel, concreted sediment and coarse sand, with occasional ironstone, quartz, sandstone, limestone and chalk.

3.74 The phases indicated in Table 5 are based on the spot dates and stratigraphic relationships. Most of the samples are preliminarily assigned to the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age, a few to the late Iron Age and Roman period, two to the medieval and post-medieval and two are undated postholes. This preliminary dating is reviewed below.

3.75 A number of the LBA/EIA samples produced pottery and burnt stone. Occasional flints were recovered and a little fired earth. Small quantities of animal bone were present in most of the samples and all produced a small magnetic component. Occasional flakes of hammerscale were present in eight of the prehistoric samples but at very low densities. Several small fragments of non-ferrous metal were recovered from posthole [3003] and a fragment of brick/tile in the upper fill of pit [4009], presumably intrusive.

3.76 The late Iron Age and Roman sample group produced a few sherds of pottery (including some residual material), some burnt stone and three flint flakes. All eight samples produced a small magnetic fraction, and the hammerscale counts for four of these are a little higher than the other samples, perhaps suggesting contemporary iron smithing – two samples also produced a little slag in the magnetic fraction, and ditch [2041] produced a little silicaceous slag (probably fuel ash slag). Posthole [4029] produced a small sherd of glass (which could be intrusive), while ditch [2041] and the upper fill of pit [4007] produced a little marine shell (oyster and mussel).

3.77 Medieval ditch [2039] produced pottery, burnt stone, a few flakes of flint, fired earth, animal bone and a magnetic fraction with five flakes of hammerscale. Post-medieval ditch [2029] produced few finds, but 22 flakes and spheroids of hammerscale were recovered in the magnetic fraction, the highest density from the site, and possibly suggestive of contemporary smithing nearby.

3.78 Finds from the undated postholes were limited with a little bone, fired earth and a small magnetic fraction with two flakes of hammerscale in posthole [1013].

Charred Plant Remains (J. Giorgi)

3.79 Twenty-five of the 26 assessed samples produced charred plant remains (Table 6) although the majority of the productive samples contained only occasional or small amounts

of material. Charred cereal grains were present in 25 samples, 4 producing fairly rich assemblages with over 100 grains in the two lower fills of pit [4003] (samples 19 and 20) and more than 50 grains in medieval linear fill [2040] (sample 13) and Roman linear fill [2042] (sample 14); modest numbers (between ten and fifty) of grains were noted in another 7 samples including Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval contexts, and one undated posthole. Only occasional or very small numbers of grains were found in the other 14 samples. Preservation was variable but generally poor with a high degree of fragmentation. Nevertheless, *Triticum* (wheat) grains were present in 21 samples including *Triticum aestivum* (free-threshing wheat) in 12 samples and hulled *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (emmer/spelt wheat) in 3 samples; the presence of hulled wheat was confirmed by traces of glume bases (including spelt) in 6 samples including from Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Romano-British contexts. Grains of *Hordeum vulgare* (including six-row hulled barley) and *Avena* (oats) were recorded in 11 and 8 samples respectively.

3.80 Other potential food plants were represented by occasional charred *Corylus avellana* (hazel nut) shell fragments in 5 samples including from prehistoric, Roman and medieval contexts while a few leguminous seeds including *Vicia/Lathyrus* (vetch/tare/vetchling) in 2 samples, may be from wild and/or cultivated pulses. Traces of wild plant/weed seeds were noted in just 5 samples including *Carex* (sedges) and Poaceae (wild grasses) such as *Bromus* (brome). There was very little charcoal in the flots although occasional to small amounts of potentially identifiable charcoal fragments (greater than 2mm) were present in virtually all (25) of the samples. Occasional un-charred seeds were noted in 20 samples including *Atriplex/Chenopodium* (orache/goosefoots etc), *Stellaria* (chickweed), *Fallopia convulvulus* (black bindweed), *Rubus* (brambles), *Sambucus* (elder), *Sonchus* (thistle) and *Taraxacum* (dandelion); these remains, however, are probably intrusive and may have travelled down the soil profile along root cavities. Recent roots were the major component of all the dried flots.

Review of preliminary dating (JR)

3.81 Cereal assemblages can give a guide to date, although it should not be treated as a reliable dating method. Different cereal species occur during the past in Britain (Grieg 1992) and this information can be used to suggest dates, although only direct radiocarbon dating of the cereals is a surety. A number of the deposits assigned to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age on the basis of the ceramics recovered (Table 4) have produced free threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), which although it occurs as a minor cereal in several periods is typically found in abundance in the post-Roman period (Grieg op cit). In the Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age the glume wheats, emmer and spelt, are the typical cereals found. The latter have been recovered from pit [1001], posthole [1023], pit [4001], pit [4009], and pit/ph [4017], which is consistent with the LBA/EIA dating of these features. But pit [4003] and the middle fill of pit [4009] both produced free threshing wheat, raising the possibility that these two pits may either be later than the LBA/EIA or include intrusive material from later deposits that have moved down through the soil. In the two lower fills of pit [4003] the free-threshing wheat is fairly abundant and it may be appropriate to consider this pit as of more recent date, but in pit [4009] there are very few grains of free threshing wheat and these could be intrusive.

3.82 In the late Iron Age/Roman period the most common cereal is typically spelt (*Triticum spelta*) (Grieg op cit), although both emmer and free threshing wheat occur. Of the contexts assigned to this period in Table 3 only the upper fill of [4007] produced a glume wheat (spelt/emmer), while linears [2003], [2021] and [2041], the upper fill of pit [4003], and the lower and middle fill of [4007], all produced free threshing wheat which might tentatively suggest a post-Roman date, but only the linears and pit [4007] produced cereal in numbers,

and in the other features the cereals could be contaminants that moved down through the soil or were contemporary crops.

3.83 Two of the later and undated features produced free threshing wheat, linear [2039] and posthole [2001], in numbers that might suggest both are post-Roman.

3.84 Therefore pits [4003], [4007] and [4009], the latter two quadrants of the same large feature, could all possibly be post-Roman in date with residual pottery or contain intrusive cereals, but this could only be confidently established by radiocarbon dating the cereal grain.

Animal Bone (JR)

3.85 Unburnt and burnt animal bone was recorded from most of the sampled features, although no identifiable bone was present in several (Table 4). The number of samples from each preliminary phase group with each taxa is indicated in Table 4.

Table 4: Frequency of samples with each vertebrate taxa by preliminary phase groups

	LBA/EIA	LIA/ROM	Med/PMed	undated
Horse	1			
Cattle	3	3		
Cattle size	1	2		
Sheep/goat	6		1	
Sheep size		4		
Pig				1
Field vole		3		
Bank vole	1			
Vole	2			
Wood mouse		1		
Rodent	2			
Shrew	1	1		
Mole	1			
Mummified rat? carcass	1			

3.86 Given the queries above with respect to the dating of the features and deposits it would be inappropriate to treat the dating framework in Table 4 as final, so no consideration is given to the different periods.

3.87 Bones of horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig have been identified from the deposits and the small mammals are represented by bank vole, field vole, wood mouse, shrew and mole but several of these, the voles and mole particularly, could be from animals that burrowed into the deposits. The presence of a part mummified carcass of a rat(?) in a lower fill of pit [4003] is illustrative of this intrusion, in this case what must be a relatively recent animal, and an indication of one of the mechanisms by which material such as cereal grains could easily contaminate earlier deposits.

Molluscs (JR)

3.88 A preliminary species list was recorded for each of the samples (Table 7) but no quantification was made. Snail shells might also be subject to contamination or movement through the soils of the site in a similar manner to cereal grains but their abundance in many of the samples would suggest that the bulk are contemporary with the deposit formation.

3.89 The majority of the samples show a strong open country/grassland fauna with *Vallonia excentrica, Vallonia costata, Helicella itala, Pupilla muscorum* and *Vertigo pygmaea*. The

frequent abundance of the blind burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* is probably an indication of intrusion since this species can burrow to depths of over 1m.

3.90 Many samples also include a woodland/shade loving suite (Table 7) which occurs at much lower frequencies than the grassland fauna in most, although individual assemblages indicate that there must have been some cover on the site. Pits [4039] and [4029] both have a range of shade loving taxa, the latter also with species favouring damp habitats (Succinidae, *Glabra truncatula*). Four of the samples from linear features produced shells of *G. truncatula* indicating damp conditions, but the only facultative aquatic species, *Anisus leucostoma* – a gastropod often found in seasonally wet situations and watercourses was found in an undated posthole fill (Table 7).

3.91 On the basis of the preliminary phasing there is no pattern of snail distribution between the phases. In the three pit sequences where samples were taken from different fills (pit [4003]-samples 18,19 and 20; pit [4007] – samples 16, 22 and 23; pit [4009] – samples 17, 21 and 24) pits [4003] and [4007] show little change in species diversity through the fill sequence although quantification may reveal some patterns. In pit [4009] the upper fill (sample 17) has fewer shade loving taxa than the fills below, reflecting a clear dominance of open country/grassland species. Given that pits sequences [4007] and [4009] derive from the same large pit feature the differences between their upper fills, samples 16 and 17, perhaps reflects the sampling of different fill episodes.

3.92 Several samples produced insect fragments, but since no contemporary waterlogging was found on the site these remains are interpreted as intrusive.

Discussion and recommendations

3.93 It is clear that the area was a focus for domestic activity in all periods, although there are traces of evidence for crop processing. The presence of hammerscale in a number of the samples also testifies to iron smithing taking place on the site but it is not at present clear in exactly which period, although the highest concentrations of hammerscale are associated with contexts preliminarily dated to the Roman and post-medieval periods. The few flakes of hammerscale in the prehistoric period could easily be intrusive having moved down through the soil as a result of soil processes.

3.94 The dating is problematic with the cereal evidence perhaps suggesting a later date than the ceramic evidence in some features.

3.95 Virtually all the samples produced charred plant remains although the majority of the assemblages only contained occasional or small amounts of material, largely cereal grains with only traces of chaff and very few wild plant/weed seeds. This limits detailed investigation into crop husbandry on the site although it may be possible to comment on the use of different cereals over time if it is possible to confidently date the sampled features particularly those containing moderate or large amounts of charred plant remains. This initial assessment shows the presence of both hulled wheat (including spelt) and hulled barley in prehistoric contexts with free-threshing wheat also in Roman samples, current archaeobotanical research suggesting that hulled wheat (particularly spelt) and hulled barley were the main crops in the late prehistoric period and in Roman Britain but with the occasional use of free-threshing wheat (Greig 1991, 302, 306, 309). The presence of free-threshing wheat, with no glume wheats, in one or two of the richer samples from the prehistoric and Roman periods raises the possibility that these may be more recent in date. Samples from the late medieval into the post-medieval period produced evidence for free-threshing wheat, barley and oat, three cereals characteristic of the post-Roman period in Britain (ibid. 315, 321). Legumes, present in a few samples, may have been grown and used

while the gathering of hazelnuts may have provided an additional source of food. The virtual absence of weed seeds, however, limits any detailed investigation into other aspects of crop husbandry.

