

**LAND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A120, TAKELEY,
ESSEX (BARKERS TANKS SITE)**

An Archaeological Evaluation

HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
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(BARKERS TANKS SITE)**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5580 2120

Nicholas Crank BSc AIFA
Jonathan Grant MA

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THE SEED WAREHOUSE, MAIDENHEAD YARD
THE WASH, HERTFORD SG14 1PX
TEL (01992) 558170
FAX (01992) 553359
E-mail: herts.archtrust@virgin.net
www.hertfordshire-archaeological-trust.co.uk

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A120, TAKELEY, ESSEX (BARKERS TANKS SITE) AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

During August / September 2002, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of the A120, Takeley, Essex. The site lies within an area of archaeological significance, adjacent to the line of Roman Stane Street and where multi-period archaeological sites have been recorded in advance of the expansion of Stansted Airport and along the line of the proposed A120 bypass to the north of the village.

The evaluation revealed ditches and gullies of varying alignments. Despite a relatively low density of archaeological finds (and abrasion of the pottery sherds), the features suggest significant prehistoric and early Roman activity across the site, in the form of an agrarian economy. There was widespread previous ground disturbance of the north-eastern part of the site associated with the former use of the site for the manufacture/storage of oil tanks.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During August / September 2002, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of the A120, Takeley, Essex (the former Barkers Tanks Site) (central NGR TL 5580 2120) (Figs. 1 & 2). The work was commissioned by Countryside Residential (North Thames) Plc in advance of the proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The local authority (based on advice from Essex County Council Heritage Advice, Management and Promotion Section - ECC HAMP) required an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken as part of a planning condition on approval.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with an updated brief prepared by ECC HAMP (Richard Havis, dated 02/02) and a specification compiled by HAT (dated 19/02/02). It also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 1999).

1.3 The general aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development.

1.4 The specific aims of the trial trench evaluation (as defined in the brief) were to focus on identification or clarification of the development of the landscape in the prehistoric and Romano-British period, but also to identify remains of the Saxon and medieval settlement of this part of Essex.

1.5 The site had been subject to a previous archaeological desk-based assessment (Hawkins 2000). The archaeological background (below) summarises the information contained in the assessment

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 & 2)

2.1 The site is situated on the southern side of the A120, in the western part of the village of Takeley. It covers *c.*3.773 hectares of land. That part of the site immediately adjacent to the A120 frontage was formerly the Barkers Tanks oil tank storage depot, covered by concrete hardstanding. Hawthorn and rose shrubs extensively covered the remainder of the site prior to site clearance being undertaken.

2.2 The site lies at an average height of between *c.*101 - 103m AOD, rising slightly towards the north and east. It is located *c.*2 km south-east of Stansted Airport. The Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) indicate the site's geology as comprising London Clay, forming part of the London Basin.

2.3 The site is bordered to the north by the rear of residential and commercial properties fronting the A120. To the east by the rear of properties fronting the A120 and Hawthorn Close, to the south by the line of a dismantled railway line/cutting and to the west by a public footpath and agricultural land. Access is obtained from the A120 frontage in the north eastern corner of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The assessment site lies directly to the east of finds of Roman-medieval date recovered by metal detecting (EHCR 12199-12202 and 14707). No previous traces of archaeological remains have been recorded from within the assessment site itself. The archaeological/historical background is presented in detail in the previous desk-based assessment (Hawkins 2000) and it is summarised below:

Prehistoric

3.2 The local landscape has produced extensive evidence for occupation, settlement and agricultural exploitation from the late Bronze Age onwards. The nearby Stansted Airport excavations revealed a host of activity including traces of occupation or a passing presence during the Mesolithic and Neolithic. There was certain occupation during the late Bronze Age, which was probably associated with woodland clearance and the droving of stock within felled areas (Hawkins 2000: 10). Levels of activity increased during the middle Iron Age and it was at this time when occupation was at its peak (Havis 1999: 41), and the ever increasing population continued the clearance of woodland.

3.3 The break in continuity of activity at the Stansted Airport site is suggested to be a consequence of the political climate. The site is thought to have been abandoned in *c.*25 BC, possibly a result of tribal disputes. Stansted and the assessment site lie along the boundary between territory that belonged to the *Trinovantes* and the *Catavallauni*, two tribes who were known for their hostility towards one another (Havis 1999: 42).

Roman

3.4 The site is situated on the south of the A120, which shadows the course of the line of the Roman Braughing – Colchester Road (*Stane Street*). As noted above, the local

landscape has produced extensive evidence for occupation, settlement and agricultural exploitation from the late Bronze Age onwards, with particularly dense occupation in the Roman period. Widespread excavations at Stansted have revealed some 43 Roman burials dating to between the early 1st century and the mid 2nd century AD, two of which were very rich graves (Havis 1999: 42). Other contemporary roadside settlements existed at Bishop's Stortford, to the west, situated at the point where *Stane Street* crossed the Stort (Crank *et al* 2001: 7), and Great Dunmow, to the east, where a small town developed. Various farmsteads and villas were erected along the road at fairly regular intervals (Hawkins 2000: 11).

3.5 There is no direct evidence for Roman occupation at Takeley, but the use of Roman brick and tile in the church adjacent to the site would suggest the presence of an occupation site nearby. A number of other Roman finds have also been made close to the church and in adjacent fields.

Saxon & Medieval

3.6 Small-scale Saxon activity has been recorded at Stansted Airport. There are however some faint traces that have been identified including pollen from Stansted (Havis 1999: 42); sherds and possible *grubenhaus* from Great Dunmow (Gardner 2001: 4); and a late Saxon coin of *King Canute* from Takeley (Hawkins 2000: 13).

3.7 The medieval landscape was likely one of individual farmsteads and manors, rather than nucleated settlement, though the EHCR suggests a possible deserted / shrunken medieval settlement around Holy Trinity Church to the north of the village. The name Takeley supports the postulation that it was well forested during the Saxon and early medieval as '*leah*' is the Old English for '-*ley*' meaning forest (Hawkins 2000: 13).

3.8 The Holy Trinity Church contains many Roman tiles (bricks) which have been incorporated into its walls. The architecture of the building indicates a 12th century date but it is conceivable that there was a previous church on the same site (Hawkins 2000: 14). A priest at Takeley is recorded by 1086 (Hawkins 2000).

Post-Medieval

3.9 By the late 18th century, cartographic evidence suggests that Takeley contained only about a dozen houses and the area away from the village crossroads was largely undeveloped. Over the next hundred years or so there does not appear to be much expansion, although the 1st edition OS map (1875) shows that a village smithy occupies the *Stane Street* frontage to the site. The SMR and cartographic records do not note any significant post-medieval sites (Hawkins 2000: 15). The 20th century development of the Barkers Tanks site saw the creation of oil-storage facilities, which have caused a degree of ground disturbance and contamination on the site. An important element of the project was to characterise the degree of previous ground disturbance on the site.

3.10 Research Priorities

3.10.1 The specific aims of the project were to:

- Preserve, by record, identified archaeological deposits

- Ascertain the range of activity within the development area
- Identify the period of occupation
- Identify the range of objects in use, the presence of imports and issues of status, etc.

3.10.2 Regional research priorities have been set out in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000).

Neolithic and Bronze Age

3.10.3 The key research aim for this period, as noted by Brown & Murphy (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000) is the development of farming and the attendant development and integration of monuments, fields and settlements. The important late Bronze Age discoveries at Stansted Airport and the clay plateaux of East Hertfordshire/West Essex remain to be placed within a larger landscape context, with a possible LBA site to the east of the area of proposed development at Warish Hall (EHCR 4573).

Late Iron Age - Roman transition

3.10.4 This period has been identified as a key theme in archaeological studies (English Heritage 1997) and of relevance here is an understanding of the origin and subsequent development of the later prehistoric and Roman landscape. Bryant (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000: 14-18) notes period research topics (Iron Age) that may be applicable to any surviving features of this date on the site. These include development of more accurate chronologies for the period (in particular development of absolute dating techniques for the period, the establishment of regional pottery sequences and the investigation of datable pottery assemblages). Further analysis of the development of the agrarian economy is important, (with increasing agricultural production at this time the most important economic growth factor for the region, with analysis of field boundaries, trackways, enclosures and drove routes). The distribution, origins and dating of these field systems is a priority. Further analysis of settlement chronologies and dynamics, in particular the issue of the possible reorganisation of the landscape into larger farming units in the late Iron Age. Another research topic concerns processes of economic and social change and development of the late Iron Age and Iron Age / Roman transition periods. Especially the adoption of the Aylesford/Swarling and Roman culture across the region, the development of tribal polities in the region in the late Iron Age and the study of detailed aspects of *oppida* and ritual sites. Further topics include the study of social organisation and settlement form and function in the early and middle Iron Age, the study of artefact production and distribution and the transition between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

The Roman period

3.10.5 The nature of the settlement along Stane Street requires further characterisation and dating. As Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000) note, current research themes for the Roman period include fuller analysis of both large and small towns (in particular illumination of theories of decay and dereliction after the mid 3rd century). For instance, any identifiable evidence of burning of late Antonine towns in Essex based on the findings of fire-damaged Samian wares from other sites of similar date in the region, and in particular is there any evidence of the construction of any earthwork defences after the Antonine apogee. Other research topics suggested for the period include further

examination of early and late Roman military impacts, further analysis of pottery assemblages to perhaps indicate shifting settlement patterns within towns and analysis of crop storage / production and industry in the later Roman towns. Further analysis of food consumption and production analysis is identified as important and further research into the landscape during this period is seen as important (for example the issue of relict landscapes and field systems). The development / distribution and change of woodland, particularly with regard to possible regeneration at the end of the Roman period, and further research into the road network with regard to bridges or other important crossings are aims.

