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THE CHALET SITE, HALL ROAD, HEYBRIDGE, ESSEX

RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*The Chalet Site, Hall Road, Heybridge, Essex*		
Project description (250 words) *During October and November 2006, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation on land at The Chalet Site, Hall Road, Heybridge, Essex (NGR TL 8600 0740). The project was commissioned by Redrow Homes in response to a planning condition applied to the development of 124 homes. The excavation followed a trial trench evaluation (McConnell et al. 2006).* *The excavation revealed a multi-phase landscape with four main periods of activity. Phase 1 dated to the late Neolithic – early Bronze Age and consisted of two isolated pits containing Grooved Ware/ beaker pottery. Phase 2 comprised an Iron Age enclosure on the edge of the Blackwater Estuary, with contemporary features within its interior and to its exterior but with no clear definition as to the character of the activity that they represented though two urned cremations were present. Phase 3 activity is characterised by an Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery with urned and un-urned cremations and a single possible grave. Cremation burials were clustered around a striking zigzag of linear features linking circular and penannular enclosures, though this set of features were intercutting and not immediately contemporary with one another. The layout of these features may have been intended to respect the Iron Age enclosure and it seems possible that this site was chosen as cemetery location because of the presence of the earlier activity here. Phase 4 comprised a series of ditches and isolated pits representing post-medieval/early modern agricultural activity.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*17/10/2006 – 01/12/2006*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*N*
P. number	*P858*	Site code	*HYHR06*
Type of project	*Open Area Investigation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Prefabricated chalets*		
Planned development	*Residential development*		
Main features (+dates)	*Iron Age enclosure with two cremations, Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery with 69 cremations.*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Early Anglo-Saxon cremation vessels, Iron Age cremation vessels, Grooved Ware pottery sherds.*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Essex*	*Maldon*	*Heybridge*
HER/ SMR for area	*Essex*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*c. 0.28ha*		
NGR	*TL 8600 0740*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*2.93 – 2.66m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (ECC HEM)*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Andrew A. S. Newton*		
Funded by	*Redrow Homes*		
Full title	*The Chalet Site, Hall Road, Heybridge, Essex: Research Archive Report*		
Authors	*Newton, A. A. S.*		
Report no.	*3381*		
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RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT FOR EXCAVATION AT THE CHALET SITE, HALL ROAD, HEYBRIDGE, ESSEX

1 INTRODUCTION

This report comprises the research archive for the excavations undertaken at the Chalet Site, Hall Road, Heybridge, Essex (centred on NGR TL 8600 0740; Figs. 1 and 2) between October and November 2006. The project was commissioned by Redrow Homes Ltd in response to an Appeal Decision, which granted planning permission for the construction of 124 dwellings. Due to the fact that the area is known to boast extensive prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon archaeology, the local planning authority required a programme of archaeological works to be carried out prior to development. This report has been compiled in accordance with EH MAP 2, Section 7 and Appendix 6. It follows the interim site narrative (Pole 2007) and post excavation assessment and Updated Project Design (Lally 2008), and anticipates the publication report.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Geographical, geological and topographical setting

The Chalet Site lies within the settlement of Heybridge, which lies 1.5km north-east of Maldon, Essex; the two settlements are separated by the river Chelmer. Heybridge straddles a bend in the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation (Fig. 1). The Chelmer is tidal at this point, flowing into the Blackwater Estuary around Northey Island. Heybridge comprises areas of housing and industrial estates centred on St. Andrew's Church.

The site is situated immediately to the south of Heybridge, 0.75km from St. Andrew's Church. It encompasses 0.28ha, bounded to the north by Heybridge Hall, to the south-east by flooded gravel workings and to the west by the tidal marsh and Heybridge Creek off the river Chelmer. It is generally flat, sloping from 2.93m AOD in the north-east to 2.66m AOD in the south. Prior to development, the site comprised a chalet park. Each plot consisted of a rectangular timber chalet built on a dwarf brick wall over a concrete foundation slab. The site is accessed via the north-west corner, using a track, located to the west of Heybridge Hall, off Hall Road (Fig. 2).

Heybridge lies in an area of coarse and fine loamy permeable soils that are variously affected by groundwater, primarily overlying terrace gravels of the river Blackwater (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). The area was subject to extensive post-medieval and modern gravel extraction, which was quarried for both road and general construction purposes.

2.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

Excavations in 1972 at Crescent Road, approximately 1km north-west of Heybridge Hall, revealed residual struck flints and flakes from various industries, some Mesolithic, but generally Neolithic in date (HER 7791). Another area of this site yielded residual late Neolithic beaker and bowl potsherds and struck flints. These lithic artefacts included an oblique arrowhead and a fragment of an amphibolite hornblende-gneiss axehead (HER 7792). The nearest source for this type of stone is the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire. The evidence indicates that a small late Neolithic settlement existed here (Wickenden 1986, 61). Residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age material was also identified at Crescent Road (HER 7793 and it has been suggested that the excavation site revealed the edge of a Bronze Age site. The finds included perforated clay slabs, possibly used in salt production (Wickenden 1986).

In 1985, at Heybridge Basin, 1.2km east of the Chalet Site, a large number of features were revealed cut into the gravel surfaces (HER 8016). They represented an unenclosed settlement, displaying internal divisions, that was of late Bronze Age date (10^{th}-8^{th} century BC). A Neolithic pit with pottery and flint indicated earlier activity (HER 8017). This site is probably associated with the intensive late Bronze Age activity recorded from the head of the Blackwater Estuary, to the west (Priddy 1988).

Two concentrations of Bronze Age activity have also been discovered at Elms Farm (HER 174444), located *c.* 1.5km to the north-west of the Chalet Site. Excavation here identified a number of Bronze Age pits, which contained pottery and flint, and three disturbed cremations (Gilman 1994, 250; Gilman and Bennett 1995, 250). At Loft's Farm, Great Totham, (*c*. 2km to the north-east of the Chalet Site), a multi-period settlement site, including a late Bronze Age settlement enclosure, was exposed during gravel quarrying in the early 1980s (Priddy 1984/5, 128-9). In addition, a large number of undated cropmarks surround Heybridge Hall. These are known to include a rectilinear field system and occupation enclosure (HER7939), linear features and rectilinear enclosures (HER7971 and 7994), a linear trackway (HER7977), a curvilinear enclosure with ring ditches (HER7992) and field boundaries (HER16407, 16410 and 16411). It has, however, been suggested that the majority of the area around Heybridge was open pasture in the late Bronze Age and, therefore, these extensive cropmarks may date from a later period (Priddy 1988).

Early Iron Age activity, consisting of postholes and a small quantity of pottery, has been found off Crescent Road (HER 7794), demonstrating continued occupation of this site following on from the Bronze Age settlement activity that was noted here. By the late Iron Age, a settlement of considerable size had been established at this site. The settlement extended to the north-east, where a 1st century AD ditched enclosure with continental Roman pottery was observed at Boucherne Farm in 1983/4, and to the south under Elms Farm (Gilman 1994; Gilman & Bennett 1995). Considered in conjunction with the extensive finds recovered from Langford Junction to the south in the late 19^{th} century, it is clear that the inhabitants of the late Iron Age settlement were becoming

increasingly wealthy and were using imported Roman goods and pottery prior to the Roman conquest of AD 43 (HER 7803, 7804; Wickenden 1986, 57-9).

Other evidence for Iron Age activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the Chalet Site. The 1991 evaluation and 1997 excavation undertaken to the north of Heybridge Hall, *c.*100m north of the Chalet Site, uncovered evidence of an enclosed double-ditched late Iron Age settlement with wooden buildings and substantial quantities of unabraded pottery (HER9023). A rich late Iron Age Welwyn-type burial was discovered at some (unknown) point before 1873, at The Towers, *c.* 0.5km north of Heybridge Hall (HER7814). This burial included an early 1st century AD southern Italian amphora and a Campanian bronze patera and flagon.

Quarrying at Loft's Farm, Great Totham (2km to the north-east of the Chalet Site), revealed an early Iron Age burial within a barrow, and occupation evidence within a rectangular enclosure (Priddy 1984/5, 128-9). A hillfort is postulated to have existed off London Road, Maldon (on the site of the later Saxon burh, HER7718), although there is minimal archaeological evidence to support this at present (Wickenden 1986, 60). In addition to the above, it is possible that a number of local undated cropmarks may have originated during the Iron Age (Wickenden 1986, 62-3).

A Roman town is known to have existed at Heybridge between the mid-1st century and late 4th century AD. The settlement, which was partially uncovered during an excavation in 1972 (HER7795), was located 1.5km to the north-west of Heybridge Hall, south of Crescent Road. Further work has been undertaken more recently around Elms Farm (HER17445), Langford Road and Holloway Road (Gilman 1994; Gilman and Bennett 1995). These sites have revealed evidence for both settlement, and industrial activities dating to this period, including gravel extraction, iron, lead and copper working, salt production and transportation, weaving and fishing.

Roman discoveries have also been made adjacent to the Chalet Site. A brass coin of Domitian (AD 81-96) was discovered within the grounds north of Heybridge Hall (HER7997). Late Roman pottery sherds were found during the 1991 evaluation to the north of the Hall, and the subsequent 1997 excavation revealed extensive late Iron Age field systems and enclosures, which appear to have been maintained into the Roman period (HER18081).

There have been a small number of Anglo-Saxon finds discovered within the vicinity of the Chalet Site. A Saxon urn was found *c*. 0.5km north of Heybridge Hall, at some point prior to 1873 (HER7815). It was recorded with a collection of Bronze Age and late Iron Age material (HER7814-6). Another small urn was found in 1903, *c*. 500m north-west of the site (HER7830). Again, its original context is unknown. The 1972 excavations at Crescent Road uncovered the remains of five *Grübenhauser* and an above-ground building, located within the remains of the Romano-British small town. The site yielded extensive early Saxon pottery, including carinated bowls and globular jars, along with a clay spindlewhorl and a whetstone (HER7796).

Three more *Grübenhauser,* with associated pits and postholes, have been uncovered at Elms Farm, along with a substantial boundary ditch (HER17440; Gilman and Bennett 1995, 250). While this Saxon settlement is thought to have been short-lived (within the first half of the 5th century), three ditches of middle Saxon date were also revealed, indicating that Anglo-Saxon activity continued in the area (HER7797). In addition, a number of residual early/mid-late Saxon pottery sherds have been discovered within pits located close to the Chalet Site (HER18083).

Maldon was first mentioned by name in AD 913, when Edward the Elder stationed his army and fleet there during the re-conquest of the Danelaw. In 916, he ordered the construction of a *burh*, a planned town within a defensive enclosure, at Maldon. The *burh* is thought to have been located to the west end of the modern High Street, although little is known of its morphology (HER7718; NGR TL 849 070). The famous Battle of Maldon (HER7825) was fought immediately to the south of Maldon on 11th August 991. This was a disastrous defeat for King Aethelred at the hands of the Danes, after which he was forced to raise and submit £167,000 in Danegeld. The Battle of Maldon is notable for the fall of Byrhtnoth, ealdorman of Essex, and the actions of a small group of his thegns who deliberately sacrificed themselves in battle in order to avenge the death of their lord (Stenton 2001, 376-377).

During the medieval period, an informal settlement at Heybridge grew up alongside roads leading in and out of Maldon to the north-east of the town, and was centred on the parish church of St. Andrew (HER7827-9). The church was constructed during the early 12th century. Heybridge Hall (HER 9020/1), located immediately to the north-west of the Chalet Site, is known to have been built by the 14th century and was subject to adaptations in the 15th and 16th centuries. Excavations undertaken immediately to the north of Heybridge Hall have identified 12th-14th century timber buildings and pits, the latter of which contained coarse domestic pottery, brick, tile and bone. It is possible that this material represents earlier phases of manorial activity (HER18082).

Maldon continued to grow throughout the post-medieval period and the establishment of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation (HER40165-40199) and the railway would have further strengthened communication links for trade. Heybridge has expanded rapidly in the last two centuries, especially in relation to the construction of industrial zones to the south and residential zones to the north-east and west. Late post-medieval and early modern cartographic evidence indicates that the site was undeveloped, presumably agricultural land, until some time after the Second World War, when it was utilised as a chalet park. This appears to have involved little alteration, except for the construction of an access route, which ran to the west of Heybridge Hall and east of Heybridge Creek.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Work at the Chalet Site

Prior to the excavation that was conducted in October and November 2006, the Chalet Site was subject to an archaeological trial trench evaluation, conducted in August 2006 (McConnell *et al*. 2006).

The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of 25 trenches across the proposed development site. One trench revealed a density of archaeological features. Trench 24 contained eight pits or postholes, three ditches and two modern services. Five features contained pottery dated to 1000 – 200 BC. The features were considered to represent a small area of Bronze Age/Iron Age activity on the western side of the site, close to the eastern bank of Heybridge Creek. Undated features were also recorded in four other trenches.

3 SITE NARRATIVE

3.1 Overview (Figs. 3 & 4)

Phase	Date
1	Late Neolithic c.*3300BC to 2100BC*
2	Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age c. *1300BC to 400BC*
3	Early Anglo-Saxon c. *450-700AD*
4	Post-medieval to modern c. *1500AD to present*

Table 1: Phasing summary

Excavation revealed three hundred and seventy archaeological features (Fig. 3). These features included 71 cremations, 13 linear ditches, two ring-ditches, two enclosure ditches, one penannular ditch, and 280 pits and postholes. Based on artefactual evidence and stratigraphic and spatial relationships between features the archaeology was divided in to four broadly dated phases of activity (see Table 1; Fig. 4). One hundred and sixty seven features recorded at the site contained no dateable finds and had no revealing stratigraphic or spatial relationships; these features remain unphased.

3.2 Phase 1. Late Neolithic (Figs. 5 & 6)

The earliest dateable archaeological features recorded at the Chalet Site comprised three small pits. Pits F1062 (Grid Square C11) and F1694 (Grid Square C12) lay at a distance of *c*. 4m from one another, close to the terminus of Iron Age Ditch F1235. Pit F1877 (Grid Square G13) lay *c*. 23m to the east-north-east of these pits.

Pit F1062 measured 0.85m x 0.50m x 0.10m. It was ovoid in plan. In section, it displayed moderately sloping sides with a sharp break of slope at the top and a moderate break at the bowl-shaped base. Its fill, L1061, which was a mid greyish brown silty sand with rounded, sub-rounded and angular stones. Pit F1694 (0.64m x 0.52m x 0.19m) was sub-circular in plan. In section, its western side was straight and steeply sloping, while its eastern side was concave and more gently sloping. It cut undated Posthole F1692 and is,

therefore, clearly more recent than this feature. Its lower fill, L1695, was a soft, loose light orangey-brown silty sand while The upper fill, L1696, was a firm dark brown silty sand. Circular Pit F1877 (0.75m x 0.75m x 0.65m) displayed vertical sides and a flattish base. Like Pit F1694 it contained two fills; L1881, a quite compact dark brownish grey sandy silt and L1878, a fairly compact dark, slightly reddish, grey sandy silt.

All three of these pits contained Neolithic pottery (F1062- 184g; F1694- 31g; F1877- 1307g) and were located towards the northern end of the excavated area. It is possible that evidence of related or contemporary activity exists beyond the limits of excavation. Although all dated to the same phase, and despite the fairly close proximity of Pits F1062 and F1694 to one another, there is no evidence to suggest functional relationships between these features making it impossible to state if they were completely contemporary with one another.

3.3 Phase 2: Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age (Figs. 7, 8 & 9)

3.3.1 Introduction

Several features containing pottery of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date were recorded. They were assigned, along with features displaying stratigraphic or spatial relationships suggesting that they were contemporary, to Phase 2 of activity recorded at the Chalet Site. These features comprised a series of five ditches, a possible curvilinear ditch and twenty-eight pits and postholes. Amongst the pits assigned to Phase 2 were three that contained cremation burials.

3.3.2 The ditch system

The dominating aspect of Phase 2 was two pairs of ditches; F1195 and F1197, aligned west-south-west to east-north-east; and F1274=F1224=F1234 and F1273=F1235, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east.

Ditch F1197 (Grid Squares B3, B4, C5) measured 10.00+ x 1.00 (max) x 0.30m (max) and displayed moderately steeply sloping sides meeting at a narrow concave base. In plan it was seen to taper, being wider at is east-north-eastern end than towards its west-south-western extent. Its fill, L1198, was a dark reddish brown silty sand with moderate angular and sub-rounded pebble inclusions, which contained Iron Age pottery (47g) and burnt flint (12g).

Ditch F1195 (Grid Squares A2, B2, B3, C3, D3) lay *c*. 4m to the south of Ditch F1197 and ran parallel to it. F1195 was slightly wider and deeper (measuring 17.00+ x 1.50 x 0.60m) than F1197. It also displayed a slightly different profile in section to F1197; the feature displayed moderate sides and a broad, concave base. This may suggest that the two were not immediately contemporary with one another. F1195 contained a variety of

fills and different stratigraphic sequences were recorded in the excavated segments (see Table 2). Late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery recovered from these fills assisted in assigning Ditch F1195 to Phase 2.

Segment	Context	Fill	Finds
A	1185	Light grey-brown silty sandy gravel with small-medium pebbles	None
	1196	Light red-brown-grey sandy silt with occasional small pebble inclusions.	Pottery (42g)
	1186 = 1227	Dark grey-brown sandy silt with moderate pebbles and gravel	None
B	1331	Light yellow-grey silty sand; moderate small pebbles and gravel	None
	1332	Light grey-brown sandy silt; frequent small-medium pebbles and gravel.	Pottery (759g)
	1196	As above	Pottery (14g)

Table 2: The fills of Ditch F1195

Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 (Grid Squares E4, E5, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, C9, C10, C11, B12, B13, B14) was the western-most of the west-north-west to east-south-east aligned ditches. The portion of the feature that lay within the excavated area measured *c*. 51.50m in length. At its widest point, it measured 0.80m while its maximum depth was recorded at 0.49m. Its appearance in profile varied along its length, with the slope of its sides varying from steep to moderate, though its base, throughout, was concave. Despite the recovery of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (434g) from L1223 (the only fill of the part of this ditch assigned the context number F1224), the presence of Iron Age pottery in L1243 (264g), L1603 (11g) and L1846 (3g) (all fills of F1234), indicate that the feature was of this earlier date. It has been considered that this Anglo-Saxon pottery in F1224 represents a cremation urn deposited, perhaps deliberately, into the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch and destroyed through plough action making any cut associated with it indistinct from the ditch itself and spreading the parts of the vessel through the fill of the earlier feature. Like Ditch F1195, Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 contained a variety of fills and different stratigraphic sequences were recorded within the excavated segments of the feature (see Table 3).

Feature	Segment	Context	Fill
1234	A	1242	Dark orange/ light grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded pebbles and gravel
		1243	Light grey-orange-brown silty sand with moderate small stones
	B	1243	As above
	C	1242	As above
		1243	As above.
	D	1844	Dark brown/ light yellow silty sand with moderate gravel and occasional small pebbles
		1845	Dark blackish-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and occasional small pebbles
		1846	Light brown-grey silty sand with moderate angular gravel.
		1847	Dark red-brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded pebbles
		1243	As above
	E	1603	Light brown-grey silty sand with frequent small to medium pebbles.
1274	A	1292	Light yellow-orange-brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium pebbles and gravel
	B	1292	As above
	D	1483	Dark blackish-brown sandy silt with oderate stones and small gravel
1224	C	1223	Mid brown-grey silty sand with frequent medium-sized stones.

Table 3: The fills of Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234

Ditch F1235=F1273 (Grid Squares E5, E6, E7, D8, D9,D10, C11, C12) ran parallel to Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 lying at a distance of between 2.50 and 3.25m to the east of the latter. The southern terminus of Ditch F1235=F1273, in Grid Square E5, lay approximately parallel to that of Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. Ditch F1235=F1273, however, was far shorter, measuring *c*. 36.00m in length and did not run the full length of its neighbouring ditch, which extended beyond the limits of the excavated area. Ditch F1235=F1273 was slightly wider than Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234, measuring between 0.80 to 0.90m in width, though its depth was similar, varying between 0.27 and 0.50m. The various fills of Ditch F1235=F1273 (detailed in Table 4) yielded Iron Age pottery (703g).

Feature	Segment	Context	Fill
1235	A	1246	Light yellow-grey-brown silty sand with frequent small stones
		1241	Dark black-brown silty sand. Moderate small/medium stones and gravel
	B	1246	As above
		1241	As above
	C	1241	As above
	D	1900	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; frequent small/medium stones
1273	A	1290	Dark blackish-orange to dark brown sandy silt. Frequent pebbles and gravel
		1291	Mid orange to brown sandy silt with moderate angular gravel and small/medium pebbles.
	B	1290	As above
		1291	As above

Table 4: The fills of Ditch F1235=F1273

The locations of these ditches, in relation to one another, suggest that they formed part of a single system of land division or enclosure. However, the inner and outer ditches may not have been cut at exactly the same time, as the differences in profile between ditches F1195 and F1197 may be considered to suggest. It is possible that these four ditches represent portions of the southern and eastern boundaries of a double-ditched enclosure, the majority of which lay to the immediate west of the excavated area. If this suggestion is correct it may be seen that elongated Pit F1911 (Grid Squares E4, F4, E5, F5) formed part of the boundary. The positioning of this pit suggests that it may have been an extension of Ditch F1235=F1273.

Pit F1911 (4.60 x 1.05 x 0.30m) was located *c.* 0.30m to the south of Ditch F1235 and followed the same alignment. It was teardrop-shaped in plan, with straight edges, and it narrowed from a maximum width of 1.05m in the north to 0.60m in the south. It had moderately shallow sides and a flat base. It contained a fill (L1912) comprising mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent small to medium stone inclusions. It contained no finds but its spatial relationship with Ditch F1235 is considered sufficient evidence to suggest that it was a continuation of this ditch and therefore contemporary. It was cut by F1931

A double-ditched enclosure of late Bronze Age date, recorded at Lofts Farm in Great Totham, measured *c*. 42 x 48m, making it possibly similar in size to that recorded at the Chalet site (Brown u/d). The gap between the inner and outer ditches at the Lofts Farm site was slightly smaller but the dimensions of the ditches themselves, at 0.4-1.0m wide and 0.2-0.4m deep, are similar to those of the ditches of the Chalet Site enclosure. Within the enclosure at Lofts Farm a sub-circular structure, a rectangular structure, two four-post structures and various other features were recorded (Brown u/d). The majority of the interior of the Chalet Site enclosure lay outside of the excavated area, making it impossible to identify any similar structures. This comparison, however, does highlight the possibility that the Chalet Site enclosure may have witnessed domestic or residential occupation.

Certain inconsistencies may call in to question the possibility that these features represent a double ditched enclosure. For example, Ditch F1235=F1273 clearly did not run as far to the north as Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 indicating that for much of its length the eastern side of the enclosure was not double-ditched. Just as F1911 appeared to be a continuation of Ditch F1235=F1273, so elongated Pit F1931 (Grid Squares E4, F4) may be considered to be a continuation of Ditch F1195. F1931 appeared to follow the same alignment as F1195 and was only slightly wider than the ditch, which increased in width as it travelled from west-south-west to east-north-east. F1931 (3.60 x 1.80 x 0.30m) was a shallow sub-rectangular feature with moderately-sloping sides and a flat base. It contained fills similar to those recorded in the two excavated segments F1195 though the order of stratigraphic sequence varied slightly. F1931 was found to contain Iron Age pottery (1585g). If, as their alignments suggest, F1911 was contemporary with Ditch F1235=F1273 and F1931 was contemporary with Ditch F1195 then the two ditches cannot have been contemporary with one another as F1931 is clearly stratigraphically later than F1911. This would suggest that there was no double-ditched enclosure. However, the series of ditches may represent remodelling, or partial remodelling, of an enclosure defined by a single ditch.

The number of other Iron Age features (pits, postholes etc) recorded in the area to the north of Ditches F1195 and F1197 and to the west of Ditches F1235=F1273 and F1274=F1224=F1234 is approximately equal to the number recorded to the south and east of these ditches. Those features to the north and west of the ditches, however, were more densely concentrated than those to the south and east are. This concentration of activity may be considered to support the suggestion that the area to the north and west of the two sets of ditches was the interior of a deliberately demarcated plot of land. Alternatively, as the ditches extend beyond the limits of the excavated area and their courses are, therefore, impossible to trace it is conceivable that this apparent concentration of pits and postholes represents features clustered on the outer side of a division beyond which certain activity was prohibited or controlled in someway.

Whether or not these features formed an enclosure, their presence suggests at least some degree of division of land during the Iron Age. Literary sources draw attention to the ritual and symbolic importance of boundaries to various Iron Age societies in northern Europe (Hingley 1990, 100). Therefore, no matter the true function of these ditches, they may be considered to form an important, though not necessarily a major, part of the local Iron Age landscape.

3.3.3 The Phase 2 cremations

Three cremation deposits, C1256 (in Pit F1258; Grid Square C2), C1515 (in Pit F1514; Grid Square C7) and C1713 (in Pit F1711; Grid Square C12), dated to the Iron Age, were recorded at the site (see Tables 5a-c). None lay further than *c*. 6m from the possible Iron Age boundary ditches. All of these cremations appear to have been deposited within cremation urns but those associated with C1515 and C1713 appear to have been substantially destroyed, possibly through much later plough action. Only 38g and 3g of

pottery were found, respectively, with these two cremations. This contrasts starkly with the 707g of pottery that was present within F1258 (the pit within which C1256 was located) a large proportion of which was accounted for by the presence of the cremation vessel. Although all three of these cremations have been regarded as urned cremations throughout analysis of the site, these low quantities may suggest that the pottery recorded with Cremations C1515 and C1713 was not representative of cremation vessels but in fact represents pottery incorporated into the cremation deposits in some other way. While cremations of the Aylesford/Swarling tradition are often found with grave goods representing food and table ware (Taylor 2001, 68) it seems unlikely that Cremations C1515 and C1713 belong to this tradition as they lack any evidence for grave goods beyond the presence of these sherds of pottery. It is possible that pottery sherds became incorporated unintentionally in to the backfills of the features in to which these cremations were deposited.

Cremation (1256)	Cremated bone (102g[*]), charcoal (72g)
Cremation Cut (F1258)	Circular/ vertical sides, flat base (0.45 x 0.40 x 0.25m)
Vessel (1257)	707g[†]. Plain brown vessel, poorly-made. Slight damage to rim.
Backfill (L1255)	Dark grey-brown silty sand; frequent small-medium rounded stones.
Comments	Isolated Iron Age cremation to extreme south of site.

Table 5a: Cremation 1256

Cremation (1515)	Cremated bone (52g). Dark grey silty sand with brown mottling and occasional gravel.
Cremation Cut (F1514)	Circular/ moderately-steep sides, flat base (0.49 x 0.49 x 0.20m)
Vessel (unnumbered)	38g. Pottery found associated with cremated bone.
Backfill	No distinction recorded between cremation deposit and backfill
Comments	Possible truncated Iron Age cremation urn. Placed in pit within backfilled northern terminus of Ditch F1843, within double-ditched enclosure.

Table 5b: Cremation 1515

Cremation (1713)	Cremated bone (12g)
Cremation Cut (F1711)	Circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.25 x 0.24 x 0.18m)
Vessel (unnumbered)	3g. Pottery in association with cremated bone.
Backfill (L1712)	Grey-brown silty sand.
Comments	Destroyed cremation urn?

Table 5c: Cremation 1713

Analysis of the cremated bone from each of these cremation deposits (see Phillips, this report) has indicated that the individuals represented in Cremations C1256 and C1515 were adults. Beyond this, due in part to the nature of cremated bone, no other data suitable for use in the elucidation of demographic patterns was obtainable. Fragments of the skull, mandible, vertebrae, ribs, humerus, tibia and a hand phalanx were recognisable

[*] *All cremated bone weights are combined from vessel fill and bone in cremation pit backfill.*
[†] *All vessel weights are combined from vessel and pottery in cremation pit backfill*

within C1256 while fragments of skull, vertebrae, ribs, humerus, and femur and a metacarpal and tarsal were identified in C1515. It was not possible to suggest an age range for the individual represented in Cremation C1713 (see Phillips, this report). This may be due to the small amount of bone that was present within the cremation deposit. This lack of bone material lends further weight to the suggestion that this cremation may have been disturbed by plough action.

None of the features into which these cremation deposits were placed displayed any stratigraphic relationships with any other features that may help elucidate their chronology within Phase 2 activity. Indeed, of the three, only F1514 (C1515) had any relationship with any other feature. F1514 cut the north-western terminus of Ditch F1843. This Ditch is tentatively assigned to Phase 2 on the basis that it was cut by F1514 and lay in close proximity to the other Phase 2 Ditches, running through the gap between the two pairs that is suggested to be the entrance to the double-ditched enclosure.

The positioning of the Iron Age cremations in relation to other features assigned to Phase 2, especially the ditches, is noteworthy. If Ditches F1195, F1197, F1235=F1273 and F1274=F1224=F1234 are considered to represent an enclosure then Cremations C1256 and C1713 lay outside of the enclosure while C1515 was situated within it. C1256 was situated in Grid Square C2, *c*. 6m to the south of Ditch F1195. C1713 was located in Grid Square C12 close to the terminus of Ditch F1235=F1273 in location that the ditch would have passed through had it continued to the north-west as far as the neighbouring Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. C1515 lay *c*. 6m to the west of Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234, in Grid Square C7. Positions within or outside of the possible enclosure may be significant in terms of the status of these cremation burials or, indeed, in terms of the function of the enclosure. However, with no stratigraphic evidence to demonstrate whether the cremations were deposited before the ditches were cut, during the time that they were in use or after they had fallen in to disuse and been filled in, their positioning is difficult to interpret. Their locations, in proximity to enclosure ditches, may be seen to be related to the symbolic importance that Hingley (1990, 100) states boundaries held for certain Iron Age societies.

Cremation Burial enclosures have been recorded elsewhere in Essex, the nearest being at Maldon Hall Farm, to the south-west of Maldon although a similar enclosure has also been recorded at Mucking (Lavender 1991, 208). The Maldon Hall Farm enclosure was significantly earlier than that at the Chalet Site and measured 23.5m x 15m, making it much smaller. The ditches forming the Maldon Hall Farm enclosure, although fluctuating in width and depth, displayed much more uniformity in profile than those at the Chalet Site (Lavender 1991, 203-204). Although the certainty with which the Ditches F1195, F1197, F1235=F1273 and F1274=F1224=F1234 are considered to represent an enclosure is limited, and although only one of the three Iron Age cremations recorded was located within the enclosure (it is possible that more exist within the area of the possible enclosure but outside of the excavated area), it is clear that the creation of enclosures surrounding cremation burial cemetery sites is well attested in Iron Age Essex.

3.3.4 Other Phase 2 features

Ditch F1843

Ditch F1843 (20.00+ x 1.35 x 0.53m; Grid Squares F1, F2, E2, E3, E4, D4, D5, C6, C7) ran on a north-west to south-east alignment through the entranceway of the possible double-ditched enclosure. It was linear in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 10). Its basal fill, L2009, was a mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent small to large sized stones. Its upper fill, L2008, was a mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent small to medium stones.

No finds were recovered from either of the fills of F1843 and the assignment of the ditch to Phase 2 is only tentative. It was clearly earlier than the Iron Age Cremation Pit F1514 (containing C1515) which cut its northern terminus. Ditch F1843 was also cut by Phase 3 (Anglo-Saxon) Ditch F1165, which appears to have been a deliberate re-cut of F1843, and Phase 3 Pit F1763. The stratigraphic evidence, therefore, indicates that F1843 was of Phase 2 date or earlier. Its position, running through what would appear to be the entrance to the possible double-ditched enclosure, has been considered to suggest that it was of the same date as these ditches (Pole 2007, 23). The stratigraphic evidence is insufficient to determine if Ditch F1843 was directly contemporary with the ditches forming the possible enclosure or if it was extant and open before or after them. The lack of this evidence hampers the understanding of the function of Ditch F1843, something that is further inhibited by the gradual petering out of the feature and its disappearance beyond the limits of the excavated area. Any interpretation of its function is based mostly on speculation; it possibly formed some part of the possible enclosure, acting as some means of controlling access, or may have represented some kind of symbolic boundary.

Ditch F1226

Ditch F1226 (Grid Squares B3, B4) was a curvilinear ditch measuring in excess of 5m in length, 0.51m wide and 0.30m deep. In section, it had near-vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1225, contained pottery (26g) and burnt flint (9g). It was clearly later than Ditch F1197 as it cut the possible enclosure ditch close to its western terminus. Although no information regarding the stratigraphic relationship between F1226 and F1197 appears in the site archive, Pole (2007, 23) asserts in the interim report for the project that F1226 also cut F1195 and the site plans would seem to support this statement. This would indicate that F1226 represents later activity in Phase 2 after the ditches forming the possible enclosure had become filled in. It cannot, however, be said to represent activity dated to the late Iron Age, as suggested in the UPD (Lally 2008), as the dates indicated by the artefactual evidence for all Phase 2 activity only incorporates the period from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age.

The function of Ditch F1226 is difficult to determine. The stratigraphic evidence indicates that there are no other features that can be said to be definitely contemporary

with it. Furthermore, it extended beyond the limits of the excavated area and so its full form and extent were indeterminable. Given its curvilinear form it is possible that F1226 formed a ring-ditch. If this was the case, then its projected diameter would be *c*. 6m. This would make it comparable in size to Iron Age structures such as Roundhouses 5 and 6 recorded at Black Horse Farm, Sawtry, Cambridgeshire, which have been interpreted as ancillary structures associated with a larger roundhouse (Newton 2008), and similar roundhouses at Wardy Hill, also in Cambridgeshire, which have been termed 'minor buildings' (Evans 2003, 39). Such 'minor buildings' may display some evidence of domestic occupation but in both of these examples appeared to be subordinate to a larger roundhouse structure. Should Ditch F1226 represent the ring ditch of a small roundhouse structure, comparative evidence suggests that the remains of a larger roundhouse structure may lie near by. The stratigraphic relationship between Ditch F1226 and the enclosure Ditches F1195 and F1197 indicates that any group of roundhouses that may have been constructed to the west of the site would have been later than the possible enclosure. Like many aspects of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site recorded at the Chalet Site, the possibility of F1226 representing a roundhouse is a matter of conjecture as insufficient evidence exists to support the theory. While the roundhouse suggestion is a possibility, F1226 could equally have formed part of a small enclosure or have been associated with the similar but undated curvilinear ditches to the south of Ditch F1195.

Phase 2 features within the enclosure

Numerous pits and postholes of Phase 2 date were recorded within the area defined by the double ditches. These included: Pit F1535 (Grid Square B9); Posthole F1314 (Grid Square B8); Pit F1638 (Grid Square C8); F1171 (Grid Square B6); Posthole F1701 (Grid Square B6); Pit F1144 (Grid Square C6); Pit F1760 (Grid Squares C6, C5); Ovoid Pit F1181 (Grid Square D6); Posthole F1510 (Grid Square B9). None of these displayed any convincing structural configuration and, with the exception of the presence of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery within their fills, were mostly unremarkable. Pits F1535 and F1144, however, both yielded fragments of copper alloy. Other features in this area were slightly more noteworthy, mostly for the artefactual evidence that they contained.

Posthole F1465 (Grid Square B9; 0.48 x 0.45 x 0.30m) was circular in plan and had steep sides and a concave base. It was very similar in size and shape to Posthole F1510. Four sherds of pottery (11g) and a piece of a curved clay slab (38g) were recovered from L1488 its mid brown silty sand lower fill. Curved, perforated clay slabs were recovered amongst residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age material at Crescent Road in Heybridge and were considered to be associated with salt production (Wickenden 1986). Circular Pit F1140 (Grid Squares B4, B5; 0.84 x 0.82 x 0.54m) yielded fragments of similar perforated fired clay slabs (173g), in addition to pottery (24g) and charcoal (3g).

Pit F1522 (Grid Squares B8, B7, C8, C7) was large, in comparison to other Phase 2 features (1.50 x 1.40 x 0.30m). It had steeply sloping sides and a flattish, slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (L1521) of mid brown-grey sandy silt with moderate inclusions of rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. This fill contained late

Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery (2913g), many sherds of which appeared to have been carefully placed in a standing or vertical position within the backfill. The northern edge of the pit was cut by undated Posthole F1530. Its southern edge cut the undated F1532.

Pit F1267

Pit F1267 (Grid Square D6) was located between Ditches F1274=F1224=F1234 and F1273=F1235. Its western edge was cut by Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. It was large in comparison to the majority of Phase 2 features recorded within the enclosure (measuring 1.17 x 1.10 x 0.43m). It was oval in plan and displayed steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1268, was a dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent small stones. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery (17g) were recovered from F1267. This pit clearly predated Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234, the western-most of the two north-north-west to south-south-east aligned enclosure ditches. This demonstrates that the enclosure ditches may have been a later development within Phase 2 but provides no further elucidation of the chronology of Phase 2 activity.

Phase 2 features located outside of the enclosure

In addition to the cremations that were recorded outside of the possible enclosure, a handful of other features lay outside of the area defined by the two pairs of double ditches. None of these lay in convincingly close proximity to the cremations to suggest that they were directly related to them. No structural relationships existed between any of these features and indeed, with the exception of Postholes F1967 and F1970, these features were isolated from other features of the same phase.

Pit F1467 (Grid Square D14) was sub-circular and had near vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.83 x 0.80 x 0.41m and contained a single (L1468) was a mid orange-brown sandy silt fill that produced 29 sherds of Iron Age pottery (170g). Posthole F1069 (Grid Square D13; 0.50 x 0.18 x 0.11m) was sub-circular in plan and, in section, it was seen to have moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1070, was a mid brown-orange silty sand with frequent small to medium sized stones which contained pottery (76g).

F1471 (Grid Square D12) was a sub-circular large posthole or small pit (0.46 x 0.41 x 0.18m) and was located *c*. 5m to the north-east of Phase 2 Cremation Pit F1711. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1472) was a dark orange-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel or small pebbles. It contained a single sherd of pottery (9g). Posthole F1902 (Grid Square E12) was an isolated feature that was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.55 x 0.52 x 0.37m. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, L1901, a brown-black silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones. Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery (274g) was recovered from this fill.

Postholes F1967 (Grid Square H8) and F1970 (Grid Square H8) lay within *c*. 2m of each other. F1967 (0.40 x 0.37 x 0.24m) was circular with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its single fill, L1968, a dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sized pebbles, was found to contain three sherds of pottery (1g) which allowed it to be dated, though somewhat tentatively, to Phase 2. F1970 (0.46 x 0.37 x 0.37m), a circular posthole with vertical sides and concave base, contained a dark red-brown silty sand fill (L1969). Four sherds of pottery (10g), that dated the feature to Phase 2, were recovered from F1970.

Pit F1859 (Grid Square E7) cut the eastern edge of the outermost of the two north-north-west to south-south-east aligned enclosure ditches, Ditch F1273=F1235. It was a large feature (0.86 x 0.69 x 0.09m) in comparison to most other Phase 2 features. It was sub circular in plan and in section displayed moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, L1858, a reddish-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stones, which contained four sherds of pottery (34g). The north-eastern quadrant of the feature was cut by Phase 3 (Anglo-Saxon) Cremation Pit F1840.

Pit F1149 (Grid Squares E3, F3, E4, F4) lay in close proximity to the gap between the two sets of double ditches that has been postulated as being the entrance to the enclosure. It lay *c*. 2m to the south of large Pit F1931. Pit F1149 was square with rounded corners in plan. Its sides were moderately sloping and it had a concave base. It measured 0.77 x 0.73 x 0.21m. It contained a single fill, L1150, a dark brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional medium to large sized flint inclusions, which yielded four sherds of pottery (136g). Its positioning, so close to the possible entrance to the enclosure, raises the faint possibility that it may have had some function associated with this entrance.

Posthole F1789 (Grid Square B1) lay *c*. 5m to the south-west of Phase 2 Cremation Pit F1258. F1789 measured 0.50 x 0.45 x 0.25m and was circular in plan with vertical sides and a slightly concave base. It single (L1790) was a dark brown-black silty sand with inclusions of frequent rounded and angular pebbles. It contained 3 sherds of pottery (3g).

3.4 Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon (Figs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15)

3.4.1 Introduction

Sixty-six cremations of Anglo-Saxon date were recorded across the site (Fig. 10). The majority of these were located in the area defined by the Iron Age (Phase 2) double enclosure ditches. Cremations both inside and outside of the Phase 2 enclosure were associated with a series of Anglo-Saxon ring/circular enclosure ditches and straight, linear ditches.

Only evidence of funerary activity was recorded. The Phase 3 features clearly represent a cremation cemetery site. No features indicative of habitation or domestic activity were identified, although some features of Phase 3 date may have had a function not directly associated with a cemetery function.

The Phase 3 site was dominated by a striking arrangement of ring-ditches and circular/sub-circular enclosure ditches seemingly linked by very straight linear ditches. The way in which these features were arranged suggests that they were deliberately placed in relation to one another, even when one appears to have been filled in before the creation of another. It is a regularly observed feature of Anglo-Saxon burial that there was, apparently, little problem identifying earlier graves, either to avoid disturbing a previous burial or to locate a grave in which to place another family member (Taylor 2001, 144). It seems possible that a similar knowledge was held with regard to previous landscape features that, in this case, possibly represented funerary monuments.