3.96 The few animal bones from the samples add to the material hand collected from the site and offer a small control sample on the recovery efficiency of the hand collection. Sheep/goat and cattle bones are the most frequent with single finds of horse and pig, but no other domestic species. The small vertebrates offer little potential, particularly with concerns over whether they represent *in situ* or intrusive material.

3.97 The molluscan remains are the richest environmental assemblages and tend to indicate an open/grassland environment around the site, with localised damper areas and clear evidence for some shady environments, either reflecting rank vegetation or perhaps hedgerows. Without quantification of the individual species confident interpretation is not possible.

3.98 The primary recommendation concerns the dating of some of the features. With ceramic evidence suggesting prehistoric or Roman dates and a cereal assemblage more typical of post-Roman deposits the dating of several features may be insecure. Before any detailed post-excavation work is undertaken on the environmental assemblages these features should be more securely dated and it is suggested that identified cereals from a small number of the richer deposits where dating may be an issue are radiocarbon dated. This is particularly relevant to assemblages of free threshing wheat, *Triticum aestivum* (where no glume wheats are present), where a later date might indicate that the ceramics are residual.

3.99 On the basis that the dating can be confidently resolved it is recommended that further work should be carried out on the ten samples containing rich or modest amounts of cereal grains to provide basic data on the range of cereals used over time and possible changes between periods. Identifiable charcoal was present in virtually all the samples but with the largest flot being no more than 7ml and no contexts that can be exclusively associated with industrial or domestic fire debris study of the charcoal is unlikely to be useful.

3.100 The animal bone from the samples should be catalogued and added to the hand collected assemblage, with the analysis taking consideration of the fact that it was recovered through sieving.

3.101 The mollusc assemblages from most samples are large enough to warrant study, but further analysis should be restricted to securely dated deposits and the series of three samples from pit 4003 fills and pit 4009 fills. Samples should be selected for detailed identification and quantification to cover the three main periods of activity - the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, the late Iron Age and Roman period and the medieval period - in order to consider the evidence for any changes in the immediate environment of the site through its history.

4 Further Research

DATA SUMMARY

4.1 The archaeological investigation on the present site revealed evidence of activity dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods. Dateable features included a number of postholes, pits and ditches.

RESEARCH AIMS

4.2 The aims of the archaeological evaluation and subsequent mitigation have been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott and Brown 2008, Medlycott 2011).

4.3 It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute, to a number of regional research objectives, including an increased understanding of the origins and development of the settlement at Pirton from the prehistoric period onwards; the transitions between the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Iron Age and Roman periods, and the Romano-British to Saxon periods; and the layout of fields around the Roman, Saxon and Medieval settlements at Pirton.

4.4 No evidence for prehistoric activity prior to the early/mid Bronze Age was recorded during the present project.

4.5 The fieldwork identified remains dating to the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods, as well as to the Medieval and post-medieval periods. Artefactual and environmental evidence was collected from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman features on the site, suggesting the presence of possible occupation in the vicinity. The data gathered from features assigned to this phase has the potential to increase knowledge of the local environment, land use, and settlement in the in the Pirton area from the later prehistoric period.

4.6 Evidence for late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British activity was encountered during the course of the present investigation in the form of a series of pits, postholes and linear features.

4.7 No evidence for Saxon activity was recorded.

4.8 Evidence for Medieval, post-medieval and modern activity was recovered in the form of a series of shallow and parallel linear ditches, one of which cut a pit of probable modern date.

4.9 The assessment of the results of the fieldwork demonstrates that a variety of data has been collected which can contribute significantly to the aims of the project. This data, when added to other project data in the vicinity, provides an opportunity to improve our knowledge and increase understanding of the extent of the important settlement of Pirton from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. The study of landscape, settlement, transition periods and environment forms an important part of the regional research agenda for Eastern England.

UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN

4.10 The data collected from the present site has provided new information regarding occupation in the area in the late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.11 Although a small number of intercutting features were revealed during the investigation, the stratigraphy of the present site was not complex with the majority of features containing a single fill. On this basis no further stratigraphic analysis will be undertaken and it is proposed to publish this as it stands.

4.12 The assemblages of ceramic building material, flint and stone have been assessed as requiring no further work. On this basis it is proposed to publish the reports on these materials as they stand.

4.13 The assemblages of Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval pottery have been assessed as requiring no further work. On this basis it is proposed to publish the reports on these materials as they stand.

4.14 The assemblages of medieval, post-medieval or modern pottery have been assessed as having no further archaeological potential. On this basis it is proposed to publish the reports on these materials as they stand.

4.15 The assemblage of metal finds has been assessed as requiring further work, including the conservation of the copper alloy coin and bracelet fragment and the x-raying of all the iron objects. The iron knife from pit [2013] and the copper alloy coin from pit [5001] should also be submitted to a specialist for further analysis and closer dating.

4.16 Some hammerscale, including flakes and spheroids, was recovered from the bulk samples, suggesting ironworking in the immediate vicinity of the site during the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The highest amount was recovered from post-medieval ditch [2029] (sample 12). A small amount of slag, possibly fuel ash slag, was also recovered from Roman ditch [2041] (sample 14). As no significant information would be gained from study of the hammerscale or the fragments of slag, no further work is proposed on this material. However, its presence is significant and should be considered in any synthetic work on the multi-period settlement at Pirton.

4.17 The hand-collected animal bone assemblage has been assessed as requiring further work to more closely identify species present and evidence for agricultural and economic practices, such as age at death and signs of butchery.

4.18 The environmental samples collected from the site have been assessed and have demonstrated potential for further analysis.

- The ceramic evidence suggests prehistoric or Roman dates for a number of the features, but this conflicts with the cereal assemblage, which suggests a post-Roman date for these features. It is therefore, suggested that these features should be more securely dated by submitting samples of cereals from a small number of the richer deposits where dating may be an issue for radiocarbon dating.
- On the basis that the dating can be confidently resolved it is recommended that further work should be carried out on the ten samples containing rich or modest

amounts of cereal grains to provide basic data on the range of cereals used over time and to identify possible changes between periods.

- The animal bone from the samples should be catalogued and added to the hand collected assemblage, with the analysis taking consideration of the fact that it was recovered through sieving.

- The mollusc assemblages from most samples have been assessed as being large enough to warrant further study, but this should be restricted to securely dated deposits and to the series of three samples from the fills of pits [4003] and [4009]. It is proposed to select samples for detailed identification and quantification to cover the main phases of activity on the site (Phases 1 – 4), in order to consider any evidence for changes in the immediate environment of the site.

PUBLICATION

4.19 It is proposed to publish the results of the present project as an article in Hertfordshire Archaeology and History, with the full report being uploaded to OASIS.

Provisional Synopsis

Section	Content	Words	Pages
Introduction	Project background	1000	
Narrative and discussion	Features and deposits	2000	
Artefacts	By type	2300	
Ecofacts	By type	5000	
Bibliography		200	
	Total words:	10500	11
Line drawings	Plans		4
	Sections		2
Photographs	4 x features; 2 x artefact (if appropriate)		1
Tables	Ecofacts x 4		14
		Total Pages:	32

ARCHIVE

4.20 The documentary and material archives are currently held by The Heritage Network Ltd at its premises at 11 Furmston Court, Icknield Way, Letchworth; Hertfordshire.

4.21 In its final form the archive will conform to AAF and UKIC guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage, and the specific requirements for the deposition of archaeological archives with North Hertfordshire Museums Service. All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered, and indexed as part of the research archive.

TASK LIST TO PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Task	Description	Undertaken by	Days
1	Environmental samples	D. James Rackham	6
2	Faunal remains	D. James Rackham	4
3	Radio-carbon dating	Beta Analytic	2
4	Conservation & x-ray	Museum of London	2
5	Copper alloy coin	Mark Curteiss, Northampton	1
6	Additional background research	Heritage Network	3
7	Compile publication text	Daniel Phillips, Heritage Network	2
8	Prepare publication illustrations	Daniel Phillips, Heritage Network	1
9	Editing	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	1
10	Final archive	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
11	Archive deposition	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	1

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North Hertfordshire DC Museum Service Archaeological Archives

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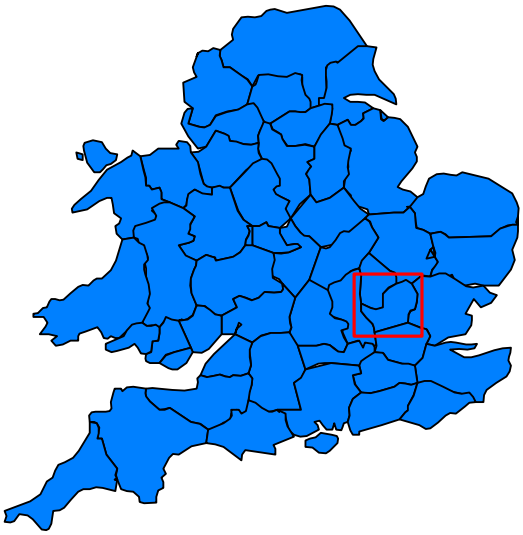
6 Illustrations

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire	HN1141



Site Location	Scale 1:5000
(Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861)	Figure 1

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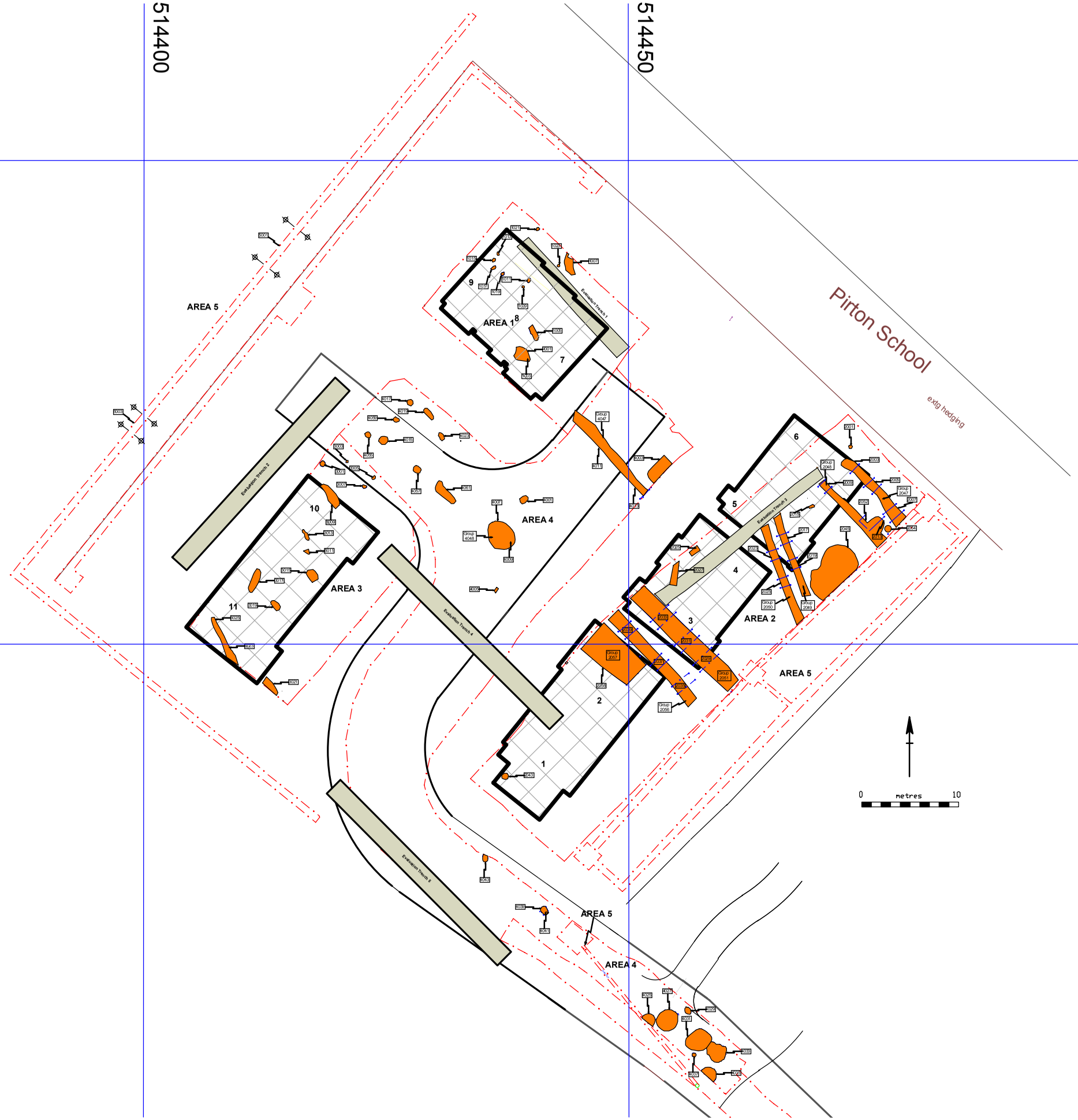
514400