Sub-Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods

3.10.6 The extent and character of occupation of the area during the immediate post-Roman period remains to be established, as does patterns of continuity of settlement in general. The sparse glimpses of early Saxon settlement afforded in the area remain to be more fully characterised, and it will be important to identify any further evidence of this period. Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook, 2000, 23-26) notes gaps in knowledge and research issues for the period, particularly with regard to any clarification of events and processes in the 5th century. Thus, research topics of population studies, settlement patterns, agricultural and craft production, land use changes and the impact of colonists and religion are crucial. For the middle Saxon period, Wade also notes the importance of gathering further evidence, with the fundamental change witnessed in the 7th century by the introduction of Christianity and the so-called 'middle Saxon shuffle'. Where many earlier Saxon settlements seem to have been deserted in favour of new sites, both processes which are still poorly understood.

Medieval

3.10.7 As noted by Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000), many aspects of rural settlement of both the Saxon and medieval periods remain to be characterised. Current research issues include population studies (distribution, density and physical structure), settlement issues (characterisation of settlement form / function). Further research into agricultural production in the period, land use changes during the Saxon and medieval periods (particularly changes in ratios of arable to pasture and woodland), further research into craft production, the impact of colonists (Saxons, Danes and Normans) and the impact of Christianity.

4 METHOD OF WORK (Fig. 2)

4.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the brief and specification, and conformed to the relevant IFA guidelines.

4.2 Thirty-seven trial trenches were proposed (to provide a 5% sample of the area of proposed development (as required by ECC HAMP)). Thirty-two were actually excavated (because of practical access difficulties), by agreement with ECC HAMP. The trenches each measured 30m x 1.8m. The trenches were located in areas approved by the client and ECC HAMP (Fig. 2) and were digitally set-out by the client's engineers.

4.3 Trenches were mechanically excavated using both a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket and a 180° wheeled excavator. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under archaeological

supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs 2-12)

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

5.1 Trench 1 (0.00 = 100.60m AOD):

0.00m – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small flint pebbles
0.12m – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil: Mid orange/brown firm silty clay.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural Drift: Mid orange clay with frequent chalk fragments and occasional flint modules.

Description: One ditch was present, sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 3).

Ditch F1003 was located towards the western part of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2.25m; width 1.25m; depth 0.50m). The sides were steep at 45° - 85° and gave way to a rounded base. The fill (L1004) was a light yellow brown firm silty clay.

5.2 Trench 2 (0.00 = 100.35m AOD):

0.00m – 0.10m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.10m – 0.31m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.31m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: One gully and two post-holes were present, all were sealed by what subsoil there was (Fig. 3).

Gully F1005 was located at the northern end of the trench, aligned north north-west/south south-east (length >4.40m; width 0.62m; depth 0.18m). It had regular steep sides at 80° and a rounded base. The fill (L1006) was a mid-brown silty clay.

F1007 was a sub-oval post-hole located at the northern end of the trench (length 0.57m; width 0.45m; depth 0.55m). It had steep near vertical sides and a rounded base. The fill (L1008) was a mid-brown silty clay. F1007 cut F1009, an adjacent post-hole.

F1009 was a circular post-hole (length 0.26m; width 0.26m; depth 0.19m). It had regular concave sides at 55° and a rounded base. The fill (L1010) was a mid-brown firm clay cut by the deeper adjacent post-hole (F1007).

5.3 Trench 3 (0.00 = 100.32m AOD):

0.00m – 0.25m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.25m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Three gullies were present, all sealed by a sparse patchy subsoil (Fig. 3)

Gully F1013 was located at the western end of the trench, aligned north north-west/south south-east (length >2.00m; width 0.79m; depth 0.24m). It exhibited variable sides commonly at 45° from horizontal and a flat base. The fill (L1014) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and small sub-angular stones. Finds from the feature comprise pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date (2g).

Gully F1015 was located in the middle of the trench, aligned north north-west/south south-east (length >1.95m; width 1.03m; depth 0.27m). It exhibited sides varying between 30° - 45° with a rounded base. The fill (L1016) was a mid-brown clay with occasional chalk.

F1017 was an irregular linear gully located at the eastern side of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >12m; width 0.56m; depth 0.14m). The sides were concave and regular with a slope of 45°, giving way to a flattish, concave base. The fill (L1018) was a mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk, flint and small sub angular stones. The finds comprise sparse pottery sherds of mid/late Iron Age and Roman date (6g) and an iron nail (4g).

5.4 Trench 4 (0.00 = 100.15m AOD):

0.00m – 0.14m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.14m – 0.50m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.50m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two gullies were present, both sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 4).

Gully F1019 was located in the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length >1.9m; width 0.69m; depth 0.14m). It had regular concave sides with a slope of 45° and a rounded base. F1019 was on a similar alignment to F1039 (Trench 6). The fill (L1020) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and moderate angular and sub-angular flint. A single pottery sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman date (<1g) was recovered from the fill.

F1021 was approximately 2.3m east of F1019 and parallel to it and was therefore aligned north/south (length > 2.00m; width 0.60m; depth 0.17m). It had steep regular sides with a slope of approximately 60° and a flat base. F1021 was on a similar alignment to F1041 (Trench 6). The fill (L1022) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional traces of chalk and moderate angular and sub-angular flint. The finds comprise pottery of mid-late 1st century AD (6g) and one struck flint (3g).

5.5 Trench 5 (0.00 = 100.22m AOD):

0.00m – 0.45m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.45m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Four gullies and a pit were present. A thin subsoil, patchy, was present in the southern part of the trench only. It sealed a number of the features (Fig. 4).

Shallow gully F1023 was located towards the southern end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.90m; width 0.74m; depth 0.13m). The sides were steep, between 60° -70°, and

the feature exhibited an irregular rounded base. The base was rounded to the north with an incline to the south. F1023 was similar in orientation and size as gullies F1027, F1029 and F1031, all within Trench 5. The fill (L1024) was a light yellow brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

F1025 was a sub-circular pit located towards the middle of the trench (length >0.60 m; width 0.70 m; depth 0.17 m). The sides were concave and sloped at around 45°, with a rounded base. An irregular feature immediately adjacent possibly represented a tree hollow. The pit fill (L1026) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and flint pebbles. No finds were recovered.

Shallow gully F1027 was located in the northern half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 0.57m; depth 0.08m). The sides were straight and concave, the slope was shallow at 30° and gave way to an undulating base. The fill (L1028) was a mid-yellow brown silty clay with occasional chalk. No finds were recovered.

Shallow gully F1029 was located in the northern half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 0.87m; depth 0.12m). The sides were irregular but mainly convex with a slope of about 45°, giving way to a mainly flat base. The fill (L1030) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk and small sub-angular stones. No finds were recovered.

Shallow gully F1031 was located at the northern edge of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.80m; width 0.65m; depth 0.13m). It exhibited 45° sides and a flattish base that sloped down to the north. It contained a single fill (L1032), a mid-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.6 Trench 6 (0.00 = 100.20m AOD):

0.00m – 0.11m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.11m – 0.41m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.41m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two gullies were present, both sealed by the topsoil (Fig. 4).

F1039 was located in the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length >1.9m; width 0.70m; depth 0.17m). It had straight steep sides at 70° with a flat base sloping down to the east. This was on a similar alignment with and had similar properties to F1019 (Trench 4). The fill (L1040) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and a moderate amount of angular and sub-angular flint. Sparse pottery sherds of the late Bronze Age-middle Iron Age date (4g) were recovered from the fill.

F1041 was located in the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length >1.9m; width 0.52m; depth 0.21m). The western side was more regular, at 80° from horizontal, the eastern side sloping at some 50° to a flat base. F1041 ran 2m to the east of parallel gully F1039 (see above). F1041 was on the same alignment as F1021 (Trench 4). The fill was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and moderate angular and sub-angular flint. Finds comprise one struck flint (2g).

5.7 Trench 7 (0.00 = 99.50m AOD):

0.00m – 0.29m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.29m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: One ditch was present (Fig. 5).

Boundary ditch F1011 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length >1.8m; width 3.5m; depth 0.50m). The sides broke sharply from the surface, with an asymmetrical stepped profile sloping at a maximum of 45°, and a flattish base. The fill (L1012) was a mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional small flint pebbles, chalk flecks and chalk cobbles. Finds comprise pottery sherds of mid-late 1st century AD (23g).

5.8 Trench 8 (0.00 = 98.40m AOD):

0.00m – 0.10m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.10m – 0.37m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.37m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: There were no archaeological finds or features present in this trench.