These Anglo-Saxon features lay in close proximity to the features forming the Phase 2 late Bronze Age to early Iron Age enclosure, overlapping with Ditches F1235=F1273 and F1274=F1224=F1234 the north-north-west to south-south-east aligned pair of Phase 2 enclosure ditches. The Phase 3 Anglo-Saxon cremations, which were mostly clustered around the Phase 3 ditches, were therefore also clustered around the Phase 2 enclosure.

3.4.2 The layout and morphology of the Phase 3 Site

Site plans show a striking zigzag of connected Phase 3 features, following the alignment of Phase 2 Ditch F1843, and cutting across the north-north-west to south-south-east aligned Phase 2 enclosure ditches (see Fig. 10). These features appear to have had some degree of influence on the arrangement of the cremation burials recorded at the site. Arnold (1988, 128) states that ditches, sometimes with a causeway and sometimes forming a complete ring, with a diameter of 6 to 7m are often found around Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves. Ring-Ditch F1214 and Sub-Circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 (which display slightly larger diameters) with their associated cremations may represent a similar form of funerary architecture. These were linked by Ditches F1165, F1263 and F1220. Although these linear ditches were not stratigraphically contemporary with Ring-Ditch F1214 and Sub-Circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, and they demonstrated stratigraphic relationships to suggest that these circular and sub-circular features were not contemporary with each other, they appeared to form a boundary incorporating, but not contemporary with, Ring-Ditch F1214 and Sub-Circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222.

Arnold (1988, 127) discusses the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Updown, Kent, stating that for much of its life it was bounded by a ditch but burial activity spilled beyond this when the cemetery was perceived to be completely full. The boundary formed by Ditches F1165, F1263 and F1220 may have originally marked the outer limit of the cemetery; a small majority of the recorded cremations of Phase 3 date lie to the west of this line of features fewer to the east. Those to the east may be seen as later deposits, still in close proximity to the burial ground but outside of its original limits. The approximate alignment of Cremations C2001, C1849 and C1923 with Ditch F1165 may represent some attempt to follow or adhere to the original form of the burial ground. The presence of Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 to the east of this possible boundary line, although no

cremations were identified in direct association with it, might offer further support to this possibility. While it may simply have been a piece of funerary architecture associated with now unidentifiable cremation burials within the area it encircled, it may, either as its sole and primary function or as a secondary function, have provided legitimisation to the use of the area to the east of Ditches F1165, F1263 and F1220 as a burial ground.

The limited stratigraphic evidence that exists between the features that form this possible boundary suggests that Sub-Circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 may have been the first to have been constructed. Its positioning, however, may have been influenced by the presence of Phase 2 Ditch F1843, which was later emphasised by the Anglo-Saxon recut of it, F1165. This stratigraphic evidence suggests, therefore, that the boundary formed by Ditches F1165, F1263 and F1220 was probably constructed where it was due to the presence not only Phase 2 Ditch but also Sub-Circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, which appears to have been filled in prior to the construction of these 3 ditches as F1263 cuts its north-eastern quadrant. Following the in-filling of the boundary ditches Ring-Ditch F1214 was constructed straddling the line of the boundary. Why these broadly circular features influenced the positioning of, or were placed on, the boundary is difficult to identify. It seems reasonable to suggest that, when they were constructed, they would have been noticeable in the landscape. The construction of monumental funerary structures may be equated to the burial of individuals of high status. The link between high status and the boundary, initially incepted through the connection between Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and the boundary may have been reiterated in the placing of F1214 over the boundary ditches.

Ditch F1165=F1612

Ditch F1165=F1612 (Grid Squares C7, C6, C5, D5, D4, E4, E3, E2, F2, F1) ran from a location (in Grid Square C7) 0.50m to the south of Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 in a south-easterly direction and extended beyond the limits of the excavated area. It measured in excess of 30m in length, its width varied between 0.8m and 1.35m and its depth varied between 0.47m and 0.63m. It had steeply sloping sides, though these varied slightly in angle and shape along its length, and a narrow but concave base. It contained numerous fills and slightly differing stratigraphic sequences were recorded in each of the excavated segments (see Table 16).

Segment	Fill	Description	Finds (count; weight)
A	L1174	Angular and sub-angular gravel in a light greyish brown silty sand matrix	-
	L1175	Reddish grey to mid brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal flecks	Pottery (12; 445g)
	L1176	Black to dark brown sandy silt with occasional angular to sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	Pottery (3; 26g)
B	L1333	Grey brown silty sand with frequent gravel	-
	L1334	Mid to dark brown silty sand with moderate pebble and gravel inclusions	-

	L1335	Dark brown silty sand with moderate pebbles and gravel	Pottery (3; 13g), Struck Flint (1; 6g)
C	L1176	Black to dark brown sandy silt with occasional angular to sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	-
D	L1613	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel	-

Table 16: The fills of Ditch F1165=F1612

The pottery recovered from Ditch F1165=F1612 clearly placed it within Phase 3. It also cut Phase 3 Pit F1763, in to the backfill of which Cremation Pit F1798 was cut. Ditch F1165=F1612, however, followed exactly the same line as Phase 2 Ditch F1843, cutting the western edge of this feature. The northern termini of both of these ditches were located immediately adjacent to one another. This suggests that the Anglo-Saxon period occupants/utilisers of the site saw particular significance in Ditch F1843 and sought to emphasise or re-establish it. The reuse of earlier sites as locations for Anglo-Saxon burial grounds is regularly noted and may have been carried out due to a perceived link between these earlier sites and the supernatural; the recutting of Ditch F1843 by F1165=F1612 may have had particular significance with regard to this concept. There may also be particular significance between Ditch F1165=F1612 and Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. Ditch F1165=F1612 lead from the sub-circular enclosure ditch to the south-east but this is not the only ditch that appeared to communicate with this feature.

Ditch F1165=F1612 was not directly associated with any individual cremation deposits but appears to have been influential in the layout of the Phase 3 cremation cemetery. The four-post structure, the six-post structure, Penannular Ditch F1324 and its associated cremation and features and the south-western cremation group all lay close-by to the west of Ditch F1165=F1612. This may indicate that the ditch represented some kind of boundary on one side of which it was appropriate for cremations to be interred but on the other side of which it was not; cremations were recorded to the east of Ditch F1165=F1612 but not in such great concentrations and mostly further to the north. Ditch F1165=F1612 was clearly an important part of the Phase 3 site; its relationship with Phase 2 Ditch F1843 may be significant in the siting of the Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at this location (see below) and it clearly forms part of a linked set of features around which the Anglo-Saxon cremations were deposited.

Ditch F1263

Ditch F1263 (Grid Squares C9, D9, D10, E10) cut the north-eastern quadrant of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and lead away towards the north-east. After a distance of *c*. 16m it may have turned towards the north-west as Ditch F1220 (see below), though this is impossible to prove as the relationship between Ditches F1263 and F1220 was obscured by post-medieval (Phase 4) Ditch F1984 (see Section 3.5). Ditch F1220, which was aligned north-west to south-east, extended beyond the limits of excavation. It was cut by Phase 3 Ring-Ditch F1214. This demonstrates that these major features in the organisation of the Phase 3 site, two of which (Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch

F1233=F1212=F1222 and Ring-Ditch F1214) were the focus for clusters of cremations, were all linked and were potentially linked to features beyond the limit of the excavated area. This suggests that further similar features, with similar clusters of cremations, potentially exist in the surrounding area. It was possible to assign Ditch F1263 to Phase 3 due to the presence of a fragment of a glass bead, belonging to Guido's Group 6xiv, which are known to date to the early Anglo-Saxon period (see Crummy, this report), recovered from its dark brown silty sand fill.

3.4.3 Phase 3 Anglo-Saxon cremations and related features (Figs. 10 & 11).

Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and associated cremations and features

Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 (Grid Squares B7, C7, D7, B8, C8, D8, B9, C9) lay immediately to the west of the Phase 2 Enclosure Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234, slightly cutting its western side. It enclosed an area with a diameter of 10.00 to 11.00m. Its overall circumference was approximately 33.00m. The ditch varied in width from 0.90m in the west to 1.20m in the south-east. It was generally between 0.37m and 0.50m deep, while the western terminus was 0.55m deep and the eastern terminus 0.50m deep. Differing sequences of fills were recorded in each of the nine segments that were excavated in this feature (see Table 6). This suggests that the ditch filled-in gradually over time rather than being deliberately backfilled.

Feature	Segment	Context	Fill	Finds
1212	A	1211	Mid brown silty sand; frequent gravel and charcoal.	Pottery (6820g) ‡
	B	1264	Light brown-orange silty sand; moderate gravel	None
		1261	Mid orange-brown silty sand; moderate gravel	Pottery (1g)
	C	1211	Dark grey-brown silty sand; frequent stones.	Pottery (6820g) ‡
	D	1211	Dark orange-brown silty sand.	Pottery (6820g) ‡
	E	1211	Dark brown silty sand.	None
1233 (=F1222)	A	1245	Dark brown sandy silt; moderate gravel	None
		1239	Dark brown sandy silt with yellow-grey mottling; moderate gravel.	Pottery (226g)
		1240 (=1221)	Mid brown sandy silt with grey-orange mottling; frequent gravel.	Pottery (182g)
	B	1279	Mid grey-brown silty sand; frequent gravel	None
		1280	Dark brown silty sand; moderate pebbles and gravel	Pottery (6g). Residual Iron Age
	C	1239	Dark brown sandy silt with yellow-grey mottling; moderate gravel	None
		1240	Mid brown sandy silt with grey-orange mottling; frequent gravel	Pottery (66g)
	D	1585	Dark brown/ black sandy silt; moderate gravel	None
		1586	Light grey-brown silty sand with mid yellow mottling; moderate gravel and occasional pebbles	None
		1587	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; moderate gravel and pebbles	None
		1588	Light yellowish-orange-brown silty sand; moderate gravel and pebbles	None
		1239	Dark brown sandy silt with yellow-grey mottling; moderate gravel	Pottery (235g)
		1240	Mid brown sandy silt with grey-orange mottling; frequent gravel	Pottery (204g)

Table 6: The Fills of Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222

‡ *6820g of pottery present in L1211in Segments A,C and D combined*

Five cremations (C1054, C1192, C1615, C1493 and C1594), and a possible sixth cremation (C1649), were recorded within the area enclosed by Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. Cremations C1054, C1192 and C1615, in Cremation Pits F1055 (Grid Square C9), F1194 (Grid Square C8) and F1617 (Grid Square C9) respectively, formed a cluster of three cremations at the northern end of the area enclosed by Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. These were all urned cremations with the individuals represented in C1054 and C1192 appearing to be adults (see Phillips, this report). No surviving bone was present within Cremation C1615. Cremation C1493, interred in Pit F1486 (Grid Square B8), was also an urned cremation containing bone that was recognised as being adult-sized (see Philips, this report). It lay within the south-western quadrant of the area enclosed by Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222.

Pit F1593 (Grid Square C7) was cut on its eastern side by Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. It measured 0.55 x 0.45 x 0.19m, was circular in plan and, in section, had uneven, moderately steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its mid orange brown sandy silt fill was found to contain cremated human bone (C1594). The presence of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (131g) suggested that this was originally an urned cremation but had suffered severe disturbance, either through ploughing or when it was cut by the sub-circular enclosure ditch. Analysis of the cremated remains indicated that they were those of an adult sized individual (see Phillips, this report).

Located approximately halfway between the group of three cremations (C1054, C1192 and C1615) and Cremation C1493 was possible Cremation C1649 (Grid Squares B8, C8). This deposit of dark grey silty sand was found to contain pottery (3g) and cremated bone (1g) and was suggested to be a cremation, located in the subsoil, which had been destroyed through ploughing. As it was not possible to confirm that this was truly a cremation deposit it was not analysed as such during post-excavation analysis of the cremations from the site (Phillips, this report).

Cremation (1054)	Cremated bone (85.7g)
Cremation Cut (F1055)	Circular/ shallow cut, moderate sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1056)	389g. Heavily-truncated by plough damage. Only base and two sides remain. Flat based vessel
Backfill (L1287)	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Largely truncated by plough damage.
Comments	Heavily-damaged cremation within Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, in extreme northern part of enclosed area.

Table 7a: Cremation C1054

Cremation (1192)	Cremated bone (171.9g)
Cremation Cut (F1194)	Circular/ moderate sides, slightly concave base (0.33 x 0.30 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1193)	847g. Heavily-truncated by plough damage. Rounded flat based vessel
Backfill (L1191)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; moderate small rounded stones.
Comments	Damaged cremation within northern part of area enclosed by Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222.

Table 7b: Cremation C1192

Cremation (1615)	Bone destroyed by ploughing? Burnt flint (31g).
Cremation Cut (F1617)	Sub-circular/ sides removed by ploughing, flat base (0.25 x 0.23 x 0.02m)
Vessel (1616)	176g. Very heavily-truncated; few fragments remaining of base.
Backfill (L1614)	Dark black-grey silty sand; moderate small rounded stones. Very heavily- truncated by ploughing.
Comments	Heavily-truncated cremation within northern part of area enclosed by Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222.

Table 7c: Cremation C1615

Cremation (1493)	Cremated bone (33.7g)
Cremation Cut (F1486)	Sub-circular/ near-vertical sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.35 x 0.09m)
Vessel (1494)	513g. Plough-damaged vessel?
Backfill (L1487)	Dark brown-grey silty sand; frequent small-medium stones
Comments	Heavily-truncated cremation.

Table 7d: Cremation C1493

Cremation (1594)	Cremated bone (10.9g), Pottery 131g
Cremation Cut (F1593)	Circular/ uneven moderately steep sides, slightly concave base (0.55 x 0.45 x 0.19m)
Vessel	131g Line and dot decoration with bossing and stamp
Backfill (L1594)	Mid orange-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and small pebbles.
Comments	Heavily-truncated cremation. Cut by Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222

Table 7e: Cremation C1594

Cremation Cut (F1648)	Circular/ near-vertical sides, concave base (0.31 x 0.30 x 0.19m)
Backfill (L1649)	Dark grey silty sand; moderate sub-angular gravel. Pottery (3g), cremated bone (1g)
Comments	Possible destroyed cremation in subsoil?

Table 7f: Possible Cremation C1649

Located *c*. 1m to the north-west of Cremation Pit F1486 and *c*. 2m to the south-west of Cremation Pit F1648 lay Posthole F1527 (Grid Square B8). F1527 was a sub-circular posthole with vertical sides and slightly concave base (0.33 x 0.34 x 0.24m). its fill, L1528, was a dark grey brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions which was found to contain early Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Three cremations, C1491, C1733 and C1509, were recorded in features (F1489 (Grid Square C8), F1731 (Grid Square C8) and F1506 (Grid Square B7)) cut into the backfill of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. As these cremation deposits are stratigraphically more recent than the sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, they may also be later than cremations C1054, C1192, C1615 and C1493 if the presumption is made that the enclosure ditch was cut with the explicit intention of enclosing these cremations. However, no stratigraphic relationship exists between Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and Cremations C1054, C1192, C1615 and C1493, so their chronology with respect to Cremations C1491, C1733 and C1509 is indiscernible.

Cremation C1491, deposited in Pit F1489, was located on the eastern side of the circumference of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. It was identified as an urned cremation but no bone survived. Immediately to the north-west lay Pit F1731, which contained Cremation C1733. It was not possible to identify the age of the individual represented in this urned cremation but it was recorded that a fragment of animal bone was incorporated with the remains (Phillips, this report). Cremation C1509 was deposited in Pit F1506, which cut the Enclosure Ditch within its south-western quadrant. The human remains within this urned cremation were recognised as those of an adult.

Cremation (1491)	No cremated bone remaining – destroyed by ploughing.
Cremation Cut (F1489)	Heavily-truncated by ploughing. Sub-circular/ flat base (0.45 x 0.40 x 0.05m)
Vessel (1490)	30g. Heavily-truncated; only a few sherds remain.
Backfill (L1492)	Dark black-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and pebbles.
Comments	Heavily-truncated cremation. Interred in the fill of Enclosure Ditch F1233 (L1240), on its east side.

Table 8a: Cremation C1491

Cremation (1733)	Cremated bone (2.2g)
Cremation Cut (F1731)	Circular/ moderate sides, flat base. Heavily-truncated (0.40 x 0.40 x 0.07m)
Vessel (1732)	7g. Heavily-truncated by ploughing; only a few sherds remain.
Backfill (L1734)	Dark blackish-brown sandy silt; moderate gravel and pebbles.
Comments	Cremation inserted in Fill L1240 of Enclosure Ditch F1233, on its northeast side.

Table 8b: Cremation C1733

Cremation (1509)	Cremated bone (358.3g)
Cremation Cut (F1506)	Cut into Backfill L1211 of Enclosure Ditch F1233. Cut is conjectured; it could not be identified on site.
Vessel (1508)	827g. Burnished, bossed and stamped.
Backfill (1507)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; moderate rounded gravel. Redeposited ditch backfill (L1211).
Comments	Cremation inserted in Backfill L1211 of Enclosure Ditch F1233, on its southwest side, near the terminus.

Table 8c: Cremation C1509

Four further cremations, located outside of the Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, are considered to be part of the group associated with this feature as they all lay in sufficiently close proximity to suggest that a deliberate association with the enclosure ditch was intended by their depositors.

Cremation C1539 was deposited within the backfill of undated Ditch F1545=F1748. No cut feature in to which it could have been deposited was discernible on site but it is presumed that such a feature must have existed. It is, therefore, considered to have been deposited in hypothetical Pit F1537 (Grid Square B7). The cremation was located immediately to the south-west of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. This was an urned cremation containing the remains of an adult.

Cremation C1605 was contained within Pit F1602 (Grid Square D7). It was located to the south-east of sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and cut the eastern edge of the Phase 2 Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. Although this was another urned cremation it was unlike other cremations found in association with Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 as the human remains that it contained were identified as being those of a sub-adult (see Phillips, this report) rather than those of an adult. Approximately 4m to the north of C1605, and *c*. 1m from the edge of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, lay Pit F2012 (Grid Square D8) which contained Cremation C1688. Phillips (this report) has identified the remains of both an adult and a child within this cremation deposit. It is possible that this represents the dual urned burial of an adult and child although the possibility of contamination of material from another cremation, possibly as a result of plough damage cannot be completely disregarded.

Pit F1469 (Grid Square C9) lay *c*. 1.5m to the north of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. It contained urned Cremation C1445, which comprised the remains of an adult. The Cremation Pit F1469 cut the western edge of Phase 3 Posthole F1442. F1442 (Grid Square C9) was circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base (0.48 x 0.38 x 0.36m). Its fill, L1443, a dark grey silty sand with occasional brown mottling and frequent sub-angular gravel contained early Anglo-Saxon pottery (22g).

Cremation (1539)	Cremated bone (95.8g), struck flint (4g)
Cremation Cut (F1537)	Cut into fill L1546 of Ditch F1545. Cut is conjectured; it could not be identified on site.
Vessel (1538)	617g. Burnished and stamped. Top truncated by ploughing.
Backfill (L1540)	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; frequent gravel. Redeposited Ditch Fill L1546.
Comments	Cremation inserted into undated Ditch F1545, 0.15m away from southwest exterior edge of Enclosure Ditch F1233.

Table 9a: Cremation C1539

Cremation (1605)	Cremated bone (76.2g)
Cremation Cut (F1602)	Circular/ shallow sides, concave base (0.33 x 0.31 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1604)	454g. Vessel with rounded flat base
Backfill (L1606)	Mid brown-grey silty sand; moderate pebbles and gravel.
Comments	Cremation inserted into backfill of Iron Age Inner Enclosure Ditch F1234, 1.00m east of Enclosure Ditch F1233.

Table 9b: Cremation C1605

Cremation (1688)	Cremated bone (2.1g remaining).
Cremation Cut (F2012)	Circular/ moderate slope, concave base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1687)	21g. Only a few sherds remaining due to plough damage.
Backfill (L1689)	Mid orange to dark brown sandy silt; moderate pebbles and gravel.
Comments	1.00m east of Enclosure Ditch F1233.

Table 9c: Cremation C1688

Cremation (1445)	Cremated bone (93.1g)
Cremation Cut (F1469)	Sub-oval/ moderate concave sides, concave base (0.32 x 0.20 x 0.14m)
Vessel (1444)	427g. Plough-damaged. Non-diagnostic.
Backfill (L1470)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; moderate sub-angular gravel
Comments	Cremation cut into top of posthole backfill (F1442), 1.50m north of Enclosure Ditch F1233.

Table 9d: Cremation C1445

Further features, in addition to those containing cremation deposits, were recorded in association with the sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. Pit F1523 (Grid Square B8) was cut through the backfill of the enclosure ditch, on its north-western side. It measured 1.20 x 0.85 x 0.40m and was sub-circular in plan. Its fill (L1524) a dark brown sandy silt, was found to contain 292 sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (2090g) and a piece of struck flint (11g).

Posthole F1665 lay to the east of Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. It was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.50 x 0.50 x 0.25m. It had near vertical sides and a

concave base. Its single fill, L1666, was a dark yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of angular gravel and small rounded pebbles. The feature was assigned to Phase 3 on the basis of the single sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (2g) recovered from its fill. It was considered during initial analysis of the site (Pole 2007) that this feature, and undated Posthole F1297, held posts marking the location of Cremation C1688. Some Anglo-Saxon cremation graves are known to have wooden post-built structures associated with them (Lucy 2000, 118). These, however, are mostly four-post structures. Inhumation graves of this period have been recorded with single-post markers (Lucy 2000, 102). A possibly Roman inhumation thought to have been marked by a post was recorded at the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Great Chesterford (Evison 1994, 30). While this remains a possibility, it seems a stretch too far to consider a pair of coincidentally adjacent postholes, one with absolutely no dating evidence to suggest that it was contemporary with the Cremation and one with only minimal dating evidence, as grave markers for Cremation C1688. Similarly, Pole (2007) identified undated Posthole F1541 as a grave marker associated with Cremation Pits F1055, F1617 and F1194. The apparent functional/spatial relationship of these cremation deposits, and F1541's stratigraphic relationship, with Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 would appear to rule this suggestion out.

Pit F1642 (Grid Squares B7, C7) lay to the immediate south of Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and was cut, at its northern edge, by the sub-circular enclosure ditch. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.9 x 0.5 x 0.2m. It had gently sloping sides and concave base. Its fill, L1643, a dark greyish brown silty sand, yielded pottery (33g) of early Anglo-Saxon date.

Posthole F1715 (Grid Squares C6, D6) lay *c*. 4m south-east of the south-east facing entrance to the area enclosed by Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. That this feature lay in direct alignment with the entrance to the area defined by the sub-circular enclosure ditch may indicate that they were in some way related, alternatively, of course, this may be entirely coincidental. Posthole F1715 (0.32 x 0.26 x 0.18m) was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base in section. It may have been subject to some degree of truncation by later ploughing activity. Its fill, L1714, was a dark brownish black silty sand with occasional medium sized rounded pebbles. Two sherds (4g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery and a fragment of burnt and distorted copper-alloy sheet (4g) (see Crummy, this report).

Penannular Ditch F1324 and associated cremations and features

Penannular Ditch F1324 (Grid Square C5) was located close to the gap in the Phase 2 ditches that is considered to be the entranceway to the enclosure. Ditch F1324 had steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It varied in width from 0.30m on its western side to 0.55m on the eastern side. It was generally between 0.13 and 0.17m deep, while the western and eastern termini were deeper, at 0.30m and 0.21m, respectively. The ditch measured 3.75m in diameter and had a circumference of 11.75m, with a gap of 1.20m forming an entrance to the south. Its fill, L1325, was a dark grey-brown sandy silt with

frequent small-medium stones, which was found to contain 5 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery (47g).

A series of six postholes and a pit were arranged around the northern and western outer edge of Penannular Ditch F1324. These postholes (F1663, F1690, F1697, F1650, F1640, F1413) all appeared to have been cut into the outer edge of F1324 while the penannular ditch remained open. They all had backfills very similar to that of Ditch F1324 suggesting that they may have been backfilled at the same time. This raises questions regarding the function of these postholes; if they were cut into the edge of Ditch F1324 while it remained open they would not have been structurally capable of supporting posts.

Posthole F1663 (Grid Square C5) was oval in plan, measuring 0.45 x 0.38 x 0.35m, with steep sides and a pointed base. No finds were recovered from it but, due to its relationship with Ditch F1324, and dateable artefacts recovered from features with which it is considered to form a group, it is assigned to Phase 3. Posthole F1690 (Grid Square C5; 0.47 x 0.30 x 0.35m) was oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It yielded a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery (3g). F1697 (Grid Square C5; 0.34 x 0.33 x 0.40m), an oval posthole with steep sides, a pointed base and a dark grey brown sandy silt fill (L1698), like Posthole F1663 contained no finds. It was assigned to Phase 3, like Posthole F1663, due its association with Posthole F1690 and Ditch F1324. Posthole F1640 (Grid Square C5) measured 0.45 x 0.43 x 0.32m and was cut into the northern outer edge of Ditch F1324; three sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery (12g) were recovered from its only fill, L1641, a dark grey brown sandy silt. Posthole F1650 (Grid Square C5) lay to the west of F1640; it contained no finds.

Posthole F1413 (Grid Square C5), unlike the other postholes cut in to the edge of Ditch F1324, was cut in to the western inner edge of the penannular ditch. It measured 0.35 x 0.37 x 0.20m and was oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill was L1325, that of the Ditch F1324; it was impossible to differentiate between the fills of these two features during excavation.

Pit F1393 (Grid Square C5) was not cut in to the edge of Penannular Ditch F1324 like the postholes but was instead cut immediately adjacent to the ditch. It measured 0.37 x 0.35 x 0.16m, was oval in plan and had moderately sloping sides descending to a flat base. It contained no finds, however, the similarity of its fill (L1394, a dark grey brown sandy silt) to those of Ditch F1324 and the other associated features, and its proximity to them, appeared to suggest that they contemporary.

Only a single cremation was recorded in conjunction with Penannular Ditch F1324. This was Cremation C1204. It was deposited in Pit F1206 (Grid Square C5) and between the two facing termini of the penannular ditch; in the entrance to the area that it enclosed, which lay at the most southern part of its circumference. Cremation C1204 had been heavily disturbed by ploughing; the cremation vessel had been completely shattered and no bone survived within the material that was recovered from its interior.

Cremation (1204)	No surviving bone
Cremation Cut (F1206)	Circular/ moderate sides, concave base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1205)	2225g. Completely shattered by ploughing. Not in-situ. Burnished with horizontal grooves on neck-line
Backfill (L1203)	Hypothetical backfill over cremation. Removed by ploughing.
Comments	Cremation at entrance of Penannular Ditch F1324.

Table 10: Cremation C1204

The positioning of Cremation C1204 within the entrance to the area enclosed by Ditch F1324 suggests that the ditch, and the associated postholes, formed some kind of marker, or funerary architecture constructed to denote the presence of the cremation burial. This may suggest that C1204 contained the remains of a significant individual. Alternatively, C1204 may have been deposited in the entrance of an already existing structure with the presence of this structure bestowing a particular holy or propitious significance to the location.

The Four-Post Structure

Further examples of funerary architecture, in addition to the possible structure represented by Penannular Ditch F1324, were recorded at the site. One of these was a possible structure, represented by four postholes, surrounding Cremation Pit F1295 (Grid Square C4).

Cremation Pit F1295 contained Cremation C1308. This was an urned burial of an adult individual. The identification of a nuchal crest from fragments of the skull indicate that this individual was probably male (see Phillips, this report).

Cremation (1308)	Cremated bone (438.1g), Fe nail (1; 11g)
Cremation Cut (F1295)	Circular/ vertical sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.40 x 0.20m)
Vessel (1309)	1081g. Shouldered jar
Backfill (L1307)	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; frequent small-medium angular stones.
Comments	Anglo-Saxon urned cremation.

Table 11: Cremation C1308

Cremation Pit F1295 lay within an area measuring *c*. 1.80m x 1.10m and defined by four postholes (F1134, F1096, F1770, and F1725; Fig. 10) with similar profiles and fills. These were arranged in a rectangular formation with the long sides facing toward the south-east.

The first of these four postholes, F1096 (Grid Square C4) measured 0.51 x 0.50 x 0.30m and was circular in plan. In section, it was seen to have steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1097 was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. Posthole F1770 (Grid Square C4) was the most southerly of these four

postholes. It measured 0.42 x 0.38 x 0.31m and was circular with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones (L1771). The westerly-most Posthole F1725 (Grid Square C4) was circular in plan and had near vertical sides and a concave base. It measured 0.50 x 0.50 x 0.32m and contained L1726, which was a dark brown silty sand with occasional stones and gravel. Posthole F1134 (Grid Square C4) was slightly larger than the other postholes in this group (measuring 0.90 x 0.48 x 0.45m). It was circular, with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained two fills. The lower fill (L1136) comprised large angular stones in a matrix of brown grey sand. Its upper fill (L1135) was a dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sized stones. None of these postholes yielded finds and their assignment to Phase 3 is based solely on their association with Cremation Pit F1295.

Similar four-post wooden structures associated with Anglo-Saxon cremation burials have been identified at other sites in southern England. It has been suggested that such structures may have supported pitched roofs and had wooden planking or wattle and daub walls. Such structures are often viewed as having been built specifically to house the cremation deposits of one particular family. Similar structures are known from continental Europe but some of these have been identified as cremation pyre supports, rather than cremation houses (Lucy 2000, 118-119). Williams (2005, 263) suggests that grave goods, especially weapons, may have been displayed on the outside of such 'gravehouses'.

Pole (2007) suggested the possibility of a second four-post structure to the east of that discussed above. This comprised four undated postholes (F1119, F1107, F1102 and F1090; see Section 3.6), the north-western posthole of which (F1119) was later backfilled with Cremation Deposit C1118 (see below). This, however, seems unlikely due to the irregular formation of these features in relation to one another and the variations in their dimensions.

The Six-Post Structure

A similar formation of postholes to that found in conjunction with Cremation C1308 was recorded surrounding Cremation C1633. This group consisted of six postholes, suggesting a more elaborate structure.

Cremation C1633 was deposited in Pit F1635 (Grid Square B6). Analysis of the human remains recovered from this cremation indicates that they were those of a sub-adult (see Phillips, this report).

Cremation (1633)	Cremated bone (80g)
Cremation Cut (F1635)	Circular/ moderate slope, concave base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1634)	553g. Incised line decoration, rounded base.
Backfill (L1632)	Dark orange-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.
Comments	

Table 12: Cremation C1633

Cremation Pit F1635 was surrounded by a ring of six postholes in an irregular hexagonal formation (or forming the shape of a pentagon with one corner sheared off). None of these postholes yielded datable artefactual material but they have been dated to Phase 3 because of their apparent relationship with Pit F1635 and the cremation that it contained.

Posthole F1637 (Grid Square B6) lay to the north-west of Pit F1635. It measured 0.50 x 0.35 x 0.17m. It was oval in plan and, in section, displayed steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid grey brown silty sand fill (L1636). Posthole F1187 (Grid Squares B6, C6; 0.25 x 0.22 x 0.12m) displayed a degree of truncation, probably caused by ploughing. It was located to the east of Posthole F1637 and to the north-north-east of Pit F1635. To the south-east lay Posthole F1253 (Grid Square C6). F1253 was circular with vertical sides and a flat base, it measured 0.31 x 0.27 x 0.30m. Its single fill, L1254, was a dark brown silty sand. To the south of this, and to the east-south-east of Pit F1635, lay possibly truncated Posthole F1146 (Grid Square 6; 0.22 x 0.21 x 0.23m) which was circular in plan and had vertical sides and a flat base. It contained two fills; L1147 was a dark brown sandy silt and appeared to have been packing material around the post that the feature originally held; L1148, a light brown sandy silt was the fill of the post pipe void. Posthole F1177 (Grid Square B6) lay to the immediate south of Cremation Pit F1635. It measured 0.49 x 0.46 x 0.36m, was circular in plan, displayed, in section, steeply sloping sides and a concave base and contained a dark brown silty sand fill (L1178). The final posthole in this group was F1654 (Grid Square B6), which was oval in plan and measured 0.58 x 0.41 x 0.27m. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill, L1655, was a dark blackish brown silty sand.

The hexagonal/pentagonal formation of these features suggests that they may not have formed the same kind of structure as the four-post structure identified surrounding Cremation Pit F1295. It may have taken the form of a series of single postholes surrounding the site of the cremation burial. If it had been a walled a structure, like the four-post structures identified at other sites, and suggested for that surrounding Cremation Pit F1295, it would have been a much more complicated structure, especially in terms of the roof construction. The more complex nature of a six-post structure may imply greater status for the individual represented in the cremation. Alternatively, of course, it may just be a variation on the same theme.

The north-west cremation group

Six urned cremations (C1420, C1415, C1433, C1437, C1457 and C1216) and one un-urned cremation (C1406) were identified within a loose cluster of pits (F1421 (Grid Square B13); F1417 (Grid Square B12); F1435 (Grid Square B12); F1439 (Grid Square B12); F1482 (Grid Square B12); F1218 (Grid Square B12); and F1407 Grid Squares B11, B12) respectively) in the north-western part of the site. An additional urned cremation (C1430) was found at the interface of the subsoil/natural gravel above Cremation C1433; the cut for this cremation had been entirely ploughed out.

The group was aligned broadly north-north-west to south-south-east, following the line of the Phase 2 Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. The only exception to this was Pit F1218 which lay a little further to the west. It is not unknown for Anglo-Saxon cremations to be arranged following the line of earlier ditches (Lucy 2000, 128).

Of these cremations, four, C1420, C1415, C1437 and C1406, contained adult sized remains. No bone had survived within Cremation C1433. Remains recovered from C1216 were identified as being infant or child sized and those from C1457 were sub-adult sized. It was not possible to obtain sufficient information from the surviving 2g of bone from Cremation C1430 to estimate its age. Insufficient evidence survived from these cremations to identify their gender (see Phillips, this report). As Cremation C1406 was un-urned, and no other artefacts were present within it, it is technically undated. It is included here as it appeared to form part of this group. However, it remains possible that it was not Anglo-Saxon and was placed in proximity to this group of cremations coincidentally.

Cremation Vessel V1458, which contained Cremation C1457, truncated Vessel V1438, which contained Cremation C1437. Cremation C1457 was evidently deposited in to a pit which cut Cremation Pit F1439 (containing C1437). The cut of this pit, which has been assigned the Feature number F1482, was not identifiable during excavation, even though it clearly caused heavy truncation to the earlier cremations.

Cremation (1420)	Cremated bone (7.7g), pottery (6g).
Cremation Cut (F1421)	Circular/ moderate sides, concave base (0.46 x 0.40 x 0.16m)
Comments	Slightly truncated western edge of Iron Age Ditch F1274. Urn destroyed.

Table 13a: Cremation C1420

Cremation (1415)	Cremated bone (215.7g)
Cremation Cut (F1417)	Circular/ moderate slope, concave base (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.11m)
Vessel (1416)	919g. Rounded vessel, flat base
Backfill (1414)	Mid brown-grey sandy silt; occasional small rounded stones.
Comments	0.50m from western edge of Iron Age Ditch F1274.

Table 13b: Cremation C1415

Cremation (1433)	No surviving bone
Cremation Cut (F1435)	Sub-circular/ moderate sides, flat base (0.30 x 0.35 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1434)	45g. Pot fragments found within Backfill L1432.
Backfill (L1432)	Mid grey-brown silty sand with moderate small stones.
Relationships	Truncated by Cremation Pit F1439 on east side. Further truncated by C1457.

Table 13c: Cremation C1433

Cremation (1437)	Cremated bone (125.1g)
Cremation Cut (F1439)	Circular/ moderate to steep slope, slightly concave base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.13m)
Vessel (1438)	733g. Non-diagnostic
Backfill (L1436)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; moderate small-medium stones. Pottery (64g)
Comments	Truncated Cremation Cut F1435. Truncated by Cremation Cut F1482 on south-east side.

Table 13d: Cremation C1437

Cremation (1457)	Cremated bone (11.2g)
Cremation Cut (F1482)	Conjectured cut for Vessel 1458 (cut could not be discerned on site)
Vessel (1458)	360g. Only few sherds remaining
Backfill (L1481)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; moderate small-medium stones. Redeposited backfill of earlier Cremation Cut F1439
Comments	Truncated south-east edge of Cremation Cut F1439

Table 13e: Cremation C1457

Cremation (1216)	Cremated bone (25.3g)
Cremation Cut (F1218)	Sub-circular/ shallow sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.36 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1217)	66g. Badly plough-damaged. Only few sherds remaining
Backfill (1215)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; frequent gravel
Comments	Heavily plough-damaged cremation.

Table 13f: Cremation C1216

Cremation (1406)	Dark blackish-brown silt. Cremated bone (232.5g)
Cremation Cut (F1407)	Circular/ moderate sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.35 x 0.15m)
Comments	0.50m from western edge of Iron Age Ditch F1274. Un-urned Cremation

Table 13g: Cremation C1406

Cremation (1430)	Cremated bone (2g)
Cremation Cut N/A	N/A No cut discernible, completely ploughed-out
Vessel (1431)	153g. Only base survives.
Backfill N/A	Completely removed by ploughing.
Comments	Located above C1433 L1432. Possible remains of a later urned cremation, almost entirely destroyed by ploughing.

Table 13h: Cremation C1430

The south-western cremation group

A loose group of seven cremations were recorded in the area to the west of Penannular Ditch F1324 and the six-post structure surrounding Cremation Pit F1635. These cremations, C1629, C1623, C1579, C1584, C1301, C1305 and C1352 were deposited within Pits F1631 (Grid Square B6), F1625 (Grid Square B6), F1578 (Grid Square B5), F1582 (Grid Square B5), F1303 (Grid Square B4), F1304 (Grid Square B4) and F1351 (Grid Square B5) respectively. All of these were urned cremations although the vessel belonging to Cremation C1579 had been destroyed, most probably by the later ploughing that affected much of the site. Cremations C1301 and C1305 were positively identified as being the cremated remains of adults. Cremations C1629, C1579 and C1584 all contained skeletal elements that were recognised as adult sized. There were no surviving elements amongst the human remains from Cremations C1623 and C1352 that could be used to determine the age of these individuals.

Cremation (1629)	Cremated bone (2.3g)
Cremation Cut (F1631)	Circular/ sides truncated, slightly concave base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.03m)
Vessel (1630)	375g. Burnished, incised line decoration
Backfill (L1628)	Mid brown-grey silty sand; moderate rounded stones.
Comments	Heavily-truncated cremation. Close to six-post structure.

Table 14a: Cremation C1629

Cremation (1623)	Cremated bone (2.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1625)	Sub-circular/ moderate concave sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.40 x 0.13m)
Vessel (1624)	197g. Incised decoration with possible boss and ring base
Backfill (L1622)	Dark blackish-grey silty sand, moderate small rounded stones.
Comments	Cremation largely destroyed by plough damage, no longer in-situ. Close to six-post structure.

Table 14b: Cremation C1623

Cremation (1579)	Cremated bone (5.3g)
Cremation Cut (F1578)	Circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.45 x 0.41 x 0.33m)
Vessel (unnumbered)	4g. Pottery associated with cremated bone.
Backfill (L1579)	Mid brown-grey silty sand
Comments	Possible destroyed cremation urn. Close to Penannular Ditch F1324.

Table 14c: Cremation C1579

Cremation (1584)	Cremated bone (254.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1582)	Oval/steep sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.36 x 0.25m)
Vessel (unnumbered)	4g. Pottery associated with cremated bone.
Backfill (L1583)	Brown-grey silty sand.
Comments	Close to Penannular Ditch F1324

Table 14c: Cremation C1584

Cremation (1301)	Cremated bone (750.6g), struck flint (1; 9g), glass fragment (1g), burnt flint (35g), left sheep/goat tibia (8.4g)
Cremation Cut (F1303)	Circular/ moderate sides, flat base (0.48 x 0.45 x 0.12m)
Vessel (1302)	2131g. Burnished, bossed and incised Vessel has been repaired with lead (36g).
Backfill (L1300)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; moderate small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.
Comments	Decorated bowl cremation. Similar decoration to V1837 and V1634. Close to Penannular Ditch F1324.

Table 14d: Cremation C1301

Cremation (1305)	Cremated bone (54.2g)
Cremation Cut (F1304)	Oval/ near-vertical sides, flat base (0.60 x 0.30 x 0.13m)
Vessel (1305)	541g. Heavily-damaged by ploughing, only base survives. Non-diagnostic
Backfill (L1306)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; frequent small-medium sub-rounded and angular stones.
Comments	Damaged undecorated cremation. Close to Penannular Ditch F1324.

Table 14e: Cremation C1305

Cremation (1352)	Cremated bone (1.6g), burnt flint (1; 3g)
Cremation Cut (F1351)	Oval/ shallow sides, slightly concave base (0.70 x 0.37 x 0.17cm)
Vessel (1353)	1428g. Non-diagnostic
Backfill (L1354)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; frequent small-medium stones.
Comments	Close to Penannular Ditch F1324.