514450

514500

231800

231750



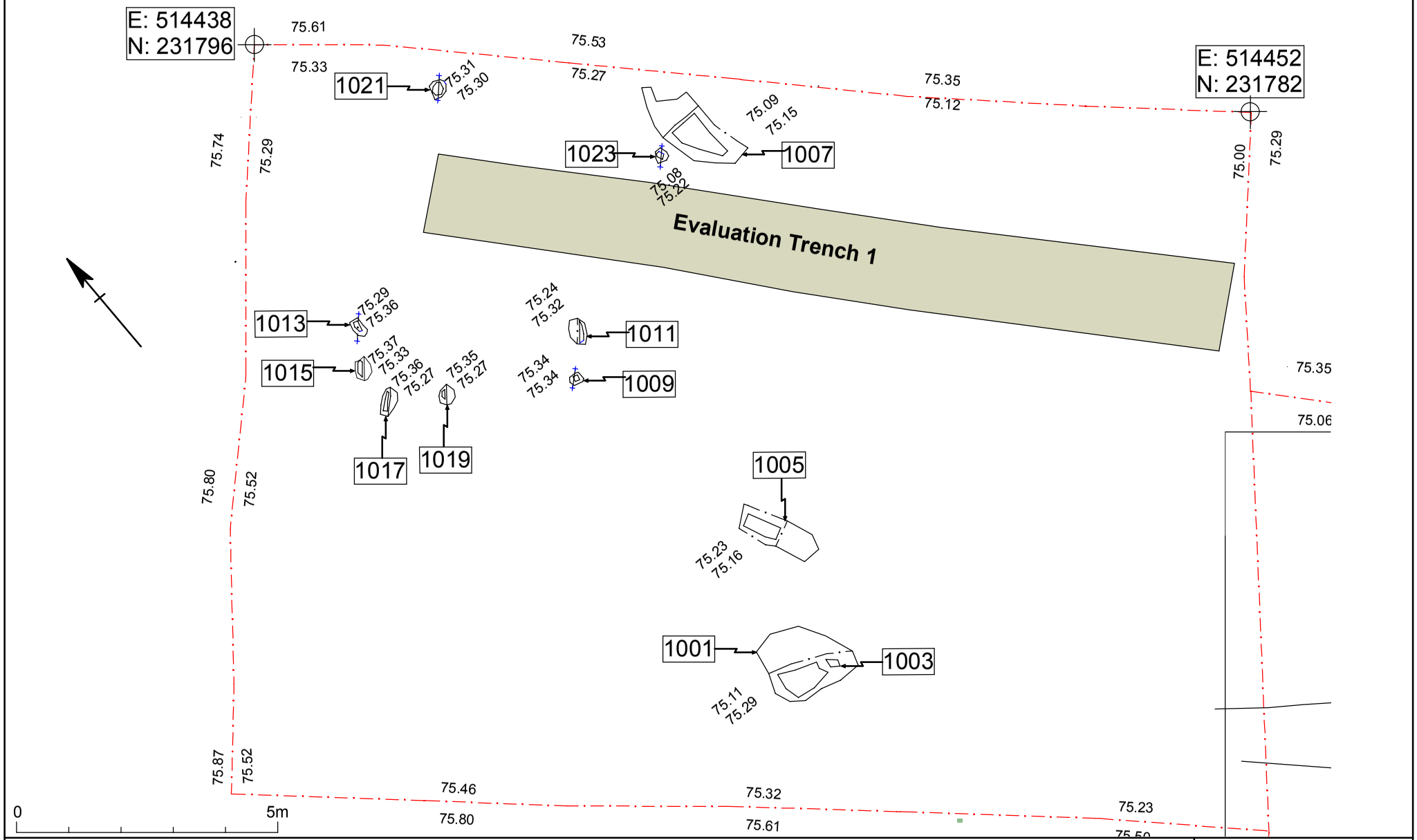
Overall site plan

HERITAGE NETWORK

Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Herts.