5.9 Trench 9 (0.00 = 98.39m AOD):

0.00m – 0.45m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.45m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: There were no archaeological finds or features present in this trench.

5.10 Trench 10 (0.00 = 99.20m AOD):

0.00m – 0.37m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.37m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two gullies and a pit were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 5).

Gully F1033 was aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 0.50m; depth 0.19m). It had straight sides and a slope of 50° with a sharp break leading to a flat base. The fill (L1034) was a mid-dark brown silty clay. Finds comprised sparse pottery sherds dating to the middle Iron Age only (2g).

F1035 was a pit (length 0.72m; width >0.40m; depth 0.14m). Its sides sloped between 40° - 45° and broke to an undulating base. The fill (L1036) was a mid-dark brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Shallow gully F1037 was aligned east/west (length >1.80m; width 0.46m; depth 0.05m). The concave sides were shallow at 20° from horizontal, leading to a rounded base. The fill (L1038) was a mid-dark brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.11 Trench 11

This trench was not excavated due to access problems in this area of the site.

5.12 Trench 12 (0.00 = 99.73m AOD):

0.00m – 0.12m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.12m – 0.52m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.52m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two gullies were recorded, both sealed by the subsoil where it was present (Fig. 5).

F1043 was located at the north-western end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >5.50m, width 0.55m; depth 0.06m). Its sides sloped at a shallow 35° to a rounded base. The fill (L1044) was a light brown silty clay with occasional chalk and flint. Finds comprise pottery sherds of middle/late Iron Age date (35g).

F1045 was located at the south-eastern end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >6.50m; width 0.61m; depth 0.15m). The steep sides sloped at a near-vertical 85°, breaking to a flattish base. The fill (L1046) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional traces of chalk and flint. A single pottery sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman date was recovered (2g).

5.13 Trench 13 (0.00 = 100.35m AOD):

0.00m – 0.46m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.46m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified within the trench, though a land drain and evidence of root disturbance was present (Fig. 6).

5.14 Trench 14 (0.00 = 100.95m AOD):

0.00m – 0.13m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.13m – 0.48m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.48m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: A single gully was present, sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 6).

F1047 was located in the south-eastern side of the trench, aligned west north-west/east south-east (length >2.00m; width 0.85m; depth 0.07m). The concave sides sloped at a shallow 20° angle, leading to a flat base. The fill (L1048) was a mid-orange/brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular pebbles. No finds were recovered.

5.15 Trench 15

This trench was not excavated, due to access problems in this area of the site.

5.16 Trench 16 (0.00 = 100.95m AOD):

0.00m – 0.15m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.15m – 0.48m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.48m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Three gullies, one ditch and a post-hole were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 6).

Post-hole F1065 was square cut with rounded corners and was located in the south-western end of the trench (length 0.40m; width 0.40m; depth 0.27m). The regular, near-vertical slope was even except for the south-eastern side which was more gentle, leading to a flat base. The fill (L1066) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular and sub-angular flints and chalk flecks. No finds were recovered.

Gully F1067 was located in the south-western end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.1m; width 0.60m; depth 0.17m). The slightly concave sides sloped steeply at 65°, breaking to a flat base. F1067 ran parallel with F1071 and F1073. The fill (L1068) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional to moderate amounts of chalk flecks and small angular and sub-angular flints. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

F1069 was a very shallow and narrow gully located towards the centre of the trench, aligned north-west/south east (length >2m; width 0.35m; depth 0.06m). The slightly concave sides of a 40° - 45° slope levelled off to a flat base. The fill (L1070) was a light to mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional to moderate amounts of chalk flecks and small angular and sub-angular flints. No finds were recovered.

F1071 was a narrow gully parallel to F1073 and F1067, located in the centre of the trench and aligned east/west (length >2.2m; width 0.57m; depth 0.15m). The slightly concave sides sloped at 50° from horizontal, levelling off to a flat base. The fill (L1072) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and small angular and sub-angular flints.

Large ditch F1073 was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench running parallel and equidistant to gullies F1067 and F1071, aligned east/west (length >2.01m; width 1.33m; depth 0.47m). The sides were variable and the base rounded. The fill (L1074) was a light orange brown silty clay with occasional flint, flint nodules and chalk. Finds comprised animal bone (22g) only.

5.17 Trench 17 (0.00 = 101.30m AOD):

0.00m – 0.18m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.18m – 0.40m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.40m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Seven ditches and a pit were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 7).

Gully F1049 was located in the south-western side of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.10m; width 0.32m; depth 0.20m). The regular and slightly concave sides sloped steeply between 80°-90°, leading to a flattish base. This U-shaped gully ran immediately adjacent and parallel with F1051. The fill (L1050) was a greyish brown silty clay with moderate amounts of chalk flecks and occasional to moderate angular and sub-angular flints and small stones. The finds comprised fired clay/daub only (3g).

F1051 was located and aligned in the same way as F1049, above (length >2.1m; width 0.65m; depth 0.12m). The regular sides sloped steeply at 50° - 55°, breaking to a shallow, flattish base. This gully was parallel to gullies F1053, F1057, F1061, which were all regularly spaced apart at a distance of some 5.4 m. The fill (L1052) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk, and occasional to moderate amounts of angular and sub-angular flints. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

F1053 was located in the south-western half of the trench, and was aligned east/west (length >2.1m; width 0.60m; depth 0.15m). The southern side of the gully was near-vertical (70° - 80°) in contrast with the northern side, which was concave in shape (30° - 40°) and led to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1054) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and occasional small angular and sub-angular flints. A single pottery sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date (1g) was recovered.

Pit F1055 was located towards the middle of the trench (length >1.50m; width 1.33m; depth 0.75m). The sub-oval pit had irregular sides sloping at between 40° - 75°, to a flat base. The fill (L1056) was a mid-dark brown compact silty clay with occasional traces of chalk and flint. No finds were recovered.

Shallow gully F1057 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.00m; width 0.92m; depth 0.19m). It had concave and straight sides of 45° - 40° leading to an undulating base. The fill (L1058) was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and flint. No finds were recovered.

F1059 was located in the north-western half of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >1.9m; width 0.40m; depth 0.20m). The concave sides sloped moderately steeply at 45°-60°, with a slightly concave base. The fill was a light greyish brown silty clay and was cut by F1061. No finds were recovered.

F1061 was located in the north-western half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.1m; width 0.65m; depth 0.25m). The regular sides were near-vertical, breaking sharply to a flat base. F1061 cut the fill of an adjacent gully. The fill (L1062) was a mid-greyish brown, silty clay. Finds from F1061 comprised three very small pottery sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman date (1g).

Curvilinear gully F1063 was horseshoe-shaped, located in the north-western edge of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >4.60m; width 0.37m - 0.60m; depth 0.08m - 0.29m). The sides were variably moderate to steeply-sloping, and broke to a flat base. The fill (L1064) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and larger chalk stones, occasional charcoal flecks and sub-angular stones and flint. No finds were recovered.

5.18 Trench 18

This trench was not excavated due to access problems in this part of the site.

5.19 Trench 19 (0.00 = 100.95m AOD):

0.00m – 0.09m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.09m – 0.39m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.39m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two ditches, one pit and a post-hole were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 7).

Pit F1075 was located in the north-western end of the trench (length >0.60m; width 0.55m; depth 0.67m). It was sub-oval in shape with straight sides that varied between 40° -80° and a flattish base. The fill (L1076) was a mid-yellow brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk and small sub-angular stones. No finds were recovered.

Post-hole F1077 was located towards the centre of the trench and was sub-circular in shape (length 0.50m; 0.40m; depth 0.08m). The sides sloped at c. 40° from horizontal, and the base was flat. The fill (L1078) was a compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered.

F1079 was a ditch located in the south-eastern half of the trench, aligned east/west and cut by F1081 (length >3m; width 0.60m; depth 0.45m). The concave sides variably sloped between 45°-90°, breaking to an undulating base. F1079 was probably a continuation of ditch F1083 (Trench 20). The fill (L1080) was a dark orange brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered.

F1081 was a ditch or gully located in the south-eastern half of the trench, aligned north/south, cutting ditch F1079 (length >2.50m; width 1.60m; depth 0.20m). The concave sides were gentle (30°), giving way to a flat base. The fill (L1082) was a light yellow brown compact silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.

5.20 Trench 20 (0.00 = 101.65m AOD):

0.00m – 0.12m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.12m – 0.36m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.36m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Three gullies and one ditch were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 7).

Gully F1083 was located in the western half of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >6.50m; width 0.53m; depth 0.31m). The sides sloped steeply at 60° - 70°, giving way to a rounded base. It was cut by gullies F1085 and F1091 and was probably the continuation of gully F1079 (Trench 19). The fill (L1084) was a mid-brown compact silty clay. No finds were present.

Gully F1085 extended the length of the trench, and was aligned east/west (length >29m+; width 0.65m; depth 0.10m). Its gently sloping sides levelled off onto a flat base. The feature probably continued into Trench 21 (F1087). The fill (L1086) was a mid-grey brown compact silty clay. No finds were present.