Table 14f: Cremation C1352

Ring-Ditch F1214 and its associated features and cremations

Ring-Ditch F1214 (Grid Squares D13, E13, D14, E14) was circular in plan with no break in its circumference. It had an external diameter of *c*. 8.75m. It varied in width from 0.65m, at the south-west of its circumference, to 0.90m, at the north-east and varied in depth from 0.36m to 0.51m. Four segments were excavated in the feature. Segment A, excavated in the south-west quadrant of the feature, displayed a differing profile and sequence of fill deposits to the other excavated segments. The south-east facing section of Segment A displayed a steep sided, narrow based ('V'-shaped) profile; the north-west facing section had steep, stepped sides and a flattish base. Two fills were recorded within this segment; L1319, the basal fill, was loose mid yellowish grey redeposited natural sand and gravel whereas the upper fill, L1213, was a loose dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones. This latter deposit was recorded as the only fill within the other four excavated segments of Ring-Ditch F1214. The other excavated segments all displayed, in profile, steeply sloping sides and concave bases. Fifteen sherds (66g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from the ring-ditch.

Ring-Ditch F1214 cut the slightly earlier Phase 3 Ditch F1220 (Grid Squares D14, D13, E13, E12, E11, F11), which ran diagonally through the approximate centre of the ring-ditch. F1220 was aligned north-west to south-east, following the same angle of alignment as Ditch F1165 to the south. It measured 20.00+ x 0.89 x 0.37m and was linear in plan with straight edges. In section, it had vertical to moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Towards the very south of its extent it appeared to begin to turn towards the south-west. The angle at which Ditch F1263 approached F1220 would suggest that they were the same ditch or directly related to one another, with F1263 representing the continuation of F1220 following its turn towards the south-west. The point at which they would have met, or at which the turn to the south-west would have been completed, was obscured by post-medieval Ditch F1984 and so the true nature of the relationship between these ditches remains unknown.

Within the area enclosed by Ring-Ditch F1214 lay Cremations C1676 and C1558 (in Cremation Pits F1678 (Grid Square D14) and F1560 (Grid Square D13), respectively). Both cremations were interred in urns. The level of tooth development visible in C1676 allowed it to be identified as an adult. C1558 displayed surviving elements that allowed recognition of the fact that its pelvis was unfused. The individual was recorded as a sub-adult; the size of the surviving pelvic elements suggests that it was in later childhood.

Cremation (1676)	Cremated bone (195.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1678)	Circular/steep sides, flat base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1677)	130g. Interred upright. Heavy plough damage – base only survives.
Backfill (L1675)	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; moderate small stones.
Comments	Within northern interior of Ring-Ditch F1214.

Table 17a: Cremation C1676

Cremation (1558)	Cremated bone (75.9g), slag (4g)
Cremation Cut (F1560)	Oval/moderate sides, concave base (0.45 x 0.38 x 0.17m)
Vessel (1559)	589g. Interred upright. Heavy plough damage and bioturbation. Rounded base
Backfill (L1557)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.
Comments	Within western interior of Ring-Ditch F1214.

Table 17b: Cremation C1558

Sub-circular Posthole F1496 (Grid Square E14) was the third, and final, Phase 3 feature to lie within the area enclosed by Ring-Ditch F1214. In section, it had steep sides and a slightly concave base. It single fill, L1495, was a dark red brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking. The feature was found to contain early Anglo-Saxon pottery (72g). Its location suggests that it may have held a post that, in conjunction with the ring-ditch, formed part of the funerary monument in to which Cremations C1676 and C1558 were placed.

Cremation C1498 was placed in Pit F1500 (Grid Square D13), cut into the backfilled ditch. Three urned cremations (C1926, C1385 and C1575) and an un-urned cremation (C1680) were interred, in close proximity to, but outside of, the ring-ditch, in Cremation Pits F1928 (Grid Square D14), F1384 (Grid Square D13), F1577 (Grid Squares D12, D13) and F1679 (Grid Square D13), respectively.

Cremation C1498 was contained within a substantially complete urn. It was deposited in Pit F1500, which was cut in to the backfill of Ring-Ditch F1214. The cremation, therefore, clearly postdates the ring-ditch but the choice of this site for its deposition would appear to indicate that the status of the ring-ditch as a funerary monument remained relevant to the individuals responsible for the interment of C1498. Analysis of C1498 (see Phillips, this report) determined that the individual represented in this deposit was an adult. It was possible to identify the glabella and nuchal crest and assessment of these skeletal elements indicate that the individual was, in all likelihood, male. It was also possible to identify the ante-mortem loss of teeth and subsequent reabsorbtion of the tooth sockets. Cremation Vessel V1499 was the only cremation vessel from the site that was completely reconstructable. It displayed pre-firing suspension holes and had clearly been originally made for some other function before being re-used to contain Cremation C1498 (see Thompson, this report).

Cremation (1498)	Cremated bone (244.9g).
Cremation Cut (F1500)	Sub-circular/ steep sides, concave base (0.50 x 0.43 x 0.25m)
Vessel (1499)	2000g. Complete except for slight damage to rim on western side. Displays suspension holes
Backfill (L1497)	Light brown sandy silt; occasional small-medium stones.
Comments	Complete cremation vessel survived. Cremation pit cut into western outside edge of backfilled Ring-Ditch F1214.

Table 17c: Cremation C1498

Cremation C1926 was deposited in Cremation Pit F1928. F1928 cut the western edge of Pit F1769, which was also cut by Ring-Ditch F1214. This set of stratigraphic relationships does not assist in determining whether C1926 was contemporary with F1214, or if it was like C1498 and deposited in this location due to the presence of the earlier, now back filled, funerary monument. C1926 was an urned cremation. Phillips (this report) identified part of an unfused proximal femur that allowed the cremation to be identified as that of a sub-adult.

Cremation (1926)	Cremated bone (65.7g)
Cremation Cut (F1928)	Circular/steep sides. Base and dimensions not recordable due indistinct nature of cut
Vessel (1927)	249g. Damaged. Splayed base.
Backfill (L1925)	Mid orange-brown silty sand; moderate small-medium stones
Comments	Cremation inserted into earlier Pit F1769, outside but close to the northern edge of Ring-Ditch F1214.

Table 17d: Cremation C1926

Pit F1769 (Grid Square D14), in to the backfill of which Cremation Pit F1928 was cut, measured 1.25 x 0.58 x 0.43m. In plan, it was oval, though the southern part of it was obscured by Ring-Ditch F1214, which cut it. In section, it displayed steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid grey brown sandy silt fill containing frequent inclusions of small stones (L1768). From this fill was recovered a single sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (13g).

Cremations C1385, C1575 and C1680 were deposited in pits to the south-west of Ring-Ditch F1214. The two urned burials were identified from surviving skeletal elements as being adult sized individuals. C1680 appeared to contain the remains of a sub-adult sized individual. C1680 was an un-urned cremation. No other artefacts were recovered from the deposit and the Cremation Pit F1679 shared no stratigraphic relationships with any other features. The feature may, therefore, be regarded as undated. However, due to its appearance as part of a group cremations (with C1385 and C1575) and the similarity in size of F1679 to the pits in which C1385 and C1575 were interred, it is tentatively considered to be Anglo-Saxon in date.

Cremation (1385)	Cremated bone (73.5g)
Cremation Cut (F1384)	Sub-circular/moderate sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.36 x 0.12m)
Vessel (1386)	490g. Heavily-damaged by ploughing. Line and dot decoration with incised neck-lines
Backfill (L1387)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; frequent small-medium gravel inclusions.
Comments	Heavily-damaged cremation interred close to southwest exterior edge of Ring-Ditch F1214. Cut northern edge of earlier Cremation Pit F1577.

Table 17e: Cremation C1385

Cremation (1575)	Cremated bone (132.6g).
Cremation Cut (F1577)	Circular/ shallow sides, flat base (0.44 x 0.42 x 0.14m)
Vessel (1576)	853g. Damaged by plough and bioturbation.
Backfill (L1574)	Dark brown silty sand; occasional sub-rounded gravel containing a further 43g of early Anglo-Saxon pottery.
Comments	Plough-damaged cremation interred close to south-western exterior edge of Ring-ditch F1214. Truncated by earlier Cremation Pit F1384.

Table 17f: Cremation C1575

Cremation (1680)	Dark brown-black sandy silt. Cremated bone (4g).
Cremation Cut (F1679)	Circular/ shallow sides, concave base (0.40 x 0.39 x 0.12m)
Vessel	No vessel- un-urned cremation
Comments	Un-urned cremation interred close to south-western exterior edge of Ring-ditch F1214.

Table 17g: Cremation C1680

Ditch F1208 and associated cremation burials and other activity

Curvilinear Ditch F1208 (Grid Squares A13, B13, C13) ran from beyond the western limit of excavation for a distance of 6m, cutting Phase 2 Enclosure Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234, and terminated in Grid Square C13. It had moderate to steep sides, a concave base and was 0.78m wide and 0.33m deep. Within the terminal end of Ditch F1208 lay Cremation Vessel V1404. This contained Cremation C1405, analysis of which indicated that it represented the remains of an adult. No separate cut to contain the cremation vessel was observed. This may indicate that Vessel V1404 was deposited directly in to Ditch F1208. This, in turn, would indicate that Ditch F1208 was deliberately backfilled with deposit L1207 (dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel and small-medium rounded stones), rather than being allowed to silt up naturally (basal fill L1299, a mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent gravel and small rounded stones, may represent the beginning of natural infilling of the feature).

Cremation (1405)	Cremated bone (174.g)
Cremation Cut	No cut evident during excavation- cremation possibly deposited directly in to ditch
Vessel (1404)	146g. Heavily-truncated by plough damage.
Backfill (L1207)	Dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel and small rounded stones. Ditch backfill over cremation vessel.
Comments	Cremation vessel placed into terminus of Ditch F1208. Backfilled with ditch fill (L1207).

Table 18a: Cremation C1405

At a distance of *c*. 3.60m to the north-east of the terminus of Ditch F1208 lay the southern terminus of Undated Ditch F1653 (Grid Square C14). This extended in a straight line to the north and appeared to carry on beyond the northern limit of the excavated area. During excavation it was suggested that this feature was the return of Curvilinear Ditch F1208 and that the two features formed an enclosure similar to that formed by Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. Although this is a possibility, the dissimilarities in dimensions and appearances, both in plan and in section, between the two features would appear to suggest otherwise. Consideration of the two features as representing one enclosure ditch is further hampered by the fact that no dateable artefacts were recovered from F1653 and, as no visible relationship exists between the two, it cannot be considered to be of the same phase as Ditch F1208.

Whether they formed an enclosure or not, within the area between Ditches F1208 and F1653 lay three cremations. C1361, deposited in Cremation Pit F1360, lay to the west of Phase 2 Enclosure Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 and is therefore discussed above as a cremation within the Phase 2 enclosure. The other two cremations located in this area were Cremations C1704 and C1455.

Cremation C1704 was deposited in Cremation Pit F1706 (Grid Square C14). The cremated remains included elements that were identified as adult sized.

Cremation (1704)	Cremated bone (25.2g) within fill L1703
Cremation Cut (F1706)	Circular/ shallow sides and flat base (0.36 x 0.34 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1705)	378g. Heavily-truncated by plough damage. Only base survived. Laid flat in cut.
Backfill (L1703)	Dark brown silty sand with moderate sub-rounded stones.
Comments	Cremation placed within possible enclosure formed by Ditch F1208 and undated Ditch F1653

Table 18b: Cremation C1704

Cremation C1455 was shown to contain the remains of an adult sized individual. It was deposited in Cremation Pit F1453 (Grid Square B14).

Cremation (1455)	Cremated bone (41.2g), burnt flint (9g)
Cremation Cut (F1453)	Sub-oval/ shallow concave sides, slightly concave base (0.45 x 0.40 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1454)	393g. Heavily-truncated by plough damage and bioturbation.
Backfill (L1456)	Dark black-grey-brown sandy silt; moderate gravel.
Comments	Heavily-damaged cremation. Similar to Vessel 1404 in terminus of F1208.

Table 18c: Cremation C1455

To the north-east of Cremation Pit F1706 lay Pit/Posthole F1736 (Grid Square C14). This feature was large for a posthole, measuring 0.76 x 0.70 x 0.48m, however, it had near-vertical sides and a pointed base and a void, representing a possible post-pipe, was visible in section during excavation. Recovered from its fill, L1735 (a dark brown silty sand with moderate sub-rounded stones), were 3 sherds (4g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery. This feature, and undated postholes in this area, may have represented single marker posts associated with the cremation burials that they lay close to, much the same as some inhumation burials of this period displayed (Lucy 2000, 102).

Pit F1758 (Grid Square B14) lay to the south-west of Cremation Pit F1453. It was smaller than Pit/Posthole F1736 (measuring 0.76 x 0.70 x 0.48m) but may have served a similar function as F1736. It was circular in plan but displayed a shallow, gently sloping western side and a steep eastern side; It had clearly been heavily truncated by later ploughing. Its fill, L1759 (a dark brown silty sand with moderate angular gravel inclusions), was found to contain early Anglo-Saxon pottery (36g).

Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277

Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 (Grid Squares E9, E10, F9, F10, G9, G10) lay 12.6m to the south-east of Ring-Ditch F1214. It had a maximum diameter of 8.50m (and a minimum of 8.00m); its external circumference was approximately 26.00m. Like that of Ring-Ditch F1214, there was no break in the circumference. In section, it displayed a moderate

concave inner side, a steep outer side and a slightly concave base (*c.* 0.88m wide x 0.38m deep). Its fill, L1272 (=L1278), was a dark brown silty sand with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.

No finds were recovered from Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 but it is tentatively assigned to Phase 3 on the basis of its striking similarity to Ring-Ditch F1214. The two features were so similar in form and dimensions that it seems most likely that they were intended as pair, one as a copy of the other or one as the (more or less immediate) replacement of the first. The Phase 3 Ditch F1220, which was cut by, and ran through the approximate centre of, Ring-Ditch F1214, would have passed through the eastern part of Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 had it continued on the same north-west to south-east line.

No cremations were associated with Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 though three undated features (F1903, F1905 and F1907) lay within the area it enclosed. No stratigraphic relationship existed between any of these features and the ring-ditch making their chronological relationship with each other impossible to determine. Despite not having any cremations associated with it, Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 would appear to belong to the same set of features as Linear Ditch F1165=F1612, Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, Linear Ditches F1263 and F1220 and Ring Ditch F1214, all of which appear to have exerted some degree of influence over the siting of cremation burials. These features were, however, all connected to one another, despite not all being immediately contemporary. Ring Ditch F1271=F1277 was not connected to this set of features. This, and its lack of associated cremations, seems to set it aside from the rest of these major features in the immediately surrounding Anglo-Saxon landscape, despite its similarities to Ring-Ditch F1214.

Located *c*. 0.7m to the south of Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 was Pit/Posthole F1854 (Grid Square F8). This feature was sub-circular in plan and, in section, it displayed near vertical sides that rounded to a flat base (0.53 x 0.52 x 0.28). Its fill (L1855, a mid to dark orange brown silty sand) was found to contain three sherds (69g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery allowing it to be dated to Phase 3. The position of this feature in relation to Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 suggests that the two may have been related. In this position, it is reasonable to suggest that F1854 may have held some kind of marker post associated with the ring-ditch.

Eastern Cremation group

A small group of cremations were located in the eastern part of the site. With the exception of C2001 (F2003) these were the most easterly located cremations at the site.

Cremation C1893 was identified as that of an adult sized individual. A sheep/goat astragulus was also identified amongst the cremated bone. Bond (1996, 76-79) states that many Anglo-Saxon cremations are found to contain animal bone and that this would appear to represent some kind of ritual act. This cremation was deposited in Cremation Pit F1895 (Grid Square H9), which lay *c*. 7m to the east of Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277.

Cremation (1893)	Cremated bone (139.2g)
Cremation Cut (F1895)	Circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.37 x 0.12m)
Vessel (1894)	681g. Incised, bossed and stamped
Backfill (L1892)	Dark grey-brown sandy silt.
Comments	Decorated vessel. Cremation pit slightly truncated Cremation Cut F1899.

Table 20a: Cremation C1893

To the immediate south of F1895 lay Cremation Pit F1899 (Grid Square H9). The very northern edge of F1899 was cut by Cremation Pit F1895. F1899 contained urned Cremation C1897, which comprised the remains of an adult sized individual.

Cremation (1897)	Cremated bone (76.5g)
Cremation Cut (F1899)	Circular/ steep, slightly concave (0.50 x 0.45 x 0.15m)
Vessel (1898)	388g. Line and dot decoration, bossed and stamped
Backfill (L1896)	Dark grey-brown silty sand with orange mottling.
Comments	Decorated vessel. Truncated by Cremation Cut F1895. Truncated Undated Pit F1909.

Table 20b: Cremation C1897

Cremation C1945, the third in this group of cremations, was located in Cremation Pit F1945 (Grid Square H8), which lay slightly to the south of the other two cremations. Analysis of the cremated remains indicated that they were those of a sub-adult individual, probably of less than four years of age.

Cremation (1945)	Cremated bone (18.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1943)	Circular/ steep sides, concave base (0.44 x 0.40 x 0.16m)
Vessel (1944)	455g. Incised lines, bossed and stamped.
Backfill (1946)	Reddish-brown silty sand; moderate sub-rounded stones.
Comments	Decorated vessel. Cremation of child

Table 20c: Cremation C1945

Cremations at the northern end of Phase 2 Ditch F1273=F1235

Two cremations, dated to Phase 3, were recorded close to the northern end of Phase 2 Ditch F1273=F1235 and in close proximity to the Phase 2 Cremation C1713, interred in Pit F1711. Although the presence of the Phase 2 enclosure may have been a factor in the choice of this site as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery site, it is not possible to state if these Phase 3 Cremations were deliberately placed in proximity to the earlier C1713. This would imply that the Anglo-Saxon period population were capable of identifying Iron Age cremation burials without causing substantial disturbance to them. As Taylor (2001,

160) states, it can be difficult identifying reuse of Iron Age cemetery sites due to the "anonymous nature" of the earlier burials.

Cremation C1658 was contained within Pit F1656 (Grid Square C12), which lay to the immediate north-east of Phase 1 Pit F1694. This was an apparently un-urned cremation but it was found to contain a small iron staple. This staple was of a type often used to repair wooden vessels, which suggests that the cremation was originally deposited in a wooden vessel rather than a ceramic one. Staples of this type have been found in several Anglo-Saxon burials in the eastern region (see Crummy, this report) allowing this cremation to be dated to Phase 3 of activity at the Chalet site. The human remains recovered from the cremation were identified as being adult-sized but the open coronal suture indicates that this was probably a young adult (see Phillips, this report).

Cremation (1658)	Cremated bone (6g)
Cremation Cut (F1656)	Oval/ steep sides, flat base (0.50 x 0.32 x 0.32m)
Backfill (L1657)	Grey-brown silty sand.
Comments	Fe staple (3g); dates cremation as Anglo-Saxon, suggests original interment in wooden rather than ceramic vessel. Cremation of young adult

Table 21a: Cremation C1658

To the south-west of Pit F1694 and Cremation Pit F1656 lay Pit F1375 (Grid Square C12), within which was interred Cremation C1373. The individual whose remains were contained within C1373 died in adulthood.

Cremation (1373)	Cremated bone (32.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1375)	Circular/ unknown sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.36 x 0.05m)
Vessel (1374)	347g. Small fragments of base remaining. Burnished vessel.
Backfill (L1372)	Dark grey-brown silty sand
Comments	Adult cremation.

Table 21b: Cremation C1373

The remaining Anglo-Saxon Cremations

Pit F1763 (Grid Squares D4, E4) was located in the area considered to be the entrance to the Phase 2 double-ditched enclosure. It was sub-circular to ovoid in plan and measured 2 x 2.5 x 0.60m. It had steeply sloping sides with a sharp break of slope and a concave base. Its basal fill, L2013, was a dark grey-white silty sand with frequent small-large stones, which contained no pottery. The upper fill, L1762, was a dark grey-brown silty sand containing 341g of pottery. It cut the Phase 2 Ditch F1843 and was later cut by Anglo-Saxon (Phase 3) Ditch F1165, which appeared to be a recut of the much earlier Phase 2 ditch. Into the backfill of Pit F1763 Phase 3 Cremation C1796 was later inserted. This cremation was severely damaged and no cut for it was visible; it is however, unlikely that it was deposited into Pit F1763 as it was backfilled and so a feature number was assigned to the hypothetical pit in which the cremation was deposited. No bone survived from this urned cremation.

Cremation (1796)	No surviving bone
Cremation Cut (F1798)	Conjectured cremation cut within backfill of Pit F1763
Vessel (1797)	1451g. 'Cable' decorated rim with external finger nail decoration. Disturbed and shattered by ploughing.
Backfill (1795)	Dark grey-brown silty sand; moderate small stones
Comments	Cut into earlier Anglo-Saxon Pit F1763. In entranceway of Phase 2 double-ditched enclosure.

Table 15a: Cremation C1796

Pit F1775 (Grid Square B2) was cut in to Phase 2 Ditch F1195, the outermost of the west-south-west to east-north-east aligned pair of Phase 2 Ditches forming the enclosure. It contained Cremation C1773. This was an urned cremation containing the remains of an adult (see Phillips, this report). Like many of the other cremations, this had suffered plough damaged.

Cremation (1773)	Cremated bone (410.1g)
Cremation Cut (F1775)	Sub-circular/ sides truncated, flat base (0.40 x 0.40 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1774)	214g. Small fragments of pottery remaining in-situ.
Backfill (L1772)	Dark grey-black sandy silt; moderate small rounded stones
Comments	Inserted into backfill of Iron Age Ditch F1195.

Table 15b: Cremation C1773

Cremation C1361 was located in Pit F1360 (Grid Square B13) and was the most northerly of the cremations recorded within the area enclosed by the Phase 2 double-ditches. Pit F1360 was cut into the top of undated elongated Pit/Gully F1808. The cremation deposit contained sufficient surviving skeletal elements to identify the individual represented here as adult sized.

Cremation (1361)	Cremated bone (484g).
Cremation Cut (F1360)	Sub-circular/sides and base uncertain due to plough damage (0.75 x 0.70 x 0.15m)
Vessel (1362)	551g. Half of base surviving in situ.
Backfill (L1363)	Mid brown sandy silt, moderate small stones and gravel.
Comments	Appears to have suffered heavy plough damage

Table 15c: Cremation C1361

Pit F1809 (Grid Square B11) contained Cremation C1818. It was located to the north of Phase 4 Ditch F1984 and was partially cut by this feature. It was also partially truncated on its eastern side by undated Pit F1817. Analysis of the cremated remains revealed no elements from which age could be identified; only a very small quantity of human bone (0.6g) was recovered from the cremated material.

Cremation (1818)	Cremated bone (0.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1809)	Sub-circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.60 x 0.56 x 0.29m)
Vessel (1812)	128g. Slightly truncated by Pit F1817. Only few sherds remaining
Backfill (L1810)	Dark blackish-orange silty sand; moderate gravel and occasional small pebbles. Environmental Sample 120 taken.
Backfill (L1811)	Light yellow-grey-brown silty sand; moderate gravel and small-medium pebbles.
Comments	Cremation pit cut by Pit F1817 & Ditch F1984.

Table 15d: Cremation C1818

Cremation Cut F1350 (Grid Square B3), which contained Cremation C1348, lay between Phase 2 Enclosure Ditches F1195 and F1197 and to the west of Phase 2 Curvilinear Ditch F1226. Analysis of the cremated remains indicated that they were those of a sub-adult sized individual.

Cremation (1348)	Cremated bone (8.6g)
Cremation Cut (F1350)	Sub-circular/ shallow sides, flat base (0.49 x 0.40 x 0.08m)
Vessel (1349)	2493g. Vessel lying on side towards east. Plough-damaged. Burnished and stamped
Backfill (L1347)	Dark brown silty sand; moderate rounded stones.
Comments	Heavily-damaged cremation. Within interior of Iron Age curvilinear Ditch F1226.

Table 15e: Cremation C1348

The last of these apparently isolated cremations within the Phase 2 enclosure was C1342. This was contained within Cremation Pit F1344 (Grid Square A1). Cremation C1342 comprised the remains of an adult sized individual contained within V1343, a bossed and stamped cremation vessel.

Cremation (1342)	Cremated bone (80.5g).
Cremation Cut (F1344)	Circular/ steep sides, slightly concave base (0.35 x 0.30 x 0.10m)
Vessel (1343)	328g. Bossed and stamped decoration
Backfill (L1341)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; moderate small stones.
Comments	Decorated cremation vessel, moderate plough damage.

Table 15f: Cremation C1342

Pit F2003 (Grid Square H4) was the most south-easterly of the pits associated with this group of cremations. It contained Cremation C2001, which was contained within a round-based vessel that had suffered heavy damage (see Thompson, this report). Analysis of the contents indicated that it contained the remains of an adult sized individual

Cremation (2001)	Cremated bone (291.7g)
Cremation Cut (F2003)	Circular/ sides truncated, concave base (0.35 x 0.35 x 0.05m)

Vessel (2002)	1373g. Heavily-damaged vessel. Rounded base
Backfill (L2000)	Dark grey-brown sandy silt; occasional small stones.
Comments	Most south-easterly of group to the east of Ditch F1273=F1235

Table 19a: Cremation C2001

Approximately 6m to the west-south-west of Pit F2003 lay Cremation Pit F1882 (Grid Square G4). This contained Cremation C1884, that of an adult.

Cremation (1884)	Cremated bone (566.6g), Fe ?nail fragment (1; 2g)
Cremation Cut (F1882)	Circular/ steep sides, concave base (0.35 x 0.35 x 0.13m)
Vessel (1883)	811g. Burnished, bossed and stamped vessel
Backfill (L1885)	Blackish to mid-brown sandy silt.
Comments	Southern most cremation in group to east of Ditch F1273=F1235

Table 19b: Cremation C1884

Pit F1978 (Grid Squares G4, G5) contained 6 sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery (86g) that are considered to represent the remains of a possible cremation vessel (V1977). No bone survived within this feature but the possible vessel's original contents have been assigned the context number C1976. The fragmentary nature of the possible cremation vessel and the lack of surviving cremated bone is ascribed to severe truncation by the later ploughing of the site that disturbed so many of the archaeological features.

Cremation (1976)	No surviving bone.
Cremation Cut (F1978)	Circular/ Heavily-truncated by ploughing (0.25 x 0.25 x 0.01m)
Vessel (1977)	86g. Shattered pot base no longer in situ.
Backfill (N/A)	No backfill remaining.
Comments	Heavily-truncated cremation no longer in-situ.

Table 19c: Cremation C1976

Cremation C1866 was contained in Cremation Pit F1868 (Grid Square F5). The cremation vessel displayed decoration comprising dots and an incised pendant triangle. The cremated were remains were identified as adult and skull fragments displayed significant closure of the saggital suture.

Cremation (1866)	Cremated bone (249.5g), struck flint (1; 3g)
Cremation Cut (F1868)	Circular/ steep sides, concave base (0.40 x 0.40 x 0.11m)
Vessel (1867)	1234g. Biconical urn, incised pendant triangle and stamped dot decoration.
Backfill (L1865)	Mid grey-brown sandy silt; moderate small stones.
Comments	Decorated vessel. Near to Enclosure Ditch F1235.

Table 19d: Cremation C1866

Cremation Pit F1822 (Grid Square E6) lay to the north-west of Cremation C1866. It contained Cremation C1820, which was identified as the remains of an adult. These remains demonstrated some interesting non-metric traits (see Phillips, this report).

Cremation (1820)	Cremated bone (336.4g).
Cremation Cut (F1822)	Circular/ shallow sides, slightly concave base (0.60 x 0.60 x 0.12m)
Vessel (1821)	561g. Round based urn
Backfill (L1819)	Mid orange-brown silty sand; moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and gravel. Environmental Sample 123 taken.
Comments	Damaged cremation urn. Near to Enclosure Ditch F1235.

Table 19e: Cremation C1820

Cremation C1849 comprised the remains of an adult sized individual contained within Vessel V1850 and deposited in Cremation Pit F1851 (Grid Square G6). However, this Pit is only conjectured; the cremation vessel itself was found lying at the interface of the overlying subsoil and the natural sand. This was one of three cremations, along with those in Pits F2003 and F1924, that marked the eastern-most extent of this group.

Cremation (1849)	Cremated bone (4g)
Cremation Cut (F1851)	Conjectured cut. Cremation found unstratified on top of subsoil/ natural sand interface
Vessel (1850)	127g. Splayed base
Backfill (L1848)	Conjectured backfill – no cut and fill identified during excavation.
Comments	Cremation vessel possibly no longer in-situ.

Table 19f: Cremation C1849

Cremation C1997 lay within Cremation Pit F1999 (Grid Square F6). It comprised the urned remains of a sub-adult sized individual. Very little of the cremated material or of the cremation vessel (V1998) survived. Cremation Pit F1997 truncated the earlier un-urned, and therefore technically undated, Cremation C2010.

Cremation (1997)	Cremated bone (4.8g)
Cremation Cut (F1999)	Circular/steep sides, flat base (0.45 x 0.45 x 0.15m)
Vessel (1998)	9g. Vessel placed flat on base of cut.
Backfill (L1996)	Dark black-grey sandy silt; occasional small stones.
Comments	Truncates Cremation Cut F2011.

Table 19g: Cremation C1997

Cremation Pit F1838 (Grid Squares E7, F7) was located *c*. 3.75m to the north-west of Cremation Pit F1997. F1838 contained the remains of a sub-adult sized individual that, based on the surviving dentition, was at least two years of age (C1836; see Phillips, this report).

Cremation (1836)	Cremated bone (37g)
Cremation Cut (F1838)	Sub-oval/ moderate sides, uneven base (0.75 x 0.55 x 0.20m)
Vessel (1837)	602g. Lying 45º on side towards east, possibly disturbed by plough. Burnished, line and dot decoration, bossed and stamped with ring base
Backfill (L1835)	Dark blackish-brown silty sand; moderate stones and gravel.
Comments	Cremation of individual identifiable to at least 2 years of age

Table 19h: Cremation C1836

Approximately 4m to the north of F1838 lay F1924 (Grid Square F7), the cremation pit containing Cremation C1923. C1923 represented the remains of an adult sized individual. The cremation vessel was substantially destroyed but enough survived for its incised line decoration to be recognised (see Thompson, this report).

Cremation (1923)	Cremated bone (46.2g)
Cremation Cut (F1924)	Circular/ vertical sides, flat base (0.33 x 0.30 x 0.13m)
Vessel (unnumbered)	8g. Found in association with cremated bone.
Backfill (L1923)	Brown-black silty sand. Environmental Sample 133 taken.
Comments	Urn substantially destroyed

Table 19i: Cremation C1923

To the west of F1924 lay Cremation C1839, within Cremation Pit F1840 (Grid Square E7). This cremation deposit contained the remains of an adult sized individual though it was noted that its occipo-mastoid and lambdoidal sutures were unfused. The cremation vessel that originally contained this cremation was badly damaged; sherds of vessel were found in association with the cremated bone.

Cremation Pit F1840 cut the Phase 2 Pit F1859 which cut the eastern edge of the outermost of the two Phase 2 north-north-west to south-south-east aligned enclosure ditches, Ditch F1273=F1235.

Cremation (1839)	Cremated bone (226.1g)
Cremation Cut (F1840)	Circular/ moderate sides, flat base (0.51 x 0.41 x 0.18m)
Vessel (unnumbered)	93g. Pottery found associated with cremated bone.
Backfill (L1839)	Dark brown silty sand. Lead (139g).
Comments	Urn destroyed. Near to Enclosure Ditch F1235. Cremation Pit cut Phase 2 Pit F1859

Table 19j: Cremation C1839

3.4.5 Other Phase 3 features and their relationship to the cremation cemetery

Circular Posthole F1057 (Grid Square B13) lay to the south of Phase 3 Curvilinear Ditch F1208, to the north of Cremation Pit F1218 and to the north-west of Cremation Pit

F1421. A single sherd (3g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered from its loose mid brown silty sand fill (L1058) dated the feature to Phase 3. No other postholes were recorded in the vicinity of F1057 with which it may have had a structural relationship. As an isolated posthole the function of this feature is difficult to determine. Pole (2007) has suggested that apparently isolated postholes in close proximity to cremation burials at this site may represent single-post grave markers similar to those found associated with inhumation burials at other sites (see Lucy 2000, 102).

Pit F1418 (Grid Square C13) was located *c*. 1m to the south-east of the eastern terminus of Curvilinear Ditch F1208. It therefore lay outside of the possible enclosure that this feature may have formed with undated Ditch F1653. F1418 measured 1.0 x 0.49 x 0.57m and was sub-circular in plan with, in section, an irregular, almost stepped, eastern side and near-vertical western side and an irregular base. Its fill, L1419, a mid grey brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded and angular gravel, contained a single sherd (9g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery. The proximity of F1418 to Ditch F1208 suggests the possibility of some kind of relationship between the two but the nature of this is not apparent. F1418 was considerably larger than any of the cremation pits recorded at the site; this would appear to rule out the possibility that it was a pit for a cremation that had been disturbed by ploughing or that had not survived in the burial environment for some other reason.

Ditch F1210 (Grid Squares B10, B11, C11) entered the site from the west, extended for 6.20m in a north-easterly direction and terminated immediately to the south of Phase 4 Ditch F1984. It cut Phase 2 Ditch F1234=F1274. The feature was assigned to Phase 3 as its dark grey brown silty sand was found to contain 59 sherds (682g) of early Saxon pottery. Its function is unclear. It did not communicate with the complex of features comprising F1214, F1233=F1212=F1222, F1165, F1263 and F1220, but, if these represented the enclosing boundary of a burial ground then it may represent some kind of internal division.

F1422 (Grid Square C11) was a shallow sub-circular pit (0.55 x 0.35 x 0.08m) located to the east of the eastern terminus of Ditch F1210 and *c*. 7m north of Ditch F1263 It was found to contain five sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, which probably originated from a single vessel, and burnt animal bone (2g). Its northern edge was cut by Phase 4 Ditch 1984. A function for F1422 is difficult to determine. Its position adjacent to the north-eastern end of undated feature F1358, which is considered to have been a grave, may indicate that it is related to this feature. If it was associated with the possible grave then it is conceivable that it originally held a grave marker, possibly in the form of a single post. However, in section, it had gently sloping sides and a flat base suggesting that it may not have been suited to such a function.

F1512 (Grid Square B6) a small (0.2x 0.28 x0.24m), circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base, and containing five sherds (5g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, was located to the west of Pits F1739 and F1743. Although in an area of dense Phase 3 activity, it was effectively isolated from features with which it might have had a functional relationship, unless it was related to features beyond the limits of the excavated area to the west. It lay

in fairly close proximity to Cremation Pits F1625 and F1631 and may have functioned as some kind of marker for these cremations in the same way that Posthole F1057 has been suggested to have functioned. Several further isolated postholes were recorded, some of which appeared to show possible spatial relationships with nearby features. F1626 (Grid Square D5) was an oval posthole with near vertical sides and a flattish base. It was firmly dated to Phase 3 due to the presence of three sherds (15g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery in its dark brownish black silty sand fill (L1627). It was, however, stratigraphically later than Phase 3 Ditch F1165, the western edge of which it cut. An isolated post at this location appears from the layout of Phase 3 features to have no obvious purpose; it was not close enough to act as a marker post for any of the cremations in this area.

Circular Posthole F1275 (Grid Square D7; 0.42 x 0.43 x 0.48m) was located between Phase 2 Ditches F1274=F1224=F1234 and F1235=F1273. F1275 It was assigned to Phase 3 due to the single sherd (6g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery that was recovered from its fill (L1276). It may have been related to the undated and similarly sized, though shallower, Posthole F1269 that lay 0.75m to the north-west. Undated shallow Pit F1231, which was similar in length and width to Postholes F1275 and F1269, may also have been related to these features. Posthole F1142 (Grid Square D5) lay *c*. 3m to the east of Ditch F1165 and therefore between Phase 2 Ditches F1843 and F1274=F1224=F1234. It contained two sherds (3g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Posthole F1355 (Grid Square A2) was another isolated posthole. It lay *c*. 1.5m to the west of Phase 3 Ditch F1329 and *c*. 4m to the north-east of Cremation C1343. Its basal fill, L1359, was a yellow-grey silty sand with frequent sub-rounded stones. Its upper fill, L1356, was a brown to dark brown silty sand with moderate angular gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal; this deposit contained two sherds (7g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery.

A further 12 pits of uncertain function were recorded across the site which had no or few distinguishing characteristics beyond the presence of pottery, of a date sufficient to place them in Phase 3, within their fills. Sub-circular Pit F1411 (Grid Square D11) lay *c*. 2m from Ditch F1263 and to the immediate south of Phase 4 Ditch F1984. It yielded a single sherd (10g) of Anglo-Saxon pottery. Pit F1199 (Grid Square C6) lay *c*. 2m to the north of Penannular Ditch F1324, but did not seem to have any obvious direct association with this feature. It also lay *c*. 2m to the west of Ditch F1165. It was cut at its north-western corner by Phase 3 Posthole F1253.

Pit F1739 (Grid Square B6) lay to the north-west of Penannular Ditch F1324. Finds from this feature comprised 36 sherds (614g) of early Anglo Saxon pottery. F1739 was cut to the south by the very similar Pit F1743, which contained two fills, neither of which produced any dateable artefacts. The basal fill, L1745 was a mid greyish brown silty sand and appeared to comprise the same deposit of material as L1740, the fill of F1739. It is therefore possible to identify F1743 as being of Phase 3 date. The upper fill, L1744, was a dark greyish black sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions and occasional charcoal.

Pit F1408 (Grid Square A1) lay *c*. 1m to the south-east of Cremation C1343. Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (7 sherds; 45g) was recovered from the lower of these fills. The function of L1408 is not obvious; it may have been related to other Phase 3 features that

lay close by such as Cremation Pit F1344 or Ditches F1329 and F1320. Pit F1083 (Grid Square D2) lay *c*. 8m to the east of Ditch F1320 and *c*. 3m north-east of Phase 2 Cremation Pit F1258; this distance was too great for any convincing spatial relationship to exist. It was dated to Phase 3 by the single sherd (10g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery that was recovered from this fill.

Pit F1075 (Grid Squares F14, G14) lay in relative isolation from other Phase 3 features in a location *c*. 6m to the east of Ring-Ditch F1214. Pit F1918 (Grid Square G12) lay *c*. 6m to the south of Pit F1075. It was surrounded by undated and modern features and cut stratigraphically earlier but undated Pit F1916. Its fill, L1917, was a dark brown silty sand which yielded fourteen sherds (122g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Pit F1981 (Grid Square H9) lay *c*. 0.5m to the north of Cremation Pits F1895 and F1899. Its position in proximity to Cremation Pits F1895 and F1899 may indicate that it was in some way related to these features, however, no clear stratigraphic or functional relationships to further elucidate this possibility exist or are apparent. This feature was cut to the north by the Phase 4 Ditch F1644. Its south-eastern side displayed a lining of light browny grey clay (L1993). The remainder of the feature contained Fill L1982, a dark grey brown mix of approximately equal parts of sand and silt. From this fill, five sherds (21g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered.

Intercutting Pits F1825 (Grid Square E8) and F1841 (Grid Square E7) lay approximately midway between Cremation Pits F1840 and F1924. There was no obvious functional relationship that linked these pits with the cremation pits that lay to either side. Both features produced pottery of early Anglo-Saxon date.

Pit F1283 (Grid Square D6) lay *c*. 5m to the south-west of sub-circular Phase 3 Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. It contained seventeen sherds (143g) of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, most of which was concentrated towards the western side of the feature, charcoal (1g) and burnt animal bone (6g).

A pair of ditches of uncertain function were recorded in the south-west of the site. Ditch F1320 extended for a length of 6.6m, on a north to south alignment, from Grid Square B1 to Grid Square B2. It was linear in plan with parallel, but slightly irregular, edges. Its sides were steeply sloping with a sharp break of slope at the flat base. At its widest point it measured 1m and its depth did not extend beyond 0.18m. It was assigned to Phase 3 due to the early Iron Age pottery (4g) recovered from L1321, its fill, a mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent angular and sub-angular stones. The function of F1320 within the Phase 3 landscape is uncertain though it clearly formed one of a pair of features with the similar and adjacent Ditch F1329 (Grid Squares B1, B2) which lay *c*. 1m to the west. Ditch F1329 of Ditch F1320. It was very similar in form, dimensions and fill to the neighbouring feature and, due to this, is assigned to the same phase despite yielding no dateable artefacts. Unlike F1320, Ditch F1329 extended beyond the southern limit of the excavated area.

3.4.7 Further possible Anglo-Saxon features

Nine of the cremations recorded at the site were identified as being un-urned. The cremated human remains would have been deposited possibly directly in to the cremation pit or would have been held within some kind of organic container, possibly made of wood or leather, which would not have survived in the burial environment. Due to the absence of ceramic urns, which did survive in the burial conditions, or any other kind of dateable artefactual evidence, it is impossible to date many of these cremations. Where further artefactual evidence has been recovered (the Anglo-Saxon iron staple in C1658) or where the un-urned cremation has been recognised to be a coherent part of a group including dateable features or cremations (C1406, C1680) it has been possible to assign these cremations to Phase 3.

The presence of cremations dateable to the Iron Age at the Chalet Site means that it is not possible to assume that any undated cremations are contemporary with Phase 3. However, as the majority of cremations at the site are Anglo-Saxon and as it has been possible to assign an Anglo-Saxon date to the three dateable un-urned cremations it seems statistically probable that the remaining un-urned cremations are also of this date. Therefore, while they remain technically undated they are presented here (see Fig. 11).