HN1141	Scale 1:450	Figure 2

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire	HN1141

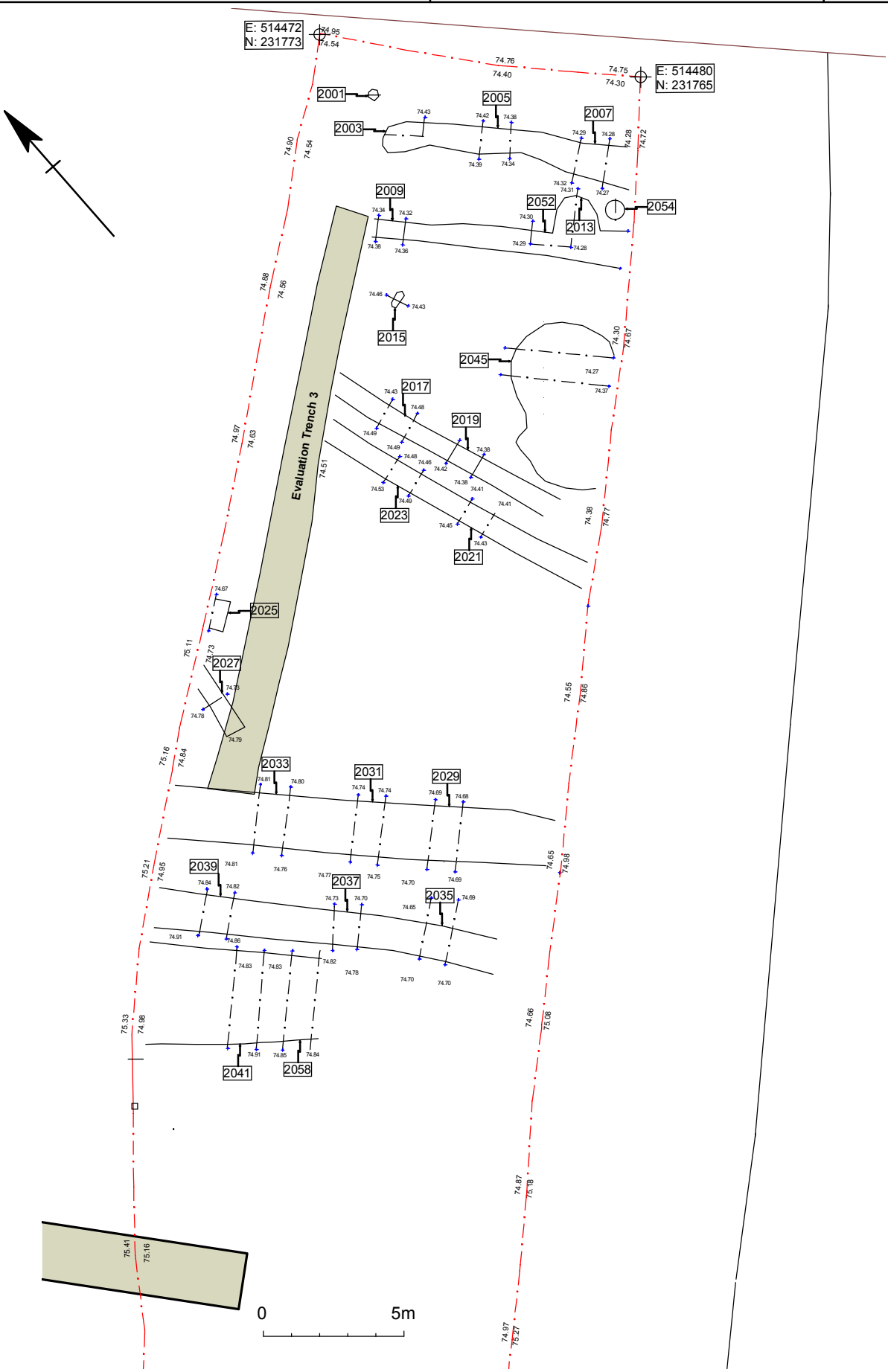


Area 1: showing archaeological features

Scale 1 : 100

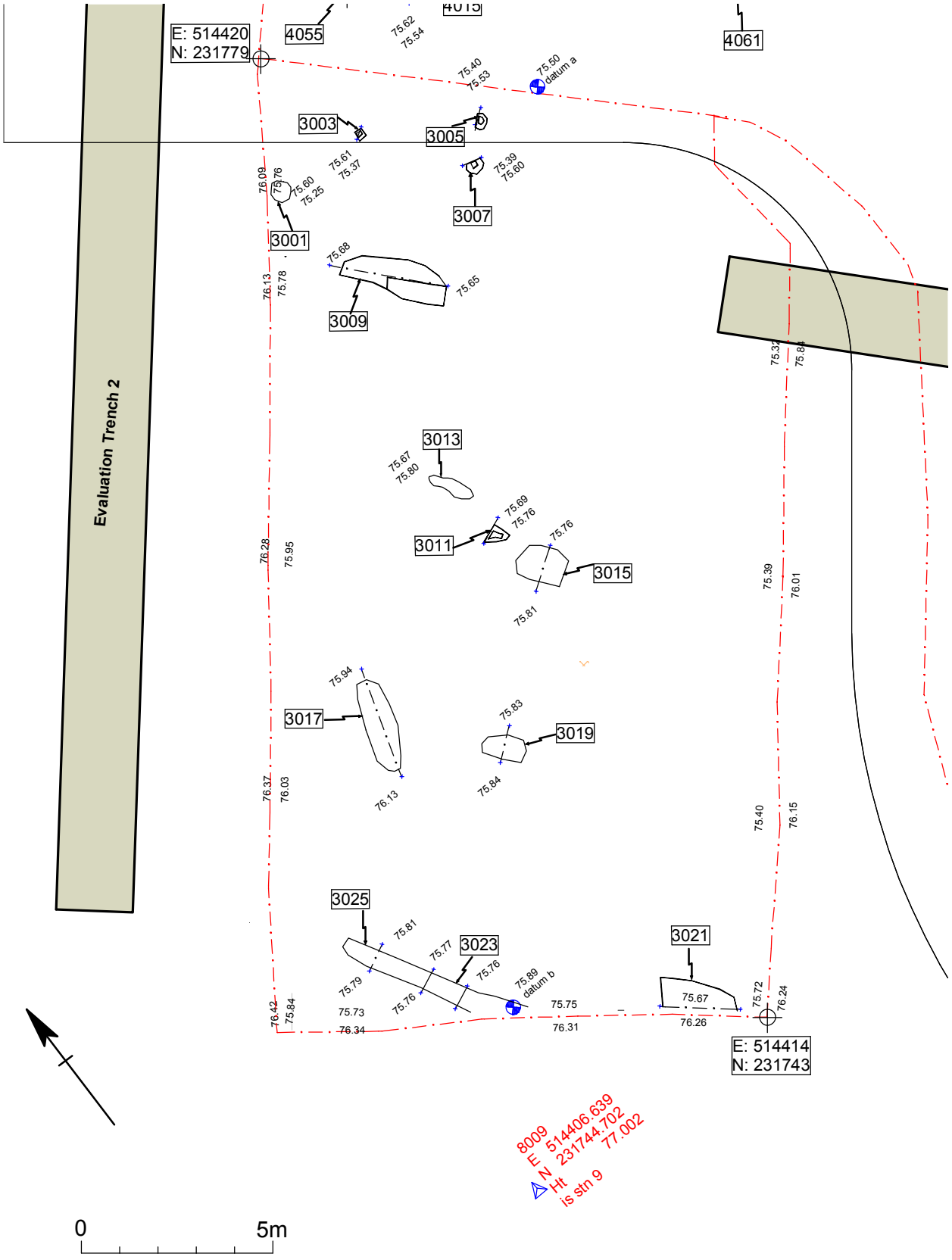
Figure 3

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire	HN1141



Area 2: Showing archaeological features	Scale 1 : 200
	Figure 4

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire	HN1141



Area 3: Showing archaeological features	Scale 1 : 100
	Figure 5

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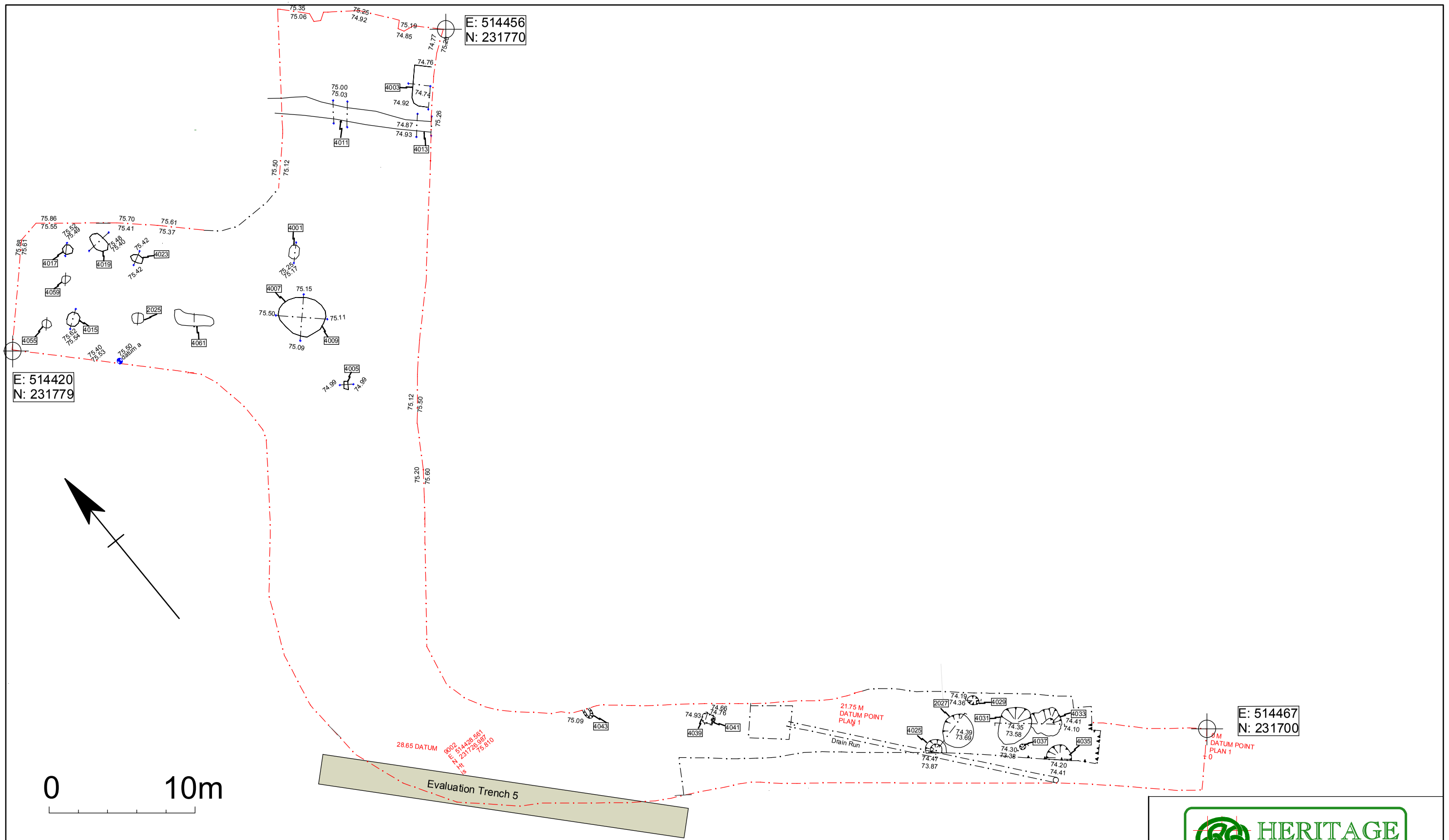

HERITAGE NETWORK

Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire

Area 4: Showing archaeological features

HN1141	Scale 1: 250	Figure 6

514400

514450

514500

231800

231750

AREA 5

AREA 1

AREA 4

AREA 3

AREA 2

Pirton School

extg hedging

AREA 5

0 metres 10

AREA 4

AREA 5

AREA 4

HERITAGE NETWORK

Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Herts.

Area 5: showing archaeological features

HN1141	Scale 1:450	Figure 7

231800

231750

514400

514450

514500

AREA 1

AREA 2

AREA 3

AREA 4

AREA 5

AREA 5

AREA 4

Pirton School

extg hedging

0 metres 10

Late Bronze Age

Iron Age

Roman

Medieval/Post-Medieval

Modern

Undated

HERITAGE NETWORK

Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Herts.