Gully F1091 was curvilinear in shape, located in the middle of the trench, and aligned north-east/south-west (length >3.60m; width 0.64m; depth 0.47m). The sides were concave, sloping at 45° to a rounded base. The feature cut gully F1083 and was cut by gully F1085 and appeared to have been disturbed by rooting on the north-eastern edge. The fill (L1092) was a mid-brown compact silty clay. The finds comprise pottery sherds of middle to late Iron Age date (4g).

Ditch F1093 was located in the eastern half of the trench, aligned north/south and was cut by gully F1085 (length >1.40m; width 1.10m; 0.70m). The very slightly concave sides were steep at 75° and U-shaped in the section giving it a slightly concave base. It contained two fills. An upper fill (L1094) was a mid greyish brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, and occasional to moderate amounts of angular and sub-angular flints (depth 0.40m). Finds comprised pottery sherds of early/middle Iron Age date (76g), daub (38g), slag (6g) and poorly-preserved animal bone (58g). The lower fill (L1095) was a yellow-brown silty clay with a moderate amount of chalk flecks, and occasional to moderate amounts of angular and sub-angular flint and stones (depth 0.25m). A single fragment of red tile was recovered from the deposit.

5.21 Trench 21 (0.00 = 102.00m AOD):

0.00m – 0.15m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.15m – 0.34m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.34m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: One ditch and one gully were present, both sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 8).

Gully F1087 was located in the north-western half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >7m; width 0.50m; depth 0.04m). The concave and shallow sides gave way to a flat base. The feature probably continued into Trench 20 (F1085). The fill (L1088) was a mid-grey brown compact silty clay. No finds were present.

Ditch F1089 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned east/west (length >3.50m; width 0.70m; depth 0.44m). The concave and steeply sloping sides (65°) broke to an irregular base. The fill (L1090) was a mid-orange brown compact silty clay with traces of chalk. No finds were present.

5.22 Trench 22 (0.00 = 102.50m AOD):

0.00m – 0.09m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.09m – 0.45m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.45m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Four gullies, one ditch and one post-hole were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 8).

Gully F1096 was located near the south-western end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2m; width 0.90m; depth 0.30m). The sides were regular and slightly concave with a shallow 35° - 45° slope giving way to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1097) was a mid-orange/brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and small angular and sub-

angular flints and stones. Finds from the deposit comprise pottery sherds of middle Iron Age date only (1g).

Gully F1098 was located in the south-western half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.10m; width 0.65m; depth 0.25m). The regular and slightly concave sides exhibited a gentle 45° slope that gave way to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1099) was a light-mid orange/brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and small angular and sub-angular flints and stones. No finds were present.

Gully terminal F1100 was located in the centre of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length 1.05m; width 0.55m; depth 0.11m). The slightly concave sides and 35° - 45° slope give way to a concave base. The fill (L1101) was a mid-orange/brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and occasional to moderate small angular and sub-angular flints and stones. No finds were present.

Gully F1102 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned east/west (length 1.84m; width 0.54m; depth 0.15m). The sides were straight with a slope of 60° and broke sharply to an undulating base. F1102 truncated post-hole F1106. The fill (L1103) was a mid-dark brown/orange compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were present

Ditch F1104 was located at the north-eastern end of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2.56m; width 1.41m; depth 0.55m). The sides were concave in shape and sloped around 40° - 45° from horizontal, giving way to a rounded base. The fill (L1105) was a mid-orange brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk stones. No finds were present.

Post-hole F1106 was located in the centre of the trench, truncating gully F1102 (dia 0.30m; depth 0.14m). It was circular in shape, with regular concave sides on a 50° slope, the post-hole giving way to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1107) was very similar to L1103.

5.23 Trench 23 (0.00 = 102.60m AOD):

0.00m – 0.25m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.25m – 0.47m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.47m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: One gully was present, sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 8).

F1108 was located in the northern end of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2.27m; width 0.67m; depth 0.38m). The irregular sides bowed into the natural on the north north-west side at a varying angle between 40° - 85° giving way to a rounded base. This may represent a natural feature, or potentially a hedge line. The fill (L1109) was a mid-red brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered.

5.24 Trench 24 (0.00 = 101.75m AOD):

0.00m – 0.15m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.15m – 0.35m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.35m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Three ditches, one gully and a pit were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 9).

Ditch F1110 was located at the south-eastern end of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2.10m; width 1.10m; depth 0.95m). The concave sides sloped at a near vertical 80° breaking to a regular narrow base. This feature may represent an ‘ice-wedge’. The fill (L1111) was a mid-orange brown mouldable silty clay with occasional flecks of chalk.

Pit F1128 was located in the south-eastern half of the trench, semi-oval in shape and aligned north-west/south-east (length >3.25m; width >0.75m; depth 0.46m). The concave shape sloped at 45° to a rounded base. F1128 cut ditch F1132. The fill (L1129) was a dark browney black mouldable silty clay with occasional charcoal deposits. Finds from the deposit comprised middle Iron Age pottery sherds (48g), animal bone (7g) and a possible quern stone fragment (39g).

Ditch F1130 was located across the trench, aligned east/west (length 13.5m; width 0.95m; depth 0.65m). The concave sides were steep at 60° gently breaking onto a flat base. F1130 cut ditch F1132. The fill (L1131) was a mid-yellow brown silty clay with occasional chalk deposits. The finds comprised pottery sherds of late Bronze Age to early/middle Iron Age date (54g), animal bone (18g) and building materials (daub 53g, fired clay 9g).

Ditch F1132 was located in the south-eastern half of the trench, aligned north/south (length >2.75m; width 0.65m; depth 0.34m). The concave sides sloped at 55° to a narrow base. F1132 was cut by pit F1128 and ditch F1130. The fill (L1133) was a mid-orange brown mouldable silty clay. The finds comprised tile fragments only (25g).

Gully F1144 was located in the western half of the trench, aligned west/east (length >19m; width 0.80m; depth 0.10m). The concave sides were shallow (at 20° from horizontal), giving way to a flat base. F1144 is likely to be part of the same feature as F1159 (Trench 33). The fill (L1145) was a light grey brown mouldable silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles.

5.25 Trench 25 (0.00 = 102.05m AOD):

0.00m – 0.20m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.20m – 0.50m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.50m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Three gullies and two possible ditches were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 9).

Gully F1134 was located in the south-eastern side of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.40m; width 0.71m; depth 0.18m). The concave sides sloped at 50° gave way to a rounded and slightly undulating base. F1134 was similar to and ran parallel with gullies F1138 and F1140. The fill (L1135) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. The finds comprised pottery of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date (4g).

F1136 was located in the south-eastern side of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2m; width 0.95m; depth 0.61m). The sides were steep and concave on the north side, but convex and undercutting on the south side. The feature may be of natural origin, perhaps representing an ice-wedge, based on the irregular sides and sterile fill. The latter (L1137) was a mid-orange brown silty clay.

Gully F1138 was located near the middle of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.2m; width 0.50m; depth 0.15m). The concave sides were regular and sloped between 45° - 55° that gave way to a slightly concave base. F1138 was similar to and ran parallel with F1134 and F1140. The fill (L1139) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks.

Gully F1140 was located in the north-western side of the trench, aligned east/west (length >2.7m; width 0.45m; depth 0.11m). The sides were a regular, concave shape with a slope of 45° - 55° that gave way to a slightly concave base. F1140 was similar to and ran parallel with F1134 and F1138. The fill (L1141) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks.

F1142 was located in the north-western end of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2m; width 1.2m; depth 0.55m). The sides were irregular, the north side was convex at the top changing to slightly concave, on the south side it is near vertical at the top to a convex undercutting lower down. This is probably also a natural 'ice-wedge'. The fill (L1143) was a mid-orange brown firm silty clay.

5.26 Trench 26 (0.00 = 101.62m AOD):

0.00m – 0.12m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.12m – 0.42m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.42m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: One gully and a possible ditch were present, both sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 9).

F1148 was located at the eastern end of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >2m; width 0.55m; depth 0.52m). The irregular shape of this slightly concave cut was on a slope of 80° - 85° and was undercut of the south-western side. This broke with a narrow concave base. F1148 was likely a natural feature. The fill (L1149) was a mid-orange brown firm silty clay.

Gully F1150 was located near the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length 1.85m; width 0.42m; depth 0.22m). The concave but regular shape had a sharp break from the surface that shallows off near the base. F1150 was a continuation of gully F1124 (Trench 29). The fill (L1151) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional to moderate chalk flecks. No finds were made.

5.27 Trench 27 (0.00 = 100.90m AOD):

0.00m – 0.08m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.08m – 0.48m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.48m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: One ditch, one gully and a pit/post-hole were present, all were sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 10).

Ditch F1152 was located in the south-eastern half of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >10m; width >1.00m; depth 0.35m). The concave sides sloped at 45° to a flat but irregular base. F1152 cut pit F1173 and curved at one end. The fill (L1153) was a mid-orange brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

F1154 was located in the south-eastern half of the trench, partially overlain by the baulk (length 0.50m; width >0.44m; depth 0.08m). It was concave in shape with a shallow slope of 25° with a rounded base. The fill (L1155) was a mid-grey orange clayey silt.