Four undated cremations lay in the area surrounding Phase 2 (late Bronze Age to early Iron Age) Cremation C1258, though they also lay close to Phase 3 Pit F1083. Cremation Pit F1053 (Grid Square D2) lay *c*. 3.5m to the north-east of Pit F1083 and *c*. 6m north-east of Phase 2 Cremation C1258. F1053 contained Cremation C1052, which was identified as being the remains of an adult sized individual.

Cremation (1052)	Cremated bone (7.8g)
Cremation Cut (F1053)	Circular/ moderate sides, concave base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.11m)
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L1053)	Brown-black silty sand. Environmental Sample 23 taken.
Comments	Cremated human remains identified as those of an adult sized individual

Table 22a: Cremation C1052

Cremation Pit F1804 (Grid Square C2) contained Cremation C1803, which was identified from full development of the tooth roots to be an adult. It lay *c*. 1m north-west of Phase 3 Pit F1083 and *c*. 3m north-east of Phase 2 Cremation C1258.

Cremation (1803)	Cremated bone (148.3g), burnt flint (20g)
Cremation Cut (F1804)	Circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.35 x 0.32 x 0.22m)
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L1803)	Brown-black silty sand. Environmental Sample 118 taken.
Comments	Cremated remains displayed fully developed tooth roots

Table 22b: Cremation C1803

Cremation Pit F1778 (Grid Square D2), containing Cremation C1779, was located *c*. 2.8m to the west-north-west of Phase 2 Cremation C1258. No bone survived within this cremation but the character of deposit C1779 was sufficiently similar to other cremation deposits for it to be identified as such.

Cremation (1779)	No surviving bone
Cremation Cut (F1778)	Circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.32 x 0.31 x 0.25m)
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L1780)	Mid grey-brown silty sand; frequent small sub-angular pebbles
Comments	Un-urned and no surviving bone

Table 22c: Cremation C1778

Cremation C1815, located in Pit F1816 (Grid Square D3) was the furthest of this group of un-urned cremations from Phase 2 Cremation C1258 and Phase 3 Pit F1083. It was not possible to determine the age or sex of the individual represented in these cremated remains.

Cremation (1815)	Cremated bone (<1g)
Cremation Cut (F1816)	Sub-circular/ moderate sides, flat base (0.58 x 0.49 x 0.22m)
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L1815)	Brown-black silty sand. Environmental Sample 119 taken.
Comments	Age unknown

Table 22d: Cremation C1815

Cremation C1118 was located within Pit F1119 (Grid Square D4). This lay close to the north-eastern termini of Phase 2 Ditches F1195 and F1197 and to the west of Phase 3 Ditch F1165 and Pit F1763. This cremation lay in equal proximity to features of both Phase 2 and Phase 3 date and could, therefore, conceivably be contemporary with either of these sets of features. Analysis of the cremated material revealed it to be the remains of an adult.

Cremation (1118)	Cremated bone (246g)
Cremation Cut (F1119)	Sub-circular/ vertical sides, flat base (0.60 x 0.50 x 0.43m)
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L1117)	Mid brown-grey silty clayey sand.
Comments	In entranceway of Phase 2 double-ditched enclosure.

Table 22e: Cremation C1118

Cremation Pit F1942 (Grid Square B10) lay immediately to the south of Phase 4 Ditch F1984. It was located at least 4m from any features of Phase 2 or 3 date, though other undated features lay in closer proximity. It contained adult Cremation C1941.

Cremation (1941)	Cremated bone (51g)
Cremation Cut (F1942)	Circular/ moderate sides, slightly concave base (0.39 x 0.36 x 0.16m)
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L1941)	Brown-black silty sand; charred material (3g)
Comments	Adult Cremation

Table 22f: Cremation C1941

Cremation Pit F2011 (Grid Square F6) was heavily truncated by Cremation Pit F1999. No surviving bone was present when cremated material from Cremation C2010 was analysed. This may be because much of this material appeared to have been redeposited as backfill in Cremation Pit F1999 thus causing mixing of material from C1998 with that of C2010. Taylor (2001, 144) states that it is regularly observed of Anglo-Saxon burial that there was, apparently, little problem in identifying earlier graves, either to avoid disturbing a previous burial or to locate a grave in which to place another family member. This suggests that Cremation C1998 was deliberately deposited in the same location as C2010, causing deliberate disturbance to it, or that C2010 was considerably earlier than C1998 and possibly of Phase 2 date.

Cremation (2010)	No Surviving bone
Cremation Cut (F2011)	Circular? Truncated by F1999.
Vessel	Un-urned Cremation
Backfill (L2010)	Brown-black silty sand
Comments	Un-urned cremation heavily-truncated by F1999.

Table 22g: Cremation C2010

3.5 **Phase 4 Post-medieval** (Figs. 16 & 17)

3.5.1 Introduction

Following the last use of the site as a cremation cemetery in the early Anglo-Saxon period it appears to have seen little further activity until the post-medieval period. During this time, it is possible that the site may have been used as agricultural land and it is possible that this was the cause of the plough damage suffered by the Phase 3 Cremations and other features.

Six features were assigned to Phase 4 on the basis of finds of post-medieval date, present within their fills, and stratigraphic relationships. These features comprised three isolated pits, a pair of ditches and a recut of the southern-most of this pair of ditches. All of these features were located within the northern three-quarters of the excavated area.

3.5.2 The Phase 4 Pits

Pit F1388 (Grid Square D13) was located within the south-western quadrant of the area enclosed by Phase 3 Ring-Ditch F1214. It was circular in plan with moderate to gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base and measured 0.41 x 0.38 x 0.22m. Its fill (L1389) was a dark reddish brown loose silty sand with occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones. The feature was dated to Phase 4 due to the presence of post-medieval peg tile (2g) within its fill. To the south-west of Pit F1388, at a distance of *c*. 8.75m, lay sub-circular Pit F1059 (Grid Squares B12, C12). It lay less than 0.5m to the east of Phase Enclosure Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 and *c*. 5m to the north of Phase 4 Ditch F1984. In section, it had gently sloping concave sides, developing almost imperceptibly in to a gently concave base. It measured 0.90 x 0.30 x 0.19m. Its only fill, L1060, was a mid brown silty sand with moderate gravel inclusions. The feature was found to contain post-medieval peg tile (38g). Pit F1400 (Grid Square D12) lay *c*. 6m to the east of Pit F1388. Pit F1400 (0.79 x 0.77 x 0.47) was larger and deeper than the other two Phase 4 Pits. It was circular and had very steep, near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. Post-medieval peg tile (50g) was recovered from its only fill, L1401, a mid to dark orangey brown silty sand with frequent gravel.

No evidence to suggest an obvious function for these features was apparent. They may have been excavated as rubbish pits in to which small quantities of organic material, which have not survived to any extent in the burial environment, were deposited. Their location, away from any kind of domestic occupation, would perhaps negate this suggestion. It is perhaps more likely that they represent coincidental activity occurring during the construction of the two extensive linear features close by to the south.

3.4.3 The Phase 4 ditches

Two ditches traversed the site running broadly east to west and parallel with one another. These were both identified as being of Phase 4 date.

The northern-most of the two ditches was Ditch F1984 (Grid Squares B11, C11, D11, E11, F11, F10, G11, G10, H11, H10, I10). It measured in excess of 40m and was 2.10m in width at its widest point and had a maximum depth of 0.50m. It had moderately steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It cut all features which it shared stratigraphic relationships with, with the exception of a modern pipe trench. Its single fill (L1983), was a mid greyish brown loose silty sand with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones from which a fragment (856g) of post-medieval brick and 25 fragments (1652g) of 12mm thick peg tile (see Peachey, this report) were recovered.

At a distance varying between 3.5 and 4m to the south of Ditch F1984, lay Ditch F1644 (Grid Squares B10, C10, D10, E10, E9, F10, F9, G9, H9, I9). It ran parallel to F1984. Ditch F1644 was slightly narrower and slightly shallower than F1984. It contained three fills; the basal fill, L1781, was a light brown to mid orange silty sand with moderate angular pebbles, the nature of this fill indicated that it probably formed through natural processes. The second fill, L1782, was a dark brown to black loose sandy silt with moderate gravel. The upper most fill, L1645, was a dark orange brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and gravel inclusions. From this

upper fill, 172g of CBM was recovered. Like F1984, F1644 was clearly stratigraphically later than the majority of features with which it came into contact. The exceptions to this were the modern pipe trench, which also cut F1984, undated Posthole F1667 and F1646, the recut of F1644.

Recut F1646 was present towards the western extent of Ditch F1644 within Grid Squares B10, C10, D10, E10. It measured *c*. 16m in length, 0.73m in width and 0.3m in depth. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery (4g) was recovered from F1646, this, however, must be residual given the stratigraphic relationship F1646 had with the securely dated F1644.

None of the historical cartographic evidence consulted during work on this project indicated any features within the site that may correlate to Ditches F1984, F1644 and F1646 (see Figs. 22, 23, 24 & 25 and Vaughan & Grassam 2005). The ditches may represent field or plot boundaries though their proximity to one another may suggest otherwise, unless the gap between them represented some kind of thoroughfare, in which case it may be expected to have shown up as a hollow-way, which it certainly did not. The alignment of these features indicates that they may have led to the Heybridge Creek, which runs past the site to the west, thus they may have been cut to facilitate drainage on the site. Indeed, Vaughan and Grassam (2005, 11) note that the historical cartographic evidence for the site indicates that part of the site encompassed marshy ground in the late 18th century, although by the 19th century it appears to have been improved, perhaps through drainage. The natural slope of the site, which drops from 2.93m AOD in the north-east to 2.66m AOD in the south, may have implications regarding the effectiveness of these features as land drains as they cut across the site from east to west.

3.6 Unphased features (Figs. 18, 19 & 20)

3.6.1 Introduction

Those features recorded at the Chalet Site that did not contain dateable artefactual evidence or did not display convincing stratigraphic, spatial or functional relationships with other features that served to indicate their date, remain classified as undated; it is not possible to assign these features to any phase of activity with any degree of confidence. Modern features, which are plotted on the Phase Plan (Fig. 4), were also not assigned a phase due to their obvious recent provenance.

The majority of these undated features were discrete pits or postholes that had no positively identifiable interrelationships with features that were dateable. These features may have been contemporary with features of any of the identifiable phases of activity recorded at the site, or may even represent activity of a date not identifiable within the artefactual assemblage that was recovered during excavation. It is reasonable to suggest that undated features within the area of the Phase 2 Double Ditched Enclosure were representative of contemporary activity within the enclosure, though they could also be associated with the Anglo-Saxon Phase 3 activity that occurred within close proximity.

Although the majority of the undated features offered little evidence in terms of the history, character and development of the site others were intrinsically interesting or effected the understanding of the site. Amongst these were the seven un-urned cremations (C1052, C1118, C1778, C1803, C1815, C1941 and C2010) discussed in Section 3.4.7. These cremations contained no dateable evidence and were not part of coherent groups of dated features that would allow them to be considered contemporary. While the fact that the majority of the cremations recorded at the site were early Anglo-Saxon in date would suggest that it is likely that these undated cremations were also of this date, the presence of cremations of late Bronze Age to Iron Age date indicates this is by no means certain.

Other unphased features, with the potential to effect the way in which the site is understood are described and discussed below.

3.6.2 Significant undated features

F1358: the possible grave

F1358 (Grid Square C10) lay between Phase 2 Ditches F1274=F1224=F1234 and F1273=F1235. It was aligned north to south and was sub-rectangular in plan, with rounded corners, near-vertical sides and an irregular base that sloped down to the south. F1358 contained a single fill, L1357, a light brown silty sand with moderate <5cm stone inclusions; no finds were recovered from this fill. During excavation, it was, however, considered to be an Anglo-Saxon grave cut (see Pole 2007). This interpretation was based on the shape of the feature, in both plan and profile, its size (2.30 x 0.60 x 0.30m) and its proximity to so many other Anglo-Saxon funerary features. Mixed burial rite cemeteries are not unusual in the Anglo-Saxon period. Indeed, Taylor (2001, 138) states that most cemeteries of this date have an element of both inhumation and cremation. Very large cremation cemeteries with a small minority of inhumations are early in origin and are concentrated in eastern England (Taylor 2001, 138). If F1358 were indeed a grave, then its presence would indicate that the Chalet Site cemetery fits into the pattern described by Taylor (*ibid.*).

The lack of human remains within F1358 does not, of course, hamper its interpretation as a grave. The natural sand/gravel deposits present at the Chalet Site are the type of soils that provide the kind of acidic environment in which bone will quickly dissolve leaving no detectable trace (Goodyear 1971, 147). The cremated bone from the site survives as a result of the chemical changes that occurred to it during the cremation process. The lack of grave goods may, however, call in to question the interpretation of this feature as a grave. Taylor (2001, 135) states that the normal inhumation custom in the early Anglo-Saxon period was for clothed burial with a wealth of grave goods. While the soil conditions at the site would appear to be unfavourable for the survival of organic materials, evidence from elsewhere on the Chalet Site indicates that inorganic materials survive reasonably well in the soil conditions at the site. It would be unusual for a grave good assemblage to be composed entirely from items made of organic materials and so it must be considered that F1358 suffered some form of grave robbing, that it did not

conform to the conventional norms of inhumation burial at this time or that it was not a grave at all.

The final aspect of F1358 that should be considered is that it was a grave, but that it was not of Anglo-Saxon date. The position of the feature between Phase 2 Ditches F1274=F1224=F1234 and F1273=F1235 may indicate that it was contemporary with these features. Inhumations without grave goods are not uncommon in the Iron Age. The presence of limited Neolithic activity at the site makes it possible that F1358 was of this date. In the hugely unlikely event of the feature being of post-medieval date, its position away from consecrated ground and aligned north to south would indicate that if it were a grave it must have been a clandestine burial in a time when the vast majority of the population were Christian and could be expected to buried in a churchyard.

In summary, it can be seen that it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions regarding F1358. The evidence upon which it was considered to be a grave during excavation is circumstantial at best. It, therefore, remains undated and can only be classified as a possible grave.

Possible grave markers

Posthole F1541 (Grid Square C9) was cut in to the southern edge of the northern part of the circuit of sub-circular Phase 3 Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. It was circular in plan, measuring 0.40 x 0.35 x 0.09m. Its sides were moderately sloping and concave, these reached to a concave base. Its single fill, L1542, was a dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature and it therefore remains undated. It was considered during excavation to represent a grave marker associated with Cremation Pits F1055, F1617 and F1194. Lucy (2000, 102) notes the use of single-post grave markers for inhumation graves in the Anglo-Saxon period. However, as the cremations that this marker is considered to be related to, lay within the area enclosed by Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, it would appear more likely that this far larger feature would have marked the area in which these cremations were located.

Several further undated features were regarded during excavation as being grave markers associated with Anglo-Saxon Cremations. These features included: F1297 (Grid Square D8) associated with Cremation Pit F2012; F1447 (Grid Square B12), associated with the north-western cremation group; F1122 (Grid Square B4), associated with Cremation Pit F1303; F1672 (Grid Square D12) and F1681 (Grid Square D13), both associated with Ring-Ditch F1214 and cremation pits to the immediate south-west; F1607 (Grid Square C14) associated with the possible enclosure formed by Phase 3 Curvilinear Ditch F1208; F1281 (Grid Square D2), associated with the undated un-urned cremation pits at the southern end of the site; F1766 (Grid Square A1), associated with Cremation Pit F1344; and finally F1860 and F1861 (Grid Square G4), associated with Cremation Pit F1882. Single-post markers are more commonly associated with Anglo-Saxon inhumations

(Lucy 2000, 102) with cremations being more usually marked by four-post 'gravehouse' structures. It is possible, however, that cremations or groups of cremations were marked by the presence of an upright post. At some Anglo-Saxon cemeteries stones appear to have been used to mark the positions of cremation depositions (Welch 1992, 69); it is reasonable to suggest that in the case of the Chalet Site, and possibly at other sites, that such stones were substituted with upright posts. Furthermore, Welch (1992, 69) asserts that many aspects of Anglo-Saxon inhumation and cremation rites are very similar, in terms of the way the body was laid out and the way in which it was equipped either in the grave or on the pyre. This may provide support for the suggestion that the same external appurtenances were used with cremation deposits as they were with inhumations. Indeed, some cremations within Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been positively identified as being marked by posts. A cremation at the Great Chesterford cemetery was associated with a posthole containing vertically inserted packing stones; this cremation, however, was contained within a wheel-thrown Roman vessel, possibly indicating that it was a Roman cremation that later attracted Saxon burials (Evison 1994, 30).

Of the undated features initially suggested to represent grave markers associated with cremations, most cannot be considered to be associated with the cremations with which they were linked during excavation with any certainty beyond a loose proximity (and in many cases even this is too great for these features to be truly considered to have been related), due to their undated status. The suggestion that Anglo-Saxon cremations at the Chalet Site may have been marked by single posts remains valid but without dating evidence, and in some cases evidence to prove a link between the postholes and the cremation deposits, the possibility of these undated features functioning in this way remains conjectural.

Undated Prehistoric features

A small number of features recorded at the site yielded no dateable artefactual evidence but were cut by features that were assigned to Phase 2 of activity. These features were, therefore, clearly prehistoric in date; they may have been of Phase 2 date, but slightly earlier than the features that cut them, or could have been of any date prior to Phase 2. It is possible that they comprised further features of Phase 1 (late Neolithic) date.

Pits F1317 (Grid Square B8) and F1532 (Grid Square C7) were both situated within the area defined by Phase 3 Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. Pit F1317 was oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.00 x 0.8 x 0.16m. It contained a single fill, L1318, a mid red brown loose silty sand with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. No finds were recovered from this feature. Its western side was cut by Phase 2 Posthole F1314.

Pit F1532 was truncated to the north by Phase 2 Pit F1522. F1532 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.60 x 0.50 x 0.33m. In section, it had vertical sides and a flat base. Its single fill, which contained no finds, L1531, was a mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional rounded and sub-rounded stones. Fill L1531 was very similar in composition

to L1521, the fill of Pit F1522, which was a mid brown-grey sandy silt with moderate inclusions of rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.

Pit F1236 (Grid Square E8) was truncated on its western side by Phase 2 Ditch F1273=F1235. It was sub-circular in plan and, in section, had steep, near vertical sides, which became increasingly gentle, rounding gradually to a concave base. It contained two fills, neither of which produced any finds. The basal fill, L1247, was a blackish dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. The upper fill, L1248, was a blackish dark brown sandy silt but with a much higher sand content and considerably less gravel than L1247. It was noted during excavation that this upper fill had the appearance of a deliberate backfill deposit rather than that of a naturally accumulated fill.

Gully F1516 (Grid Square D9) was an ephemeral feature that was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east. Its west-south-western terminus was obscured by Phase 2 Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 and it was cut towards its east-north-eastern end by Ditch F1273=F1235 before terminating *c*. 1m to the east of the latter Phase 2 Ditch. It measured 5.00 x 0.50 x 0.30m and in plan had straight parallel sides. In section, its gently sloping sides reached to a flat base. L1517, its only fill, was a mid orange to dark brown friable sandy silt.

Features within Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277

With the exception of Pit F1854, which lay close by to the south, no features of Phase 3 date were recorded in association with Phase 3 Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277. This would appear to be strange as the very similar Ring-Ditch F1214 contained, within the area that it enclosed, Cremations C1676 and C1558 (in Cremation Pits F1678 and F1560, respectively). Small ring-ditches, such as this, sometimes constructed around a central cremation pit, may indicate that a mound originally existed over the burial deposit, as with inhumation burials in the early Anglo-Saxon period (Welch 1992, 66).

The only features that lay within the area enclosed by Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 (F1903, F1905 and F1907) yielded no dateable artefacts. It was not possible to assign these to Phase 3 solely on the basis of their presence within Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 as features of both Phase 2 and Phase 4 date were recorded within the area enclosed by Ring-Ditch F1214.

F1903 (Grid Square F10) was a sub-circular pit measuring 1.2 x 1.06 x 0.29m. It had gently sloping sides that rounded almost imperceptibly in to a concave base. Its only fill, L1904, was a dark brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions and some gravel. It cut the southern edge of small Pit F1907.

F1905 (Grid Squares F9, F10) was a curvilinear feature measuring 2.07 x 0.46 x 0.26m. It was recognised both to the north and south of Phase 4 east to west aligned Ditch F1644, which cut it close to its southern terminus. In section, it sides were uneven, in some parts of the feature appearing to be gently sloping but in others, close to vertical. Its base was

more uniformly concave. It contained a dark brown loose silty sand fill with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions and some gravel (L1906), which was very similar to L1904, the fill of Pit F1903. Like Pit F1903, it cut Pit F1907.

Pit F1907 (Grid Square F10) was truncated to the south by Pit F1903 and to the north by Curvilinear Gully F1905; its shape in plan was, therefore, indeterminable. This truncation also obscured the slope of its sides in section, though it was observed that the feature had a rounded, concave base. Its fill, L1908, was a loose mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions and some gravel.

Although the nature of the evidence makes it impossible to assign any of these features to a particular phase of activity, their presence within the area enclosed by Phase 3 Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 suggests that any of them may have been of the same phase. The character of Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 suggests that it may represent the remains of a burial mound and could have been expected to be associated with funerary activity in the same way that Ring-Ditch F1214 was. If a cremation deposit did at any point exist in the area within Ring-Ditch F1271=F1277 then the most likely of the three features for it to have been deposited would have been the small Pit F1907, with the subsequent truncation by Pit F1903 Curvilinear Gully F1905 removing any trace of the cremation deposit. However, no trace of any element that may hint at the presence of a cremation within this feature was recorded.

Ditch F1428

Ditch F1428 (Grid Squares B11, B12, C12) was located *c*. 11m to the north-west of Phase 3 Ditch F1263 and followed a similar alignment. Its south-western portion was truncated by Phase 4 Ditch F1984 and it was also cut close to its north-eastern terminus by undated Pit F1817. F1428 measured 5.00m in length and had a maximum width of 0.70m, making it only slightly narrower than F1263, and a maximum depth of 0.52m. It had steeply sloping, but concave sides and an irregular base. It cut Phase 2 Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. Its fill, L1429, was an orange brown silty sand small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions. The alignment of this ditch, approximately parallel with Phase 3 Ditch F1263, raises the slight possibility that the two were associated in some kind of boundary or land division system. The stratigraphic relationships displayed by Ditch F1428 would suggest that it was possibly of Phase 3 date but, without firm artefactual evidence, this cannot be confirmed.

Pit F1817

Pit F1817 (Grid Squares B11, C11, B12, C12) was not a feature that, had it yielded dateable evidence, is likely to have had any major effect on the way the site is understood. However, as a large feature, with multiple fills, that did not contain any finds, it is noteworthy.

The southern extent of this sub-oval pit was truncated by Phase 4 Ditch F1984. In turn, F1817 truncated the eastern edge of Phase 3 Pit F1809 and cut undated Ditch F1428 and Phase 2 Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234. At its widest point Pit F1817 measured 2.0m and 2.0m of its length were visible before it was truncated by F1984. Although it covered a large area, the feature was surprisingly shallow, measuring just 0.45m in depth. In section, F1817 displayed moderately steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained four fills. The basal fill, L1827, was a mixed deposit with discrete areas of orange to mid yellow silty sand with occasional angular to sub-angular gravel inclusions and dark orange to mid brown sandy silt with very occasional pebble inclusions. It was noted during excavation that the mixed nature of this deposit suggested a slow natural accumulation of fill material with further mixing caused by root disturbance. Overlying basal fill L1827 was L1828, a dark orangey brown friable sandy silt with gravel and pebble inclusions. L1829, the third fill of F1817, was a dark reddish brown sandy silt with some pebble inclusions; this deposit was noticeably different from the lower fills of the feature as it contained a much smaller proportion of gravel and pebble inclusions. The upper-most fill, L1830, was a dark reddish to mid brown sandy silt with moderate sub-angular and rounded gravel and pebbles.

The stratigraphic relationships that Pit F1817 had with other features indicate that it had a *terminus post quem* of Phase 3 date but that it could be contemporary with, but no later than, Phase 4. However, as it is impossible to deduce in to which of these Phases the feature should be incorporated it remains classified as undated.

4 ARTEFACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

4.1 The Flint

Martin Tingle

Introduction

The assemblage is composed of 16 pieces weighing 244g, although if burnt but unworked flint is excluded the worked flint assemblage totals 11 pieces weighing 95g. It was recovered from a group of pit and ditch fills associated with the cremation cemetery and in three instances (contexts C1301, C1615 & C1539) from the fills of the cremations themselves.

Raw Materials

Although much of the flint is without surviving dorsal cortex, the remaining pieces suggest that the flint derives from a mixture of primary and secondary sources and the colour varies from dark grey to pale brown.

Composition and Technology

The worked assemblage is largely composed of a small number of unretouched flakes that vary from small squat flakes to large, blade like flake in Pit F1523. Context L1744, the upper fill of Pit F1743, contained a single retouched piece that strongly resembles an oblique arrowhead, although it is almost certainly far too heavy and thick to have functioned as one. Its resemblance could, therefore, be fortuitous.

Context	Find	Number	Weight (g)	Comment
1050	Tertiary Flake	1	6	
1076	Uncorticated Flake	1	1	
1180	Burnt Flint	2	126	
1225	Burnt Flint	1	9	
1261	Uncorticated Flake	1	1	
1302	Secondary Flake	1	9	Crem 1301
1335	Uncorticated Flake	1	6	
1524	Uncorticated Flake	1	10	
1537	Uncorticated Flake	1	5	Vessel 1338 Crem 1339
1616	Burnt worked	2	32	
1671	Burnt worked	1	3	
1744	Retouched	1	20	Resembles ?Oblique Arrowhead but over large
1198 B	Burnt Flint	1	11	
U/S	Tertiary Flake	1	2	
	Total	**16**	**241**	

Table 23: The composition of the assemblage

Dating

There are no obviously datable pieces within the assemblage although, if the piece, which resembles an oblique arrowhead, were a contemporary with the arrowheads themselves, it would date from the later Neolithic.

Conclusion

The assemblage is too small and too dispersed for any conclusions to be drawn from it.

Terminology

Throughout this analysis, the term ‘cortex’ refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint while ‘patination’ denotes the colouration of the flaked surfaces exposed by human or natural agency. Following Andrefsky (1998, 104), dorsal cortex is divided into four categories; the term primary flake refers to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face while secondary flakes have cortex on between 50% to 99% of the dorsal face. Tertiary flakes have cortex on 1% to 49% of the dorsal face while flakes with no dorsal cortex are referred to as non-cortical

A blade is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as its breadth. These often have parallel dorsal flake scars, a feature that can assist in the

identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio

4.2 The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The excavation of the Chalet Site, Heybridge in 2006 produced 4,849 sherds of pottery weighing 55.245 kg. The bulk of the sherds (75.1%) are early Saxon, the majority coming from the cremation cemetery, but pottery from the late Neolithic (1.4%) and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (23.5%) is also represented (Table 24).

Period	*Sherd number*	*% of sherd number*	*Fabric weight (g)*
Late Neolithic	69	1.4	1,243
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	1,138	23.5	12,222
Early Saxon	3,642	75.1	41,780
	4,849	100	55,245

Table 24: The pottery by period

The late Neolithic

The earliest pottery, comprising 69 sherds weighing 1.243 kg, came from three discreet pits (F1062, F1694 and F1877). The decoration indicates that the assemblage is late Neolithic Grooved Ware (with one exception), where grog tempered pottery and flat-based vessels were introduced to the ceramic record of southern Britain (Gibson 2002, 32 & 84).

Fabrics

Four main fabric groups were present, these were categorised on the basis of the main inclusions within the clay matrix, whether naturally occurring or deliberately added (Tables 25 and 26). The assemblage is characterised by grey cores with surfaces varying between buff, orange-buff, usually on the most heavily flint tempered coarse wares, and brown or grey for the remainder.

Fabric	*Description*
A: Grog	Moderate to common grog sometimes with rare sand and very coarse flint/mineral
Aa: Grog	As for Fabric A but also containing a little grass tempering
B: Sand	Moderate fine to medium quartz with rare very coarse flint/mineral

Table 25: The Neolithic fabric groups

Fabric	*Sherd Count*	*Fabric Weight (g)*
A: Grog	63 (1)	1,139 (1)
Aa: Grog	1	9
B: Sand	4	94
	69	1,243

Table 26: Quantification of sherds by number and weight by fabric (numbers in brackets are residual)

Forms and Decoration

The assemblage from Pit F1877 (L1878) represented a minimum number of ten vessels, and those from the two remaining pits each contained sherds from a single vessel. Thirty-two sherds (46%) contained decoration, although this does not necessarily reflect how many vessels might originally have been decorated, as some undecorated sherds came from decorated vessels. The decoration comprises vertical cordons (Figure 26.1) or rows of incised lines meeting other lines at acute angles forming geometric patterns (Figures 26.2, 26.3 and 26.6). Some of the decoration comprising vertical cordons and panels of incised geometric lines, such as Figures 26.5 and 26.6 can be paralleled with Grooved Ware of the Durrington Walls sub style (Gibson 2002, 85 fig 40.4 and Garwood 1999, 158). Rims comprise a simple tapered and slightly inturned example from a plain barrel shaped jar (Figure 26.7), and another small rim with incised decoration of similar form. Three flat bases (including Figures 26.8 and 26.9) and a small lug fragment almost complete the more diagnostic elements. The exception is a fragment of rim (Figure 26.10) which is probably from an undecorated Collared Urn (Longworth 1984, 5 fig 3).

Discussion

In southern Britain the distribution of Grooved Ware is most commonly riverine and coastal, and in East Anglia the rivers Chelmer and Blackwater contain a concentration of such sites (Cleal 1999, 5). The Chalet Site Grooved Ware is paralleled in decoration by pottery from a pit located within what was to become a late Bronze Age enclosure along the river Chelmer, at Great Baddow (Brown and Lavender 1994, 3). Grooved Ware was also found in pits outside another late Bronze Age enclosure at Broomfield, situated further west along the Chelmer (Brown 1995a, 11 and fig 7.1-3). Here, as at the Chalet Site, (Figures 26.5 and 26.6) the form and division of the body by cordons into decorative panels is a trait identified with the Durrington Walls sub style (Brown and Lavender 1994, 8 and fig 6.1). A few small sherds of Grooved Ware recovered from Elms Farm,

Heybridge were also thought to be of Durrington Walls type although the small sample did not allow confident attribution to a particular style (Brown 2001, 60). Further small assemblages have been recovered from Chigborough Farm and Slough House Farm, immediately north of Heybridge, which contained complex geometric incised designs similar to the Chalet Site. At the Stumbles, on the Blackwater Estuary, Grooved Ware came from pits in a rare example of a buried Neolithic land surface including possible structures (Holgate 1996, 20 and Brown 1998, 55 and 136 and fig 95.8-9, and Longworth and Cleal 1999, 184).

Grooved Ware is often associated with monumental complexes and many deposits have been recognised as being deliberately selected and carefully placed. A connection has also been identified between Grooved Ware sites and the later use of the same sites for round barrows (Cleal 1999, 6). Grooved Ware in Southern Britain is dated between c.2900 and 2100/2000 BC (Cleal 1999, 6 and Garwood 1999, 152). Garwood suggests, from vessels excavated at Durrington Walls, that later forms are generally larger and more elongated and rounded, whilst earlier vessels lack the vertical cordons and other applied decoration. Rigid structuring of decoration using cordons and grooved/incised design boundaries appears to become more elaborate over time (Garwood 1999, 157). This suggests a late date for the Chalet Site assemblage, and this is supported by the small Collared Urn type rim; Collared Urns appear in the archaeological record around 2200 BC (Gibson 2002, 96).

Garwood also suggests Durrington Walls assemblages are most commonly found in large deposits associated with monumental complexes such as henges or timber circles, while the Clacton/Woodlands sub style assemblages are generally small and found in isolated pits or pit groups (Garwood 1999, 159). Few henges have been located in Essex, and only one has been excavated (Holgate 1996, 19 and Brown and Murphy 1997, 15-16). In the Chelmer valley, however, the northern ditch of the Springfield cursus, at a location near a timber post setting, produced fragments of Grooved Ware representing one or two vessels (Holgate 1996, 17-19). The Chalet Site, and other Durrington Walls style assemblages mentioned above, do not appear to fit the henge pattern (although this might partly be influenced by lack of excavations at monumental complexes), and the mode of deposition might differ slightly to the norm in this part of Essex.

The late Bronze Age to early Iron Age Pottery

A total of 1138 sherds, weighing 12.222 kg, were recovered, of which 748, weighing 9.475 kg, were in a primary deposition, the remainder being residual in early Saxon features. The pottery came from the feature types below (Table 27), with over half of the assemblage coming from pits.

Feature	*Number containing pottery*	*Sherd Count*	*% of LBA-EIA total*
Pits	16	582	51.1
Post-holes	10	42	3.7

Ditches	6	119	10.5
Uncertain	2	5	0.4
Residual	-	390	34.3
Total		1,138	

Table 27: Quantification of LBA/EIA sherds by feature type

Fabrics

Fabric	*Description*
C: Sand	Varying amounts of medium to coarse quartz
E: Quartz sand and Flint	Sparse to common medium to very coarse quartz with sparse to moderate very coarse flint
D: Flint	Sparse to common flint, can contain a little sand
Da: Fine Flint	Sparse to common fine white flint, can contain varying amounts of sand

Table 28: Fabric groups

The pottery can be divided into three main fabric groups (Table 28) comprising flint, flint and quartz sand, and sand. A sub-group is Fabric Da, comprising fine flint with smoothed or burnished brown or black surfaces, which constitutes a finer ware as well as a fabric group. Surfaces on the other fabrics are brown or orange, the latter usually from the more abundantly flint gritted coarse wares. Table 29 quantifies the sherds by fabric; 81% of sherds are exclusively, or almost exclusively, flint tempered, and over 98% of the assemblage contains at least some flint.

Fabric	*Sherd Count*	*Fabric Weight*
C: Sand	18	130
E. Quartz sand and Flint	192 (3)	1,626 (21)
D: Flint	505 (349)	7,511 (2415)
Da: Fine flint	32 (39)	174 (315)
Total	1,138	12,222 kg

Table 29: Quantification of sherds by number and weight by fabric (those in brackets are residual)

Forms and Decoration

The assemblage is characterised by shouldered jars and bowls, whilst there is also a fine ware component including cups. High and round shouldered jars and bowls (Figures 26.30 and Figure 26.16), globular vessels (Figure 26.22), and carinated jars (Figure 26.11), and finer ware carinated bowls (Figures 26.12, 26.13 and 26.14) are all present. Other forms include a long shouldered jar (Figure 26.19), an ovoid jar (Figure 26.25) and

small cups (Figure 26.34). The latter is attributable to Barrett's Class V late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery (Sarah Percival pers.comm.). Several thin walled vessels in quite coarse fabrics are also represented (Figure 26.24 and Figure 26.25). Rims are mainly simple rounded or flattened, and can be upright or slightly everted (Table 30); bases are flat with an absence of pedestal, ring or omphalos types.

Rims	*Number*	
Simple upright or slightly everted	14	Figures 26.21 and 26.26
Flattened upright or slightly everted	10	Figures 26.7 and 26.10
Simple fairly upright with slightly outurned or pinched out lip	5	Figure 26.15
Flat fairly upright with slightly outurned or pinched out lip	2	Figure 26.16
T-shaped or 'hammerhead'	1	Figure 26.22

Table 30: Rims

Decoration is rare but examples present are described below (Table 31). Approximately 6.2% of the sherds are burnished fine wares, in fine flint and sand fabric, whilst several sherds have scoring on the outside surfaces.

Decoration	*Neck?*	*Rims*	*Shoulder*	*Above base*
Finger tip decoration		2		
Slash/cable decoration		1	3	1
Incised lines	1			

Table 31: Decoration

Five features contained comparatively large quantities of pottery in excess of 30 sherds (Table 32).

Features with over 30 sherds	*Sherd Number*	*Fabric Weight*	*Illustrated Examples of diagnostic pottery*
Pit F1522 (L1521)	237	2.995 kg	Figure 26.14 and 26.20
Pit F1931 (L1932)	165	1.487 kg	Figures 26.12, 26.19, 26.27 and 26.29
Ditch F1235 (L1241, 1900)	109	0.855 kg	Figure 26.26
Pit F1258 (L1257)	33	1.582 kg	Figure 26.30
Pit F1467 (L1468)	32	0.175 kg	Figure 26.16

Table 32: Features with over 30 sherds

Discussion

The assemblage with its diverse range of forms including shouldered jars, bowls and cups, and its distinction between coarse and finer wares, places it in the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age period (Gibson 2002, 112-116). The middle Iron Age trend of largely replacing flint tempering with sand and other inclusions, and having more sinuous forms seen, for example, at Little Waltham is largely absent (Drury 1980, 52). The only complete profile from the Chalet Site assemblage is the high-shouldered cremation vessel, V1257, from Pit F1258; at Barham in Suffolk a similar jar form had an associated radiocarbon date of 2640 +/- BP (cal. BC 845-795).

Late Bronze Age fabrics from sites such as Mucking and Springfield Lyons are dominated by flint tempering. This gives way towards the end of the period to an increased use of sand and other fabrics in the early Iron Age (Brown 1987, 28 and Court and Mepham 2004, 31). At sites such as Fox Hall Farm, Southend, and North Shoebury, located around the Thames Estuary and coastal south-east Essex, shell tempered pottery becomes dominant during the early Iron Age (Brown 1995b, 33). The coastal Chalet Site lacks such shell-tempered fabrics, but these seem rare anyway in assemblages along the Chelmer valley/Blackwater estuary, possibly being a little too far north, although a few sherds have been found at Maldon and Heybridge (Brown 1992, 18). The overwhelming presence of flint in 98% of the sherds (some of which also contain sand) is indicative of a late Bronze Age date.

The Chalet Site is noticeable for its general lack of decoration (Table 31), which would fit with Barrett's 'plain ware assemblages' of the ninth century BC. The residual rim sherd (Figure 26.19) from L1523, is similar in fabric and form to examples from an assemblage at Lofts Farm, 2 km north of Heybridge, dated between the 10th-9th centuries BC (Brown 1988, 269 and Fig 14.10 and 14). It is also reminiscent of examples from Runneymede Bridge *c*.1000 to 700 BC, as is another residual burnished jar (Figure 27.33) from L1211 (Longley 1992, fig 84, P115 and P112). The few decorated examples, however, including the flint tempered rim with cable or finger decoration on the exterior (Figure 26.28), and the body sherd with restrained slash decoration along the shoulder (Figure 26.27), have later parallels (Brown 1997, 32). Both types of decoration were present in a later deposit at Lofts Farm (*c*. 8th-5th centuries BC) (Brown 1988, 268 & 272), and at Great Baddow which was assigned an 8th-7th century date based on Barrett's sequence for Southern Britain (Brown and Lavender 1994, 8). Kinnes also suggests from studying the Orsett collection that, assemblages combining such rim and shoulder decoration in association with burnished, undecorated bipartite bowls, have their origins in the 8th century BC (Kinnes 1978, 277). At Runneymede, Surrey, sharply carinated bowls appeared by the 8th century BC, and it has been suggested that the regional defining Darmsden bowls of Suffolk, identified by Cunliffe, may have come into use as early as the 9th century BC (Last 2004, 40). One burnished bowl rim from Ditch F1195 (L1196) on the Chalet Site, (Figure 26.13), is reminiscent of Darmsden-Linton forms whose distribution lies between the Thames Estuary and Norfolk. The profile matches forms from Beacon Green, Maldon, which comprised a 'classic' or 'developed' Darmsden-Linton assemblage of the 6th-5th centuries BC, but lacks the small cordons above the carination (Brown 1997, 10 and 16 no.5). The Chalet Site also lacks the Beacon Green pedestal and foot ring bases which become relatively common after *c*. 600

BC (Cunliffe 2005, 102). At Orsett Camp they are believed to have been introduced early in the 5th century BC (Drury 1980, 52), and together with its presence of coarse fabrics, suggests that the Chalet Site rim might suit an 'Early' Darmsden date. Parallels can also be made with Linford where, in particular, the fine ware bowl rims (Figures 26.12 and 26.13), the 'situla' jar (Figure 26.11) and the high shouldered cremation vessel (Figure 26.30), can all be matched (Barton 1962, 79 fig I.1, I.5, I.6 and fig III.11). Linford was assigned an early Iron Age Hallstatt date by the excavator, subsequently refined as comprising some 5th century Darmsden-Linton style pottery along with some probable 4th century pottery, but mainly consisting of earlier material (Drury 1980, 52). The cup or bowl profiles (Figures 26.14-26.16) are also fairly typical of Barrett's late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ceramic sequence (Barrett 1980, 305 Fig 6.12). These feature at Linton, South Cambridgeshire, although in comparison the Chalet Site rims are a little more upright, and the vessels undecorated (Fell 1953, 36 no.19-21).