Phase Plan

HN1141 | Scale 1:400 | Figure 8

Plate 01 - Area 1, looking N

Plate 02 - Area 2, looking NE

Plate 03 - Area 3, looking E

Plate 04 - Area 4, looking NW

Plate 05 - Area 4, looking SE

Plate 06 - Area 5, looking E

Plate 07 - Area 5, looking W

Plate 08 - Intercutting pits [1001] & [1003], looking NE

Plate 09 - Pit [3001], looking N

Plate 10 - Pit [4001], looking W

Plate 11 - Pit [4039] & posthole [4041], looking NW

Plate 12 - Posthole [1009], looking NW

Plate 13 - Posthole [1021], looking SE

Plate 14 - Posthole [1023], looking SE

Plate 15 - Posthole [1011], looking NW

Plate 16 - Posthole [1013], looking SE

Plate 17 - Posthole [1015], looking SE

Plate 18 - Posthole [1017], looking SE

Plate 19 - Posthole [1019], looking SE

Plate 20 - Phase 2, parallel linear ditches [2049] & [2050], looking S

Plate 21 - Slot [2017] in group [2049], looking N

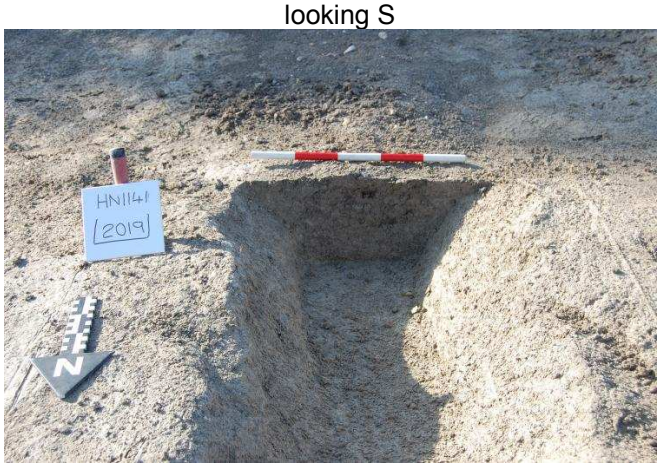

Plate 22 - Slot [2019] in group [2049], looking S

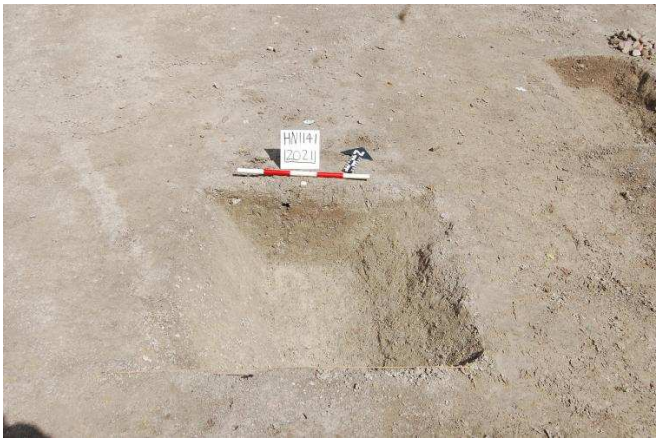

Plate 23 - Slot [2021] in group [2050], looking NW

Plate 24 - Slot [2023] in group [2050], looking SW

Plate 25 - Pit [4003], looking E

Plate 26 - Pit [4035], looking W

Plate 27 - Pit [5001], looking SE

Plate 28 - Pit [4048], looking SE

Plate 29 - Pit [4029], looking N

Plate 30 - Pits [4031] & [4033], looking SW

Plate 31 - Ditch group [2051], looking SE

Plate 32 - Slot [2035] in group [2056], looking NW

Plate 33 - Slot [2037] in group [2056], looking NW

Plate 34 - Slot [2039] in group [2056], looking NW

Plate 35 - Slot [2041] in group [2057], looking NW

Plate 36 - Slot [2058] in group [2057], looking NW

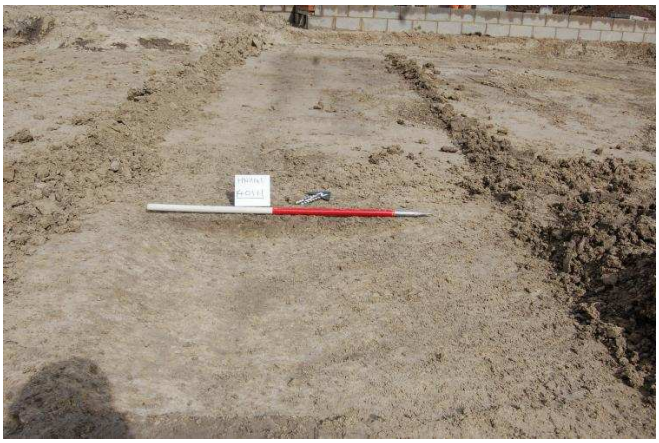

Plate 37 - Slot [4011] in group [4047], looking NW

Plate 38 - Slot [4013] in group [4047], looking SE

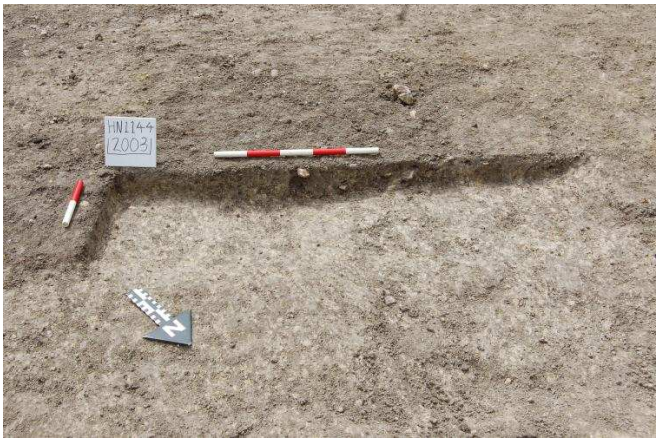

Plate 39 - Slot [2003] in group [2047], looking SW

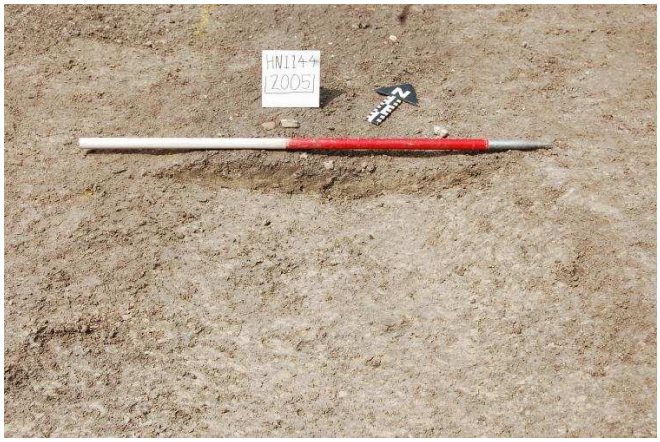

Plate 40 - Slot [2005] in group [2047], looking NW

Plate 41 - Slot [2007] in group [2047], looking NW

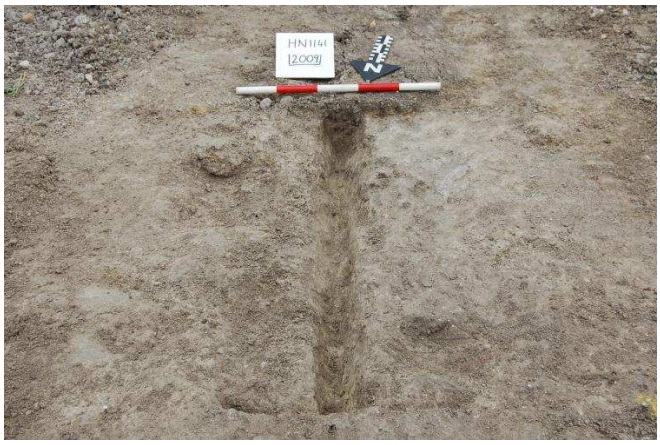

Plate 42 - Slot [2009] in group [2048], looking S

Plate 43 - Slot [2052] in group [2048], & pit [2013], looking SE

Plate 44 - Undated posthole [2001], looking SE

Plate 45 - Undated posthole [2054], looking NW

Plate 46 - Undated posthole [3003], looking NW

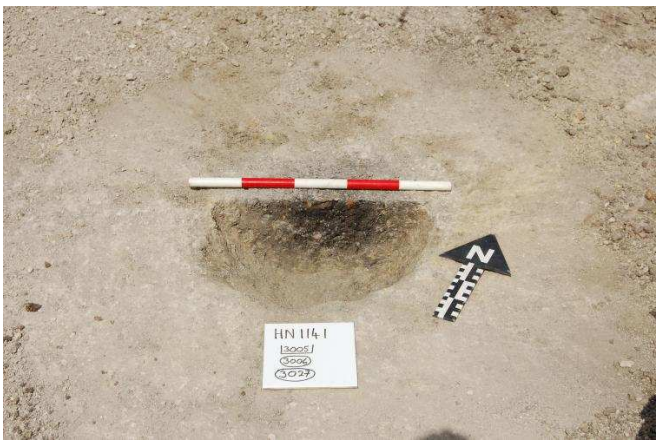

Plate 47 - Undated psthole [3005], looking NW

Plate 48 - Undated posthole [3007], looking N

Plate 49 - Undated pit [2045], looking SW

Plate 50 - Undated pit [1005], looking SE

Plate 51 - Undated pit [4015], looking NW

Plate 52 - Undated pit [4017], looking NW

Plate 53 - Undated pit [4025], looking SE

Plate 54 - Undated pit [4027], looking SE

Plate 55 - Undated posthole [4037], looking SE

Plate 56 - Undated pit [4057], looking NW

Plate 57 - Undated pit [5003], looking E

Plate 58 - Undated ditch terminus [4043], looking N

Appendix 1

Table of contexts

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
AREA 1					
1001	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Contains (1002), cuts [1003].	1.6	1.05	0.2
1002	Pit Fill	Firm dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2)clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint, 11-20cm and chalk fragments, 3-5cm. Single fill of [1001].	1.6	1.05	0.2
1003	Pit Cut	Feature only partially seen, with a U shaped profile. Contains (1004), cut by [1001].	0.56	>0.32	0.15
1004	Pit Fill	Compact brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with moderate sub-rounded flint, 6-10cm and occasional sub-angular flints, 3-5cm. Perhaps water-lain deposit: no banding or lensing. Fill of [1003].	0.56	>0.32	0.15
1005	Pit Cut	Linear in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Contains (1006).	1.7	<0.55	0.19
1006	Pit Fill	Firm mid brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. With moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 3-5 cm and occasional charcoal. flecks. Fill of [1005].	1.7	<0.55	0.19
1007	Natural Cut	Irregular in plan, with irregular sides and base. Root. Contains (1008).	>2	0.9	0.14
1008	Natural Fill	Compact dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, 6-10cm Feathered interface with natural. Fill of [1007].	>2	0.9	0.14
1009	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Contains (1010).	0.3	0.22	0.14
1010	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stone and sub-angular flint, 1-2cm, and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1009].	0.3	0.22	0.14
1011	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Posthole: NW side 45°, SE shallow, gradual: uneven base. Contains (1012).	0.32	0.5	0.06
1012	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint and sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. And charcoal flecks. Fill of [1011].	0.32	0.5	0.06
1013	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Contains (1014).	0.24	0.3	0.09
1014	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint, 11-20cm and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1013].	0.24	0.3	0.09

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
1015	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. NE side vertical, SW side shallow, concave. Contains (1016).	0.46	0.37	0.04
1016	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint, 1-2cm, and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1015].	0.46	0.37	0.04
1017	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Sides sloping to 45°. Contains (1018).	0.55	0.26	0.12
1018	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint and sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1017].	0.55	0.26	0.12
1019	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. NE side sloping 45°: SW steep. Contains (1020).	0.33	0.3	0.09
1020	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint and sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm, and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1019].	0.33	0.3	0.09
1021	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep, almost vertical, with a flat base. Contains (1022)..	0.35	0.38	0.14
1022	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm, sub-angular flint, 11-20cm and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1021].	0.35	0.38	0.14
1023	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Contains [1024].	0.25	0.24	0.16
1024	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stone, 3-5cm, and sub-angular flint, 1-2cm. Fill of [1023].	0.25	0.24	0.16
AREA 2					
2001	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with an irregular base. Probable posthole.	0.58	0.37	0.12
2002	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with occasional small chalk fragments, 1-2.5cm, sub-rounded stone, 3-5cm, gravel and charcoal flecks. Fill of [2001].	0.58	0.37	0.12
2003	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a concave base. Contains (2004), part of Group [2047].	1	0.8	0.1
2004	Ditch Fill	Friable dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) silty clay, with moderate small chalk lumps, 1-2cm sized inclusions of chalkand sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 3-5cm. Result of natural silting once feature out of use. Fill of [2003].	1	0.8	0.1

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
2005	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a concave base. Contains (2006), part of Group [2047].	1	1	0.13
2006	Ditch Fill	Friable dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) silty clay, with moderate chalk lumps, 3-5cm, sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 1-2cm. Fill of [2005].	1	1	0.13
2007	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a stepped profile. The sides were shallow with a concave base. Deeper channel runs down centre of feature: possibly drainage? Contains (2008), part of Group [2047].	1	1.43	0.2
2008	Ditch Fill	Friable dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) silty clay, with moderate chalk lumps, 3-5cm and occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint, 1-2cm. Fill of [2007].	1	1.43	0.2
2009	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a stepped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Base very narrow, flat, tapering to point. Possible drainage slot cut into natural. Contains (2010), part of Group [2048].	1	0.57	0.13
2010	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with frequent small chalk lumps, 1-2cm, and charcoal flecks, <1cm. Fill of [2009].	1	0.57	0.13
2013	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with steep sides. The base was not reached due to time constraints & the likelihood of the feature being modern. Contains (2014), cut by [2052].	0.84	0.84	>0.4
2014	Pit Fill	Friable dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay, with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 3-5cm, and rare charcoal flecks`. Result of natural silting. Fill of [2013], cut by shallow linear [2052].	0.84	0.84	>0.4
2015	Natural Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Slope of sides varied from steep to shallow. Contains (2016).	0.58	0.28	0.15
2016	Natural Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with frequent chalk lumps, 11-20cm sized inclusions of chalk. Fill of [2015].	0.58	0.28	0.15
2017	Ditch Cut	Approximately N-S aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. Contains (2018).	1	0.7	0.16
2018	Ditch Fill	Loose dark grey (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded stone, 1-2cm. Result of natural deposition once feature out of use. Fill of [2017].	1	0.7	0.16
2019	Ditch Cut	Approximately NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. 0.65 wide at machined surface, 0.25 wide at base. Contains (2020), part of Group [2050].	1	0.65	0.23