Gully F1156 was located in the north-western end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >8m; width 0.70m; depth 0.04m). The sides were concave in shape with a shallow slope of 15° giving way to a flat base. F1156 was also visible as F1158 (Trench 28). The fill (L1157) was a dark-grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Pit F1173 was adjacent to F1152 in the south-eastern half of the trench (length 1.00m ±; width 1.00m ±; depth 0.20m). The concave shape of the pit had a 45° slope leading to a flat base. It was cut by gully F1152. The fill (L1174) was a dark orange black mouldable silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The finds comprised pottery of mid-late 1st century AD date (13g) and an iron nail or hook (5g).

5.28 Trench 28 (0.00 = 101.18m AOD):

0.00m – 0.13m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.13m – 0.47m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.47m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two gullies and a ditch were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 10).

Gully F1126 was located in the north-eastern end of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2.30m; width 0.88m; depth 0.15m). The concave sides had a slope of about 45° breaking to a flat base. The fill (L1127) was a light orange brown mouldable silty clay with occasional chalk flecks.

Ditch F1146 was located in the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length 2m; width 0.78m; depth 0.56m). The concave shape of the cut had a steep 60° slope breaking to a narrow base. The fill (L1147) was a mid-grey orange mouldable silty clay with occasional traces of chalk. No finds were made.

Gully F1158 was located in the middle of the trench, aligned east/west (length >3m; width 0.80m). It was not excavated as it was deemed to be part of the same feature as F1156 (sampled in Trench 27).

5.29 Trench 29 (0.00 = 101.66m AOD):

0.00m – 0.19m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.19m – 0.45m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.45m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Five gullies and two ditches were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 10).

Ditch F1112 was located in the western side of the trench and was cut by F1114, aligned north/south (length >1.81m; width 0.85m; depth 0.15m). The concave sides sloped at 45°, giving way to a mostly flat base. F1112 ran parallel to gullies F1116 and F1118. The fill (L1113) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

Gully F1114 was located in the western half of the trench and ran into the western side, aligned east/west with a right angle curve turning north/south (length >11.10m; width 0.56m; depth 0.20m). The straight edges varied in their slope between 35° - 70°, breaking to a rounded base. F1114 cut ditch F1112. The fill (L1115) was a light to mid-brown compact silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Gully F1116 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned north/south (length >1.82m; width 0.99m; depth 0.28m). The slightly concave sides with a 35° slope, giving way to a rounded base. F1116 cut gully F1118 which was parallel and was also parallel to ditch F1112. The fill (L1117) was a light to mid-brown compact silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and flint pebbles.

Gully F1118 was adjacent to and cut by F1116 and was on the same alignment of north/south (length >1.82m; width 1.30m; depth 0.33m). The sides were slightly stepped, generally sloping at 45°. The fill (L1119) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and flint pebbles. The finds comprised pottery sherds of the mid-late 1st century AD (9g).

Gully F1120 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length 2.18m; width 0.50m; depth 0.22m). The concave sides had a 50° slope that gave way to a rounded base. F1120 was similar to and parallel with F1124. The fill (L1121) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with moderate chalk flecks. No finds were recovered.

Ditch F1122 was located in the western half of the trench, aligned north/south (length >2m; width 1.20m; depth 0.97m). The sides sloped more shallowly with depth, from very steep to slightly to 45° near the concave base. This feature was cut by a modern drain. The fill (L1123) was a mid-orange/brown silty clay.

Gully F1124 was located towards the western edge of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2.02m; width 0.57m; depth 0.16m). The 40° sides gave way to a rounded base. F1124 was similar to and parallel to F1120, it is likely to have continued as F1150 (in

Trench 26). The fill (L1125) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks.

5.30 Trench 30 (0.00 = 101.95m AOD):

0.00m – 0.14m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.14m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present in this trench. A patchy subsoil was present below the topsoil in the south eastern end.

5.31 Trench 31 (0.00 = 101.65m AOD):

0.00m – 0.15m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.15m – 0.48m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.48m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Six gullies and a ditch were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 11).

F1189 was located towards the north-western end of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >1.80m; width 0.80m; depth 0.10m). The sharp edges had a steep 60° slope with a flat base. The fill (L1190) was a light yellow brown friable sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered.

F1191 was located in the north-western half of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >1.80m; width 0.50m; depth 0.26m). The concave shape of the cut was at a 50° slope that gave way to a rounded base. The fill (L1192) was a mid-orange brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

F1193 was located towards the centre of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >1.80m; width 0.82m; depth 0.14m). The shallow concave sides had a slope of 35° that levelled off to an undulating base. The fill (L1194) was a mid-orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were recovered.

F1195 was located in the south-eastern half of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >1.80m; width 0.60m; depth 0.10m). The shallow concave shape of the cut had a 30° slope that levelled off to an undulating base. The fill (L1196) was a mid-yellow brown sandy clay.

F1197 was located towards the south-eastern edge of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >1.80m; width 0.85m; depth 0.14m). The concave sides exhibited a shallow 25° slope with a rounded base. The fill (L1198) was a dark grey brown clay with sparse coarse components. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Adjacent to F1197 was F1199, aligned north-east/south-west (length >2m; width 1.20m; depth 0.40m). The wedge shaped slope varied from 30° on the north-western side to 80° on the south-eastern side. This feature may feasibly also represent a natural 'ice wedge'. The fill (L1200) was a mid-blue grey brown clay. No finds were made.

Ditch F1201 was located towards the north-western side of the trench, aligned north-east/south-west (length >1.80m; width 2.40m; depth 0.55m). The sides were convex at the top but turned concave in the middle with a varying slope of 25° - 45°, giving way to an irregular base. The fill (L1202) was a mid-grey orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk nodules and flecks. No finds were made.

5.32 Trench 32 (0.00 = 102.40m AOD):

0.00m – 0.17m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.17m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two modern field drains and a layer of redeposited natural clay were present (Fig.11). No archaeological features or finds were identified.

5.33 Trench 33 (0.00 = 101.55m AOD):

0.00m – 0.12m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.12m – 0.44m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.44m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Seven gullies were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 11).

F1159 was located in the southern end of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m width 0.54m; depth 0.13m). The concave shape was on a slope of 45° - 50° gave way to a flat base. F1159 was the same as F1144 (Trench 24) and it cut gully F1161. It was parallel with and is similar to F1165, F1167, F1169 and F1171. The fill (L1160) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with moderate small chalk stones. The finds comprise middle Iron Age pottery sherds (<1g) and 1 flake of struck flint (3g).

F1161 was traced for 11m+, aligned roughly north north-east/south south-west (width 0.34m; depth 0.15m). This curvilinear gully had a concave cut with a slope of 65° breaking to a rounded base. F1161 was cut by F1159, F1163 and F1165. The fill (L1162) was a mid-brown compact silty clay. No finds were made.

F1163 was located in the southern half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 0.86m; depth 0.40m). The concave sides had a steep slope of 70° that broke to a flat base. F1163 was similar to and was parallel with gullies F1159, F1167, F1169 and F1171. It also cut F1162. The fill (L1164) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. The finds comprised one flake of struck flint (5g) only.

F1165 was located towards in the centre of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 0.63m; depth 0.33m). The concave sides had a steep 75° - 60° slope that broke onto a rounded base. It cut gully F1161. The fill (L1166) was a mid-dark brown compact silty clay with occasional flint and chalk pebbles.

F1167 was located in the northern half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; 0.70m; depth 0.44m). The concave shape had a steep slope of 85° - 70° with a mainly rounded base. F1167 was similar to and ran parallel with gullies F1159, F1163, F1169 and F1171. The fill (L1168) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk nodules.

F1169 was located in the northern half of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 1.07m; depth 0.47m). The straight sides sloped at 55°, giving way to a rounded base. F1169 was similar to and ran parallel with gullies F1159, F1163, F1167 and F1171. The fill (L1170) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk stones. The finds comprised early Roman pottery sherds (3g).

F1171 was located near the northern edge of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.82m; width 0.95m; depth 0.40m). The slightly concave sides had a sharp slope of 65° that gave way to a flat base. F1171 was similar to and ran parallel with gullies F1159, F1163, F1167 and F1169. The fill (L1172) was a mid-brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were made.

5.34 Trench 34 (0.00 = 102.50m AOD):

0.00m – 0.23m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.23m – 0.44m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.44m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Two postholes were present, both sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 12).

F1203 was located just in the north-eastern half of the trench (dia 0.50m; depth 0.05m). It was circular in shape and had concave sides with a 45° slope and a flat base. The fill (L1204) was a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk. No finds were made.

F1205 was located just in the south-western half of the trench (length 0.45m; width 0.45m; depth 0.08m). It was a circular in shape and had concave sides with an 80° slope that broke onto a flat surface. The fill (L1206) was a dark black brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and nodules.

5.35 Trench 35

Description: Trench located in area of contamination and was therefore not excavated (by agreement with the client and HAMP).