A further dating indicator is the presence of heavily calcined flint bases appearing in comparative abundance seen, for example in Ditch F1195 (Figure 26.29) and Pit F1931. This is a late Bronze Age trait which dies out before the end of the early Iron Age and is found on late Bronze Age sites including Mucking and Runneymede Bridge (Philip 1984, 127). At Monkton Court Farm in North Kent, such bases are described as having a visually obvious basal 'skin' of flint grits acquired from their manufacture on beds of burnt and crushed flint temper (MacPherson-Grant 1984, 253). They were dated between *c*. 850 and 600 BC. At Highstead, also in North Kent, the appearance of such heavily flint gritted bases was demonstrated to have died out, or virtually so, by the end of the 5th century BC (Perkin *et al* 1994, 278). Chalet Site Pit F1931, helps characterise the Chalet Site assemblage having a combination of diagnostic pottery, including burnished and decorated sherds (incised line and finger nail decoration), along with a fine ware carinated bowl rim and two profusely flint tempered bases. Therefore, whilst the whole assemblage need not necessarily be of one phase, the overall evidence indicates a date between the 9th and 5th centuries BC with a suggested core date of *c*. 800-600 BC for the majority of the diagnostic pottery.

The early Saxon Pottery

The early Saxon pottery comprises 3642 sherds weighing 41.780 kg of which 3531 weighing 41.185 kg were in a primary context; 68% of the pottery was identified to have come from cremation vessels (Table 10). The cremation vessels are generally in very poor condition, one pot could be reconstructed but the vast majority were so fragmented it was rarely possible to identify the forms.

Feature	*Number containing pottery*	*Sherd Count*	*% of Early Saxon total*
Cremation Pits	54	2,490	68
Pits	25	537	18.7
Ditches	14	482	13.5

Post-holes	10	20	0.6
Unknown features	2	39	1.1
Unstratified	-	74	2.1
		3,642	

Table 32: Quantification of Early Saxon sherds by feature type

Four main fabric groups were identified based on the main added or naturally occurring inclusions within the clay matrix (Tables 33 and 34) but the assemblage is essentially characterised as comprising various combinations of grass and sand (77.3%) and sand only (22.4%). In a few cases, most notably Pit F1524 (Ll523) which contained a comparatively large amount of residual prehistoric pottery there was some ambiguity between sand tempered early Iron Age sherds and Saxon pottery, which is not an uncommon problem in East Anglia.

Fabric	*Description*
F: Sand and Grass	Moderate to common quartz with rare to moderate grass, can contain rare very coarse white quartz and/or flint
Fa: Coarse Sand/Mineral and Grass	Moderate coarse to very coarse quartz and flint with sparse to moderate grass
Fb: Sand, Grass and Clay pellets	Moderate to common fine to medium quartz, sparse to moderate grass with rounded clay pellets or grog
Fc: Sand, Grass and Calcareous	Moderate to common fine to medium quartz, sparse to moderate grass with rare sub-angular to sub-rounded coarse white calcareous material (limestone?) and rare coarse mineral (flint or quartzite)
G: Grass and Sand	Moderate to abundant grass with rare to moderate quartz
H: Sand	Moderate to common fine to coarse quartz
Ha: Coarse Sand	Moderate to common coarse quartz with occasional very coarse flint/mineral
I: Iron mineral?	Abundant angular to sub-rounded well-sorted medium black shiny opaques with sparse medium to very coarse quartz

Table 33: The Early Saxon fabric groups

Fabric	*Sherd number*	*Fabric weight*
F: Sand and Grass	1840 (37)	21869 (130)
Fa: Coarse Sand and Grass	7	378
Fb: Sand, Grass and Clay Pellets	150	856
Fc: Sand, Grass and Calcareous	9	242
G: Grass and Sand	700 (74)	11224 (402)
H: Sand	802	6419

Ha: Coarse Sand	14	184
I: Iron Mineral	9	76
Total	3,642	41.780 kg

Table 34: Quantification of Early Saxon sherds by number and weight by fabric (those in brackets are unstratified)

The Cremation vessels

Of the fifty-four cremation pits containing pottery, thirty-three contained diagnostic pottery in terms of form, rims, bases and decoration. Only one pot could be completely reconstructed; Cremation Vessel 1499 (Figure 49) with its pre-firing suspension holes had clearly been made for a different function and re-used for the cremation.

Context	*Vessel*
1056	V1055 Flat base
1194	V1193 Rounded flat base
1206	V1205 Burnished, horizontal grooves on neckline
1295	V1309 Shouldered jar
1303	V1302 Burnished, bossed and incised
1344	V1343 Bossed and stamped (Stamps 1 & 2) Figure 27.36 and 27.37
1350	V1349 Burnished and stamped (Stamps 3 & 4) Figure 27.38 and 27.39
1375	V1374 Burnished
1384	V1386 Line and dot with incised neck lines
1417	V1416 Rounded flat base
1442	V1445 Rounded flat base
1500	V1499 Complete pot with suspension holes Figure 27.49
1506	V1508 Burnished, bossed and stamped (Stamp 5) Figure 27.40
1537	V1538 Burnished and stamped (Stamp 6) Figure 27.41
1560	V1559 Rounded base
1593	V1594 Line and dot with bossing and stamp (Stamp 7) Figure 27.42
1602	V1604 Rounded flat base
1625	V1624 Incised deco with possible boss and ring base
1631	V1630 Burnished, incised lines
1635	V1634 Incised lines, rounded base
1688	V1687 Burnished, incised lines
1798	V1797 ‘Cable’ decorated rim with external finger nail decoration
1822	V1821 Rounded base Figure 27.50
1838	V1837 Burnished, line and dot, bossed and stamped (Stamp 8) with ring base Figure 27.43
1851	V1850 Splayed base
1868	V1867 Burnished, incised pendant triangle, dots Figure 27.52
1882	V1883 Burnished, bossed, stamped (Stamp 9) flat base Figure 27.44
1894	V1893 Incised, bossed and stamped (Stamp 7) Figure 27.45
1899	V1898 Line and dot, bossed and stamped (Stamp 7) Figure 27.46

1924 V1923 Incised lines
1928 V1927 Splayed base Figure 27.53
1943 V1944 Incised lines, bossed and stamped (Stamp10) Figure 27.47
2003 V2002 Round base

Vessel V1302 was associated with lead suggesting it had been mended and therefore re-used. Reuse of vessels is quite a common practice in this period whilst cremation burials in undecorated vessels is not necessarily a sign of low status, for example cremations in undecorated vessels at Springfield Lyons were associated with a high status barrow (Turner and Major 2005, 180). The only other complete cremation vessel profile to be recovered (minus the rim) was vessel V1837 (Figure 27.43) of similar form to buckelurnes but lacking variation in size of the bosses (Myers 1977, 14). The stamp decoration has been recorded by Diana Briscoe who holds the Anglo-Saxon stamp archive and her full report is contained in Pottery Report Appendix 1.

Vessel Number	*Incised lines (not associated with dots)*	*Line and dot*	*Boss*	*Stamp*
1205	Y			
1302	Y		Y	
1343			Y	Y Y
1349				Y Y
1386	Y	Y		
1508			Y	Y
1538				Y
1594		Y	Y	Y
1624	Y		?	
1630	Y			
1687	Y			
1837	Y	Y	Y	Y
1867		Y		
1883			Y	Y
1893	Y		Y	Y
1898		Y	Y	Y
1923	Y			
1944	Y		Y	Y

Table 35: Decoration on the cremation vessels

Five vessels (Table 35) contained line and relatively simple dot impressions classed as A1a in Briscoe's Anglo-Saxon stamp category (Briscoe 1981, 4). These are generally very common, with the exception of Vessel V1867 where the stamps situated in an incised pendant triangle are flattened at one end and are rare (Briscoe Pottery Report Appendix 1). Other than the above, eleven different stamps were present, ten from the cremation vessels and one from Ditch F1214 (L1213). Several of the motifs fit closely

with Briscoe's classification of stamps and are well attested on other sites in East Anglia one of the most common being the A5 rosette (Table 36, Figure 27.41). The type 1 stamp (Figure 27.36) appears irregularly cut and indistinct but is rare having only eight other known examples in its category, all from the Cambridgeshire/Lark Valley region (Briscoe, Pottery Report Appendix 1). The associated Type 2 'comb point' stamp (Figure 27.37) is a common motif also seen at other sites in Essex including Mucking, Springfield Lyons and Rainham although the Chalet Site is possibly less usual, the vessel having the decoration down the 'spine' of the boss rather than in between as at Springfield Lyons (Tyler and Major 2005, 97, fig 54. 6507). Another rare stamp is Type 8 the ornate circle on Vessel V1837 (Figure 27.43) which has parallels with Spong Hill and other Norfolk and Cambridgeshire sites (Briscoe, Pottery Report Appendix 1). However, two stamps have no matches in Briscoe's Anglo-Saxon stamp archive, Myers Corpus of Anglo-Saxon pottery or any large publications for East Anglia. Type 5 stamp (Figure 27.40) is an 'elongated double axe-head' or stylised rectangular shape, the closest comparison noted came from Caistor-by-Norwich, but the latter has marked differences including its asymmetrical shape (Myres J.N.L. and Green B. 1973, fig 51 M23(a)). Type 7, a 'sub-horseshoe shape (Figure 27.42) is also unparalleled. The closet match noted is Thurmaston, Leicestershire (Williams 1983, 12 and 53 fig 15.20) but whilst the two stamps might be classed in the same group there are marked differences in shape and decorative detail. Type 7 is also the only stamp to be repeated on the Chalet Site and three different cremation vessels were decorated using the same die (Table 36) indicating that they were made, or at least decorated, by the same potter.

Stamp and Vessel	*Illustration*	*Category*
Type 1 1343	Figure 27.36	A 4a very irregular cutting
Type 2 1343	Figure 27.37	N 1 type impromptu tool – comb tooth impressions
Type 3 1349	Figure 27.38	C 1a rectangle (with rosette motif)
Type 4 1349	Figure 27.39	A 5a rosette motif
Type 5 1508	Figure 27.40	M 1 No parallel
Type 6 1538	Figure 27.41	A 5a rosette motif
Type 7 1594	Figure 27.42	G 4 No close parallel
Type 8 1837	Figure 27.43	A 5f iii ornate circle
Type 9 1883	Figure 27.44	A 2a thin negative circle?
Type 7 1893	Figure 27.45	G 4 No parallel
Type 7 1898	Figure 27.46	G 4 No parallel
Type 10 1944	Figure 27.47	A 3a grid/chequerboard motif
Type 11 L1213	Figure 27.48	A 2d triple negative circle?

Table 36: stamp decoration classification based on Briscoe 1981

Saxon Pottery from other Features

In addition to the cremation vessels (above) four further vessels or features contained decorated pottery similar to that found on the cremation vessels although such pottery was also commonly used in domestic settings seen for example at Mucking. One of these

Context	*Vessel*		
1211	-	Bossed and stamped (Type 11)	Figure 27.48
1422	V1420	Bossed and incised lines	
1642	V1643	Boss?	
1981	V1982	Line and dot (Stamp A 1a in Briscoe 1981)	

is the remaining stamped sherd, Type 11 (Figure 27.48) containing multiple negative circles. This is another very rare motif with only three other known examples (Briscoe, Pottery Report Appendix 1). Five features contained comparatively large quantities of pottery in excess of 30 sherds, in particular Ditch F1212 contained 553 sherds weighing nearly 6.5 kg (excluding the residual Iron Age pottery (Figures 27.55-27.61). One unusual upper profile comprises a globular jar with cable decoration to the rim and scoring to the body (Figure 27.58). Combing or scoring of the external surface of pots occurs on early Saxon vessels, for example at Mucking (Hamerow 1993 128 GH 57 and fig 115.16) but the rim decoration is more in keeping with the Iron Age and no early Saxon parallels have been found at the time of writing. However, the fabric and form is characteristic of the other early Saxon coarse ware fabrics and whilst residual Iron Age sherds are present it is probable that this is simply an unusually decorated early Saxon pot (Sue Tyler pers. comm.). Another unusual vessel is a small cup with a high shoulder and flattened rim and outer lip (Figure 27.59) which is atypical for an early Saxon form (Sue Tyler pers. comm.). However, these vessels are probably idiosyncratic to the site rather than local sub-styles. Pit F1809 (L1812) contained the only other complete profile in the form of a round based globular bowl or drinking vessel (Figure 27.64).

Features with over 30 sherds	Sherd Number	Fabric Weight	Illustrated Examples of diagnostic pottery
Ditch 1212	553	6.495 kg	Figures 27.48 & 27.55-27.61
Ditch 1210	58	0.591 kg	Figure 27.62
Pit 1523	42	0.508 kg	
Ditch 1224	32	0.311 kg	
Pit 1739	32	0.472 kg	

Table 37: Features with more than 30 pot sherds

Discussion

A very broad and simple relative framework for dating early Saxon vessels based on decoration (and form) taken largely from the work of Myres is that line and dot decoration appears early, boss decoration appears later but dies out towards the end and stamp decoration runs from around the middle of the period continuing to the end (and carrying on into the Middle Saxon period as seen on Ipswich Ware). More recently and including the work of Leahy from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Cleatham, Lincolnshire

this view is now seen as too simplistic (Leahy 2007, 63-67). Another problem for the Chalet site is that in most cases the full extent and type of decoration on the pots is not known, nor were many relatively complete profiles recovered. However, the assemblage does appear fairly typical for the region and comparisons can be made with the Springfield Lyons inhumation and cremation cemetery outside Chelmsford dated by grave goods to span the period AD 450-700. One similarity is the use of pendant triangles, cremation Vessel V1867 (Figure 27.52) with pendant triangles (containing the rare dot stamps) is paralleled at Springfield Lyons (although the dot stamps here are common), and is thought to be a largely sixth century English development (Tyler and Major 2005, 103 fig 60.6954 and 120). Another comparable example is cremation Vessel V1634 with its geometric patterns and absence of stamps (Tyler and Major 2005, 105 fig 62.8592). A similarly decorated pot from Cleatham cemetery was attributed to Phase IV but has no independent dating (Leahy 2007, 95). The only decorated cremation vessel from the Chalet Site to provide an almost complete profile is Vessel V1837 (Figure 27.43) whose long boss and stamp decoration suggests an early to mid sixth century date (Sue Tyler pers. com). One area from the Chalet Site provides a stratigraphic sequence for the early Saxon pottery. Cremation Pit F1593 enclosed by the pennanular Ditch F1212 contained incised, bossed and stamp decorated Vessel V1594 (Figure 27.42) whose decorative style is comparable to cremation Vessel V1837 and is therefore possibly of a similar earlier sixth century date. The silted up or backfilled fill of Ditch F1212 was then cut by cremation Pit F1506 containing unbossed but stamped vessel V1508 (Figure 27.40). At the Saxon settlement of Mucking, comb tooth impressed decoration was predominantly associated with the seventh century area of occupation and parallels with other sites on the continent suggests this decoration was primarily a seventh to eighth century style (Hamerow 1993, 45 and Myres 1977, 353-4 fig 362-3). Cremation vessel V1349 (Figure 27.38 and 27.39) with a similar decorative style to vessels from Rayleigh (Ennis 2003-4, vessel V229) may also be relatively late. Vessels with more ordered or formalised application of stamps in rows but lacking boss and incised decoration have been suggested as late in the early Saxon period (Sue Tyler pers. comm.). It has been suggested that cremation vessels feature early in the Saxon period but at the Chalet Site it is probable that the cremation vessels were being deposited throughout the sixth century and evidence from other cemeteries such as Springfield Lyons supports this where cremations have been interred after inhumations. Cremation Vessels V1594, V1893 and V1898 which shared the same stamp decoration (Type 7) from the same die came from pits spread across the centre of the site and so do not appear to be associated with one particular group of burials. The Chalet Site is perhaps most interesting for its unusual decorative stamps with Types 5 and 7 (Figures 27.40 and 27.42) unparalleled outside the Chalet Site and three others classed as rare.

List of Illustrations

Figure 27.49. V1499 L1500 Cremation pot with pre-firing holes for suspension
Figure 27.50. V1821 L1822 Rounded base
Figure 27.51. V1837 L1838 Biconical urn
Figure 27.52. V1867 L1868 Biconical urn, incised pendant triangle and stamped dot decoration
Figure 27.53. V1927 L1928 Splayed base
Figure 27.54. L1004 rim and ring base (from the evaluation and not included in the analysis
Figure 27.55. L1211 globular vessel
Figure 27.56. L1211 globular vessel
Figure 27.57. L1211 shouldered vessel
Figure 27.58. L1211 globular vessel, cable decorated rim and scored
Figure 27.59. L1211 small cup
Figure 27.60. L1211 Pedestal base
Figure 27.61. L1211 Burnished pedestal base
Figure 27.62. L1209 Burnished globular vessel
Figure 27.63. L1284 Burnished jar with incised decoration
Figure 27.64. L1812 Small bowl or drinking cup

The pottery stamps
Diana C. Briscoe

The site lies just to the east of the present-day confluence of the River Chelmer and the River Blackwater and at the north-western end of the Heybridge Basin. There is a Romano-British town at Elms Farm, and probably an Anglo-Saxon habitation site in the vicinity. The RB town was excavated in 1994, ahead of the construction of a housing estate. The modern town of Maldon lies across the Blackwater to the west.

Because of the situation of the site, I have spread my comparisons wider than usual, to allow for access by ship to the south side of the Thames Estuary. As a result, I considered 20 sites in Essex and Kent which are reasonably close to the Thames Estuary. Of these, 12 sites have provided comparable stamps as follows.

Site	**County**	**Archive Site No**	**Nat. Grid**	**No of stamps**
Barking Abbey	Essex	174	TQ 4584	EM 8
Bulmer Tye	Essex	040	TL 8438	4
Canterbury	Kent	179	TR 1557	19
Chadwell St Mary	Essex	037	TQ 6478	2
Darenth Court Farm Pipeline	Kent	379	TQ 5671	10
Dartford: St Edmund's Church	Kent	382	TQ 5517	4
Feering	Essex	039	TL 8720	3
Horton Kirby: Riseley Estate	Kent	141	TQ 5667	14
Mucking	Essex	094	TQ 6881	404: 19 non-

				AS
Northfleet	Kent	106	TQ 6274	15
Orsett Cock	Essex	043	TQ 6481	6
Springfield Lyons	Essex	042	TL 7208	9

Rarity of Stamps

1–20	Rare	21–40	Uncommon
41–70	Fairly common	71–100	Reasonably common
100–150	Common	151+	Very common

'Die' means the actual piece of carved bone, wood, (possibly) chalk or metal used to make the impression.

Where stamps are described as 'like' , it means they have been made with the same die. A closing bracket after size and pot type definition indicates the presence of more than one stamp motif.

The site has produced a total of 17 stamps displaying 13 motifs as listed below.

Briscoe Type	Size in mm	Pot Type	Archive Number	Museum	Ref. No.
A 2ai	6 x 6 ??	Globular ??	001	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1883/9
A 2dii	9 x 9 ?	Sherd	002	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1213/11 (13)
A 3aiv	8.5 x 9		003	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1943 Vessel 1944/10

Briscoe Type	Size in mm	Pot Type	Archive Number	Museum	Ref. No.
A 4aviii	10 x 10)	Sherd)	004	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1343/1+2
A 5avi	8 x 8	Sherd	005	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1537 Vessel 1538/6
A 5avii	10 x 11)	Shouldered (small))	006	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1349/3+4
A 5fiii	9.5 x 9	Buckelurn ?	007	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1836 Vessel 1837/8
C 3biv	7 x 7)	Sherd)	008	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1349/3+4
D 1ai	5 x 2.5)	Sherd)	009	Arch Solutions >	Crem 1892

				Colchester	Vessel 1893/7
D 1ai	5 x 3)	Biconical)	010	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1866 Vessel 1867
D 1ai	5 x 3)	Buckelurn ??	011	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1897 Vessel 1898/7 (11)
G 1ai	5 x 2)	Biconical)	012	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1866 Vessel 1867
G 4giii	7.5 x 7)	Buckelurn ??	013	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1897 Vessel 1898/7 (11)
G 4giii	7.5 x 7.5	Buckelurn ??	014	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1593 Vessel 1594/7
G 4giii	7.5 x 7.5)	Sherd)	015	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1892 Vessel 1893/7 (10)
M 1aiii	10 x 3	Sherd	016	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1507 Vessel 1508/5
N 1ai	10 x 3	Sherd)	017	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1343/1+2

A 2ai	6 x 6 ??	Globular ??	001	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1883/9

Category A includes all circular stamps. These are by far the most common stamps from the Early Medieval Period, representing well over half the total identified stamps.

A 2ai describes two negative rings of equal proportions. This is an extremely common stamp and is found widely distributed. As such, it is of little use for diagnostic purposes. Locally there are five examples in various sizes from Mucking, Essex. The closest in size (6 x 6 mm) comes from a globular urn, which is interesting as I had tentatively classified the Heybridge urn as globular.

A 2dii	9 x 9 ?	Sherd	002	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1213/11 (13)

A 2dii describes multiple negative circles which are clustered on the outer edge of the stamp, while the centre is blank (although it may have a central negative dot). This is a very rare stamp with only three examples recorded in the Archive: they are from Spong Hill, Norfolk; West Keal, Lincs; and Bremerhaven in Germany. The closest in design is the stamp from West Keal, although it is smaller (6 x 6 mm).

Briscoe	**Size in mm**	**Pot Type**	**Archive**	**Museum**	**Ref. No.**

Type			Number		
A 3aiv	8.5 x 9		003	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1943 Vessel 1944/10 (12)

The **A 3aiv** stamp describes a negative grid of 4 x 4 squares. This is a common motif, with over 120 stamps recorded. It also has a very wide distribution and, as such, is completely undiagnostic. Locally there are two parallels from Barking Abbey, Essex; and one each from Mucking; Northfleet, Kent; and Horton Kirby (Riseley Estate), Kent. They are all of a similar size to this stamp.

A 4aviii	10 x 10)	Sherd)	004	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1343/1+2

A 4aviii is a 'catch-all' group; it currently includes all the stamps which do not fit into any of the categories A4ai–A 4avii. There are eight examples in this category which I consider bear a distinct similarity to this stamp. There are no local parallels; more distant examples come from Sandy, Beds; St John's, Cambs; Spong Hill; West Stow, Suffolk (2); Lackford, Suffolk; Loveden Hill, Lincs; and Little Wilbraham, Cambs.

Because it is entirely possible that this distinctive motif has been made by a dirty or damaged die, I am loath to build too much on these parallels, but the fact that most of them come from the Cambridge / Lark Valley access, which is a known area where stamp motifs are shared, is certainly noteworthy.

A 5avi	8 x 8	Sherd	005	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1537 Vessel 1538/6

A 5a comprises the rosette stamps which are one of the most common groups. They are classified according to the number of 'petals', so that **avi** has six petals, **avii** has seven and so on. **A 5ai** describes part stamps that it is impossible to classify.

A 5avi describes a circular negative rosette stamp with six petals. This is a reasonably common stamp, with a wide distribution. Locally there are three parallels from Mucking (all smaller than this example) and two from the Riseley Estate, which are bigger.

A 5avii	10 x 11)	Shouldered (small))	006	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1349/3+4

A 5avii describes a circular negative rosette stamp with seven petals. This is a reasonably common stamp with nearly 100 examples recorded in the Archive, and it has a wide distribution along the east side of Britain. Locally there are six parallels from Mucking, two of which are almost the same size as this one.

Briscoe Type	Size in mm	Pot Type	Archive Number	Museum	Ref. No.
A 5fiii	9.5 x 9	Buckelurn ?	007	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1836 Vessel 1837/8

A 5fiii describes a segmented negative ring enclosed in two negative rings, with a positive central dot. This is a rare stamp with only 17 examples recorded in the Archive, of which two come from sites on the continent (Wehden and Westerwanna). Locally there is reputed to be one parallel from Mucking, but as I cannot find either the cast or the card, I believe that Teresa must have reclassified it before her death. More distantly there are parallels from Girton, Cambs (2); Loveden Hill (2); Spong Hill (3); St John's, Cambs; and Caistor-by-Norwich, Norfolk.

C 3biv	7 x 7)	Sherd)	008	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1349/3+4

Category C covers all square and rectangular stamps. **C 3biv** describes a diagonal closed positive cross with positive triangles forming its quarters. This is a very rare stamp with only seven examples recorded in the Archive. There are no local parallels; further afield there are parallels from South Elkington, Lincs; Spong Hill (4); St John's (2); Loveden Hill; and King's Newton, Derby. I do not have a cast of the South Elkington stamp, which appears to be closest in design to this example, although it is probably smaller.

D 1ai	5 x 2.5)	Sherd)	009	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1892 Vessel 1893/7 (10)

Category D covers the oval stamps. This is a small category and comparatively unusual.

D 1ai describes a simple negative oval. As such, it is common, widely distributed and completely undiagnostic. Locally there are 26 parallels from Mucking, plus one each from Darenth Court Farm, Kent, and from Orsett Cock, Essex.

G 1ai*	5 x 2)	Biconical)	012	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1866 Vessel 1867

Category G includes all stamps shaped like half-circles, crescents and horseshoes. **G 1ai**

describes all negative crescents. There are many varieties of these and so the following sub-varieties have been allocated:

Horseshoe: +
Chevron: #
Crescent: %
Thin crescent: &
Vestigial: $
Half-circle or slice off a circle: *

G 1ai* describes a negative half-circle or slice off a circle, which can have a small depression on the flat edge. It is a rare stamp with only 11 examples in the Archive, but with a reasonably wide distribution in East Anglia and Lincolnshire. Locally there is one example from Feering, Essex. There are also four examples of other variations from Mucking.

Briscoe Type	**Size in mm**	**Pot Type**	**Archive Number**	**Museum**	**Ref. No.**
G 4giii	7.5 x 7)	Bucal Urn ??	013	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1897 Vessel 1898/7 (11)

G 4 represents 'hybrid' types where the horseshoe or crescent is contained in another shape – circle, rectangle, etc. – or vice-versa.

G 4giii describes a negative horseshoe containing another motif. There are only three other stamps assigned to this variation and none of them are comparable to this stamp. I have considered motifs in the M category (see below), but there is nothing comparable, so I can confidently say that at present this stamp is unique to Heybridge.

M 1aiii	10 x 3	Sherd	016	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Crem 1507 Vessel 1508/5

Category M covers stamps made by pieces of jewellery and other miscellaneous bits of metal. I am not satisfied with the way the classification of this type has been organised and may well revise it in the near future. Provisionally, however, I have allocated the following classification.

M 1aii describes a negative rectangle or similar shape with a central positive dot. This is another unique stamp, which is not recorded from anywhere else in the Archive.

N 1ai	10 x 3	Sherd)	017	Arch Solutions > Colchester	Vessel 1343/1+2

Category N covers all stamps made with 'impromptu tools'. **N 1ai** describes comb

impressions with five or more teeth. They are very common and it is almost impossible to identify the dies unless the comb used had broken teeth or a particularly unusual spacing. Locally there are 10 parallels from Mucking, and one from Springfield Lyons, Essex.

Discussion

This is a most interesting site, but the obvious connections with Mucking are hardly surprising. I would also deem it probable that the community had connections to settlements in the north of Kent.

What is interesting is that there do not appear to be many connections to the area around Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich (I only have small collections of stamps from this area, but there is a marked lack of even fairly common stamps that connect to Heybridge). There are also only a couple of connections to the site at Bloodmoor Hill (Carlton Colville), where I am convinced that there is evidence from the pot stamps to show trading or other contacts by water, both along the coast and inland along the rivers.

These absences make the definite connection with the Cambridge/Lark Valley axis, and the potential connection to south Lincolnshire even more intriguing. Perhaps what we are seeing here is evidence of trading in pottery (or something packaged in pottery) around the coast of East Anglia, and possibly changing hands more than once before it reaches a resting place.

4.3 The Fired Clay and Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Excavations produced a total of 106 fragments (2051g) of Iron Age and early Saxon fired clay and 32 fragments (2811g) of post-medieval CBM.

Very low and abraded fragments of oxidised fired clay, containing sparse inclusions of quartz (0.1-0.5mm) and organics (0.5-3mm), were present in Iron Age Pit F1535 and early Saxon Pit F1626. Concentrations of comparable fired clay were present in Pits F1570 (L1571) (48 fragments, 724g) and F1589 (L1590) (27 fragments, 261g) but were not associated with any datable finds.

Two further occurrences of fired clay are probably associated with fragmented clay objects. The first comprises 25 fragments (930g) in Ditch F1322 (L1323), including a single 855g fragment, in a bonfire fired, soft, black to very dark red/brown fabric with inclusions of sparse quartz sand (0.1-0.5mm) and flint (3-20mm). The largest fragment has a smoothed upper surface and two sides partially intact forming one corner of a triangular object approximately 50mm thick, possibly a loom or thatch weight. The second comprises 2 fragments (111g) from Posthole F1510 (L1511) in a fabric with mottled reduced surfaces and an oxidised core, with inclusions of common calcined flint (0.5-6mm) and an abrasive surface. The fragments exhibit a crude lip on the extant edge and a partial pre-firing circular hole, 35mm in from this edge, possibly indicating that

these fragments formed part of a prefabricated, perforated slab used in a kiln, oven or corn dryer. The date of either possible object cannot be ascertained from these fragments.

The post-medieval CBM was principally concentrated in Ditch F1984 (L1983), which contained a fragment (856g) of post-medieval brick (dimensions: ?x115x55mm) and 25 fragments (1652g) of 12mm thick peg tile. Sparse further fragments of peg tile were also present in Pit F1059 (L1060), Pit F1388 (L1389), Pit F1400 (L1401) and Pit F1764 (L1765). All of the post-medieval CBM is in a hard, oxidised (2.5YR4/6) fabric with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.3mm) and sparse flint (5-25mm). The limited quantities of post-medieval CBM are not consistent with structural activity and are probably the result of secondary deposition.

4.4 Ceramic, metal and glass small finds

Nina Crummy

The objects in this small assemblage range in date from late Bronze or early Iron Age to early Anglo-Saxon. The prehistoric items consist of a small fragment of copper-alloy and parts of two or three fired clay slabs, one retaining parts of two perforations (Fig. 28.1). Such slabs occur in late Bronze Age to early Iron Age contexts in association with post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery, defined in Essex as Darmston-Linton pottery, dating broadly 600-300 BC. They have been found on many sites in the Thames Valley and south-east England (Champion 1980, 237-8), and in Essex at Lofts Farm and North Shoebury (Major 1988; Barford 1995, 126).

Much of the Saxon material consists of small fragments of metal, but some items from cremations are more complete. Cremation F1303 contained a lead double-flanged plug, now in fragments, which was used to repair a hole in a ?wooden bowl. Plugs of this type were used from the Roman to medieval periods, with other early Saxon examples coming from West Stow and Lackford in Suffolk (West 1985, 57, fig. 231, 1). Another repair to a wooden vessel, again probably a bowl, is represented by a small iron staple from the upper fill of an unphased cremation. Clips of this form, in both iron and copper alloy, have been found in several Anglo-Saxon burials in the eastern region and are thought to have been used to repair wooden vessels, as they were in the medieval period (MacGregor and Bolick 1993, 263; Keys 1998, 207, no. 583). They have been found, for example, at Caistor-by-Norwich in Norfolk, Holywell Row in Suffolk, Little Wilbraham and Barrington, Cambridgeshire, and Great Chesterford in Essex (Myres and Green 1973, fig. 1; Lethbridge 1931, fig. 9, 5, fig. 14, J2, K, fig. 39, 9; Malim and Hines 1998, fig. 3.38, 1, top right; Evison 1994, fig. 27, 36b).

The only glass object is part of an early Anglo-Saxon annular glass bead of cobalt blue with white spots (Fig. 28.2) belonging to Guido's Group 6xiv, examples of which are not numerous but have a wide distribution (Guido 1999, 54, 273-4).

Fig. 28.1, XX-XX. (1141) F1140. Iron Age pit fill. Two curved edge fragments (one in five pieces) from two fired clay slabs or one patchily fired

slab. Both are in a hard orange-brown fabric with burnt and crushed flint temper, but the smaller is lighter in colour. The larger fragment has broken across two perforations, set quite close together. Maximum dimensions 134 by 56 by 23 mm thick at the edge and 68 by 45 by 22 mm thick at the edge.

(1488) F1465. Iron Age posthole fill. Curved edge fragment from a fired clay slab. The fabric is hard and orange-brown, with burnt and crushed flint temper. Maximum dimensions 55 by 38 mm by 23 mm thick at the edge.

(1536) F1535. Iron Age pit fill. Small amorphous fragment of copper-alloy, possibly debris from a fire or from metal-working. 6 by 6 by 5 mm.

(1145) F1144. ?Early Saxon posthole fill. Fragment of copper-alloy sheet. 13 by 11 mm.

<15> (1200) F1199. ?Early Saxon pit fill. Fragment of a curved nail shank. Length 26 mm.

(1714) F1715. ?Early Saxon pit fill. Fragment of burnt and distorted copper-alloy sheet. Maximum dimensions 25 by 22 mm.

(1301), from Vessel 1302, F1303. Early Saxon cremation. Fragmentary lead repair plug, with a piece of iron sheet or mineral-repaced wood (it is friable but sensitive to a magnet) held between the flanges. Maximum dimensions of largest piece 37 by 26 mm.

(1308), from Vessel 1309, F1295. Early Saxon cremation. Complete iron nail with narrow rectangular head (possibly damaged). Length 72 mm.

<95> (1658). Top fill of cremation. Rectangular-headed iron staple with short pointed arms, one doubly clenched. Staples of this type, also known as strip rivets, were used to repair cracked wooden vessels. Head 27 by 7 mm, arms 11 mm long.

(1883), from Vessel 1884, F1882. Early Saxon Cremation. Iron nail shank fragment. Length 21 mm.

Fig. 28.2. (1262) F1263. ?Early Saxon ditch fill. Fragment of a translucent cobalt blue annular bead with two complete and two incomplete white dots. Diameter 16 mm, length 7.5 mm. Early Saxon.

4.5 The Cremated Bone

Carina Phillips

Introduction

Burnt bone was recovered from 74 features in total, all were truncated by ploughing. In Phase 2, cremated human bone was recovered from three urned cremation burials (F1256, F1515 and F1711).

68 Phase 3 (Anglo-Saxon) features produced burnt bone. Bone survived in 56 cremation burials, 52 urned (including those identified as being possibly destroyed) burials and 2 un-urned burials. An additional seven other features (including two possible grave markers) also contained burnt bone within this phase. Animal bone was identified within five Phase 3 features (see Figs. xx & xx).

A single Phase 4 (post-medieval) feature contained cremated human bone (Pit F1389).

It was not possible to date seven of the cremations. All of the undated cremations were un-urned, four of which contained adult remains (F1119, F1053, F1804 and F1942). It was not possible to age the remains from F1815, and two of the undated cremations F1778 and F2011 did not have any human bone present.

Method

All of the cremation burials and other contexts containing burnt bone were sampled and processed. All urned cremation burials were block lifted and excavated away from site before processing. The spits were separated into three sieve fractions during analysis, Fraction 1 (<10mm), Fraction 2 (10-5mm), Fraction 3 (5-2mm). Fraction 4 (>2mm) has been excluded from total weights as this consisted mainly of extraneous material; it was visually scanned for identifiable bone fragments.

Each fraction was then broadly separated into four categories; skull, axial skeleton, upper limbs and lower limbs, where possible. Weights for each category have been recorded. The fragments from each category have been further recorded by identification to skeletal element when possible. The identification of multiple individuals in one cremation burial is based on the presence of bones from different aged individuals and/or the presence of duplicate bones. If there is no evidence of multiple individuals, it is assumed that the bones represent one individual. Any identifiable animal bone was excluded during weighing and recorded as present.

The bone fragments were analysed in order to determine age and sex when possible. The identification of adult remains has been based on the presence of epiphyseal fusion, and cranial suture closure (see Brickley and McKinley 2004, Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994 and Ferembach *et al* 1980 for details). Observable cranial suture closure has been used to estimate a rough adult age group, however, it was not possible to assess all aspects of the suture closure following Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994) and it is therefore only a tentative indicator of age. No pelvic traits survived in any of the cremation burials to provide age estimations based on pelvic changes. Some of the adult bones have been classed as 'adult' based on their size as no other indicators of age were present, when this has occurred it is indicated.

The term sub-adult has been used in this report to refer to immature remains. Sub-adult remains were identified using the state of epiphyseal fusion (Scheuer and Black 2004; Baker, Dupras & Tocheri 2005) and dental development (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994). As with the adult remains some of the sub-adult bones have been classed as 'sub-adult' based on size when there is no other ageing evidence. Any evidence of pathological change has also been recorded.

	Age Group	**Definition**
IMMATURE/ SUB-ADULT	Foetal	Before birth
	Perinate	Around time of birth
	Neonate	Birth to the end of the first month
	Infant	Birth to the end of the first year
	Child	Early childhood: To the end of the fifth year Late childhood: c.6yrs to puberty
	Adolescence/puberty	Puberty to young adulthood.
ADULT/ MATURE	Young Adult	20-34 years
	Middle Adult	35-49 years
	Older Adult	50+ years

Table 38: Age group definitions (see Scheuer & Black 2004; Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994; Ferembach et al 1980)

Results- Phase 2: Iron Age

Three urned cremation burials in Phase 2 were identified during excavation and analysis. Two burials consisted of adult individuals. Details are presented in Table 39. C1256 includes fragments of the skull, mandible, vertebrae, ribs, humerus, tibia and a hand phalanx. A majority of the bones are white in colour, although vertebrae fragments and the hand phalanx are light grey. Fragments of skull, vertebrae, ribs, humerus, and femur and a metacarpal and tarsal were identified in C1515. The vertebrae, metacarpal and calcaneal fragments are grey in colour, all other bones are white in colour.

Feature	**Context**	**Vessel**	**Backfill**	**Age**	**Fraction 1 (g)**	**Fraction 2 (g)**	**Fraction 3 (g)**	**Burial Total (g)**	**Backfill (g)**
1258	1256	1257	1255	Adult sized	37	33.7	7.8	75.5	5
1514	1515	-	-	Adult sized	13.8	26.2	7.3	47.3	-
1711	1713	-	1712	Unknown	0	3.1	6.2	9.3	-

Table 39: Details of Phase 2 (Iron Age) cremated human bone

Results- Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon cremation burials

Sixty-nine cremation burials were preliminarily identified during excavation of the site; however, seven had no surviving bone. Of the originally identified 52 urned cremation burials, bone has not survived in five (C1204, C1489, C1617, C1796, C1976). One of the ten originally identified un-urned cremation burials did not have bone surviving (2011). A further seven features dating to Phase 3 contained burnt bone, these are discussed separately below (Table 43).

Human bone was positively identified in 51 of the 52 urned cremation burials with surviving bone and all eight of the un-urned burials with surviving bone (see summary Table 40). It was not possible to confirm the small amounts of bone in urned cremations C1352, C1732, C1812 as definitely human. C2012 was the only burial identified as containing the remains of more than one individual. The remains of an adult and infant were identified, however the amount of bone recovered in total from this urn was very low, suggesting that much of the bone may have been lost. Excavation records indicate that only the very base of the urn (V1687) survived. It is possible that disturbance has resulted in contamination of the bone from this burial, and it is therefore only tentatively identified as a dual burial.