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
2020	Ditch Fill	Compact dark grey (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stone, 6-10cm and sub-rounded flint, 3-5cm. Result of natiural deposition once feature out of use. Fill of [2019].	1	0.65	0.23
2021	Ditch Cut	N-S aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Contains fill (2022), part of Group [2050].	1	0.88	0.34
2022	Ditch Fill	Friable mid grey (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Fill of [2021].	1	0.88	0.34
2023	Ditch Cut	N-S aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. Total ditch length 10.7m: straight-sided & sloped: flattish base. Contains (2024), part of Group [2050].	1	0.9	0.28
2024	Ditch Fill	Friable light grey (5YR 6/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones <1cm. Fill of [2023].	1	0.9	0.28
2025	Ditch Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Cut of possible ditch terminus which may relate to ditch [4013] to the NE. Feature extends beyond limit of excavation. Contains (2026).	1	1.8	0.45
2026	Ditch Fill	Friable mid grey (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Fill of [2025].	1	1.8	0.45
2027	Natural Cut	Sub-rectangular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Feature truncated by baulk, 2m visible. Contains (2028).	1.1	0.7	0.4
2028	Natural Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 11-20cm, and gravel. Fill of [2027].	1.1	0.7	0.4
2029	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Very shallow linear. Contains (2030), part of Group [2051].	1	2.2	0.13
2030	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, sub-angular flint and charcoal flecks. Fill of [2029].	1	2.2	0.13
2031	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Drainage slots within base of ditch. Contains (2032), part of Group [2051].	1	2.3	0.11
2032	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint, 3-5cm and sub-rounded stone, 1-2cm. Result of natural deposition. Fill of [2031].	1	2.3	0.11
2033	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Base mainly flat with irregular areas. Contains (2034), part of Group [2051].	2.3	1.04	0.13

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
2034	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay, with occasional sub-angular flints, 6-10cm, sub-rounded stones 3-5cm and charcoal flecks. Fill of [2033].	2.3	1.04	0.13
2035	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides and base were concave. Base very gently curved. Cut of wide but shallow ditch, running across Plot 2 from baulk to baulk. Contains (2036), part of Group [2056].	13.5	1.7	0.18
2036	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Fill contained a field drain which can be seen in plan cutting the ditch: the drain follows the line of the ditch. Fill of [2037].	13.5	1.7	0.18
2037	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. One side sharper curve: base flattish: cut of wide, shallow ditch crossing Plot 2 baulk to baulk. Contains (2038), part of Group [2056].	13.5	1.7	0.18
2038	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm. Fill of [2037].	13.5	1.7	0.18
2039	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were irregular with a concave base. Sides uneven with ?drain & burrows. Contains (2040), part of Group [2056].	13.5	1.7	0.12
2040	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm. Fill contained a field drain which can be seen in plan cutting the ditch: the drain follows the line of the ditch. Fill of [2039].	13.5	1.7	0.12
2041	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. Base flattish, with 0.08m wide x 0.06m deep channel, running parallel with line of ditch. Contains (2042), part of Group [2057].	2.46	1	0.12
2042	Ditch Fill	Friable mid grey (10YR 5/2) clayey silt, with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 3-5cm. Waterlain, accumulated fill of [2041].	2.46	1	0.12
2045	Pit Cut	Oval in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Feature 8m long.. Contains (2046).	3.4	1.2	1
2046	Pit Fill	Friable mid grey (10YR 6/1) sandy clay, with with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint, 11-20cm and charcoal flecks. Probably waterlain. Fill of [2045].	3.4	1.2	1
2047	Ditch Group	Shallow linear, aligned NW-SE, possibly drainage ditch with deeper channel cut into it. Group includes contexts: [2003], (2004), [2005], (2006), [2007], (2008).	9	1.5	0.19

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
2048	Ditch Group	Shallow linear, aligned NW-SE, contains narrow channel. Group includes contexts: [2011], (2012), [2009], (2010), [2052], (2053).	9.5	0.7	0.13
2049	Ditch Group	N-S aligned linear, probably contemporary with ditch [2050] to the W. Possible boundary/drainage ditch. Group includes contexts: [2019], (2020), [2017], (2018).	9	0.4	0.25
2050	Ditch Group	N-S aligned linear, probably contemporary with ditch [2049] to the E. Group includes contexts: [2021], (2022), [2023], (2024). Possibly drainage or boundary ditch.	10.5	0.5	0.34
2051	Ditch Group	Wide & shallow Nw-SE aligned linear, with field drain cut through ditch. Northern ditch of 3, runs parallel to ditches [2056] & [2057] so possible agricultural activity or field boundary Group includes contexts: [2029], (2030), [2031], (2032), [2033], (2034).	12	2	0.18
2052	Gully Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with an irregular profile. The sides were concave with a flat base cut by two narrow channels. These had depths of 0.15m and 0.29m. Contains (2053), cuts pit [2013], part of Group [2048].	?1	0.7	0.08
2053	Gully Fill	Friable mid grey (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints, 1-2cm. Result of natural deposition. Fill of [2052].	?1	0.7	0.08
2054	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Does not appear to relate to any nearby features. Contains (2055).	0.34	0.34	0.3
2055	Posthole Fill	Friable dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints, 1-2cm. Result of natural deposition once feature out of use. Fill of [2054].	0.34	0.34	0.3
2056	Ditch Group	NW-SE aligned shallow linear, centre one of 3 parallel ditches, with [2051] to N & [2057] to S. Group includes contexts: [2035], (2036), [2037], (2038).	12	1.5	0.18
2057	Ditch Group	NW-SE aligned shallow linear, S one of 3 parallel ditches, with [2056] & [2051] to N. Group includes contexts: [2041], (2042), [2058], (2059).	6	3.5	0.06
2058	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. Mostly flat bottom. Contains (2059), part of Group [2057].	6	2.5	0.19
2059	Ditch Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm. Fill of [2058].	6	2.5	0.19
AREA 3					
3001	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were vertical with a irregular base. Variable depth base: sides broken on S facing side. Contains (3002)..	0.4	0.2	0.04 - 0.07
3002	Pit Fill	Loose dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay. No inclusions.	0.4	0.2	0.04 - 0.07

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
3003	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Contains (3004).	0.3	0.27	0.32
3004	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silt, with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 6-10cm and occasional larger flints, 11-20cm. Fill of [3003].	0.3	0.27	0.32
3005	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a flat base. Contains (3006) and (3027).	0.52	0.4	0.18
3006	Posthole Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with frequent chalk lumps, 3-5cm. And occasional sub-rounded stones, 6-10cm and charcoal flecks. Fill of [3005].	0.52	0.4	0.18
3007	Posthole Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. W side uneven & vertical, E side concave & steep. Contains (3008).	0.42	0.5	0.22
3008	Posthole Fill	Firm dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with moderate sub-angular stone, 6-10cm. Fill of [3007].	0.42	0.5	0.22
3009	Natural Cut	Sub-rectangular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Half-dug 0.25m to 0.75m wide: sides variable, vertical to sloping, base undulating 0.4m to 0.04m deep. Contains (3010).	3.1	0.75	<0.4
3010	Natural Fill	Firm brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay, with occasional small sub-angular flints, 6-10cm, and occasional larger sub-rounded stones, 11-20cm, and gravel Firm at top layers, compact below. Fill of [3009].	3.1	0.75	<0.4
3011	Natural Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Probable root/animal burrow. Contains (3012).	0.72	0.55	0.14
3012	Natural Fill	Friable mid brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular flints, 3-5cm Fill of [3011].	0.72	0.55	0.14
3013	Natural Cut	Irregular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Sides irregular, uneven, sloping: animal burrow/root. Contains (3014).	0.55	0.8	0.12
3014	Natural Fill	Friable light brown (10YR 6/2) clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular flints, 3-5cm. Fill of [3013].	0.55	0.8	0.12
3015	Natural Cut	Irregular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Probable tree root..	1.15	1.2	0.12
3016	Natural Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with frequent chalk lumps, 11-20cm, and sub-rounded stones, 6-10cm. Fill of [3015].	1.15	1.2	0.12
3017	Natural Cut	Curvilinear in plan, with an irregular profile. The sides were shallow with a irregular base. Sides vary from shallow to steep. Probable root. Contains (3018).	2.75	<0.8	0.25

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
3018	Natural Fill	Firm dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silt, with moderate sub-angular flint to 7cm. Feathered edges, merging into natural, sinuous outline. Fill of [3017].	2.75	<0.8	0.25
3019	Natural Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Tree bole or root. Contains (3020).	1.19	0.65	0.12
3020	Natural Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm. Fill of [3019].	1.19	0.65	0.12
3021	Natural Cut	NW-SE aligned irregular linear, with an irregular profile. Appears to represent a root system. Contains (3022)..	2	<0.7	0.3
3022	Natural Fill	Firm brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints, 6-10 cm, larger sub-rounded stones, 11-20cm and occasional gravel. Fill of [3021].	2	<0.7 0.03	0.03
3023	Natural Cut	N-S aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Possible hedgerow. Contains (3024).	1	0.43	0.05
3024	Natural Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of [3023].	1	0.43	0.05
3025	Natural Cut	N-S aligned linear, with an irregular profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Possible hedgerow. Contains (3026).	0.95	0.4	<0.05
3026	Natural Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, occasional sub-angular stones, 1-2cm. Fill of [3025].	0.95	0.4	<0.05
3027	Posthole Fill	Friable black (5YR 2.5/1) organic clayey silt, with occasional small sub-angular stones, 1-2cm. Possibly representing the remains of the post in the centre of the posthole. Fill of [3005].	0.52	0.4	0.18
AREA 4					
4001	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Sides moderately steep. Contains (4002).	1	0.8	0.14
4002	Pit Fill	Sticky dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay, with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional sub-rounded stones, 11-20cm, and sub-angular flint, 6-10cm. Fill of [4001].	1	0.8	0.14
4003	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Very irregular circle going into baulk: base nearly flat. Contains (4004), cuts or is cut by [4011].	3.9	3.9	1.2
4004	Pit Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flint, 6-10cm, and charcoal flecks. Fill of [4003].	3.9	3.9	1.2
4005	Tree Bole Cut	Irregular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Very irregular shape, with tree rooting spuring off in all directions..	1.1	0.75	0.2
4006	Tree Bole Fill	Loose dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Fill of [4005].	1.1	0.75	0.2

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
4007	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Sides moderate - steep. NE quadrant in large pit. Contains (4008), (4051), (4052). Part of Group [4048].	1.9	1.6	1.05
4008	Pit Fill	Loose dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks, sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 6-10 cm. Upper fill of [4007], same as (4010).	1.9	1.55	0.35
4009	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. SW quadrant in large pit. Contains (4010), (4049), (4050). Part of Group [4048].	1.36	1.6	0.97
4010	Pit Fill	Loose dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks, sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 6-10 cm. Silting & dumping of cess. Upper fill of [4009], same as (4008).	1.36	1.6	0.66
4011	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Sides very gently sloped: lightly-rounded base: very shallow & narrow ditch: has field drain cut through it at its base: shallowness due to most being machined away. Contains (4012), same as [4013].	12.4	0.9	0.05
4012	Ditch Fill	Sticky dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Fill of [4011], same as (4014).	12.4	0.9	0.05
4013	Ditch Cut	NW-SE aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Sides shallow & sloping: curved base. Contains (4014).	12.4	0.9	0.05
4014	Ditch Fill	Sticky dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clay, with occasional small sub-angular flints, 3-5cm, larger sub-rounded stones, 6-10cm and charcoal flecks. Fill of [4013], same as (4012).	12.4	0.9	0.05
4015	Natural Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Section widened to 1mx0.8m: feature over-trafficked, ground compressed & re-scraped to reveal extent. Contains (4016).	0.9	0.9	0.06
4016	Natural Fill	Compact dark brown (10YR 3/3) clay, with no inclusions. Heavily compacted by machines. Fill of [4015].	0.9	0.9	0.06
4017	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Regular-edged pit/posthole. Contains (4018).	0.8	0.65	0.27
4018	Pit Fill	Compact dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay, with moderate sub-rounded stone, 6-10cm and occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of [4017].	0.8	0.65	0.27