5.36 Trench 36 (0.00 = 102.30m AOD):

0.00m – 0.15m	L1000	<i>As above</i>
0.15m – 0.50m	L1001	<i>As above</i>
0.50m+	L1002	<i>As above</i>

Description: Three ditches and three gullies were present, all sealed by the subsoil (Fig. 12).

Ditch F1175 was located at the north-eastern end of the trench, aligned north-west (length >1.90m; width 0.70m; depth 0.18m). The concave sides had a steady 45° slope that gave way to a flat base. The fill (L1176) was a mid-brown orange silty clay with chalk. No finds were made.

Ditch F1177 was located in the north-eastern half of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >1.90m; width 1.50m; depth 0.13m). The concave sides had a shallow 20° - 45°

slope that gave way to a flat base. The fill (L1178) was a mid-orange brown silty clay with occasional chalk nodules. No finds were made.

Gully F1179 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >1.00m; width 0.60m; depth 0.10m). The concave sides had a shallow slope of 30° that gave way to a flat base. This linear gully terminated in the centre of the trench. The fill (L1180) was a mid-orange brown friable silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were made.

Gully F1181 was located towards the middle of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >2.10m; width 0.85m; depth 0.16m). The irregular concave sides varied between 30° - 45° giving way to a narrow base. The fill (L1182) was a mid-grey brown silty clay with moderate chalk nodules and flecks. No finds were made.

Ditch F1183 was located near the middle of the trench aligned north-west/south-east (length >2.30m; width 1.30m; depth 0.45m). The concave sides had a regular 45° slope that gave way to a flat base. It was adjacent to another similar linear feature (F1185). The fill (L1184) was a mid-blue greyey brown clay. No finds were made.

Ditch F1185 was attached to F1183, aligned north-west/south-east (length >2.20m; width 1.30m; depth 0.50m). The convex cut had a slope of 45° that broke onto a narrow base. The fill (F1186) was a mid-blue greyey brown compact clay with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill (L1186) was so similar to L1184 that it was impossible to distinguish which feature was being cut by the other.

Gully F1187 was located towards the south-western end of the trench, aligned north-west/south-east (length >2m; width 0.80m; depth 0.14m). The sides were shallow at 30°, giving way to a flat base. The fill (L1188) was a light yellow brown mouldable silty clay with occasional chalk flecks/nodules. No finds were made.

5.37 Trench 37

Description: The trench was located in area of contamination and was therefore not excavated.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Shallow topsoil and a patchy subsoil overlay the natural clay drift geology. Some hydrocarbon ground contamination in the north-eastern part of the site was recorded.

7.2 Areas of previous ground disturbance were identified in the north-eastern section of the site, by the road entrance to the A120.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation revealed evidence of land use in the prehistoric and early Roman periods (principally in the form of enclosure ditches/gullies). These features extend across much of the site. Ground contamination was limited to the front part of the site, where the former Barker's Tanks site was present.

8.2 Ceramic evidence from the site dates the earliest presence to the late Bronze Age, and continues to the early Roman period, which has otherwise been under-represented in and around Takeley. The possible field systems and boundaries as found in this evaluation will aid understanding of activity in this part of Essex in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Their layout and the presence of a possible quern stone fragment suggests agricultural use of the landscape. This may be associated with the possible reorganisation of the landscape into larger farming units in the late Iron Age. No definite structural evidence was encountered during the evaluation.

8.3 Generally poor preservation of faunal remains was encountered in the heavily clay-filled features, and much of the ceramic assemblage was abraded. The provenance of much of this material (from open features such as ditches) also suggests that much may be residual.

8.4 As stated in the research design, further analysis of the development of the agrarian economy is important. Increasing agricultural production in prehistory was the most important economic growth factor for the region, therefore analysis of field boundaries, trackways, enclosures and drove routes is a regional research priority.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HAT would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Richard Havis of ECC HAMP.

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BARKERS TANK, TAKELEY Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building material	Animal Bone	Struck Flint	Other
1011	1012	7		Ditch fill	Mid-late 1 st C AD	23g				
1013	1014	3		Gully fill	LBA-MIA	2g				
1017	1018	3	A	Gully fill	Mid-late Iron Age	<1g				
"	"	3	B	Gully fill	Early Roman	5g				Fe Nail, 4g
1019	1020	4		Gully fill	LIA-early Roman	<1g				
1021	1022	4		Gully fill	Mid-late 1 st C AD	6g			1 Flake, 3g	
1033	1034	10		Gully fill	c. MIA	2g				
1039	1040	6		Gully fill	LBA-MIA	4g				
1041	1042	6		Gully fill					1 Flake, 2g	
1043	1044	12		Ditch fill	MIA-LIA	35g				
1045	1046	12		Gully fill	LIA-early Roman	2g				
1049	1050	17		Gully fill			Fired Clay, 3g			
1053	1054	17		Gully fill	LBA-EIA	1g				
1061	1062	17		Gully fill	LIA-early Roman	1g				
1073	1074	16		Ditch fill				22g		
1091	1092	20		Gully fill	MIA-LIA	4g				
1093	1094	20		Upper Ditch fill	EIA-MIA	76g	Daub, 38g	58g		Slag, 6g
1093	1095	20		Lower Ditch fill			<1g			
1096	1097	22		Gully fill	c. MIA	1g				
1118	1119	29		Gully fill	Mid-late 1 st C AD	9g				
1128	1129	24		Pit fill	c. MIA	48g		7g		?Quern fragment, 39g
1130	1131	24		Ditch fill	LBA-EIA/MIA	54g	Daub, 53g Fired Clay, 9g	18g		
1132	1133	24		Ditch fill			Tile, 25g			
1134	1135	25		Gully fill	LBA-EIA	4g				
1159	1160	33		Gully fill	c. MIA	<1g			1 Flake, 3g	

Feature	Context	Trench	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building material	Animal Bone	Struck Flint	Other
1163	1164	33		Gully fill					1 Flake, 5g	
1169	1170	33		Gully fill	Early Roman	3g				
1173	1174	27		Pit fill	Mid-late 1 st C AD	13g				Fe Nail/hook, 5g

Animal Bones

By Rhodri Gardner

Introduction

Only four contexts produced animal bone during the evaluation at Takeley. A tiny assemblage weighing 105g and amounting to just 40 fragments was recovered. Of these, only 8 fragments could be identified to species. Given the small amount of bone recovered the material is described context-by-context.

Results

(1074)

Four fragments. Modal fragment size of 25-50mm though otherwise poorly preserved. Only one was identifiable to species. This was a fragment of sheep/goat proximal radius. The state of epiphyseal fusion was unclear and no measurements were possible due to poor preservation.

(1094)

A total of 24 fragments, six of which could be identified. This material was reasonably well preserved and had a modal fragment size 25-50mm. Of the six identified fragments five belonged to sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) and one to cattle (*Bos taurus*). The identified bones are:

- Fragment of sheep/goat distal metacarpal, unfused epiphysis: therefore from an animal aged less than 18-24 months (Silver 1969) at death.
- Sheep/goat first molar. Tooth wear score (Grant 1982) [e]. Without any complete mandibles with which to compare no further attempt has been made to assign a possible age.
- Sheep/goat second mandibular molar. Tooth wear score [a]. No attempt to attribute age has been made (see above).
- Fragment of sheep/goat distal tibia. Fusion status could not be determined due to post-mortem damage.
- Fragment of sheep/goat proximal femur epiphysis. Unfused: therefore from an animal less than 2½-3 years at death.
- Cattle first molar. Tooth wear score [g]. No attempt to attribute age has been made (see above).

(1129)

Five fragments of unidentifiable medium/large mammal bone. Heavily fragmented (modal fragment size of 12.5-25mm) and poorly preserved.

(1131)

A total of seven fragments with a modal size of 25-50mm and generally poorly preserved. Only one fragment could be identified. This was a fragment of the proximal end of a sheep/goat radius. The epiphysis was fused, indicating that the animal had been aged at least 10 months at the time of death. This was sufficiently well preserved to enable measurement of two characteristics: Bp (greatest proximal width, including muscle

attachments), which had a value of 29.9mm and Bfp (greatest width of the proximal articular surface), with a value of 27.7. The modern reference population of Davis (1996) has values of 30mm and 26.9mm respectively. The specimen from Takeley is almost indistinguishable in this respect from a modern Shetland Ewe.