Feature	Context	Vessel	Backfill	Type	Age Group	Weights (g)					Animal bone	Comments
						Fraction 1	Fraction 2	Fraction 3	Total	Backfill		
1054	1055	1056	1287	Urned	Adult sized	27.2	40	18.5	85.7	-		
1194	1192	1193	1191	Urned	Adult sized	65.6	94	12.3	171.9	-		
1206	1204	1205	1203	Urned	No surviving bone	-	-	-	-	-		
1218	1216	1217	1215	Urned	Infant/Child sized	0	10.5	14.8	25.3	-		
1295	1308	1309	1307	urned	Adult	293.6	121.9	22.6	438.1	16.8		Nuchal Crest=Male
1303	1301	1302	1300	Urned	Adult	482.4	229.7	38.5	750.6	-	yes	Left sheep/goat tibia also present (8.4g)
1304	1305	1305	1306	Urned	Adult	20.8	28.1	5.3	54.2	-		Iliac crest fused
1344	1342	1343	1341	Urned	Adult sized	40	26.6	13.9	80.5	-		
1350	1348	1349	1347	Urned	Sub-adult sized	1.5	3	4.1	8.6	0.5		
1351	1352	1353	1354	Urned	Unidentifiable	0	1	0.6	1.6	-		
1360	1361	1362	1363	Urned	Adult sized	68.5	197.3	218.2	484	5.6		
1375	1373	1374	1372	Urned	Adult sized	10.7	9.4	12.5	32.6	-		
1384	1385	1386	1387	Urned	Adult sized	44.8	28.2	0.5	73.5	23.5		
1407	1406	-	-	Un-urned	Adult sized	22.8	135	74.7	232.5	-		
1417	1415	1416	1414	Urned	Adult	114.6	90.2	10.9	215.7	0.7		Saggital and lambdoid suture both open
1421	1420	-	-	Urned (Destroyed)	Adult sized	0	4.5	3.2	7.7	-		
1435	1433	1434	1432	Urned (Backfill only)	Adult sized	0	0	0	0	2		
1439	1437	1438	1436	Urned	Adult	34.8	64.7	25.6	125.1	7.1		
1453	1455	1454	1456	Urned	Adult sized	14.2	18.1	8.9	41.2	0.4		
1469	1445	1444	1470	Urned	Adult sized	49.9	39.5	3.7	93.1	-		
1482	1457	1458	1481	Urned	Sub-adult sized	0.3	6.1	4.8	11.2	-		
1486	1493	1494	1487	urned	Adult sized	7.3	20.2	6.2	33.7	-		
1491	1489	1490	1492	Urned	No surviving	-	-	-	-	-		

					bone							
1500	1498	1499	1497	urned	Adult	173.4	59.1	12.4	244.9	8.7		Glabella and nuchal crest=male. Lost teeth ante-mortem (reabsorbing)
1506	1509	1508	1507	Urned	Adult sized	233.6	110	14.7	358.3	1.9		Possibly related to cremated bone recovered from Ditch F2133
1537	1539	1538	1540	urned	Adult sized	7.7	42.9	44.2	94.8	1.1		
1560	1558	1559	1557	Urned	Sub-adult	34.5	35.8	5.6	75.9	14.1		Unfused pelvis Size more suggestive of later childhood
1577	1575	1576	1574	Urned	Adult sized	63.7	59.4	9.5	132.6	-		
1578	1579	-	1579	Urned (Destroyed)	Adult sized	2.6	1.3	1.4	5.3	-		
1582	1584	-	1583	Urned	Adult sized	81.9	119.9	52.8	254.6	-		Significant closure of coronal suture
1593	1594	1594	-	Urned?	Adult sized	7.4	3.3	0.2	10.9	-		
1602	1605	1604	1606	Urned	Sub-adult	45.5	28	2.7	76.2	5.1		Unfused pubis, proximal humerus and proximal tibia
1615	1617	1616	1614	Urned	No surviving bone	-	-	-	-	-		
1625	1623	1624	1622	urned	Unidentifiable	0	2.4	0.2	2.6	-		
1631	1629	1630	1628	Urned	Adult sized	0	2.2	0.1	2.3	0.3		
1635	1633	1634	1632	Urned	Sub-adult	29.4	38	4	71.4	0.2		Unfused proximal femur and distal tibia
1656	1658	-	1657	Un-urned	Adult sized	0.8	2.3	1.2	4.3	-		Open coronal suture
1678	1676	1677	1675	Urned	Adult	119.2	68.1	8.3	195.6	85.7		Adult tooth development. Notable amount of bone in backfill
1679	1680	-	-	Un-urned	sub-adult sized	0	1.1	2.9	4	-		

1706	1704	1705	1703	Urned	Adult sized	12.4	12.1	0.7	25.2	25.7		
1731	1733	1732	1734	Urned	Unknown	0.3	1.3	0.6	2.2	0.1	yes	One animal bone fragment also present (1.1g) white in colour
1775	1773	1774	1772	Urned	Adult	53.7	241.5	114.9	410.1	-		
1798	1796	1797	1795	Urned	No surviving bone	-	-	-	-	-		
1809	1818	1812	1810, 1811	Urned	Unidentifiable	0.6	0	0	0.6.	-		
1822	1820	1821	1819	Urned	Adult	196.7	123.2	16.5	336.4	0.7		Occipo-mastoid sutures open. Non-metric trait- Mastoid foramen on the suture is present
1838	1836	1837	1835	Urned	Sub-adult	14.1	21.4	1.8	37.3	-		At least 2 years based on surviving dentition (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994). Unfused proximal femur
1840	1839	-	-	Urned (Destroyed)	Adult sized	103.9	73.3	48.9	226.1	-		Open occipo-mastoid & lambodial sutures.
1851	1849	1850	1848	Urned	Adult sized	0	3.4	0.4	3.8	-		
1868	1866	1867	1865	Urned	Adult	145.5	90.5	13.5	249.5	0.3		Saggital suture has significant closure
1882	1884	1883	1885	Urned	Adult	286.8	237.5	42.3	566.6	8.9		
1894	1893	1894	1892	Urned	Adult sized	43.3	87.9	8	139.2	0.5	yes	Sheep/goat astragalus also present
1899	1897	1898	1896	Urned	Adult sized	12.3	40.9	23.3	76.5	1.2		
1924	1923	-	-	Urned (Destroyed)	Adult sized	18.8	17.9	9.5	46.2	-		
1928	1926	1927	1925	Urned	Sub-adult	36.8	24.4	4.5	65.7	-		Unfused proximal femur
1943	1945	1944	1946	Urned	Sub-adult	7.4	10.7	0.5	18.6	-		Dens has fusion line present on all aspects. Aged <4 years (Baker, Dupras & Tocheri

												2005)
1978	1976	1977	-	Urned	No surviving bone	-	-	-	-	-		
1999	1997	1998	1996	Urned	Sub-adult sized	0.2	2.6	2	4.8	0.4		
2003	2001	2002	2000	Urned	Adult sized	127.2	127.2	37.3	291.7	-		
-	1405	1404	1207	Urned	Adult	52.9	117.2	4	174.1	9.4		Animal bone in backfill
-	1430	1431	-	Urned	Unknown	0	0.6	1.4	2	-		
1685/1688	1686/2012	1687	1689	Urned	Adult & Infant	1.2	0.7	0.2	2.1	<0		

Table 40: Phase 3 (Anglo Saxon) cremation burials

Age and Sex

Adults dominate the Anglo-Saxon assemblage, having been identified in 40 cremation burials (71%); sub-adults were identified in 11 cremation burials (19%) (Table 41). Adult age was more closely indicated for five individuals through cranial suture closure; however, it is emphasised that these can only provide a tentative estimation of age group. Significant closure of the saggital suture in C1865 and the coronal suture in C1584 suggests that these adults are more likely to be middle-older adults. The open lambdoid of C1839, coronal of C1658 and saggital and lambdoid of C1415 suggests that these individuals are more likely to be younger adults.

Two cremation burials are likely to be infants/young children. The size of the humerus fragment in double burial C2012 is comparable to an infant and the bones in F1215 are more comparable to an individual in young childhood. C1946 is a young child aged less than four years as illustrated by the fusion of the dens (following Baker, Dupras & Tocheri 2005)

The unfused acetabulum of sub-adults C1558 and C1606 (in addition to an unfused proximal humerus and tibia in C1606) indicates these to be children aged less than 11-17 years following Scheuer & Black (2004, 340). The unfused proximal femora of C1926 and C1635 (and unfused distal tibia in C1635) indicates these individuals to be aged less than 12-19 years following Scheuer & Black (2004, 356). The tooth development and bone fusion (proximal femur) of C1835 indicates this is a child aged over two years and less than 12-19 years. The size of the bones of these four cremations is more suggestive of the older child age group.

Sex could only be estimated for two adult individuals C1308 and C1498. These were both indicated to be male individuals through cranial traits.

	Un-urned	Urned	Total
Double burial- Adult & Infant	0	1	1
Sub-adult	1	10	11
Adult	2	38	40
Unknown Age Group	1	3	4
Unidentifiable bone	0	3	3
Grand Total	8	54	62

Table 41: Phase 3 cremation burial ages

Weights

The cremation burials vary greatly in weight, ranging 0.2g-750.6g (based on totals of fractions 1, 2 and 3, backfill bone excluded and discussed below). 65% of the cremations weigh less than 100g; this consists of 20 adults, all 11 sub-adults, the dual burial and the seven unidentifiable/un-ageable burials (Chart 1). Immature remains would be expected to weigh less than mature remains. Studies suggest that the mean weights of immature remains are 54g for a 0-6 month child, 185g for a 6 month-3 year old child and 661g for a child aged 3-13 years (Mays 2000, 220 calculated from Trotter and Hinxton 1974). The average weights of adults from a modern cremation study were 1615.7g (females) and 2283.5g (males) (McKinley 1993, 285). These weights illustrate the difference between mature and immature cremation burial, but

do not reflect the affects of bone collection before deposition and truncation (see below).

The double cremation C2012 is notably low in weight, consisting of only 2g of bone. The presence of two individuals was identifiable due to the survival of both an adult skull fragment and an infant long bone.

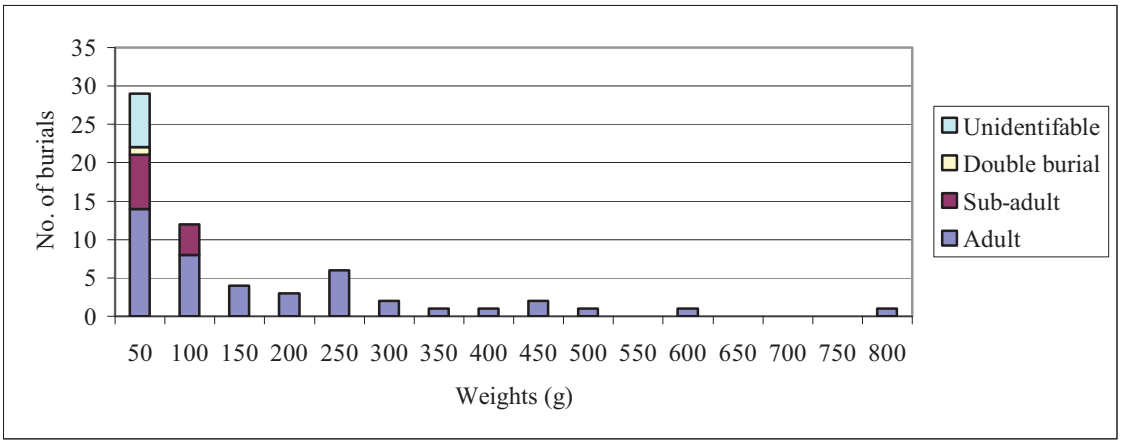

Chart 1: Phase 3 (Anglo Saxon) cremation burials weights by age group (n=62)

Urned-Un-urned

Due to the larger numbers of adults overall, these were present in the larger numbers in both urned and un-urned cremation burials (Table 41). It is difficult to assess the amount of bone chosen for deposition as all of the cremation burials have suffered from plough damage. All of the un-urned cremation burials weigh less than 250g and 83% of urned cremations weigh less than this (Chart 2). The nine urned cremation burials that weigh less than this account for 17% of the urned assemblage. It is possible that the larger size of these is related to their urned deposition. It may be that this has increased the survival rates of bone over un-urned cremation burials. Some authors have suggested an association between the amount of bone collected and the context of deposition, i.e. urned, un-urned. White (1982) and Petersen (1981) suggest that the context of deposition of bones would affect the survival of a cremation burial (c.f. Allen et al 1987, 211). At Kingston Heath, Dorset (Petersen 1981), Simons Ground, Dorset (White 1982) and Coneygre Farm, Nottingham (Allen *et al* 1987, 211) uncontained burials frequently weighed less than contained burials. However, McKinley (1997a, 139) suggests that while this often appears to be the case it is not a consistent occurrence. It is possible that the lower weights of un-urned burials does follow the pattern seen on some sites, however, all of the Heybridge cremation burials are notably low in weight, with 85% weighing less than 250g and the greatest weighing 750.4g. The occurrence of plough damage to all of the burials is likely to have affected survival of the bone.

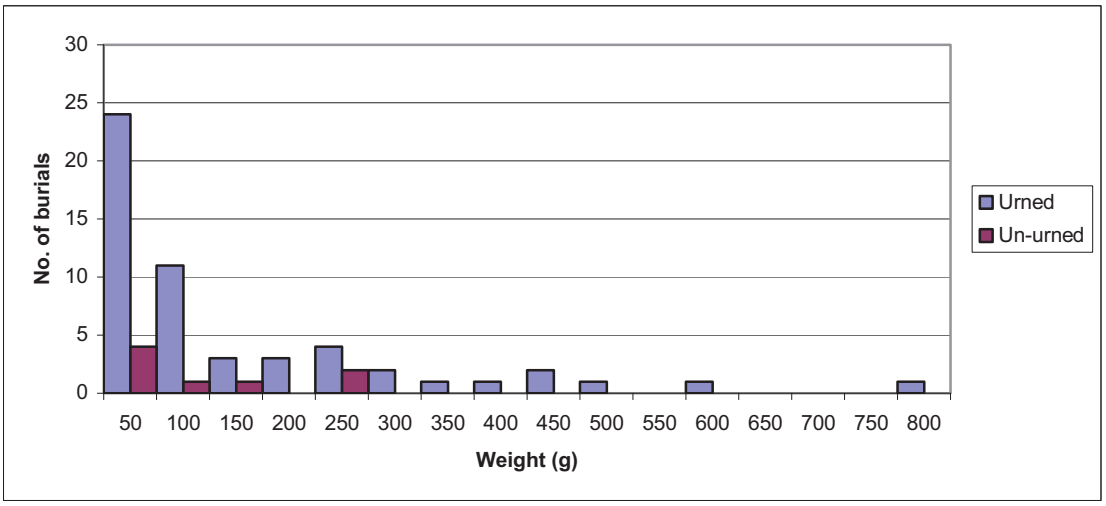

Chart 2: Weight of Phase 3 (Anglo Saxon) and possible Phase 3 cremation burials by deposition type (n=62)

Backfills

Twenty-five urned cremation burials had burnt bone recovered from their backfills. The amount of bone recovered from the backfills ranged 0.1-85.7g in weight, 54% of these weighed less than 2g. The bone recovered from ten backfills was identifiable as adult/adult sized and one as sub-adult, these correlated with the ages assessed from the burial fills. The bone from the backfills of seven cremations could not be aged and seven other backfills contained bone that could not be positively identified as human or animal. Using the ages indicated through the bone in the burial fills, 20% of the 25 cremations burials with bone in the backfills belonged to sub-adults, 76% came from adult cremation burials and 4% is from a burial of unknown age, this is comparable to the age distribution found in the entire Phase 3 assemblage (Chart 3). The bone recovered from backfill L1678 of adult C1676 (weighing 85.7g) is much larger than the amounts from the other backfills. The amount of bone recovered from the urn weighed a total of 195.6g. The urned burial is described as heavily truncated in the excavation records which may have resulted in mixing of the bone and it is possible that truncation is the cause of bone recovery from all 25 backfills. It is possible that bone was deliberately included within the backfills. At Spong Hill a very small number of undisturbed cremations had deposits of bone in the urn pit (McKinley 1994a. 86).

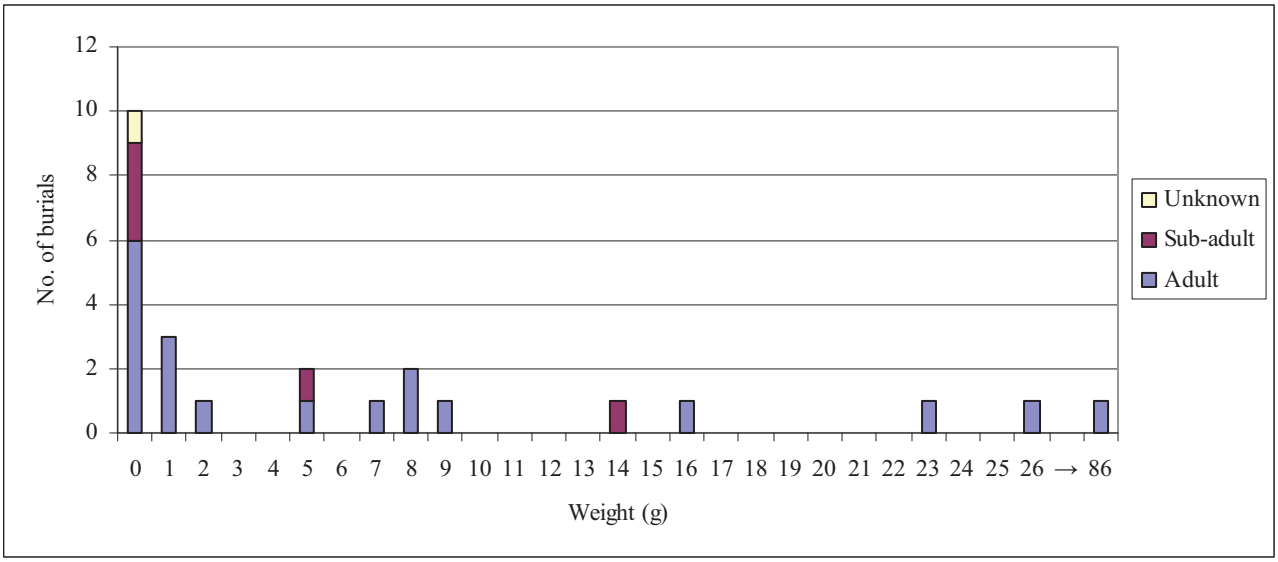

Chart 3: Phase 3 (Anglo Saxon) backfill weights (n=25), ages based on the bone from the associated burial fills

Skeletal representation

In order to assess skeletal representation the skeleton was broadly grouped into six categories, skull, axial skeleton, arm, hand, leg and foot. 81% of burials had identifiable skull fragments present; the axial skeleton is represented in 65%, arms in 55%, legs in 60%. Hand and foot bones were identified in the lowest numbers, each element appearing in 27% of burials.

The frequency of different skeletal areas identified during analysis of the cremation burials is likely to be influenced by the different survival rates of different bones (i.e. some bones may be more robust than others) and how recognisable fragments of a particular bone are. In consideration of the differences between immature and mature individuals (Chart 4), the small bones of the hand and foot of immature individuals are more likely to be lost in collection of the bone from the pyre for deposition, due to their smaller (than adult) size. Fragments of the skull were recovered in the highest number for both adult and immature cremation burials. This probably relates to how easily recognisable skull fragments are. Vertebrae fragments are the second most frequently identified bone. This is likely to be related to the poorer oxidation of these bones (see below). The long bones, tibia, femur, humerus were also frequently identified. These bones have been frequently identified in other studies (c.f. Holck 1986). Like the skull, these bones are probably more recognisable when fragmented and therefore identified more frequently.

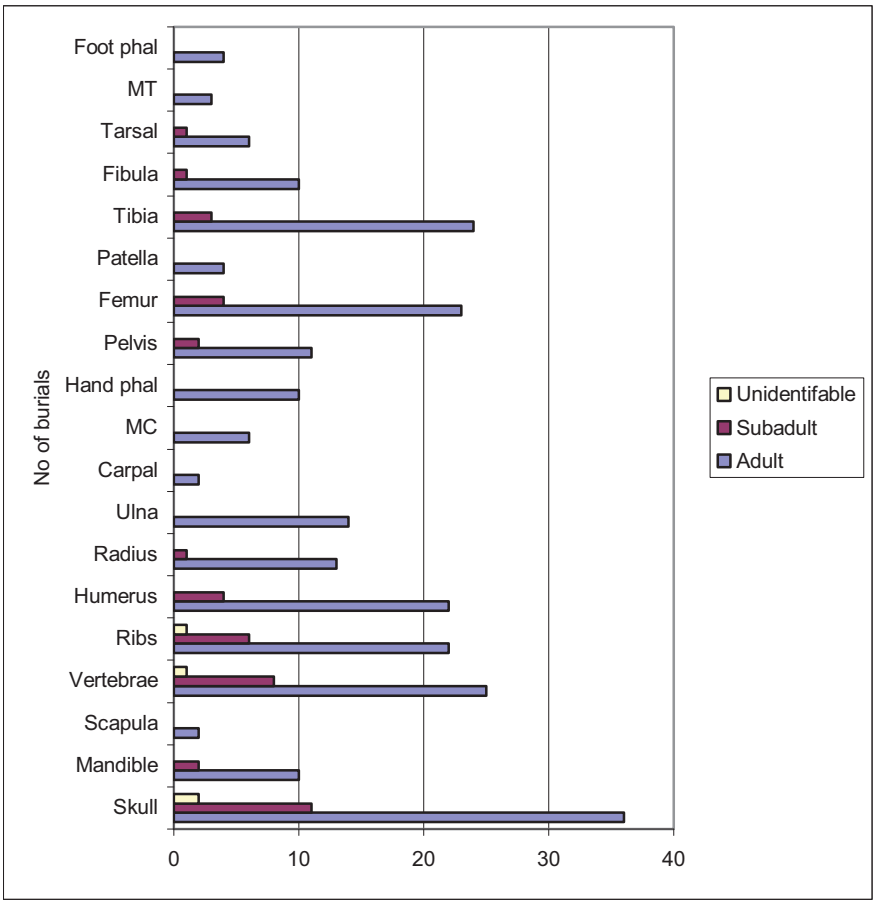

Chart 4: Bones identified in Phase 3 cremations burials and backfills

Bone colour

The colour of cremated bone ranges between brown or black (charred bone), through to blue, grey and white. White is associated with oxidised bone (McKinley 2001, 282). All of the cremation burials and the bone from the backfill consist of bone that is well-burnt, commonly cream in colour, and occasionally white. Thirty-nine cremation burials also included smaller amounts of bone showing poorer oxidation, being brown, grey, blue and occasionally black in colour. In most instances these darker coloured bones were fragments of vertebrae, the epiphyses of long bones, pelvis, and hand and foot bones. In two instances the ectocranial surface of some skull fragments were tinged blue, and one exhibited a brown coloured mandible fragment. Four individuals had light grey coloured fragments from the shafts of the femora and tibiae and one had a light grey fragment of radius shaft.

This pattern is the result of differences in the exposure of the bone to heat; bones with thick layers of soft tissue or adjacent bones are often less severely affected than those bones that are less shielded (Walker & Miller 2005; Holck 1996; Buikstra & Swegle 1989). The less burnt appearance of the hand and foot bones is often observed in archaeological cremated bone and is due to the lack of fat deposits in these extremities. The body areas covered by abundant fat may be expected to reach higher temperatures than those that are not (Mays 2000, 220). Poor oxidation of the lower leg and lower arm bones is likely to relate to the low amount of soft tissue coverage that these areas have (McKinley 1994a, 83). The poor oxidation of the vertebrae and

pelvis is likely to be related to the spongy nature of these bones, with greater time needed for these to reach oxidation than other areas of the body (McKinley 1994a, 83).

Fragment size

44% of the Phase 3 cremated bone was recovered from Fraction 1, >10mm and 42% was recovered from Fraction 2, 5-10mm in size. The majority of the bone is therefore over 5mm in size. Minimum and maximum fragment sizes were recorded for each cremation burial.

The 56 cremation burials ranged from 1.4 mm (min) to 74.2 mm (max). Of these, the identified 40 adults have a range of 1.5-74.2mm, with a minimum mean of 3.3 mm and a maximum mean of 40.8 mm. Of the identified 11 sub-adults the bones range from 1.4 to 52.6 mm, the minimum mean is 2.8 mm and the maximum mean is 25.8mm for sub-adults. These measurements suggest that immature bones were more highly fragmented than adults. Plough damage is likely to have caused fragmentation of the bone (McKinley 1994a, 85); this may have affected immature bones to a higher degree due to their more delicate nature.

Cremations burials with animal bone

Burnt animal bone was identified within the fills of 3 urned cremation burials (C1301, C1733 and C1893) and the backfill of one urned cremation (L1207) (Table 42). All cremation burials, except C1733 of unknown age, consist of adult individuals; this is possibly related to the general dominance of adults in the assemblage. Sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra sp.) was the only species positively identified from the animal bone, this was identified in two urned burials and the backfill. However, cattle/horse sized bone fragments were also identified in two burials (one backfill and one urn fill). Unidentifiable burnt animal bone was also identified within Posthole/possible Grave Marker F1422 (L1423) and pit fill (L1284) discussed below.

Context with animal bone	Feature type	Feature	Context	Vessel	Backfill	Comments
1207	Backfill of Urned Cremation burial	-	1405	1404	1207	3x animal bone fragments. A sheep/goat 1st phalanx and two cattle/horse sized long bones (1.5g, white in colour). Two other unidentifiable fragments are possibly animal bone
1301	Urned	1303	1301	1302	1300	A fragment of a left sheep/goat tibia (8.4g) (cream in colour)
1733	Urned	1731	1733	1732	1734	A cattle/horse sized long bone fragment, white in colour (1.1g)
1893	Urned	1894	1893	1894	1892	Sheep/goat astragalus (white/grey in colour)

Table 42: Phase 3 (Anglo Saxon) Cremation burials with animal bone

Grave Goods

The possibility of the sheep/goat astragalus in adult cremation burial C1893 as a playing piece and grave good is discussed below. Small finds were recovered from four cremation burials (three urned, one un-urned) and Posthole F1144. All of the cremation burials containing small finds are of single adult individuals. Adult C1301, the largest cremation in the assemblage, weighing 750.6g, contained a fragmented double-flanged lead plug which was used to repair a hole in a wooden bowl (Crummy this report). This burial also contained burnt animal bone (including an identifiable sheep/goat bone) within the urn fill. Two iron nails were recovered, a complete one with a narrow rectangular head from urned probable male adult C1308 and a fragment of nail shank from urned adult C1884. C1884 is the second largest cremation burial in the assemblage weighing 566.6g and C1308 is the fourth largest at 438.1g. Un-urned cremation burial C1658 of a probable young adult contained a small iron staple, of a type thought to have been used to repair wooden vessels (Crummy this report). Such staples have been found in several Anglo-Saxon burials in the eastern region (see Crummy this report).

A fragment of copper alloy-sheet was recovered from Posthole F1144. This feature contained 1.1g of cremated human bone from an individual of unknown age.

Pathologies

Part of the right mandible survived in the urned burial of a probable male C1498. The sockets of the 2nd incisor to the 2nd molar were observable. The 1st and 2nd molars had both been lost ante-mortem and were in the process of reabsorbtion (M2), or had been fully reabsorbed (M1).

Non-Metric Traits

The right temporal of urned adult C1820 exhibited a mastoid foramen on the sutural.

Cremation Groups

Distinct groups of cremation burials both within and outside the double ditched Iron Age enclosure have been identified at Heybridge (Pole 2007). 37 cremations were identified within the Iron Age double-ditched enclosure and 32 are located outside of it (Figure 11). Chart 5 illustrates the proportions of these by deposition type (urned, un-urned) and age (adult, sub-adult).

The cremation burials have been considered by the groups identified (see below & discussion).

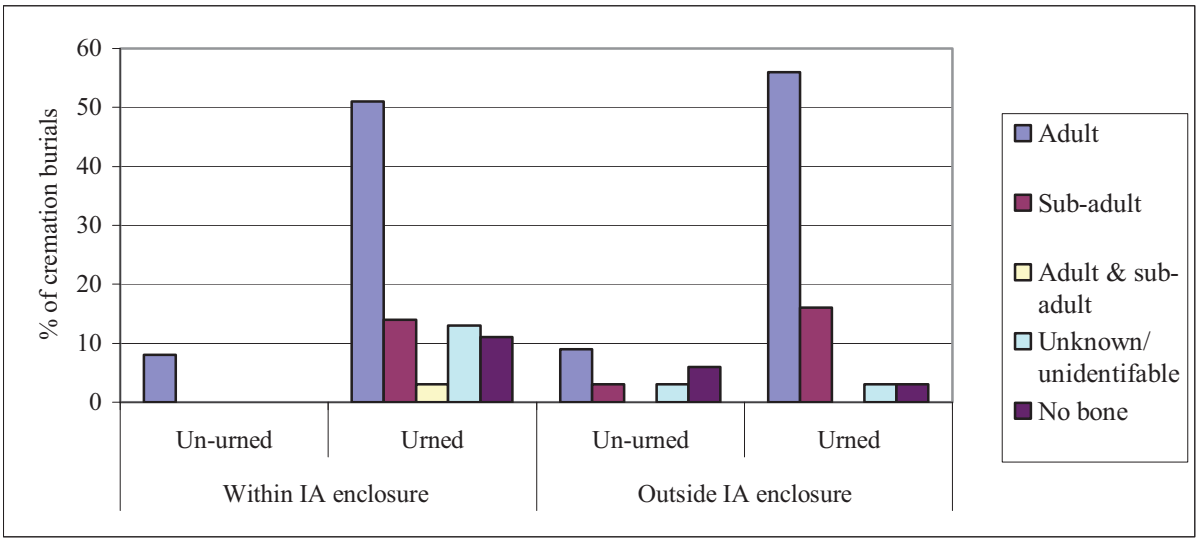

Chart 5: Phase 3 Cremation burials identified both within and outside the double ditched Iron Age (Phase 2) enclosure

Cremation groups within Iron Age enclosure

- Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and associated cremations

Twelve cremation burials were associated with Enclosure Ditch F1233. Possible cremation burial C1649 was also originally thought to be possibly associated with F1233, it contained a small amount of bone that was unidentifiable to species and has been considered separately from the cremation burials (see below). All twelve cremation burials associated with F1233 were urned. C1615 and C1491 did not have any surviving bone. Seven of those with bone are adult individuals (C1054, C1192, 1493, C1509, C1539, C1445, C1593). C1688 is a dual burial of an adult and child (see below for discussion of possible contamination). C1605 is a sub-adult. C1733 contained bone that could not be positively identified as human or animal.

- Cremation in the entranceway of penannular Ditch F1324

C1204, located in Cremation Pit F1206 in the entranceway of the penannular ditch, did not have any surviving bone

- Six-post funerary structure

Urned cremation burial C1633 (in F1635) was located within the six-post funerary structure. This cremation burial is indicated to be a sub-adult (probably in later childhood) aged less than 12-19 years (see above).

- Four-post funerary structure

C1308 an urned cremation burial of a probable male adult was located within a four-post structure. This was the fourth largest burial recovered from site, consisting of 438.1g of bone. A complete nail with a narrow rectangular head was recovered from this burial.

- North-west cremation group

Five adult cremations (C1406, C1415, C1420, C1433 and C1437), two sub-adults (C1216 and C1457), and unidentifiable cremation C1430 form this cremation group.

Posthole F1447 was a possible marker for this group of cremations, no bone was recovered from this posthole.

- South-western cremation group within the enclosure entranceway

Seven cremations have been grouped into this group. All of these are urned. Five were identified as adults (C1301, C1305, C1579, C1584 and C1629). Two were unidentifiable as human or animal (C1352 and C1623).

- Isolated cremations within Iron Age enclosure

Five isolated Anglo-Saxon cremations were located within the Iron Age enclosure. Four were urned cremation burials (adult C1361, adult C1773, sub-adult C1348 and unidentifiable C1818). C1796 had been substantially destroyed by plough damage, no bone survived but the presence of small quantities of possible cremation urn led to its identification as a cremation.

Cremations outside the Iron Age enclosure

- Cremations associated with Ring Ditch F1214

Six urned and one un-urned cremation form this group consisting of three adults (all urned, C1676, C1498 (probable male), C1385, C1575) and three sub-adults (C1558 and C1926 urned, C1680 un-urned). Postholes F1496, F1672 and F1681 are thought to have acted as possible grave markers for cremations in this group. F1681 was the only one to contain bone (see below and Table 42); it consisted of a very small amount of adult sized bone.

- Cremations associated with Ditch F1208

Three urned cremations were associated with this group (C1405, C1455 and C1704), all were adult individuals. Animal bone was identified in the backfill of C1405.

- Cremations to the east of Ditch F1273=F1235

Ten cremation burials were located in an approximate north-west to south-east alignment parallel to the north-eastern outer ditch of the Iron Age enclosure (F1235=F1273). C1976 did not have any surviving bone. All of the burials in this group were urned. Seven of the ten with surviving bone are adults (C1866, C1820, C1839, C1923, C1884, C1849 and C2001). C1836 and C1997 are both sub-adults.

- Eastern cremation group

Three urned cremation burials form this group. C1893 and C1897 are both adult burials, C1945 is a young child aged less than four years.

- Cremations at the northern end of F1273=F1235

This group was located near to the northern terminus of Enclosure Ditch F1235 (=F1273) and south-west of Ring-ditch F1214. It consisted of one urned cremation burial C1373 (adult) and one un-urned adult burial (C1658).

Posthole (F1694) may be the remains of a grave marker for this group; no bone was recovered from this feature.

Results- Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon – burnt bone from other features

Burnt bone was recovered from seven other features dating to Phase 3 (two fills of ditch F1233 contained burnt bone) (Table 43). Human bone was positively identified in four of these seven features, Ditch F1210, Ditch F1233 (L1211 and L1240), Posthole F1144 and Posthole/possible grave marker F1681. It is possible that the 'adult sized' bone recovered from Ditch F1233 is related to cremation burial C1509 of an adult, which was interred within L1211 the backfill of this ditch. Both postholes F1144 and F1681 contained human bone, the bone from F1144 is from an individual of unknown age. F1144 also contained a fragment of burnt copper alloy sheet. F1681 is a possible grave maker for Cremation Pits F1679 (sub-adult C1680), F1384 (adult C1385) and F1577 (adult C1575), an adult sized skull fragment was present in this feature.

Pit F1648 contained 0.3g of bone, which was unidentifiable to human or animal, this has been identified as a possible cremation burial (see interim Pole 2007), but has been excluded from the cremation counts due to the uncertainty of its identification.

Burnt animal bone was identified within Pit F1283 and Posthole F1422. Pit F1283 contained a fragment of sheep/goat radius, in addition to three small unidentifiable fragments; all are white in colour. Posthole F1422 was located to the north of Grave F1358 and may have originally held a grave marker, it contained small white fragments of probable animal bone (*pers comm*. R. Jones).

Feature	Context	Vessel	Backfill	Type	Age Group	Weights (g)					Comments
						Fraction 1	Fraction 2	Fraction 3	Total	Backfill	
1210	1287	-	-	Ditch	Unknown Age	0	3.7	2.8	6.5	-	
1233	1211	-	-	Ditch	Adult sized	17.1	17.4	2.6	37.1	-	Possibly related to 1509
1233	1240	-		Ditch	Adult sized	0	1.4	0	1.4		Possibly related to 1509
1648	1649	-	1649	Pit	Unidentifiable as human or animal	0	0	0.3	0.3	-	
1283	1284	-	-	Pit	Animal Bone & unidentifiable	0	0	0	0		Identifiable sheep/goat radius fragment present
1144	1145	-	-	Post hole	Unknown Age	1	0.1	0	1.1	-	
1422	1423	-	-	Posthole /grave marker?	Probable animal bone	1.7	0	0	1.7	-	
1681	1682	-	-	Posthole /grave marker?	Adult sized	0.3	0.1	0	0.4	-	

Table 43: Burnt bone from other Phase 3 (Anglo Saxon) features

Results- Phase 4: Post Medieval

A single small fragment of white unidentifiable bone was recovered from Pit F1388.

Discussion- Phase 2: Iron Age Cremation Burials

Two urned cremation burials and a probably urned cremation burial were recovered from this phase. The two urned burials are adult individuals while the age of the third is unknown as insufficient material remains. The use of cremation as a means of body treatment and disposal is widely attested in Iron Age England. The urned nature and isolated position of these burials is more indicative of the Aylesford-Swarling culture which is thought to have been introduced to areas of south-east England from the Continent as part of cross channel trade and contact from around 70BC (Fitzpatrick 1997, 208). Both of the definitely urned cremations are low in weight (47.3g, 75.5g), these are at the lower end of the scale found from a sample of *c*.4000 undisturbed adult burials from multi-period sites which ranged 57-2200g (McKinley 1997, 139). It is likely that truncation of the burials has resulted in bone loss. In both cremations all areas of the body were represented to some degree (skull, axial skeleton, upper and lower limb). During the Iron Age it is indicated that only a proportion of each skeletal area was included in the burial (McKinley 1997b, 68). This suggests that a selection of bones representing the entire body may have been deliberately selected from the pyre for deposition within the urns at Heybridge. The white colour of a majority of the bone from these two cremation burials suggests that they exceeded temperatures of 645ºc (Mays 2000, 217; Shipman et al, 1984, 307). See Phase 3 Anglo-Saxon cremation burials above (bone colour) for an explanation of the grey bones included within these two cremation burials.

Discussion- Phase 3: Anglo Saxon Cremation Burials

Demography

The individuals from the Heybridge cremation cemetery are likely to have been linked to the early Saxon settlement at Heybridge (Drury & Wickenden 1982) and the other Saxon settlements sites located in the adjacent area (i.e. Slough House Farm, Chigsborough Farm; Wallis & Waughman 1998, 226-229). Of the 69 cremation burials preliminarily identified during excavation of the site, 62 contained surviving bone. Adults dominate the assemblage (including the adult and infant in the dual cremation burial see below) adults account for 70% of cremated individuals, sub-adult 19%, 6% are of unknown age and 5% could not be positively identified to human or animal. A majority of the sub-adults were indicated to be in later childhood. The absence of very young children may be related to taphonomic issues, i.e. the poorer preservation of smaller bones. Similar taphonomic-biased patterning is attested at a number of sites, including the large Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Spong Hill, where only a small number of infants were discovered (McKinley 1994a). As discussed below it is also possible infants are missed from dual cremation burials due to collection biases related to the small and fragile nature of immature bones. A combination of taphonomic preservation, fragmentation and the incompleteness of the burials have also affected the analysis of sex; it was only possible to estimate sex for two individuals, both of which are probable males (C1308 and C1498).

One cremation at Heybridge is indicated to contain the remains of two individuals; an adult and an infant in C1686. As discussed above it is possible that damage to the cremation by ploughing has resulted in contamination of the burial, although there are not any other cremation burials or features containing cremated bone located near to

this feature. It therefore seems likely that this is a dual burial, although definite confirmation is not possible. At Spong Hill, multiple cremation burials were identified, including possible ones such as C1686, which may have been contaminated due to truncation. At various Anglo-Saxon sites, dual cremations form 4-7% of the assemblage (see McKinley 1994a, 101 for details). In most periods (Bronze Age to Saxon) dual burials, commonly comprise of an adult and an immature individual, as found here (Davies & Mates 2006, 11). The implication is that these individuals, placed together in death, were closely related in life (Davies & Mates 2006, 11), such as a mother and infant. McKinley (1994a, 102) suggests that the low number of dual burials of infants with adults is related to the small and fragile nature of immature bones, which would have been difficult to identify and collect from the pyre. Differences in the survival of mature and immature bones is also likely to have contributed to an under-representation of infants. The individuals within the same burial are likely to have been cremated together on the same pyre, based on the mixing of the skeletal elements from each individual throughout the cremation (McKinley 1994a, 102). However, it is possible that a second individual was added to a burial some period after the first; this could be indicated through the position of the bones within in the burial. At Heybridge, it was not possible to assess the distribution of the bone for any of the cremation burials

The cremation process

The dearth of evidence for a pyre at the site may be related to plough damage, although it is not unusual for a pyre to be absent from cemetery sites in the Saxon period (Davies & Mates 2006, 12). The absence of a pyre at Spong Hill has led to suggestions that cremation had taken place off-site and the filled urns were then brought to the cemetery, perhaps from quite a long distance (Lucy 2000, 106; McKinley 1994a, 82). It is possible that pyre sites at Heybridge were located in the local area, but outside the area of excavation. Direct evidence for a pyre is limited in the Anglo-Saxon period, with the possible identification at Snape providing the only example (Filmer-Sankey & Pestell 2002, 252). Here the pyre appears to have conformed to the type found at the cemetery in Liebenau, Kr. Nienburg, Germany. Aspects of their interpretation are still problematic, but the pyres are generally characterised by spreads of pyre debris and occasionally postholes arranged variously in circles, triangles or 'as the ground plan of miniature houses' which have been interpreted as part of the pyre superstructure (Genrich 1981, 60 cited in Filmer-Sankey & Pestell, 2002, 253). It has been suggested that the cremation pyres of Liebenau, that have parallels in the Iron Age, are an exclusively Saxon phenomenon (Genrich 1981, 18, Filmer-Sankey 1999, 49).

Although direct evidence is limited, an understanding of the construction of the pyre and the process of cremation is possible as the basic process of cremation is the same in the past as today, (McKinley 1994a, 78). Other than some slight variation, all pyres would have required fuel and a stable, body sized platform on which the body could be supported, which would allow circulation of oxygen (McKinley 1997a, 132). At Spong Hill evidence for pyre construction suggested that the main structure consisted of large logs, infilled with brushwood to aid initial ignition and open the pyre for the circulation of the air (McKinley 1994a, 82). Oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal was present in some of the environmental samples assessed from Heybridge and it is possible that

this species was used in construction of the pyre (Pelling, this report). On various other sites oak has been the dominating wood species found in cremation burials, with other species such as beech, poplar, willow, Scots pine and fir occurring less frequently (Wahl 1982, McKinley 1994a, 82). Studies have demonstrated that *c*.146 kg of wood is needed under ideal conditions to produce the same amount of heat as a modern cremator; this is two to four times the amount used in modern cremation pyres in India (Holck 1986). Experiments have also shown that a minimum temperature of 400ºc is needed to cremate a body (Holck 1986). The range of temperature in Anglo-Saxon cremations appears to have been from 400° up to a possible 1200° (Lucy 2000, 104). The colour of the bone from the cremation burials at Heybridge suggests that the pyre exceeded temperatures of 645ºc (Mays 2000, 217; Shipman *et al*, 1984, 307). The environmental sample from C1406 (an un-urned adult) is consistent with uprooted sedges or grassland flora presumably from the floodplain which are likely to have been used as an aid to ignition and fuel (Pelling this report). Similar findings were found at the Saxon cemetery at Springfield Lyons (Murphy 1994; Pelling, this report). It is likely that the duration of the cremation would have been as long as the pyre took to burn out. Piontek (1976) has found this to be approximately 10 hours, which corresponds with the overnight period given in ethnographic sources (McKinely 1994a, 84). It is possible that the amount of time the pyre was left to burn was sometimes restricted at Heybridge. The incomplete oxidation of some of the bones (i.e. the vertebrae) present in some of the cremation burials could be the result of this, although poor oxidation may also be the result other factors, such as damp wood or a damp atmosphere producing insufficient heat (McKinley 1994a, 83).