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
4019	Natural Cut	Irregular in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were steep with a irregular base. Appears pear-shaped but not clear: was partly under baulk: had been trafficked & re-scraped. Probable root. Contains (4020).	1.2	1	0.36
4020	Natural Fill	Compact dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy silty clay, with frequent rounded and sub-angular flints, 3-5cm, occasional larger sub-angular flints, 6-10cm. sized inclusions of sub-angular flint. Flecks (to 5mm) of white granular material throughout. Fill of [4019].	1.2	1	0.36
4023	Natural Cut	Roughly circular in plan, with an irregular profile. Area trafficked & machined: some re-distribution of natural soils. Contains (4024).	0.4	0.4	0.09
4024	Natural Fill	Compact brown (10YR 4/3) clay, with sparse sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm Compressed clay fill with re-deposited natural soils: some redistribution of natural soils. Fill of [4023].	0.4	0.4	0.09
4025	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Feature partially under the water table: unknown use: storage? Contains (4026)..	0.96	0.96	0.64
4026	Pit Fill	Sticky mid brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay, with frequent manganese flecks and sparse sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Fill of [4025].	0.96	0.96	0.64
4027	Pit Cut	Circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Base roughly concave: feature partially under the water table. Contains (4028).	2	2	0.68
4028	Pit Fill	Sticky mid brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay, with frequent manganese flecks and moderate sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm. Result of natural deposition once feature out of use. Fill of [4027].	2	2	0.68
4029	Posthole Cut	Slightly oval in plan, with an irregular profile. The sides were concave with a irregular base. Posthole or small pit. Contains (4030).	0.58	0.44	0.16
4030	Posthole Fill	Sticky mid brown (2.5YR 5/2) chalky clay silt, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 6-10cm. Fill of [4029].	0.58	0.44	0.16
4031	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Feature partially below water table. Cut of large pit, possible storage pit: truncates tree bole [4033].	2.02	2.02	0.79
4032	Pit Fill	Sticky mid brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm Result of natural deposition once feature out of use. Fill of [4031].	2.02	2.02	0.79
4033	Tree Bole Cut	Irregular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a concave base. Contains (4034), cut by [4031].	1.84	1.84	0.26

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
4034	Tree Bole Fill	Sticky mid brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay, with frequent sub-rounded stones, 11-20cm Contained large amount of stone, possibly dumped in feature.Fill of [4035].	1.84	1.84	0.26
4035	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with irregular sides and base. Continues under baulk. Possibly natural feature, tree root disturbance. Contains (4036).	0.8	1.75	0.25
4036	Pit Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1)silty clay, with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, 11-20cm, and occasional charcoal flecks. Some disturbance by fine roots. Fill of [4035].	0.8	1.75	0.25
4037	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Shallow pit/posthole. Contains (4038).	0.24	0.24	0.06
4038	Pit Fill	Sticky mid brown (2.5YR 5/2) chalky clay silt. No inclusions. Fill of [4037].	0.24	0.24	0.06
4039	Pit Cut	Oval in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a flat base. Contains (4040) & cut [4041].	0.5	0.5	0.1
4040	Pit Fill	Loose dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) chalky clay silt, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 6-10cm, and sparse charcoal flecks. Fill of [4039].	0.5	0.5	0.1
4041	Posthole Cut	Circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Regular round posthole cut through base of [4039]. Contains (4042), cuts base of [4039].	0.19	0.19	0.09
4042	Posthole Fill	Loose dark greyish brown (2.5YR 4/2) chalky clay silt, with sparse charcoal flecks. Fill of [4041].	0.19	0.19	0.09
4043	Ditch Cut	NE-SW aligned linear, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base. Interpreted as a ditch terminus: full extent of feature obscured as it runs beyond limit of excavation. Contains (4044).	>0.75	0.46	0.16
4044	Ditch Fill	Sticky dark greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay, with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, 1-2cm. Result of natural deposition once feature out of use. Fill of [4043].	>0.75	0.46	0.16
4047	Ditch Group	Wide shallow ditch running NW-SE across entire width of Plot 4. Most has been machined away at a higher level, leaving only base [4011]. Its full profile, [4013], was seen in the baulk at the SE end, revealing a wide, dished ditch, which could represent a field boundary. Group includes contexts: [4011], (4012), [4013], (4014).	12.4	0.9	0.05
4048	Pit Group	Pit, cut [4007], [4009], excavated in quadrants. The sections revealed evidence for slumping within the pit & dumping of cess, before the feature final silting after it had gone out of use. Group includes contexts: [4007], (4008), (4051), (4052), [4009], (4010), (4049), (4050).	5.2	2.7	1.05

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
4049	Pit Fill	Friable light brown (10YR 6/2) clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, 6-10cm. Mix of silting & subsisdence, which includes some dumped material, possibly cess. No obvious correlation with deposits in NE quadrant. Lower fill in SW quadrant, below (4010). Fill of [4009].	1.15	0.6	0.4
4050	Pit Fill	Friable light brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silt, with occasional sub-rounded flints, 6-10cm. Result of episode of natural silting. Intermediate fill of pit [4009].	1.2	0.45	0.1
4051	Pit Fill	Friable light brown (10YR 6/2) clayey silt, with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, 11-20cm, and charcoal. flecks. Main fill in NE quadrant, comprising mixed dump of possible cess & redeposited natural, below (4008). Fill of [4007], similar to (4049), above original cut & (4052).	1.05	1.3	0.75
4052	Pit Fill	Friable light grey (10YR 7/2) clayey silt with no inclusions. Represents a slumped or weathered natural, possibly mixed with a little cess, on the N side of pit. Fill of [4007], below (4051).	0.35	0.55	0.35
4053	Pit Fill	Friable light brown (10YR 6/ 3) silty sandy clay, with moderate sub-rounded stones, 1-2cm, and occasional sub-angular flints, 6-10cm, and sub-rounded stones, 6-10cm. Weathered natural clays, disturbed & mixed with upper fill (4004). Middle fill of [4003].	0.4	0.4	0.5
4054	Pit Fill	Friable light brown (10YR 6/3) sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones between 3–10cm. Lower fill of pit [4003].	1.3	<0.7	0.25
4055	Natural Cut	Oval in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a concave base. Contains (4056).	0.4	0.35	0.05
4056	Natural Fill	Friable dark grey (10YR 4/1) loam, with sparse sub-angular flints, 3-5cm. Fill of (4056).	0.4	0.35	0.05
4057	Pit Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a V shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Pit/posthole: sides steeper on NE side: base shows as conical: due to machining & traffic all well-compacted with distributed natural soils: extent ill-defined. Contains (4058).	0.6	0.6	0.22
4058	Pit Fill	Compact dark brown (10YR 3/3) clay, with occasional sub-angular flints, 3-5cm and sparse sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm Compressed clay fill with redeposited natural soils. Fill of [4057].	0.6	0.6	0.22
4059	Natural Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a concave base. Contains (4060).	0.6	0.57	0.35
4060	Natural Fill	Firm dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, with sparse sub-rounded stones, 3-5cm. Fill of [4059].	0.6	0.57	0.35

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
4061	Natural Cut	Linear in plan, with a irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Contains (4062).	1.2	0.9	<0.35
4062	Natural Fill	Compact dark greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silty clay, with occasional sub-angular flints, 3-5cm Compact where trafficked. Fill of [4061].	1.2	0.9	<0.35
AREA 5					
5001	Pit Cut	Shape unknown, only seen in section in drainage trench. Sections revealed an irregular profile. The sides were irregular with a irregular base. Contains (5002).	>0.5	5	0.63
5002	Pit Fill	Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 3/1) silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional sub-angular flints, 1-2cm. Fill of [5001].	>0.5	5	0.63
5003	Pit Cut	Shape unknown, only seen in section in drainage trench. Sections revealed a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Contains (5004), (5005), (5006).	>0.5	2.2	1.3
5004	Pit Fill	Loose black (5YR 2.5/1) clayey silt, with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional chalk lumps, 6-10cm. Upper fill of [5003], above (5005).	>0.5	1.7	0.2
5005	Pit Fill	Compact brown (10R 5/3) clayey silt, with sparse sub-angular flints, 1-2cm. Middle fill of [5003].	>0.5	1.7	0.32
5006	Pit Fill	Compact light brown (10R 6/3) clayey silt, with no inclusions. Lower fill of [5003].	>0.5	1	0.35

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Appendix 2

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-180066	
Project details	
Project name	Land at Pollards Way, Pirton
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning permission for a new residential development at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Court Homes Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. This was carried out in two stages, with Stage 1 consisting of an evaluation by trial trenching, followed by a programme of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks. The fieldwork identified a multi-period site, with remains dating to the late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The earliest datable features on the site consisted of a series of late Bronze Age pits and postholes. From the Late Bronze Age until the 4th century AD the site appears to have been in continuous use for either domestic or agricultural activities. A number of ditches, pits and postholes have been dated to these periods. The site appears to have gone out of use towards the end of the Roman period, no evidence of Saxon occupation was encountered. Evidence for Medieval and post-medieval activity was also identified, comprising a series of wide, but shallow, parallel ditches.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2014 End: 17-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN1141 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Cultivated land 4 – character undetermined
Monument type	PIT Late Bronze Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Middle Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	BRACELET Roman
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE PIRTON Land at Pollards Way
Postcode	SG5 3OG
Study area	5600 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 14449 31768 51.972144760736 -0.333692256883 51 58 19 N 000 20 01 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Helen Ashworth
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Daniel Phillips
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	North Herts Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Pollards Way: archaeological assessment report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Phillips, D.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ashworth, H.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.940
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 46 pages, 8 figures, 58 plates