Discussion

This is a very small and poorly preserved assemblage and consequently only tentative conclusions can be suggested. Sheep were potentially the main animal exploited though cattle were also present in smaller numbers. The limited data available suggests that most of the sheep were killed before reaching their third year, but probably not as young lambs, probably being used first for their wool. In one aspect of forelimb morphology at least the sheep appear indistinguishable from modern Shetlands. Other than this nothing further can be said either about waste disposal patterns of animal husbandry techniques.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-328831

Project details

Project name	LAND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A120, TAKELEY, ESSEX (BARKERS TANKS SITE) TT
Short description of the project	During August / September 2002, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of the A120, Takeley, Essex. The site lies within an area of archaeological significance, adjacent to the line of Roman Stane Street and where multi-period archaeological sites have been recorded in advance of the expansion of Stansted Airport and along the line of the proposed A120 bypass to the north of the village. The evaluation revealed ditches and gullies of varying alignments. Despite a relatively low density of archaeological finds (and abrasion of the pottery sherds), the features suggest significant prehistoric and early Roman activity across the site, in the form of an agrarian economy. There was widespread previous ground disturbance of the north-eastern part of the site associated with the former use of the site for the manufacture/storage of oil tanks.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2002 End: 30-09-2002
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P1688 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TABT02 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHARDS Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY LAND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A120, TAKELEY, ESSEX (BARKERS TANKS SITE)

Postcode CM226TJ

Study area 3.77 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 5580 2120 51.867117789504 0.263130337494 51 52 01 N 000 15 47 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 101m Max: 103m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project brief originator n/a

Project design originator Jon Murray

Project director/manager Jon Murray

Project supervisor n/k

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title LAND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A120, TAKELEY, ESSEX (BARKERS TANKS SITE) AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Grant, J

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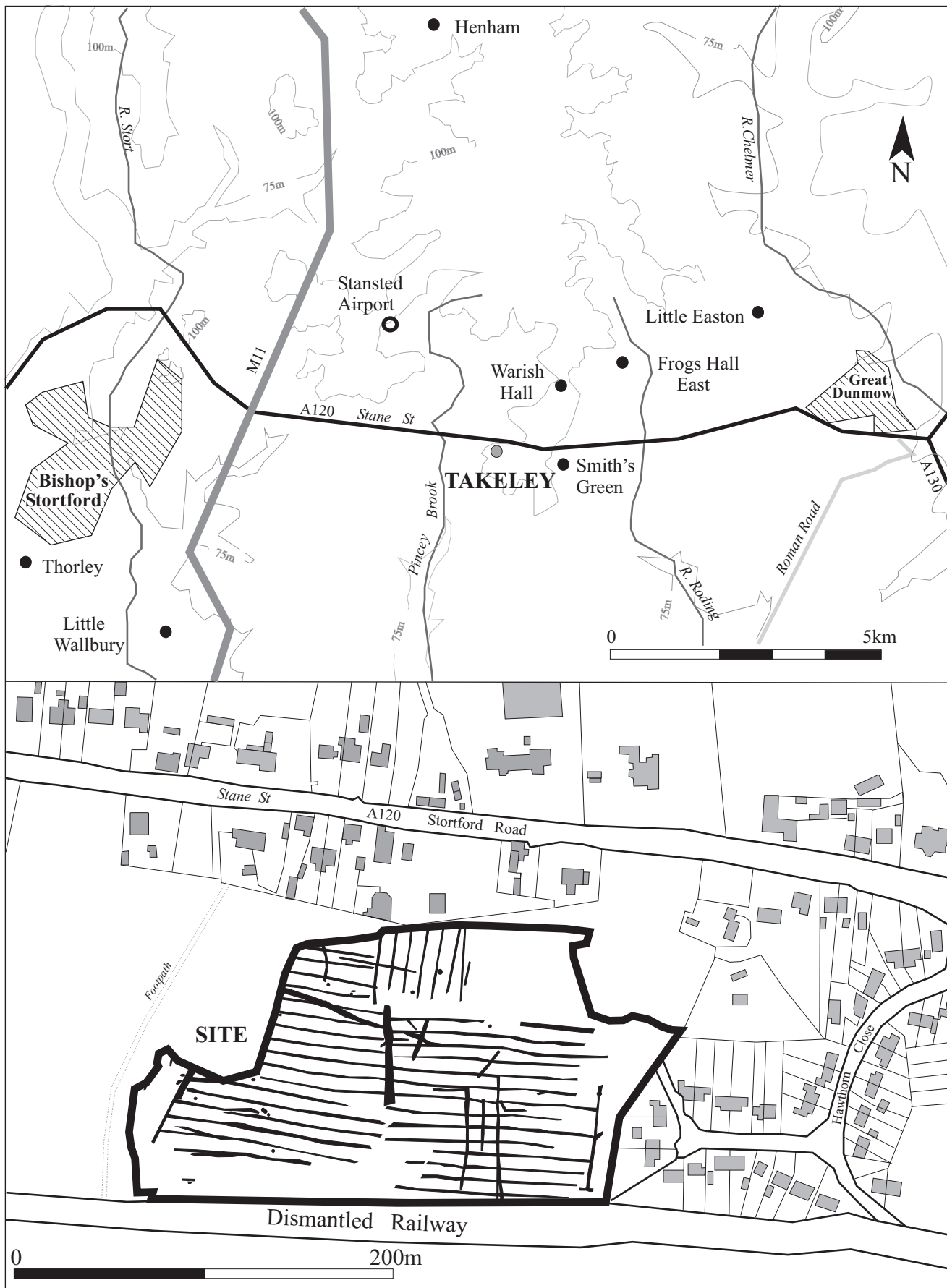