Collection and deposition

The weights of the cremation burials vary considerably, ranging from 0.2g to 750.6g (see above). A sample of *c*.4000 undisturbed adult burials from multi-period sites have been found to range from 57 to 2200g (McKinley 1997a, 139; 1994). All of the Heybridge cremation burials were disturbed and therefore cannot be directly comparable to these weights. However, McKinley's (1994c) study does illustrate the variation in the amounts of bone collected from the pyre for burial. Studies suggest that only 40-60% of the expected bone weight is recovered from cremation burials, this equates to 650.4g - 975.6g based on the average weight of 1625.9g for adults from modern cremations (see McKinley 1993). Modern experiments of pyre cremation using a sheep and lamb indicate that by the end of the cremation the entire skeletal remains of both animals were clearly visible above the wood ash and the bones were easily collected by hand. However, total recovery of the remains through hand collection took approximately 4 hours (McKinley 1997a, 134). Time may therefore have been a reason for the partial collection of the bones from the pyre. The remaining bones on the pyre would have been incorporated with the pyre debris, which may have been left at the pyre site or removed and disposed of elsewhere (McKinley 1997a, 130). The largest cremation at Heybridge (C1301) weighs 750.6g which represents 46% of the bone weight that could have been deposited. All but two (95%) of the individual adult cremation burials weigh less than 500g, suggesting that they represent less than 31% of the bone weight that could have been deposited. The disturbance of the cremation burials through ploughing is likely to have resulted in some loss of bone.

It is possible that the inclusion of bone within the backfills of some of the cremation burials was a mortuary ritual. This was also found in some of the cremation burials at Spong Hill. In the Bronze Age, pyre debris was sometimes deliberately incorporated into the backfill of a cremation burial. However, the absence of charcoal and burnt flint suggests that the bone included in the backfills at Heybridge is not pyre debris, but collected bone from the pyre. It is possible, considering the plough damage across the site, that truncation resulted in a dispersal of the bone from the burial fill into the backfills of some of the cremation burials.

Animal bone and grave goods

The inclusion of animal remains on the pyre was a common characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon cremation rite (McKinley 2007, 278). Its presence in only four burials, representing only 6% of those with surviving bone, is lower than that found at other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. At Spong Hill, 46% of cremation burials had animal bone present, at Sancton 48% contained animal bone (McKinley 1994b, c.f. Bond, 1996), other sites range from 30 to 23% (Baston (Manchester 1976), Elsham and Newark (Harman 1989), Loveden Hill (Wilkinson, unpublished)) (all figures taken from McKinley 1994a, 92). These figures are likely to be minimum numbers only as the identification of animal bone is dependent on recognition as separate from human bone during analysis; it is also possible that animal remains were present on the pyre, but were not collected for deposition with the burial (McKinley 1994a, 92). Three of the four cremation burials with animal bone were adults, the fourth was of unknown age. This is possibly related to the general dominance of adults in the assemblage. The evidence from Spong Hill suggests that adults, especially males, are more likely to have animal bone included in general (McKinley 1994a, 99-100; Lucy 2000, 113). The small number of burials with animal bone at Heybridge and the loss of bone due to truncation restrict further consideration of this.

Sheep/goat was the only species identified positively in the assemblage, although cattle/horse sized bone fragments were also present. Sheep/goat is generally the most commonly represented species in cremation, for example Newark (Harman 1989) and Illington (King unpublished, cited in McKinley 1994a), although it is noted that at Spong Hill, slightly greater numbers of horse were identified in addition to various other species (McKinley 1994a, 92). The high amount of sheep/goat in cremation burials is probably related to the general dominance of this species in bone assemblages from settlement sites of this date (Crabtree 1995, 23-25, Williams 2001, 198). Analyses of animal remains found with Anglo-Saxon cremations suggests that pig and sheep/goat remains appear to have been butchered and placed on the pyre as joints of meat, rather than as complete carcasses as is more common for dogs and horses (Williams 2001, 198). Williams (2001, 198) suggests that these joints may therefore have provided food for the mourners and the dead.

All of the identified animal bone was burnt to a similar colour as the human bone, suggesting it was subjected to the same temperature, most likely on the same pyre. As described above, modern experiments suggest that the body remains clearly distinguishable on the pyre debris once cremation is over (McKinley 1997a, 130). Therefore, if it was possible to distinguish the burnt animal bone from the human remains, the animal bone may have been collected separately from the cremated

human bone. The excavation of an urn at Anglo-Saxon Minerva, indicated that the animal remains and other grave goods were inserted into the urn after the cremated bone (McKinley 2007, 278-9). Whereas at Spong Hill, animal bone was scattered throughout the spit-excavated urns (McKinley 1994a, 98). At Heybridge, it was not possible to assess the distribution of the bone within the urns, and so it is unknown whether animal remains and grave goods were deposited after the cremated bone, if they were, however, they may well have been more affected by truncation of the vessels than the bone lower within the urn. The truncation of all of the burials is likely to have affected the survival and fragmentation of all of the bone (see above) and therefore it is likely that this has contributed to the low number of burials containing animal bone. The features containing identifiable animal bone are positioned across the site with no obvious relationship.

Grave goods were recovered from four cremation burials (three urned, one un-urned). The possibility of the sheep/goat astragalus in additional adult cremation burial C1893 as a playing piece and grave good is discussed below. It is perhaps significant that the three urned burials with small finds recovered were some of the largest cremations recovered on site. However, it is unknown whether this is related to a variation in mortuary practices with a greater collection of the bone from the pyre and the inclusion of grave goods or if it is consequence of survival biases, these burials being less affected by plough damage therefore exhibiting a greater survival of bone and grave goods. If this is not a consequence of survival biases then it is possible that a variation in mortuary practices was carried out for these individuals.

Included in a few burials from Spong Hill (McKinley 1994a, 97), Caistor-by-Norwich (Myres & Green 1973, 98-100; Lucy 2000, 109) and Loveden Hill (Wilkinson 1980, 28; Lucy 2000, 109) a number of sheep/goat astragali were identified as playing pieces, due to the quantity of them and the absence of other sheep bones within the burial. It is possible that the sheep/goat astragali recovered from C1893 represents a grave-good, although this is a tentative suggestion based on this being the only one present within the assemblage. No other animal bone was identified within the fill of C1893, however 0.5g of bone unidentifiable as either human or animal was recovered from the backfill of this burial.

Burial groupings

Similarities have been found in the burial practices (notably in the types of grave goods) in Anglo-Saxon Essex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk; however, there is also evidence indicating that there was strong regional variation in these communities (Tyler & Major 2005, 192). At the Saxon inhumation cemetery at Edix Hill, Barrington, Cambridgeshire burial groupings by age and gender have been identified (Malim & Hines 1998). Several examples of grouping by kinship were also identified. At the multi-burial rite cemetery at Springfield Lyons, Essex family groups were apparent for both inhumation graves and cremation burials (Tyler & Major 2005, 186). Age and gender groupings are not apparent at Heybridge, however the limited age and sex estimations possible for the assemblage may have hindered identification of these. Evidence from grave furnishings indicates that females were approaching social maturity at 12 years old and males at 15-18 years in the Anglo-Saxon period (Malim & Hines 1998). The cremations at Heybridge could only be assigned into very

broad age groups which has restricted consideration of the age of the individuals and their position within the cemetery.

Richards' (1987) study found close correlations between the age and sex of the cremated individual and the size of the vessel: from infants in the shortest to older adults in the tallest (c.f. Lucy 2000, 115). Unfortunately the plough damage to the cremations at Heybridge restricts consideration of this aspect of burial ritual.

It is possible that the distinct groups previously identified at Heybridge (see Pole 2007 and above) represent kinship groupings. Malim & Hines (1998, 303) suggest that kinship will have been of at least equal importance as gender and age groups within the Anglo-Saxon community.

It is noted that all the cremation burials positioned within the southern half of the excavated area within the Iron Age double-ditched enclosure were all urned burials. This includes the group of burials associated with Enclosure Ditch F1233, the burials loosely forming the south-western cremation group, the burial within the six-post structure and isolated burials C1350 and C1773. In contrast, all but one of the burials positioned to the south-west, outside the Iron Age double-ditched enclosure are un-urned.

Discussion- Phase 3: Anglo Saxon other features

Bone was recovered from seven other features dating to Phase 3. Human bone was identified within four of these. It is possible that the 'adult sized' bone recovered from Ditch F1233 is related to adult cremation burial C1509 interred within the backfill of this feature. Human bone was also recovered from possible grave marker Posthole F1681, like the backfills containing bone it may have been deliberately incorporated into the feature. However, the close location of the posthole to three cremation burials and truncation of these features may have resulted in dispersal of the bone. One feature, Pit F1648 contained a small amount of bone unidentifiable to human or animal.

Burnt animal bone was identified within two features. Pit F1283 contained a fragment of sheep/goat radius in addition to three small unidentifiable fragments, all were white in colour. Posthole F1422 was located to the north of Grave F1358 and may have originally held a grave marker, it contained small white fragments of probable animal bone (*pers comm*. R. Jones). It is possible that the animal bone within possible Grave Marker F1422 is an animal accessory deposit. At Spong Hill, vessels containing a large amount of animal bone were identified as animal accessory vessels (McKinley 1994a, 94). At Baston, (Manchester 1976, cited in McKinley 1994a, 94) at least two cremations were found to consist entirely of animal bone; three were also identified at Sancton (McKinley 1994b). The possible nature of this posthole as a grave marker suggests that the presence of cremated animal bone within it is significant. However, animal bone burnt to a similar degree was recovered from Pit F1283, which does not have any evidence to suggest it is related to the cremation burials and practices at the site.

Discussion- Phase 4: Post Medieval

Further discussion of the single fragment of unidentifiable burnt bone from this phase is not possible.

Summary

Three urned cremation burials of adult individuals were recovered from Phase 2. All were truncated by ploughing. The urned nature and isolated position of these burials is suggestive of the Aylesford-Swarling culture burial practice.

The Phase 3 cremation burials with surviving bone consist of 40 adults, 11 sub-adults and five unidentifiable. This includes one probable dual burial of an adult and immature individual. Although analysis of these was somewhat limited due to truncation, it was possible to provide some information on the individuals buried and the cremation method used. Adults were more frequently identified. Young children and infants are likely to be under-represented due to the small size and fragile nature of their bones, contributing to lower survival and identification rates. There does not appear to be any difference in the cremation process and deposition of the burials based on age group in terms of temperature, urned and un-urned deposition, inclusion of animal bones, grave goods and backfill. However, consideration of position within the cemetery based on age is limited by the broad age estimates that could be assigned to the age groups. All areas of the skeleton were presented to some degree in the cremation burials; this may have been intentional during collection of the cremated bone from the pyre. The cremation pyre appears to have been located away from the excavated area of the cemetery, although direct evidence for pyres is generally absent from the archaeological record for this period.

Distinct groups of cremation burials have been identified and it is possible that these represent kinship groupings, as identified at other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. A possible chronological difference in the cremation burial is also illustrated at Heybridge with a predominance of urned cremations being situated within the southern half of the excavated area within the Iron Age double-ditched enclosure and a predominance of un-urned burials to the south-west, outside the Iron Age double-ditched enclosure

Burnt bone was also recovered from seven other features within Phase 3. These include two possible grave markers, one containing human bone (which may be related to the truncation of the three closely situated cremation burials) and one containing only animal bone, which may be an animal accessory deposit.

A single small fragment of white unidentifiable bone was recovered from a Phase 4 feature.

4.6 The Charred Plant Remains

Ruth Pelling

Introduction

Excavation in 2006 at the Chalet Site, Hall Road Heybridge by Archaeological Solutions Ltd. included a sampling programme for archaeobotanical remains. Bulk samples derived largely from the Iron Age enclosure and Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Features sampled included pits, postholes, ditches and cremation deposits. Samples were processed by mechanical bulk flotation and flots collected onto a 500μm mesh. Dried flots were submitted to the author. Following initial scanning of 155 flots under a binocular microscope to assess the presence and preservation of charred plant remains, 11 samples were selected for further analysis. The selected samples were of Iron Age and early Anglo-Saxon date and were taken from pit fills, postholes, ditch fills and one cremation deposit. The samples not selected for further analysis tended to be dominated by roots with some contained charcoal (predominantly oak) and rare (less than 10) grain or weed seeds. Such deposits are likely to represent 'background noise' derived from burnt deposits of crop remains and processing waste which have been scattered across the site and re-deposited and consequently offer little potential for further discussion.

Methods

The samples selected for analysis were sorted under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification for the retrieval of charred grain, chaff and weed seeds or other quantifiable plant items. Identifications are based on morphological characteristics and by comparison with modern reference material. Detailed identifications are given in Table One. Grain has been quantified on the basis of embryo ends. Weeds are represented by seed, nutlet and so on unless otherwise stated. Chaff part is given. Nomenclature and habitat information for weeds derives from Clapham, Tutin and Moore (1989).

Results and Discussion

Detailed quantified results are shown in Table One (see accompanying CD) which includes the total for grain chaff and weeds for each sample. Glume wheat spikelet forks are quantified in the tables, although the total chaff items is quantified on the basis of glume bases where two glume bases equal one spikelet fork. The density of remains in the samples is generally low to moderate, consistent with piecemeal deposition over time rather than rapid single episodes of burning and deposition. In the majority of samples, cereal grain out numbers chaff or weed seeds. This would be consistent with the presence of processed grain with occasional processing waste (chaff and weed seeds). Preservation tended to be poor, however, which raises the possibility that the sample composition is affected by preservation, chaff tending to survive charring less well than grain and consequently being under-represented (Boardman and Jones 1990). The cremation sample produced a noticeably different composition, which is dominated by weed seeds. This sample is discussed in more detail below.

Discussion

Identification of the cereal grain was hampered by preservation as well as sediment deposits still adhering to the grain. In addition, the identification of wheat (*Triticum*) species was problematic due to the range of species and grain morphology reflected in the limited number of wheat grains identified to species level. At least three species of wheat are represented. The Iron Age samples produced grain and chaff of two glumed wheats: spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). The Anglo-Saxon samples produced both glumed wheat species as a single grain of a possible free-threshing wheat, (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum,* bread/rivet type wheat). A number of short wheat grains, particularly in sample 80 (Pit Fill L1571) could not satisfactorily be identified to species, showing characteristics of both glumed and free-threshing varieties. The paucity of chaff further limited identification of wheat, but did confirm the presence of the two glumed wheats in both Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon samples. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was identified in both periods and includes the hulled six-row variety on the basis of asymmetric grains (in six row barley each rachis node produces three grains, the two lateral grains of which are twisted). Oats (*Avena* sp.) were identified in two samples, one of which was Anglo-Saxon, and one was undated. Chaff of barley was rare consisting of one rachis internode. No oat chaff was present. One pulse was tentatively identified as broad/Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*).

The range of cereal species and particularly the presence of glumed wheats into the early Saxon period is likely to reflect a local tradition not generally seen nationally. Spelt wheat is typically associated with the Iron Age and Roman periods in southern Britain and only rarely recorded beyond the end of the Roman period. Emmer wheat is more typically recorded in Neolithic and Bronze Age deposits, although an increasing number of sites in eastern England, for example in Kent and Essex (eg. Stanstead Airport, Carruthers 2006), are producing Iron Age and Roman records suggesting the distribution is more complex than once thought. There is also limited evidence for the cultivation of emmer wheat in the early Anglo-Saxon period in parts of the Thames Valley, particularly from the sites of Yarnton in Oxfordshire and Dorney in Berkshire (Pelling 2003; Pelling and Robinson 2001). Locally the continued cultivation of glumed wheats into the Saxon period has been suggested from deposits recovered from both early and late Anglo-Saxon features at Springfield Lyons. Here, spelt and possibly emmer were recorded in the early Saxon cemetery in addition to barley, oats, rye and possible pea. West Stow in Suffolk (Murphy 1985), and Mucking, Essex (Van der Veen 1981-3), have also produced evidence for the continued cultivation of spelt into the Saxon period, although only at Springfield Lyons is there evidence for this in the late Saxon period. At the Chalet Site, it is difficult to rule out the possibility of contamination of Saxon period deposits by Iron Age material, although there is clearly an argument for a local tradition of glumed wheat cultivation long after it ceased to be cultivated in the majority of the country. Locally then, there appears to be either continued cultivation of spelt and emmer wheat well into the Saxon period or at least their continuation as weeds of the free-threshing crops, which may also be seen elsewhere in parts of eastern and central England. It is possible, therefore, that at least early Saxon arable traditions were more varied than has been assumed and this is particularly the case along the estuaries and river valleys of eastern England.

A limited range of wild species was represented which includes ruderal species, and plants of grassland or wet, marshy habitats. While some of these species may have been growing with cereal crops, particularly the ruderal plants of disturbed ground (*Chenopodium album*, *Atriplex* sp., *Rumex* sp., *Fallopia convolvulus* and *Galium aparine*), typical corn-field weeds were absent. This would suggest that many of these seeds did not enter the assemblages as crop processing waste but via an alternative route. *Linum catharticum* (fiary flax) is a species of calcarious grassland while the *Vicia/Lathryus* (vetch/tares) and *Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* (medick/trefoil/clover etc) type leguminous weeds includes possible grassland flora. *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel) is typical of light sandy soils including grassland and would occur within grassland on the gravel terraces. *Montia fontana* subsp. *chondropserma* (blinks), *Eleocharis palustris* (common spikerush), *Schoenoplectus* sp. (club rush) and *Polygonum persicaria* (red shank, persicaria) are typical of river or pond edge habitats and are likely to have derived from the river and estuary floodplain. Many of the *Carex* species (sedge) are also typical of wet, marshy habitats. Interestingly, several samples assessed produced recent seeds of *Montia fontana* suggesting some continuity of vegetation in the area of the site, presumably reflecting local conditions.

Sample 51 taken from Anglo-Saxon cremation deposit C1406 produced a very different assemblage to the remaining samples dominated by weed seeds and root/rhizome fragments. This sample contained one glume base and no grain. A large number of seeds of a limited range of species were present including frequent *Montia fontana* and *Carex* spp. with fewer seeds of *Rumex acetosella*, *Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp., *Chenopodium album* and small grasses. The *Carex* seeds were dominated by large, broad, two sided seeds probably derived from a single species. This sample is clearly not arable in origin but rather would be consistent with uprooted sedges or grassland flora presumably from the floodplain, which had been burnt as kindling for the funeral fire. A similar sample producing roots/rhizome with seeds of grassland flora, including *Rumex acetosella* and *Medicago/Trifolium* spp. was interpreted as uprooted weedy grassland vegetation used as kindling for cremation pyres at the Saxon cemetery at nearby Springfield Lyons (Murphy 1994) and therefore may represent a local tradition.

Conclusions

The archaeobotanical remains from the Chalet Site, Heybridge, are consistent with low levels of processed cereals and associated waste that had been deposited over time in piecemeal fashion. The samples do not allow interpretation of cereal processing activities or the nature of the economy of the site although they do provide useful information about local arable traditions. While it is not possible to rule out the possibility of contamination of the Saxon samples by Iron Age material, the range of species identified is consistent with evidence from the local area, which suggests a localised tradition of glume wheat cultivation into the Saxon period. Few plant remains other than charcoal were recovered from the cremation deposits with the exception of one sample interpreted as uprooted floodplain and grassland vegetation used as kindling on the cremation fire. Again, this appears to be a local tradition also noted at Springfield Lyons cemetery (Murphy 1994).

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Neolithic activity in the Heybridge Area

The identification of features representing Neolithic activity at the Chalet Site was not unexpected due to the presence of lithic artefacts of late Neolithic date (and a possibly earlier, but undiagnostic, flake industry) and pottery of a similar date at the Crescent Road site, excavated in 1972, which lies *c*. 1km north-west of Heybridge Hall (Wickenden 1986, 61). Furthermore, in 1985, at Heybridge Basin, 1.2km east of the Chalet Site a pit, containing Neolithic pottery and flint was recorded (HER 8017; Brown & Adkins u/d).

The Crescent Road and Heybridge Basin sites form just a small part of the substantial evidence for occupation of the Heybridge area in the Neolithic (see Fig 21). Artefacts of this date, in context, have also been recorded at Lofts Farm (EHER 7892, 7879), Elms Farm (EHER 17444) and at Goldhanger Creek (EHER 13630), amongst other locations. A small number of residual finds have also been recorded in the area. The evidence recorded in the area suggests that there was sustained activity on the gravel terraces of the Blackwater estuary (O'Connor 2007, 13). Indeed, some of the best evidence for early Neolithic settlement in eastern England comes from the Blackwater estuary due to what is now the intertidal zone in this area having been dry land during the Neolithic. A particularly large area of preserved land surface at the Stumble, has produced evidence for settlement in the form of structural features, pits and large quantities of flintwork and pottery (Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 16).

The Neolithic evidence recorded at the Chalet Site, which comprised three pits and a total of 1522g of late Neolithic pottery, is of a small scale in comparison to some of the evidence recorded for this period in the area surrounding the Blackwater estuary. The pottery assemblage may be considered fairly typical for the region; Grooved Ware, which comprised the majority of the assemblage, has been found at a concentration of sites on the banks of the Blackwater. That this type of pottery is often associated with monumental complexes is probably coincidental with regard to the later (in Phases 2 and 3) use of the site as a cremation cemetery. Thompson (this report) indicates that the assemblage from the Chalet Site would appear not to be associated with such a complex. The presence of this Neolithic activity suggests that further evidence of the same, or similar, date may still exist beyond the excavated area at the Chalet Site.

5.2 The late Bronze Age to early Iron Age site

Contemporary activity in the surrounding area

By the late Bronze Age, a fully agricultural economy had become established; there are a number of known settlement sites of this period in the Maldon area (see Fig 21). A concentration of sites to the east of Heybridge have produced evidence of permanent settlement within a managed landscape (Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 18).

Slough House Farm, which has yielded multi-period evidence, displayed considerable activity in the late Bronze Age following an apparent hiatus in the middle Bronze Age. Various features were recorded, including a ring-gully and several pits, two of which contained hearth debris. A large pit, measuring over 15m in diameter, contained well-preserved organic material, including tree branches and leaf mould (Wallis and Waughman 1988). The late Bronze Age period is the first for which definite evidence of settlement has been identified. The largest area in which settlement was recognised at this site was probably continuous with the contemporary settlement evidence that was recorded at the adjacent Rook Hall site. The late Bronze Age settlement activity at Slough House Farm was unenclosed, unlike the double ditched settlement at Loft's Farm in Great Totham (Wallis 1998, 55; Brown 1988).

The northern-most of two trial trenches excavated at the former Maldon Youth Hostel in 1973 revealed sherds of hand-made flint-gritted pottery, probably late Bronze Age to early Iron Age in date. The second trench excavated at this site revealed a complex of intersecting postholes and shallow depressions that contained pottery very similar to that recovered from the northern trench (HER 7768).

At 39-45 Crescent Road, evidence of late Bronze Age activity comprised a cremation vessel and pottery of this date, in several features, which is considered to be residual (Roy 2003, 8). Small-scale evidence of this period has also been recorded at Chappel Farm in Little Totham to the east of Heybridge, where four pits were found to contain late Bronze Age pottery and a high quantity of worked flint (Robertson 2003, 6).

Early Iron Age activity was recorded at a site between Highlands Drive and London Road (HER 8028). A series of intercutting pits, interpreted as the remains of buildings yielded Darmsden-Linton pottery, worked flint, animal bone and some small metal artefacts. Ditches recorded at this site were also dated as early Iron Age. Further evidence, from the Heybridge area, of activity possibly contemporary with Phase 2 of activity recorded at the Chalet Site comes from the known presentation of 'three British Urns' to the Essex Archaeological Society by Mr E. H. Bentall, which were presumably found on his land at 'the Towers'. The Essex HER entry for these artefacts lists them as Iron Age in date but the entry suggests that there is some possibility that they were in fact Bronze Age.

The Phase 2 enclosure (and associated activity) recorded at the Chalet Site can be seen to fit in to the landscape of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity that is evident in the area surrounding Heybridge and the Blackwater estuary (see Fig. 21). The site may, therefore, be considered to fit in to the landscape of farms, set within a pattern of fields and woods, that has been identified for this part of Essex in the late Bronze Age (Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 17).

At Loft's Farm, *c*. 2km to the north of the Chalet Site, a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 30 x 40m, defined by double ditches 0.3-0.4m deep and 1m apart, was dated to the late Bronze Age. The enclosure had an entrance on its eastern side and internal features included pits and at least one roundhouse. A well was found to contain large quantities of early Iron Age Darmsden-Linton style pottery in the upper fills (Priddy 1984/5, 128). Several wells recorded at the late Bronze Age settlement sites to the north of the Blackwater were identified as having been deliberately sealed in the early Iron Age with deposits including very large quantities of pottery (Essex

CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 18). The southern part of the enclosure contained a number of structures, with a long rectangular building identified in the south-east corner. A number of late Bronze Age features were recorded outside of the enclosure indicating that occupation was not restricted to the enclosed area (Brown 1996, 32).

It is the Loft's Farm site that is perhaps most similar to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure at the Chalet Site. Both appear to have been ditched enclosures and both yielded pottery of Darmsden-Linton type, or at least of a contemporary date (see Thompson, this report). A large quantity of the Darmsden-Linton type pottery recorded at Loft's Farm was recovered from within the upper fills of the well that was present at the site. The deposition of large quantities of pottery of this date is recorded at several of the late Bronze Age sites to the north of the Blackwater and is considered to represent part of a significant change in the character of settlement in the area during the early Iron Age (Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 18). No evidence for this kind of event was recorded at the Chalet Site. This may be because a large proportion of the presumed enclosure lay beyond the limits of the excavated area. However, it may alternatively indicate that the enclosure at the Chalet Site did not experience this kind of event, and therefore did not suffer the abandonment that this sealing of wells may imply. Given its similarity in form to the Loft's Farm enclosure, the Chalet Site enclosure may represent a relocation of settlement from the possibly abandoned sites to the north where these well-sealing events have been identified. Despite the assertion that this event represented a 'significant change' (see Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 18), the apparent sudden sealing of wells at the late Bronze Age sites to the north of the Blackwater estuary does not, of course, mark the dividing line between the end of this period and the early Iron Age. A degree of continuity is apparent in the settlement evidence for the two periods; it is possible to identify Bronze Age origins to features that would come to characterise the earlier Iron Age in southern and eastern England (Haselgrove & Pope 2007, 6). The dating evidence from the pottery assemblage places the Chalet Site between the 9th and 5th centuries BC with a suggested core date of *c*. 800-600 BC, indicating that it was in existence during the transitional phase between the late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age (see Thompson, this report). Furthermore, a shift from the higher land to the north of the estuary to the more riverine environment of the Chalet Site would appear to be an unlikely move during what Megaw and Simpson (1988, 20-21) describe as a period of climatic deterioration marked by an increase of rainfall and a decline of temperature. This suggests that the Chalet Site enclosure is more likely to have been occupied at a similar time to that at Loft's Farm and the other settlements to the north. It may have even fallen in to disuse at a similar time to these sites. The Phase 2 evidence from the Chalet Site represents and early phase of the continuous occupation of the Heybridge area from the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, through the middle Iron Age (with occupation represented at sites such as Slough House Farm) and culminating in the late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement at Elms Farm (c.f. Atkinson & Preston 1998).

The nature of activity represented by the Phase 2 features

The size, morphology and spatial arrangement of the Phase 2 Ditches F1195, F1197, F1235=F1273 and F1274=F1224=F1234 would appear to suggest that they formed an

enclosure. The presence of a similar set of ditches forming an enclosure of the same (or similar) date at the Loft's Farm site aids interpretation of the Chalet Site ditches as those of an enclosure. This is despite much of the presumed enclosure lying beyond the limits of the excavation. While the Lofts Farm enclosure was a double ditched enclosure, stratigraphic relationships and some aspects of ditch morphology suggest that Chalet Site enclosure was not a double-ditched enclosure, despite its superficial appearance.

Internally, the late Bronze Age enclosure at Loft's Farm displayed a fence line dividing the northern and southern parts of the enclosure. The entrance to the enclosure appeared to have been designed to guide traffic in to the northern half. A rectangular longhouse was situated in the south-eastern corner of the enclosure and the entrance to the centrally located roundhouse opened in to the southern area. A concentration of probable two- and four-post structures, representing possible granaries and drying racks, were concentrated in the southern half of the enclosure (Brown 1988, 294). Such detailed understanding of the interior of the Chalet Site enclosure is not possible. This is partly due to much of the enclosure lying outside of the excavated area and partly because the features, both of definite Phase 2 date and undated, that lie within the area understood to be the interior of the enclosure form no coherent structural configurations. The pottery assemblage contains domestic elements, comprising shouldered jars, bowls and cups (see Thompson, this report) but with the absence of clearly definable domestic structures, this is far from incontrovertible evidence. The comparison of the Chalet Site enclosure with that at Loft's Farm is, therefore, based on both of these sites displaying double-ditched systems and artefactual evidence of contemporary dates.

Unlike Loft's Farm, the Chalet Site enclosure displays evidence for funerary activity, in the form of the three cremation burials assigned to Phase 2. Barrow burial is a defining characteristic of Bronze Age burial for both interments and cremation burials; however, no barrows, or evidence for barrows, were recorded in association with the Phase 2 cremations at the Chalet Site. During the early part of the late Bronze Age the building of new barrows gave way to reuse of older ones or the use of flat urnfields (Taylor 2001, 39). Bronze Age cremation deposits are known from settlement contexts; Brück (1995, 249) cites the examples of Knight's Farm, Berkshire (Bradley *et al* 1980), where a cremation burial in a bowl was found adjacent to a ring-ditch and Thwing, Yorkshire (Manby 1980), where an urned cremation burial was placed in a pit in the centre of a very large timber building. The general pattern of late Bronze Age cremation burial continued throughout the seventh, sixth and probably fifth centuries BC (Cunliffe 1975, 287).

The distribution of the features containing the Phase 2 cremations at the Chalet Site sheds little light on the function of the enclosure. Cremation Pit F1258 lay to the south of the west-south-west to east-north-east aligned pair of ditches (F1195 and F1197). Cremation Pit F1514 lay to the north of Ditches F1195 and F1197 and to the west of Ditches F1235=F1273 and F1274=F1224=F1234 indicating that it lay within what is understood to be the interior of the enclosure. Cremation Pit F1711 lay to the east of Ditch F1274=F1224=F1234 and *c*. 1.2m to the north-north-west of the terminus of Ditch F1235=F2173 and therefore on the same alignment as the ditch. If these features represented an urnfield, then it may be expected that they would be present in greater numbers and would have lain exclusively within an enclosed area or

exclusively without an enclosed area. The distribution of these cremations pits in relation to the ditches, and their low number, makes it seem more likely that they represent cremation deposition in a settlement context. During the late Bronze Age, human remains were deposited in a variety of contexts. The remains of the dead appear to have been a powerful symbolic resource that could be drawn on for a number of reasons. One of the uses is to define and mark boundaries and points of boundary transition (Brück 1995, 257). Human remains are also known from boundaries in Iron Age contexts (c.f. Lally 2008). When it is considered that boundaries had great ritual and symbolic importance to various Iron Age societies in northern Europe (Hingley 1990, 100) and that, to many communities in the 1st millennium BC, enclosure features were symbols of the kinship division between 'insiders' and 'outsiders' (Thomas 1997, 216) it can be seen that these cremated human remains may have been placed in these locations on either side of the enclosure ditches for their powerful symbolic value.

5.3 Early Anglo-Saxon activity at the Chalet Site

The Phase 3 site in local context

Because of its proximity to the Saxon homelands and its penetration, some distance inland, by the navigable river Blackwater, it is unsurprising that evidence of early Anglo-Saxon occupation has been recorded in the Maldon District. Numerous sites in the area have produced finds of the 5th and 5th centuries AD (Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 22). The sites to the north-east of Heybridge that yielded so much evidence of for prehistoric and Roman occupation display continued domestic occupation in the early Anglo-Saxon period with evidence that this area had become a centre for metalworking (Hunter 1999, 67).

Early Saxon settlement in Heybridge has been recorded in areas of Roman occupation. Within the area of the Romano-British small town, Drury and Wickenden (1982) recorded five grubenhäuser and a ground level building. The associated Saxon pottery suggests that the settlement belongs to the first half of the 5th century AD, and evidence for the contemporary use of Romano-British pottery was identified. Close to this location, a cemetery containing both late Roman and Saxon burials has been recorded. Immediately to the south of the site described by Drury and Wickenden (1982), lay the Elms Farm site. At this site, early Anglo-Saxon features lay in close proximity to features of late Roman date. Some late Roman features yielded small quantities of early Saxon pottery from their upper fills. At the southern edge of the site an SFB lay in close proximity to a reused Roman well. Ephemeral but definite traces of a small rectangular sleeper-beam-built structure were recorded overlying the junction of two Roman roads and two further SFBs and a Roman wood-lined ditch containing 5th to 6th century pottery were recorded at the northern periphery of the site (Atkinson & Preston 1998, 101-102). A long line of very large postholes running down the northern half of the Roman town was also recorded during the Elms Farm excavation. This has been considered to represent a major Saxon land boundary (HER 847082). None of this early Saxon activity was recorded in the main area of original Roman town, it was all located further up the gravel terracing, away from the rivers Chelmer and Blackwater. The rising water-table is understood to have made the low-lying areas around Elms Farm uninhabitable and therefore possibly precipitating this

shift on to the higher ground in the early Saxon period (O'Connor 2007, 16). The 5th to 6th century Saxon occupation of these areas of Heybridge is considered to have been only short term (Wallis and Waughman 1998).

Dates obtained from the pottery assemblage (see Thompson, this report) place the Phase 3 features recorded at the Chalet Site in the date range *c*. 450 to 700 AD. This indicates that the Chalet Site is potentially contemporary but perhaps longer lasting than the very early Saxon occupation recorded within the last vestiges of the Roman settlement at the Crescent Road and Elms Farm sites. It may provide a link, in terms of a continually utilised location, between the initial Saxon activity in the area and the known middle Saxon occupation of Maldon District.

Layout and development of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at the Chalet Site

As described in Sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.3, the Saxon site was dominated by a zigzagged line of features traversing the excavated area from north to south. These features, although all provided spot-dates of *c*. 450 to 700 AD, were not all stratigraphically contemporary. This line of features could have developed at any rate over the 250-year period that the spot dates suggest.

The southern-most of these features, Ditch F1165=F1612, cut the western edge of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age Ditch F1843, tracing its route almost exactly. This suggests that Ditch F1165=F1612 was deliberately designed to follow the route of this earlier feature and indicates that elements of the Phase 2 site were still visible in the landscape, possibly as depressions, in the early Saxon period. This also suggests that the previous use of the site was of some interest to the Saxon period population. Reuse of earlier sites is a constant theme of Anglo-Saxon burial (Taylor 2001, 158). The identification of the Chalet Site as an area of earlier activity, either through its remaining visibility in the landscape at the time or through some kind of folk memory, may explain why it was chosen for use as a cremation cemetery and why Ditch F1165=F1612 was cut to effectively reinstate a feature of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age site.

Immediately adjacent to the northern terminus of Ditch F1165=F1612, lay Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212= F1222. This was the stratigraphically earliest feature of those forming the striking zigzag of features; it did not have a stratigraphic relationship with Ditch F1165=F1612. It appears likely that this ditch may have functioned as some kind of monumental feature. Cremations were deposited within the area that it enclosed, close by around the outside of it and cut in to its backfill. The north-eastern part of Ditch F1233=F1212= F1222 was cut by the broadly north-east to south-west aligned Ditch F1263, which was probably a continuation of the broadly north-west to south-east aligned Ditch F1220. F1220 was cut by Ring-Ditch F1214. This may have been a simple circular ditch surrounding the cremation deposits at its centre, functioning in a similar way to those surrounding the inhumation burials at the St. Peter's Broadstairs cemetery (see Lucy 2000), or may represent the ploughed out remnant of a barrow; a more likely explanation given the large (*c*. 8m) diameter of the feature. A second, very similar ring-ditch (F2171=F1277) lay to the south and this too may be the ploughed out remains of a barrow. The intercutting, undated features, devoid of artefacts, that lay within the area enclosed by F2171=F1277 may be the

result of interference, possibly robbing, prior to the ploughing that caused damage to many of the archaeological features recorded at the site and which is likely to have caused the destruction of F2171=F1277. Of 19 examples of similar ring-ditches at Apple Down in West Sussex only four were associated with surviving burials (Down and Welch 1990).

Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212= F1222 is, therefore, the stratigraphically earliest of these features, followed by Ditches F1263 and F1220 and then Ring-Ditch F1214. It seems possible that, given its relationship with the earlier Ditch F1843, that Ditch F1165=F1612 may have been earlier than or contemporary with Ditch F1233=F1212= F1222. It would have served to emphasise the link between the Saxon use of the site and the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation and may, therefore, have legitimised the use of the site as a burial ground. For this reason, it may have been one of the earlier features at the site.

It is difficult to identify a clear chronological sequence for the deposition of the Phase 3 Cremations. Some display stratigraphic relationships with other features; some were cut in to the backfill of features such as Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and there are rare instances of cremation deposits truncating earlier cremations. In the case of Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 it would appear that the cremations that lay within the area that it enclosed were probably fairly contemporary with its construction and therefore earlier than those that were deposited in pits cut in to its backfill. A clear depositionary sequence is, however, not apparent for most of the cremation deposits. The stratigraphic relationships that some of the cremation deposits display do hint at longevity of use of the site as a burial ground. This can be demonstrated by using Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 as an example again. Pit F1593 contained a cremation deposit (C1594), its eastern side was cut by Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222. As previously discussed, those cremations within the area enclosed by the ditch may be considered broadly contemporary with it, while those cut in to its backfill are clearly later. Therefore the deposition of cremations clearly extended from before, and well beyond, the lifespan of this fairly substantial feature that appears to have been some kind of funerary monument and therefore possibly a focal point of the cemetery site. The dating derived from the ceramic evidence suggests a potential lifespan for the site of as much as 250 years. It is quite possible that cremation deposition was occurring throughout much of this period.

The Cremations: Demography and Funerary Practices

As Phillips (this report) demonstrates, much of the demographic information that was sought from the cremations was affected by a combination of taphonomic preservation, fragmentation and the incompleteness of the burials. The apparent absence of very young children may be a result of taphonomic factors such as the small size and fragile nature of immature bones leading to poor survival. It was only possible to estimate the sex of two individuals due to the required diagnostic elements not surviving. It was, however, possible to identify that adults dominated the assemblage with adults accounting for 70% of the cremated individuals and sub-adults 19%. It was not possible to identify the age grouping of 6% of the represented individuals and 5% of the cremations could not be positively identified to human or

animal. Of the sub-adults, most were identified as being in later childhood. By their nature, there is a great deal of variability in the quantity and quality of demographic information that can be obtained from cremations (Stirland 1999, 42). While the cremation assemblage did not offer the kind of insights in to the early Anglo-Saxon population of Heybridge that an inhumation assemblage might have done it does provide some information regarding death rates and patterns. The dominance of adults in the assemblage over youths or children would suggest a fairly normal death rate amongst the population with no apparent evidence for epidemics or similar events wiping out large numbers of sub-adult individuals.

The double cremation C1686, which contained the remains of an infant and an adult, is paralleled at various Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites (see McKinley 1994a, 101). In most periods, from the Bronze Age to Saxon, dual burials, commonly comprise of an adult and an immature individual; the implication is that these individuals represent a mother and infant or other closely related family members (Davies & Mates 2006, 11). Stoodley's (2002) study of multiple inhumation burials, however, demonstrates that infants are restricted to burial with an adult female, making the options for the burial of an infant limited. The lack of a female with whom to bury an infant may explain why they are scarce in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries but may also suggest that the grave of any available female was considered an appropriate resting place for an infant (Stoodley 2002, 118-119).

Lucy (2000, 116) states that usually, cremated skeletal remains were collected from the pyre and placed in pottery urns, or other vessels, and then deposited in pits in the ground. The Chalet Site cremations, of course, fit in to this pattern. Some cremation graves appear to have wooden structures associated with them (Lucy 2000, 118). These are generally posthole structures around and above cremations forming miniature wooden 'houses of the dead' (Welch 1992, 66). This practice has also been identified at the Chalet Site. Cremation Pit F1295 lay at the centre of a rectangular formation of four postholes. The 'houses of the dead' associated with Anglo-Saxon burials are typically four-post structures and so it appears likely that this is what these four postholes represent. Cremation Pit F1635 was observed to lie at the centre of a hexagonal formation of 6 postholes. It is possible that these postholes represent a similar but more elaborate version of the four-post 'houses of the dead' that have been recorded at several Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in southern England, but most notably at Apple Down in West Sussex (Welch 1992, 66). Ring-ditches, similar to F1214 and F1271=F1277, are known from other sites in Essex (Lucy 2000, 119). Nineteen such examples were recorded at Apple Down, West Sussex (Down & Welch 1990), but, as the ditches were rather shallow, these seem to have been intended to delimit the area around the central cremation rather than to provide material for a barrow overlying the cremation pit (Lucy 2000, 119).