Appendix 3

Table 5: Table of finds from the processed samples

Sample	Conte+t	Conte+t type	Vol. in l.	Residue vol. in ml	Pot no/wt g	Fire cracked/burnt stone >7mm wt g.	Flint no/wt	Mag-netic wt. g.	Ham'r-scale no.**	Slag wt.g. #	Fired earth wt.g.	Bone wt g.	Comment
LBA/EIA													
1	1002	Pit [1001] fill	35	1450	40/133	620		3.2	3			30	
2	1010	Posthole [1009] fill	4	420	2/9	348		0.8	1			1.2	
4	1022	Posthole [1021] fill	15	1100	1/5	41		2.8	4		1	1.8	
5	1024	Posthole [1023] fill	7.5	650		2.6		1.4	2			0.4	
6	3004	Posthole [3003] fill	16	1600				2.4	1		0.6	1.4	Non-ferous metal +18 (1g)
11	4040	Pit [4039] fill	25	2400	2/2.2			0.4	-				
15	4002	Pit [4001] fill	21.5	2000	44/64	469		3.4	1		7	21	
17	4010	Pit [4009] upper fill	32	2800	4/2.4	279		2.2	-			11.4	Brick/tile
19	4053	Pit [4003] lower fill	39	1200				1.6	4			4	
20	4054	Pit [4003] lower fill	38	2300	1/1.4	96		1.8	3			17.4	
21	4050	Pit [4009] middle fill	38	2500		71		3.2	-			0.6	
24	4049	Pit [4009] lower fill	40	3000		420	5/1.2	3	-			1	
25	4018	Pit/Posthole [4017] fill	28	1500		410	4/0.6	4	-		3	4.8	
LIA/ROM													
8	2004	Linear [2003] fill	28	2000	1/3	19		1	13+2sph			2.4	
9	2022	Linear [2021] fill	26	1000		124		1.8	13+2sph			1.4	
10	4030	Pit/posthole [4029] fill	40	1600				0.6	4sph	+	0.6		Glass +1
14	2042	Linear [2041] fill	38	2500	2/11.8	42	2/1.2	3.2	12	+		1.4	Brick/tile – 10g; mussel 0.6g; silicaceous slag
18	4004	Pit [4003] upper fill	37	1800		5.6	1/3	1.2	3			3	
16	4008	Pit [4007] upper fill	36	3600	2/7.8	302	1/2.8	3.8	-			9.6	Oyster – 49g
22	4051	Pit [4007] middle fill	37	2400	2/0.6	88		1.8	-			122	
23	4052	Pit [4007] lower fill	40	1500				1	1+1sph			3	
26	5002	Fill of Pit 5001	40	2000	7/58	1300		10.2	43			246	Fex 1
Med and P-Med													
12	2030	Linear [2029] fill	37.5	2600				0.3	20+2sph		4.6	2.2	Coal/cinder – 14g; marine shell?
13	2040	Linear [2039] fill	36	2100	2/5.4	15	4/0.4	1.4	5		3.6	2	
Undated													
3	1014	Posthole [1013] fill	3.5	400				0.2	2			0.2	
7	2002	Posthole [2001] fill	17	1400				0.8	-		22	5.8	Fe+2 (1.2g)

* - count/weight of pot; ** - frequency +=1-10; ++=11-50; +++=51-150; ++++=151-250; +++++5=>250; # - P = present in magnetic residue/flot; sph – spheroidal hammerscale

Appendix 4

Table 6. Environmental finds from the processed samples, arranged in provisional phase and sample order.

sample	conte+t	vol. in l.	flot vol. ml	char-coal */*	char'd grain *	char'd chaff *	char'd seed *	un-char'd seed*	insects	snail */#	Comment
LBA/EIA											
1	1002	35	7	3/5	2	1		1		2/1	Small nos poorly preserved grains (10-20) (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta, Triticum, Hordeum vulgare*) and *Triticum spelta* glume bases; mod nos id'ble charcoal; occ uncharred seeds (*Atriple*+); sheep/goat, cattle size, shrew, vole; snails – see Table 4; >roots
2	1010	4	2	2/4	1					1/1	Occasional cereal grain (cf *Triticum*); id'ble charcoal; sheep/goat, mole; occasional snails see Table 4: >roots
4	1022	15	1	2/4	1		1	1	1	2/1	Traces of possible charred grain and identifiable charcoal; possible *Corylus avellana* fragment; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium*); cf sheep/goat, rodent; pupae & small nos snails – see Table 4; >roots
5	1024	7.5	1	1/3		1		1		1/1	*Triticum spelta* glume base & occ id'ble charcoal; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium*); indet animal bone; snails – see Table 4; >roots
6	3004	16	3	2/4	1			2		3/2	Occasional grain (cf. *Avena*) & uncharred seeds (*Fallopia convolvulus, Tara+acum*); small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; sheep/goat, bank vole; snails – see Table 4: >roots
11	4040	25	1	1/3	1			1	1	3/2	A few grains (*Hordeum*) & occ id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Sonchus*); vole; snails – see Table 4; occ insect fragments: >roots
15	4002	21.5	3	2/5	1			1		3/2	Occ grains (5-10) (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta, Triticum*) and small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Atriple*+); horse, indet animal bone, rodent; snails – see Table 4; >roots
17	4010	32	1	1/3	1	1			1	4/2	Occ grains (cf. *Triticum*) & chaff (*Triticum* glume base); occ id'ble charcoal fragments; cattle, sheep/goat; snails – see Table 4; >roots
19	4053	39	3	1/3	3		1	2	1	4/2	Good nos (100+) grains (unsorted) (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Hordeum vulgare*, cf.*Avena*), occ weeds (*Bromus,* Poaceae (large)) & occ id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium, Aethusa cynapium, Stellaria*); cattle; occ insect; snails – see Table 4: >roots
20	4054	38	5	2/4	3		2			4/2	Good nos (100+) grains (unsorted) (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Hordeum vulgare*, cf. *Avena*), occ legumes (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), *Corylus avellana* shell & weed seeds (*Care*+, *Loloium/Festuca*) & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; cattle, sheep/goat, rat? carcass intrusive; snails - see Table 4: >roots
21	4050	38	2	2/3	1			1	1	5/2	Occ grains (cf. *Triticum aestivum*) & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Atriple*+) & insects; indet. animal bone; snails – see Table 4; >roots
24	4049	40	2	2/3	1	1		1	1	4/2	Very occ grains (*Triticum aestivum)*, *Triticum* glume base & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Sonchus, Silene, Atriple*+) & insect fragments; indet animal bone; snail – see Table 4; >roots
25	4018	28	4	3/5	1	1		1		4/2	Very occ grains (cf. *Triticum)*, *Triticum spelta, Triticum* glume bases & mod nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Aethusa cynapium*) & small nos indet. bone fragments; snails – see Table 4; >roots

sample	conte+t	vol. in l.	flot vol. ml	char-coal */*	char'd grain *	char'd chaff *	char'd seed *	un-char'd seed*	insects	snail */#	Comment
LIA/EROM											
8	2004	28	3	2/5	2		1	1	1	3/2	Mod nos (30-40) grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Avena*)' occ charred seeds (*Bromus*) & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium*); indet. cattle and sheep sized bone; snails – see Table 4: occ insect; >roots
9	2022	26	2	2/3	2				1	5/2	Small nos (10-15) grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Hordeum vulgare (6+)*) & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; indet cattle and sheep sized bone, field vole; snail – see Table 4: >roots
10	4030	40	1	1/3	?1				1	5/2	A few possible grain fragments & occ id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Rubus*); occ insect fragments; snail – see Table 4: >roots
14	2042	38	2	2/4	3			1		5/2	Mod nos grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Avena*) (part sorted); small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium, Sonchus*); indet bone; snails – see Table 4: >roots
18	4004	37	3	2/3	2		1	1	1	4/2	Mod nos (c 30) grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Hordeum vulgare*), occ legumes (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) & indet seeds; small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium*); cattle and sheep sized bone; snails see Table 4: >roots
16	4008	36	1	2/4	1		1	1		5/2	Occ grains (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta, Triticum, Hordeum*) charred seed (?nutshell) and small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Silene, Rubus*, *Atriple+*); cattle, sheep size, shrew, field vole, wood mouse; snails – see Table 4; >roots
22	4051	37	2	2/3	1		1	1		5/2	Occ grains (cf. *Triticum aestivum, Hordeum*) & *Corylus avellana* shell; small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Atriple+*) & cattle mandible, field vole; snails – see Table 4; >roots
23	4052	40	2	2/3	1			1	1	4/2	Occ grains (cf. *Triticum aestivum)* & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Sambucus*, *Atriple+*) & insect fragments; snail – see Table 4; >roots
26	5002	40	110	5/5	2		1	2	1	5/2	20-30 charred grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Hordeum vulgare* (hulled)) & occ charred seeds (*Avena/Bromus*, Poaceae, Polygonaceae) (cpr part sorted); > charcoal & >nos id'ble fragments; occ un-charred seeds (*Aethusa cynapium, Fallopia convolvulus, Sonchus, Viola*); bird eggshell; cattle, pig, sheep, chicken, small bird, frog/toad, water vole, shrew, mouse, snake;insect fragments; roots++
Med-P-Med											
12	2030	37.5	1	2/4	2					4/2	Small nos (10-15) grains (*Triticum, Hordeum)* & small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; sheep goat; snails – see Table 4: >roots
13	2040	36	3	2/3	3		1	1		3/2	Mod nos grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Avena*); occ *Corylus avellana* shell & indet seeds; small nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Chenopodium, Sonchus*); indet animal bone; snails – see Table 4: >roots
Undated											
3	1014	3.5	<1	-/2						1/1	NO CPR; Flot largely consisting of roots & traces of unidentifiable charcoal; indet animal toothoccasional snails
7	2002	17	5	3/5	2			1		4/2	Mod nos (c 20) grains (*Triticum aestivum, Triticum, Hordeum, Avena*) & mod nos id'ble charcoal fragments; occ uncharred seeds (*Carduus/Cirsium, Tara+acum*); pig; snail – see Table 4: >roots

/ frequency of charcoal recovered from first flot/second flot -* frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250) ; + and ++ represent unquantified amounts significantly greater than 250; # diversity 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25 taxa

Appendix 5

Table 7. Molluscs preliminarily identified from the samples, arranged in preliminary phase and context order.

	LBA/EIA													LIA/ROM									PM	Med	und	und
Sample no.	1	2	4	5	6	11	15	19	20	17	21	24	25	8	9	10	14	18	16	22	23	26	12	13	3	7
ABUNDANCE	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	3	3	1	4
Cecilioides acicula		+	+		+			+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Vallonia excentrica	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
Vallonia costata	+				+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+
Vallonia pulchella						+								+	+	+	+						+			
Vallonia sp.	+																								+	
Pupilla muscorum			+		+			+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+
Helicella itala	+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			+
Vertigo pygmaea						+		+	+	+	+	+			+	+			+	+		+				
Vertigo sp.					+	+									+	+		+		+				+		+
Candidula intersecta																	+									
Trichia hispida	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
Cochlicopa sp.	+	+				+		+	+	+	+	+			+	+		+	+	+	+	+		+		+
Cepaea nemoralis						+									+											
Cepaea sp.															+	+		+								
Helix aspersa									+																	
Pomatia elegans																								+		
Columella edentula															+											
Punctum pygmaeum								+			+					+		+	+	+						+
Vitrea sp.								+			+	+		+	+			+	+	+	+					
Clausilidae					+	+					+		+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		
Nesovitrea hammonis						+																				
Oxychilus alliarus								+	+	+	+	+	+		+					+	+					
Oxychilus cellarius																					+					+
Oxychilus sp.						+							+	+	+		+	+	+							
Aegopinella pura	+					+			+	+	+	+	+			+	+		+		+	+				+
Aegopinella nitidula						+					+	+				+		+	+	+		+		+		
Discus rotundatus						+		+	+					+	+								+			
Carychium sp.				+		+	+		+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			+		
Succinidea															+	+										
Glabra truncatula															+	+	+		+	+			+	+		
Anisus leucostoma																										+

frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5= >25