Fig. 1 Site Location

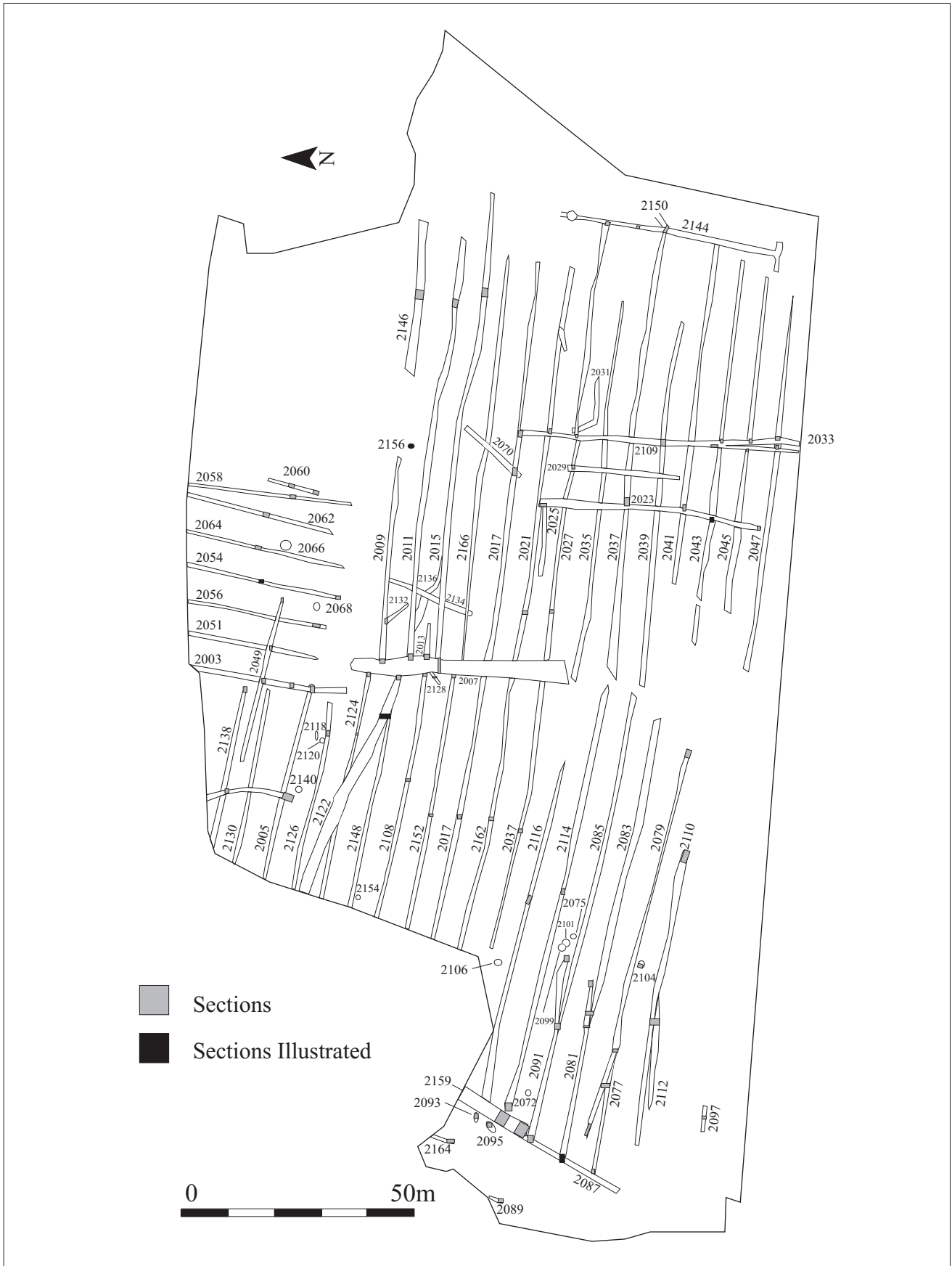


Fig. 2 Site Plan

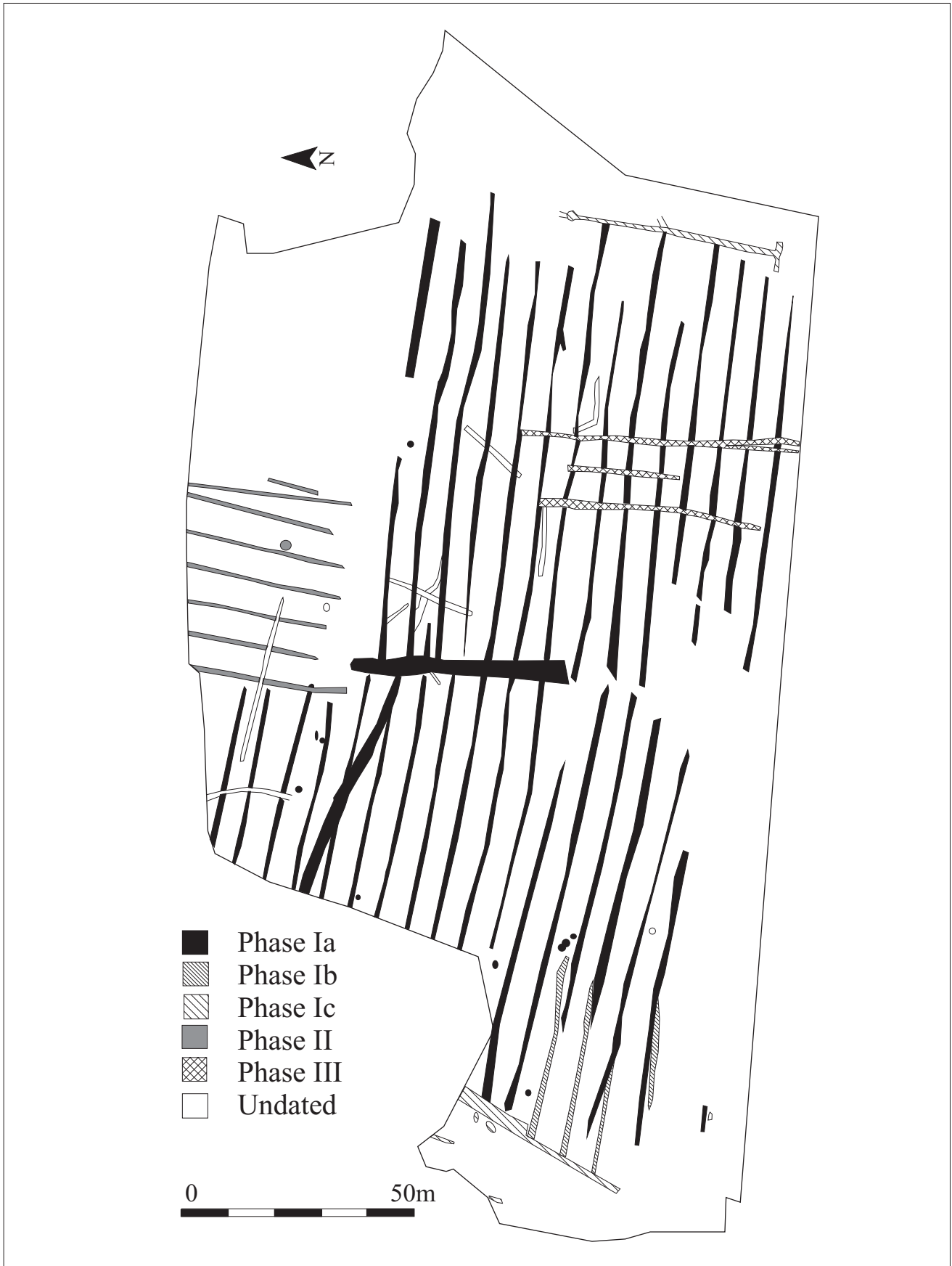
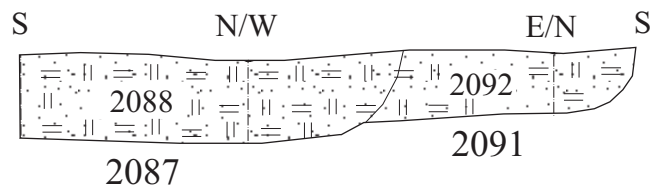
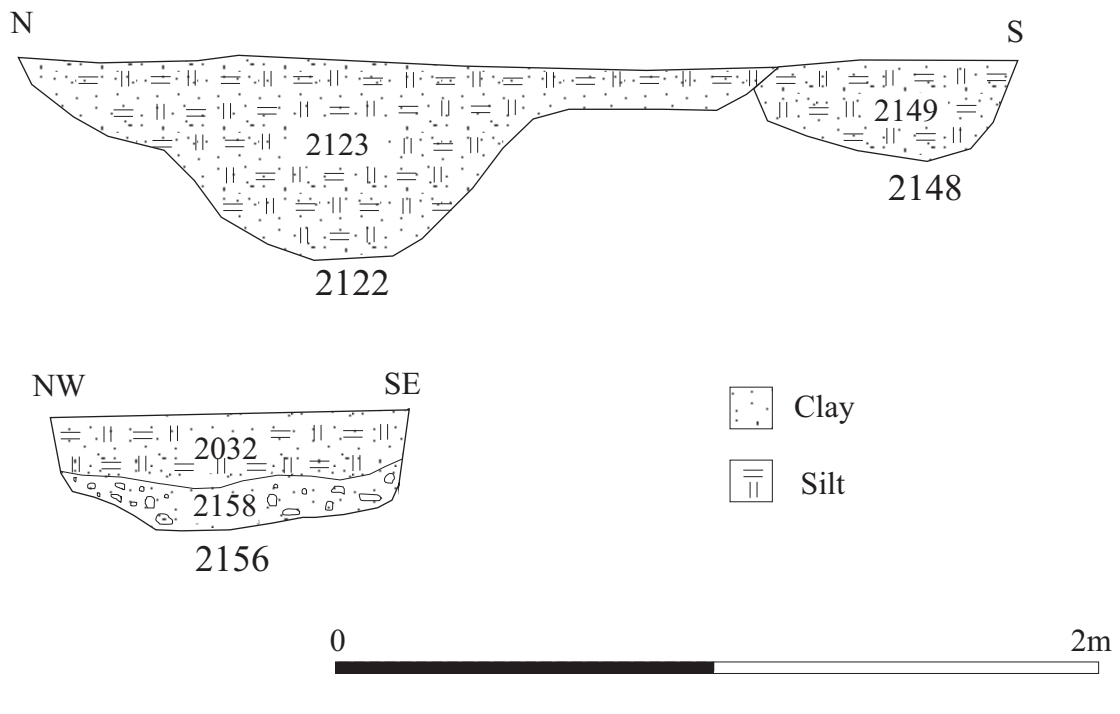
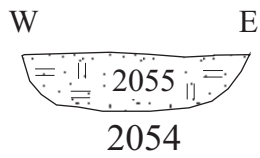


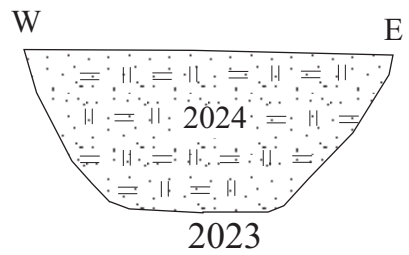
Fig. 3 Phase Plan



Ib/Ic



II



III

Fig. 4 Sections

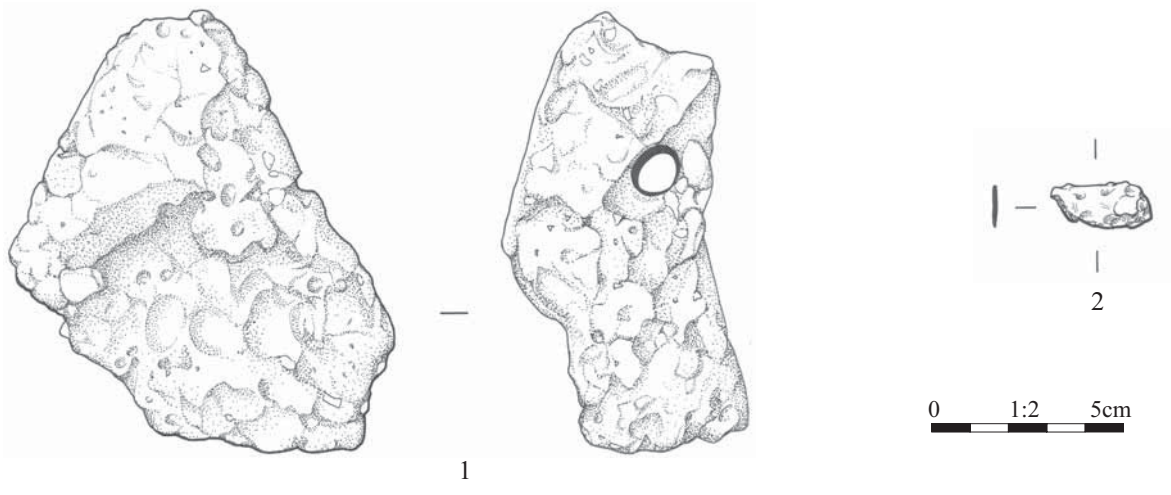


Fig. 5 Small finds (1:2)