It is a regularly observed feature of Anglo-Saxon burial that there was, apparently, little problem identifying earlier graves, either to avoid disturbing a previous burial or to locate a grave in which to place another family member (Taylor 2001, 144). This would suggest that markers of some kind must have been used. These may have taken the form of single posts, as evidenced in association with some cremation deposits at the Chalet Site, or may have been more elaborate monumental structures. At the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at St Peter's, Broadstairs, Kent, structural features associated with graves included posts on both sides or at the head or foot of the grave, floor slots,

ledges, upright stone slabs and circular or penannular ditches (Taylor 2001, 145). Arnold (1988, 128) reports that ditches with a diameter in excess of 6m, some with a causeway, others forming a complete circle are often associated with Anglo-Saxon graves. Evidence for free-standing upright posts and vertical timbers suggesting enclosing fences is also found in association with such features. Sub-circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222, Penannular Ditch F1324 and the Ring-Ditches F1214 and F1271=F1277 would all appear to conform to this pattern. All of these features, however, are associated with cremation burials whereas Arnold's (1988, 128) observations are mainly associated with inhumation burials. It is worth noting though, that many aspects of Anglo-Saxon inhumation and cremation rites are very similar, in terms of the way in which the body was laid out and the way in which it was equipped either in the grave or on the pyre (Welch 1992, 69). Therefore, as beneath the basic distinctions in burial rite a considerable amount of variability is found (Arnold 1988, 131), there is no reason why the structural components of an inhumation grave may not be adapted or copied for use in association with the burial of cremated remains.

This evidence demonstrates that burial practices that are well attested at other Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites were being carried out at the Chalet Site. As Arnold (1988, 131-132) states, the majority of burials in early Anglo-Saxon England conform to the basic types. This indicates that there were several set burial practices, all of which were suitable for the burial of individuals during the lifespan of the cemetery at the Chalet Site. The evidence from the site does nothing to demonstrate what, if anything, the differences between these practices imply. For example, while more is known about C1308 (the identification of a pronounced nuchal crest indicates that it is probable male and an iron nail was recovered from the cremation vessel) than C1676, both were urned cremations identified as adults. There is no evidence to adequately explain why C1308, which lay in Cremation Pit F1295, was buried within the four-post structure whereas C1676, contained with Cremation Pit F1678, was buried within the area enclosed by Ring-Ditch F1214. This difference may demonstrate a different position in society, a different gender, a difference in personal or familial wealth, a different family group or that one was of a different date to the other; alternatively, it may represent a choice based on nothing but the personal preference of the interred individual or the persons responsible for their funerary arrangements. The burial of C1633 (in Cremation Pit F1635) within the six-post structure, a very similar though perhaps slightly more elaborate burial monument to the four-post structure, would suggest that this kind of burial practice was not associated with C1308's age as the individual represented within C1633 was a sub-adult. A mix of burial rites within one cemetery appears to be quite usual within Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. Even Sutton Hoo, understood to be the burial place of a royal family over a short period, the kind of site where conformity might be expected, displayed a mix of burial rites (Taylor 2001, 138). Dr Ian Longworth's excavations in the late 1960s recorded unaccompanied inhumations, with no grave goods or coffins, and urned and unurned cremations (Evans 1989, 104-105). Burials beneath roundbarrows, split almost equally between inhumations and cremations (some on wooden trays, some wrapped in linen, some in bronze vessels) and inhumations in coffins and wooden chambers have also been recorded at Sutton Hoo (Taylor 2001, 138).

The similarity of the contents of the environmental sample taken from Cremation C1406, which comprised the remains of sedges and grassland flora, to samples taken

from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Springfield Lyons may be indicative of a local tradition in funerary rite (see Pelling this report). These plants would have been used as kindling for the funeral pyre. While it is most likely that they were used for this purpose as they were a convenient source of suitable material for this function, their continued use in this way may have eventually developed into a local funerary custom.

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery and the history of the site prior to this use

The Anglo-Saxon features are described above in terms of their spatial relationship with the Phase 2 enclosure and if they lie inside or outside of this area. These features were not considered in terms of the earlier features on a merely arbitrary basis; the evidence would suggest that the presence of the earlier enclosure at the site influenced the siting of the Anglo-Saxon features.

Taylor (2001, 158) asserts that the reuse of earlier sites is a constant theme of Anglo-Saxon burial. As Semple (1998, 109) has stated, archaeological investigation has revealed a consistent tradition of Anglo-Saxon secondary activity occurring at Bronze Age burial mounds and Neolithic long barrows. It is, however, not just sites of Bronze Age or Neolithic date that Anglo-Saxon burials appear to have been associated with; Evison (1994, 30), suggests that the presence of a possibly Roman cremation, marked by a post, encouraged the use of the surrounding area for the deposition of Saxon cremations at Great Chesterford. The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Great Chesterford is located close to the position of one of the known Roman cemeteries in the area. It is not just earlier sites primarily of a burial or funerary function that have been reused as Anglo-Saxon burial sites. Williams (1997) has identified early Anglo-Saxon period burial sites reusing Iron Age forts, linear earthworks, henges and enclosures, natural mounds and Romano-British villas.

The use of the Chalet Site in the Anglo-Saxon period as a cremation cemetery clearly relates to the previous use of the site in the late Bronze/early Iron Age. This is perhaps most clearly illustrated by the apparent recutting of a late Bronze/early Iron Age ditch (F1843) in the early Anglo-Saxon period (F1165=F1612). It is not possible to determine whether the presence of the late Bronze/early Iron Age cremations encouraged the Anglo-Saxon population to use the site as a cemetery, as only a small number were recorded during excavation and Anglo-Saxon cremations were not placed in particularly close proximity, or if it was merely the presence of a known earlier site. In either case, it appears likely that the site was evident to the Saxon population because visible earthworks remained or through some kind of folk memory.

Semple (1998) demonstrates that several examples of Anglo-Saxon poetry make reference to barrows or prehistoric earthworks being associated with the supernatural. Williams (1998a, 91) states that the ancient burial structures referred to in the epic *Beowulf* were considered to be the constructions of an ancient race and the residence of dangerous super-natural powers but that they also relate to a memory of a distant mythological past. The antiquity and monumentality of ancient structures could imbue them with ancestral and supernatural qualities that newly built structures could not possess. The spirits of the dead and supernatural powers can be associated with

ancient, abandoned or ruinous locations, which can lead to their use as sacred places and burial sites; there is ethnographic evidence for this idea (Williams 1998b, 3).

The practice of reusing ancient sites for burial is known in the 'Anglo-Saxon homelands' from at least the 3rd century (Taylor 2001, 158). Its use in Anglo-Saxon England may, states Williams (1998a, 104), have helped immigrant Germanic groups portray themselves as the legitimate heirs of the ancient peoples and supernatural beings that originally created these structures. As Bradley (1993, 116) states, "new developments are more secure when they are invested with the authority of the past." This would appear to indicate that it was possible for the population of early Anglo-Saxon England to identify elements of the landscape as the constructions of past groups or societies. There was, therefore, clearly some understanding of the history of the landscape. It is apparent, though, that Anglo-Saxon period concepts of history were intertwined deliberately, and inextricably, with mythology or theology; for example, the pagan god Woden was placed at the end of many Anglo-Saxon royal genealogies.

Williams' (1998a, 104) assertion is based strongly on the concept of the Anglo-Saxon period in England having been the result of mass migration or invasion by groups from mainland Europe and the suppression of the native British population. This concept is not universally accepted; Chadwick (1965) and Higham (1992), amongst others, have proposed the possibility of small numbers of Anglo-Saxon incomers 'anglo-saxonising' a population that was substantially British in its ancestry (Ward-Perkins 2000, 520). An 'anglo-saxonised' (or partially 'anglo-saxonised') British population may have felt the need to demonstrate links with the ancestral beings that created the prehistoric monuments in the landscape in much the same way, although for obviously different reasons, as Williams' (1998a, 104) immigrant Germanic groups.

Whether it was a Germanic elite seeking legitimisation of their claim to the land or a British population who, despite consciously adopting new cultural practices, needed to maintain some link to their ancestral heritage, that reused the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure at the Chalet Site as a burial ground is open to debate. Either way, it is clear that the intention was to place the dead in a location associated with spirituality, the supernatural and ancestors: a suitable place in the physical and metaphysical landscapes for new ancestors to inhabit. Despite the socio-political implications of the reuse of monuments outlined above, the practice was not necessarily always carried out to achieve any kind of legitimisation; the foremost thought in the minds of those selecting an ancient monument as a new burial ground may have been the well-being of the dead. Of course, the paradigm that made ancient monuments suitable locations for burial grounds may have been deliberately manufactured for political means. There does indeed appear to be some kind of Anglo-Saxon obsession with the historical landscape and its supernatural qualities as Shook (1960) demonstrates in his comparison of the Anglo-Saxon poetic rendering of the life of St Guthlac, *Guthlac A*, with the earlier, Felix's *Vita Sancti Guthlaci*. The Anglo-Saxon version centres strongly on the struggle between Guthlac and the demons that formerly occupied the barrow that the saint has chosen to inhabit as his anchoritic dwelling; Felix's concern regarding the struggle between saint and demons is the liberty of Guthlac's soul rather than the occupancy of a barrow (Shook 1960, 8-9).

Different elements of the historic site might have influenced the layout of the Saxon period burial ground. Lucy (2002, 85) describes the cemetery at West Heslerton in East Yorkshire, where an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located in an area containing a Neolithic hengiform enclosure, a Bronze Age barrow and an Iron Age pit alignment. At this site there was clear differentiation in the locations in which different individuals were buried. It was observed in the southern half of the cemetery that females, young individuals or burials that were flexed or crouched were more likely to be buried within the barrows or ditches, or within the enclosures whereas weapon burials and extended burials were located in other areas (Lucy 2002, 85). Despite some cremations being placed within the Phase 2 enclosure and some outside of it, no clear patterning of this kind is evident at the Chalet Site. This is in part due to the evidence required for the identification of sex being lacking amongst the cremations. This suggests that differentiation in burial location may have been practised but it is archaeologically unidentifiable. It is, however, possible to recognise a high probability that the form of the late Bronze Age/early Bronze Age enclosure influenced the form of the Anglo-Saxon period cemetery as evidenced by the recutting of Ditch F1843 by Ditch F1165=F1612. Furthermore, the zigzagged line of Anglo-Saxon features, formed by Ring-Ditch F1214, Sub-Circular Enclosure Ditch F1233=F1212=F1222 and Ditches F1165, F1263 and F1220, that traversed the site from north to south broadly followed the line of Ditches F1274=F1224=F1234 and F1273=F1235, which is likely to have formed the eastern boundary of the Phase 2 enclosure. Anglo-Saxon Cremation Pit F1840 (C1839) was cut in to the backfill of Phase 2 Pit F1859 and the presence of 434g of Anglo-Saxon pottery in the fill of Phase 2 Ditch F1224 may represent the plough-damaged remains of a cremation vessel deposited in to a pit cut into the backfill of the earlier feature. The placing of Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves cut into filled in ditches of Iron Age date has been recorded at the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Edix Hill in Cambridgeshire (Malim & Hines 1998, 20, fig. 7.2). This would suggest that the placing of cremations into the backfills of Phase 2 features at the Chalet Site was carried out deliberately.

Like many of the Anglo-Saxon burial practices identified at the Chalet Site, the reuse of an earlier site as a burial ground is attested at several other locations. This may be considered to be representative of an overall conformity within early Anglo-Saxon burial comprising of a variety of different practices, a selection of which may be expected to be identifiable at any given site.

5.4 The post-medieval features

It is not possible to reconcile the post-medieval features that were recorded at the Chalet Site with any features shown on the historic maps of the site (Figs. 22-25). This may be because these features predated the cartographic evidence. Given Vaughan and Grassam's (2005, 11) suggestion that the cartographic evidence indicates that the site was marshy in the late 18th century, but had been improved by the 19th century, and the alignment of the major Phase 4 features leading to the Heybridge Creek to the west, it appears that the features of this date were primarily associated with drainage.

6 CONCLUSION

The evidence recorded at the Chalet Site is of dates comparable to extensive evidence recorded at other locations in the Heybridge and Maldon areas. The Phase 2 features identified at the Chalet Site provide further evidence of permanent settlement within a managed landscape that has been identified from several sites of this date to the east of Heybridge (Essex CC Historic Environment Branch 2008, 18). Assessment of the character of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity present at the Chalet Site has been hampered by the lack of clear structures and the fact that much of the presumed enclosure lay outside of the excavated area. It seems probable that the linear ditches of this Phase did indeed represent an enclosure but that this was not a double-ditched enclosure; further ditches appear to have been created as separate stages of boundary construction giving the superficial appearance of a double ditch. This may indicate that domestic activity did not occur within the enclosure. The broadly contemporary small settlement at nearby Loft's Farm displayed double-ditches. However, the late Bronze Age settlement activity at Slough House Farm was unenclosed. Of course, domestic activity may just not have occurred in the area of the enclosure investigated during the Chalet Site excavation. At Loft's Farm there was apparent differentiation between the southern half of the enclosure in which the domestic buildings were situated and the northern part of the enclosure into which all traffic arriving at the site appears to have been directed (see Brown 1988). What is clear about the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity at the Chalet Site is that it included a degree of funerary activity, as evidenced by the three cremations of this date that were identified. This number is too small, however, to suggest that funerary activity was the primary function of the site.

It appears likely that the early Anglo-Saxon (Phase 3) cremation cemetery was associated with the early Saxon occupation at Heybridge that occurred on the peripheries of the former Roman town. The dates provided by the ceramic evidence would suggest that the cremation cemetery was broadly contemporary with this settlement activity, lasting beyond the date that the Saxon settlement appears to have moved away from the area of the Roman town. It may have been a replacement for the slightly earlier cemetery containing both late Roman and Saxon burials recorded by Drury and Wickenden (1982).

There is a clear link between the location of the cemetery and the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure. Numerous Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites have been recorded that have made deliberate reuse of earlier monuments. Not all of the earlier monuments that have been reused in this way were primarily sites of funerary activity (see Williams 1997). For this reason, it is impossible to state whether or not it was the presence of Iron Age cremations, which are likely to have been difficult to identify without causing significant disturbance, at the site that made it a suitable location for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery or if it was merely the presence of ancient earthworks. It has been suggested that ancient monuments were reused as burial places in the early Anglo-Saxon period as they were seen as places of liminality, inhabited and constructed by supernatural beings and the ancestors (c.f. Williams 1997, 1998a, 1998b; Semple 1998). This made these locations suitable places for the dead to dwell.

The Anglo-Saxon burial practices and grave appurtenances/funerary architecture identified at the Chalet Site are well attested or comparable to similar elements from

other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. Some features, associated with inhumation graves at other sites, appear to be used in conjunction with cremation burials at the Chalet Site. Arnold (1988, 131-132) states, the majority of burials in early Anglo-Saxon England conform to the basic types. This appears to hold true for the cremation burials at the Chalet Site; even elements associated with inhumation are adapted for use with cremation burial.

The cemetery may be considered typical of cremation cemeteries of this date for this part of the country. Even the fuel for the funerary pyres has been identified as being the same as that used at Springfield Lyons (Pelling, this report). There is only ambiguous evidence for any inhumation at the Chalet Site, although, like the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure, much of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery lay beyond the limits of the excavated area and further evidence for inhumation may still exist. This lack of inhumation burials is unsurprising as, in eastern England, very large early Saxon cremation cemeteries with a small minority of inhumations are found linked to Roman towns (Taylor 2001, 138). The Chalet Site would appear to fit well in this pattern, although the number of recorded cremations is well below the number recorded at Spong Hill, Norfolk or Loveden, Lincolnshire. This and the range of burial practices and customs that have been identified mark the Chalet Site as a good example of small to medium scale early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery associated with post-Roman occupation of Roman settlement. It displays many of the elements that research in south-eastern England has associated with cemeteries of this date and fits neatly in to the known early Anglo-Saxon landscape of the Heybridge area.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	H.Bone (g)	Other
1001	1431 1430		Cremation Vessel in Subsoil Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(29), 153g		3	
1051	1050		Pit Fill					Struck Flint (1), 6g
1055	1056		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(11), 389g		103	
1057	1058		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 3g			
1059	1060		Pit Fill	Post-medieval		38		
1062	1061		Pit Fill	Late Neolithic	(11), 184g			
1069	1070		Pit/Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(8), 76g			
1075	1076		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 4g			Struck Flint (1), 1g
1083	1084		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 10g			
1140	1141		Pit Fill	Iron Age				Charcoal (2), 3g Fired Clay ?Loomweight (6), 173g
1142	1143		Posthole Fill	?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(2), 3g			
1144	1145		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(1), 12g			Cu Alloy Fragment (1), 1g
1149	1150		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(4), 136g			
1165	1175 1176 1335	A B	Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700) Early Saxon (c. 450-700) Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(12), 445g (3), 26g (3), 13g			 Struck Flint (1), 6g
1171	1183		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(10), 238g			
1179	1180		Posthole Fill					Burnt Flint (2), 126g

1181	1182		Pit Fill	?Iron Age	(1), 6g			
1194	1192 1193		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(29), 847g		194	
1195	1196 1332	A B B	Ditch Fill	Iron Age Iron Age Iron Age	(2), 42g (1), 14g (7), 759g			
1197	1198 	 B	Ditch Fill	Iron Age	(6), 47g			Burnt Flint (1), 12g
1199	1200		Pit Fill	?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(6), 181g			
1206	1204 1205		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(54), 2225g		39	
1208	1207 1404	B G	Ditch Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(24), 152g (26), 146g			
1210	1209		Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(59), 682g			
1212	1211 1261	A B	Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700) ?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(549), 6820g (1), 1g			Struck Flint (1), <1g
1214	1213		Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(15), 66g			
1218	1216 1217		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel				35	
1220	1219		Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(6), 109g			
1224	1223		Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(47), 434g			
1226	1225		Ditch Fill	Iron Age	(6), 26g			Burnt Flint (1), 9g
1233	1239	A	Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(19), 203g			

		D		Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(7), 235g			
	1240			Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 12g			Daub (2), 16g
		C		Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(5), 66g			
		D		Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(19), 204g			
				?Iron Age	(5), 10g			
	1280	B		Iron Age	(2), 6g			
1234	1243	C	Ditch Fill	Iron Age	(28), 264g			
	1603	C		Iron Age	(3), 11g			
	1846		Ditch Terminus Fill	Iron Age	(1), 3g			
1235	1241	C	Ditch Fill	Iron Age	(42), 475g			
	1900			?Iron Age	(23), 211g			
1251	1252		Posthole Fill					Charcoal, 42g
1258	1256		Cremation Vessel Fill				98	Charcoal, 72g
	1257		Cremation Vessel	Iron Age	(21), 707g			
1263	1262	A	Ditch Fill					**SF2:** Glass Bead (1), 1g
1267	1268		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(2), 17g			
1273	1291	A	Ditch Fill	Iron Age	(1), 39g			
1275	1276		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 6g			
1283	1284		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(17), 143g			Charcoal (1), 1g, Burnt Animal Bone, 6g
1295	1308		Cremation Vessel Fill				530	Fe Nail (1), 11g
	1309		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(60), 1081g			
1303	1301		Cremation Vessel Fill				802	Struck Flint (1), 9g Glass Fragment (1), 1g Burnt Flint (6), 35g
	1302		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(115), 2131g			Pb Pot Mend (2), 36g

1304	1305 1306		Cremation Vessel Cremation Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(53), 541g		47	
1314	1315		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(1), 5g			
1320	1321		Ditch Fill	?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(4), 3g			
1322	1323	A	Ditch Fill			**SF1:** 826 61		
1324	1325		Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(5), 47g			
1344	1342 1343		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(59), 328g		98	
1350	1348		Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(91), 720g		23	
1351	1352 1353		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(162), 1428g		2	Burnt Flint (1), 3g
1355	1356		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(2), 7g			
1360	1361 1362 1363		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700) Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(40), 551g (5), 15g			
1365	1364		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(1), 7g			
1375	1373 1374		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(64), 347g		68	
1384	1385 1386		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(57), 490g		82	
1388	1389		Pit Fill	Post-medieval		2		

1400	1401		Pit Fill	Post-medieval		50		
1408	1409		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(7), 45g			
1411	1412		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 10g			
1417	1415		Cremation Vessel Fill				247	
	1416		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(72), 919g			
1418	1419		Posthole Fill	?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 9g			
1422	1423		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 5g			Burnt Animal Bone, 2g
1435	1432		Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(18), 45			
1439	1436		Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(5), 64g			
	1437		Cremation Vessel Fill				149	
	1438		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(28), 733g			
1442	1443		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(5), 22g			
	1444		Cremation Vessel Fill				98	
	1445		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(38), 427g			
1453	1454		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(36), 393g			
	1455		Cremation Vessel Fill				59	Burnt Flint (1), 9g
	1456		Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(13), 67g		<1	
1465	1488		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(4), 11g			?Loomweight (1), 38g
1467	1468		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(29), 170g			
1469	1444		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	427g			
	1445		Cremation					

	1470		Back Fill					
1471	1472		Pit/Posthole Fill	?Iron Age	(1), 9g			
1482	1457 1458		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(42), 360g		14	
1486	1493 1494		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(168), 513g		38	
1489	1492		Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(2), 4g			
1496	1495		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(15), 72g			
1500	1497 1498 1499		Back Fill Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(19), 2000g		290	Charcoal, 2g
1506	1508 1509		Cremation Vessel Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(60), 827g		375	
1510	1511		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(14), 166g	96		
1512	1513		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(5), 5g			
1514	1515		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(8), 38g			
1522	1521		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(216), 2913g			
1523	1524		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(292), 2090g			Struck Flint (1), 11g
1527	1528		Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 2g			
1535	1536		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(14), 74g	4		Cu Alloy Fragment (1), 1g
1537	1538 1539		Cremation Vessel Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(148), 617g		107	Slag (2), 4g Struck Flint (1), 4g
1560	1558		Cremation Vessel Fill				82	

	1559		Cremation Vesel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(18), 589g			
1570	1571		Pit Fill					Fired Clay (70), 637g Charcoal (2), 1g
1577	1574 1575 1576		Cremation Pit Backfill Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700) Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(14), 43g (40), 853g		145	
1578	1579		Cremation Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 4g			
1589	1590		Pit Fill					Fired Clay (38), 226g Charcoal (2), 2g
1593	1594		Cremation Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(106), 131g		12	
1602	1604 1605		Cremation Vessel Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(15), 454g		78	
1617	1615 1616		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (32), 176g			Burnt Flint (2), 31g
1625	1623 1624		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (26), 197g		3	
1626	1627		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(3), 15g	13		
1631	1629 1630		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (28), 375g		3	
1635	1633 1634		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (28), 553g		80	
1638	1639		Pit Fill	?Iron Age	(2), 10g			
1640	1641		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-	(3), 12g			

				700)				
1642	1643		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(17), 33g			
1644	1645		Ditch Fill			172		
1646	1647		Ditch Fill	Iron Age	(1), 4g			
1648	1649		Posthole Fill	?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 3g			
1656	1658		Cremation Pit				4.3	Fe Frag (3g)
1665	1666		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 2g			
1672	1671		Pit Fill					Burnt Flint (1), 3g
1678	1676 1677		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (19), 130g		217	
1688	1687		Cremation Vessel		(5), 20g			
1690	1691		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 3g			
1694	1696		Pit Fill	Late Neolithic	(4), 31g			
1701	1702		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(1), 11g			
1706	1703 1704 1705		Cremation Backfill Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700) Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(9), 77g (7), 378g		26	
1711	1713		Cremation	Iron Age	(3), 3g			
1715	1714		Posthole Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(2), 4g			**SF3:** Cu Alloy Fragment (1), 4g
1736	1735		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(3), 4g			
1739	1740		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(36), 614g			
1743	1744 1745		Pit Fill					Struck Flint (1), 20g ?Slag (4), 16g

1758	1759		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(12), 31g			
1760	1761		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(11), 139g			
1763	1762		Pit Fill	?Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(6), 341g			

1769	1768		Ditch Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 13g			
1775	1773 1774		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(26), 214g		3	
1789	1790		Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(3), 3g			
1798	1796 1797		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(35), 1451g			
1809	1812		Ceramic Vessel within Pit	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	**SF4:** (13), 182g			
1822	1820 1821		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(78), 561g		356	
1825	1826		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(12), 144g			
1838	1836 1837		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(87), 602g		37	
1840	1839		Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(40), 84g			
1841	1842		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(1), 3g			
1851	1849 1850		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(41), 127g		4	
1854	1855		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-	(3), 69g			

				700)				
1859	1858		Pit Fill	Iron Age	(4), 34g			
1868	1866 1867		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (60), 1234g		260	Burnt Flint (1), 3g
1877	1878		Pit Fill	Late Neolithic	(60), 1307g			
1882	1883 1884		Cremation Vessel Cremation Vessel Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(48), 811g		 603	Fe ?Nail Fragment (1), 2g
1894	1892 1893		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (193), 681g		262	
1899	1897 1898		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (72), 388g		84	
1902	1901		Pit Fill	?Iron Age	(22), 274g			
1918	1917		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(14), 122g			
1924	1923		Cremation					
			Vessel unnumbered	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	7g			
1928	1926 1927		Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Vessel	 Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	 (23), 249g		72	
1931	1932		Pit Fill	?Iron Age	(163), 1485g			
1942	1941		Cremation Pit Backfill				3	Charred Material (2), 3g
1943	1944 1945 1946		Cremation Vessel Cremation Vessel Fill Cremation Pit Backfill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700) Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(45), 455g (14), 44g		 40	
1967	1968		Posthole Fill	?Iron Age	(3), 1g			
1970	1969		Pit/Posthole Fill	Iron Age	(4), 10g			

1978	1977		Cremation Vessel		(6), 86g			
1981	1982		Pit Fill	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(5), 21g			
1984	1983		Ditch Fill			2284		
1999	1996		Backfill				7	
	1997		Cremation Vessel Fill					
	1998		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(22), 9g			
2003	2001		Cremation Vessel Fill				355	
	2002		Cremation Vessel	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(131), 1373g			
U/S			Unstratified Finds	Early Saxon (c. 450-700)	(76), 455g			Struck Flint (1), 1g

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

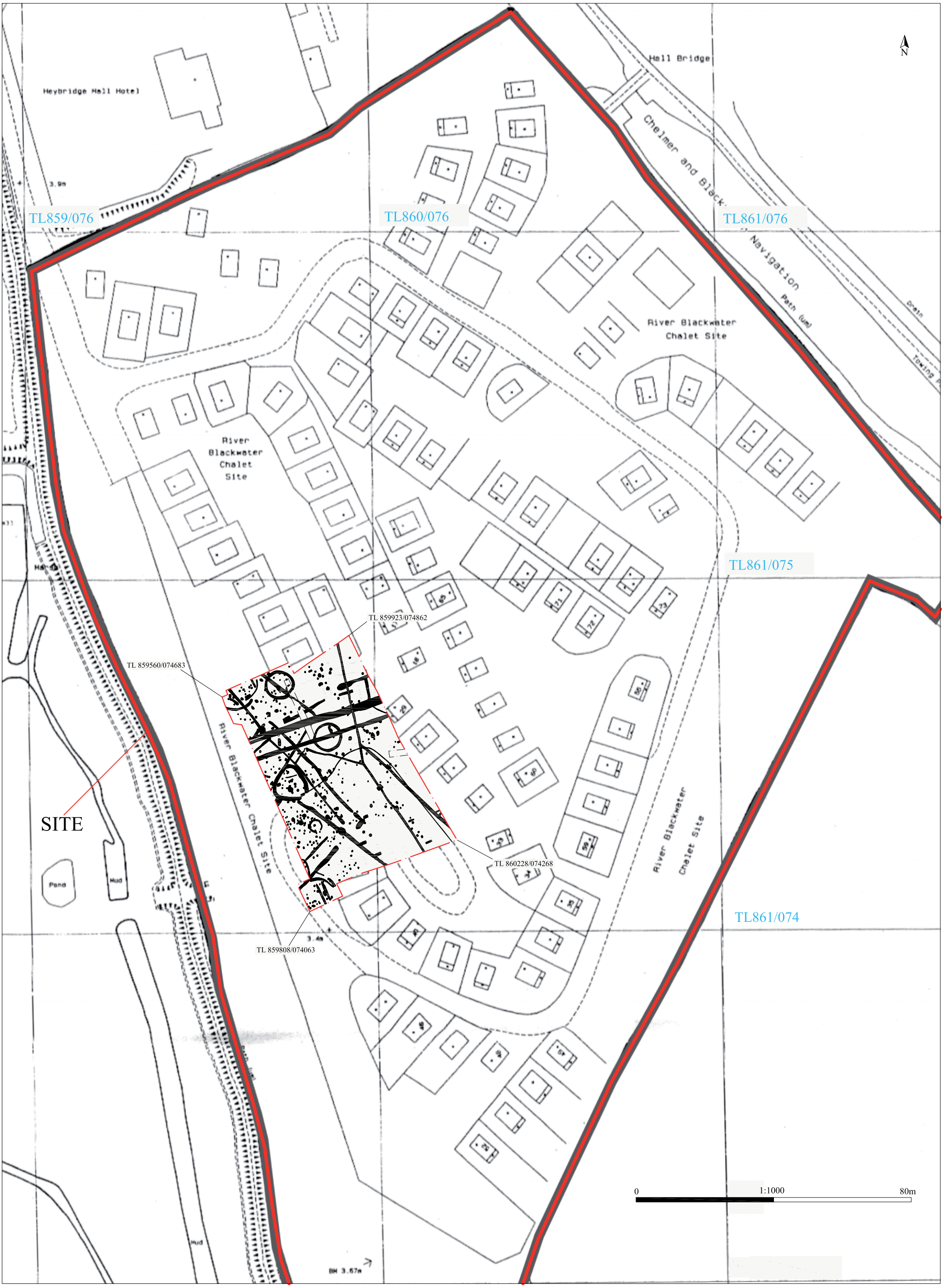

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

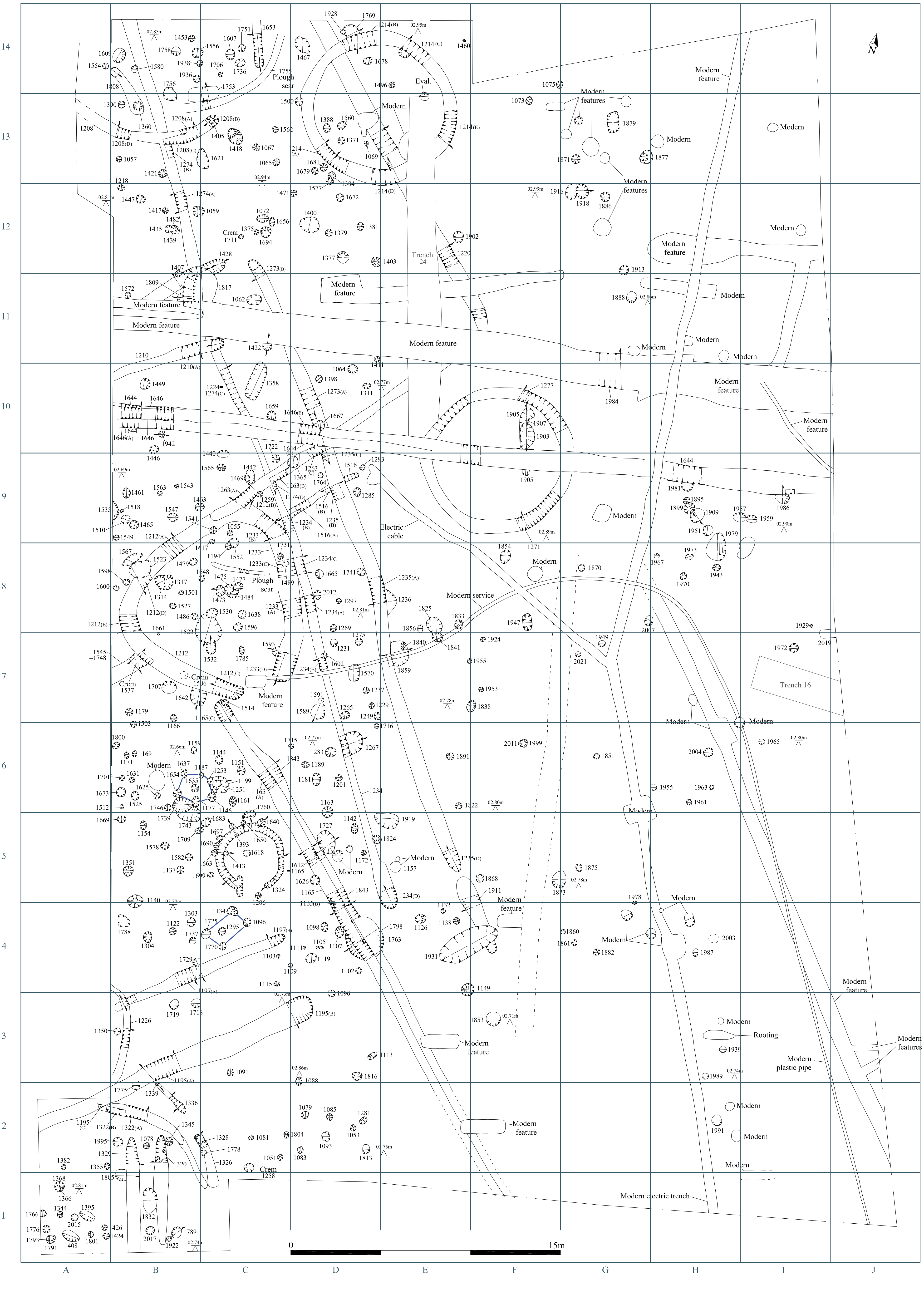

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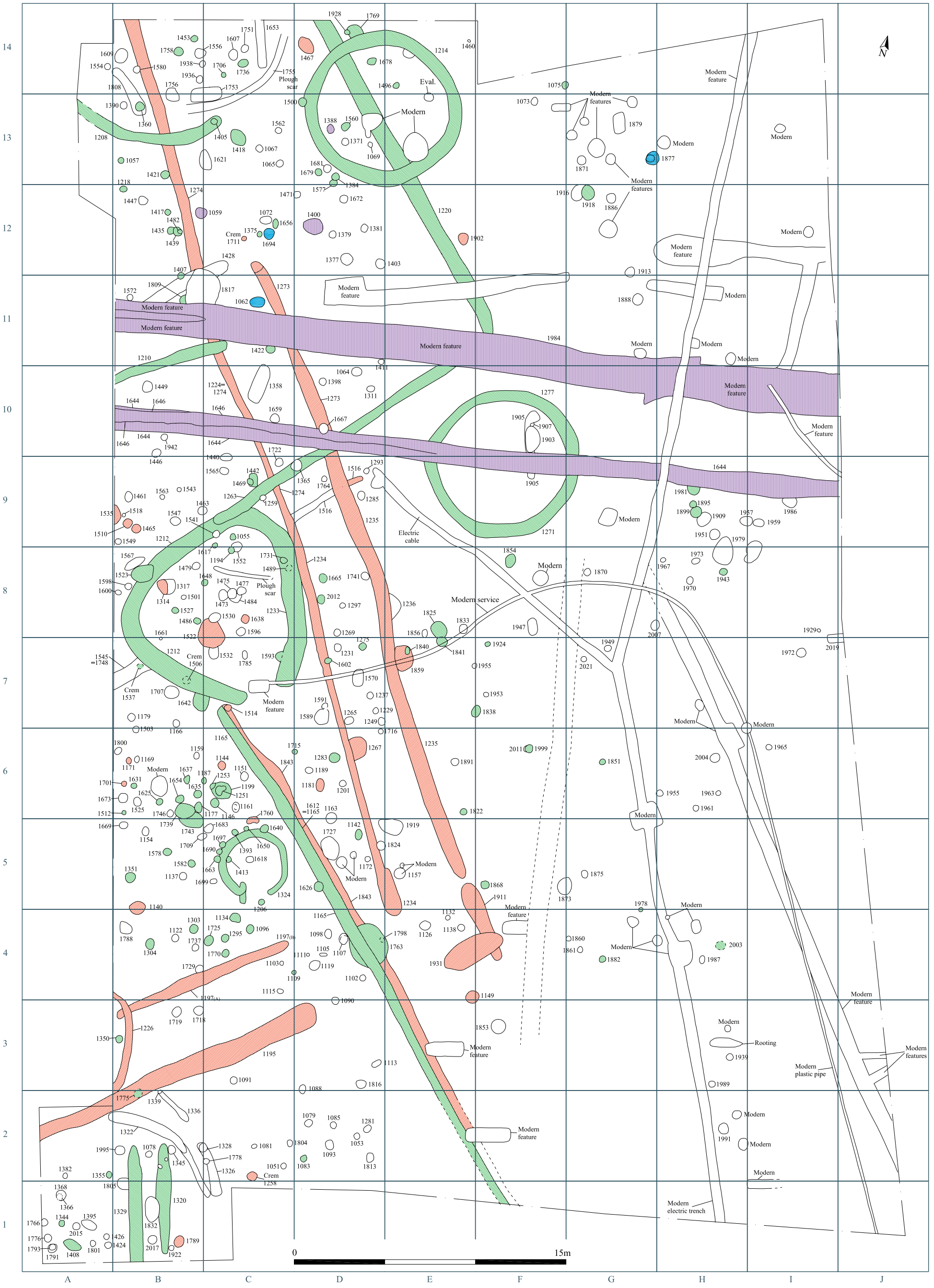
Fig. 3 All features plan

Scale 1:200 at A3



Phase 1: Late Neolithic
Phase 2: Late Bronze Age to Iron Age
Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon
Phase 4: Post-medieval
Unphased / modern

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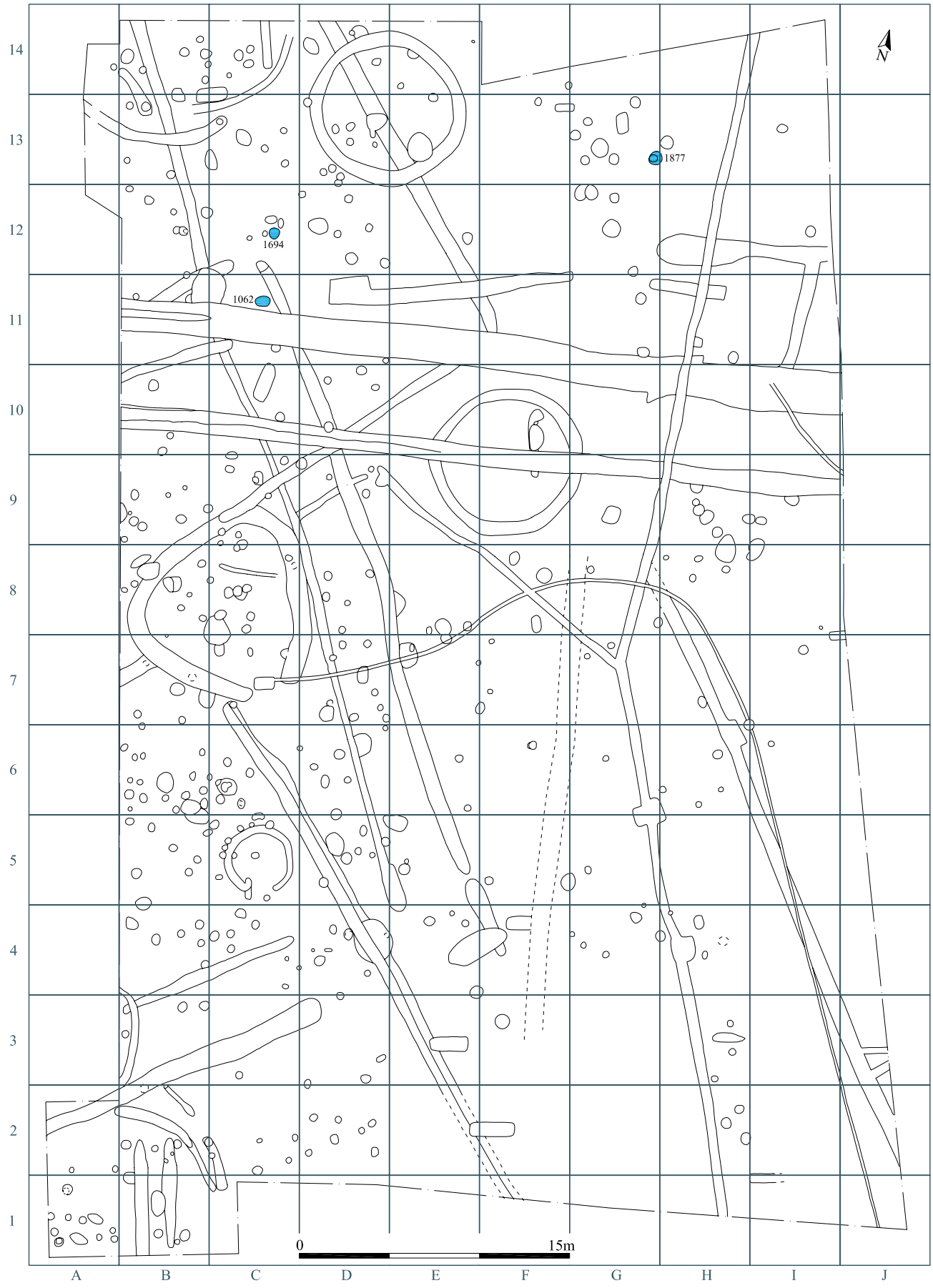
Fig. 4 Multi-phase plan

Scale 1:200 at A3



Phase 1: Late Neolithic

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Fig. 5 Phase 1 (Late Neolithic) plan

Scale 1:300 at A4

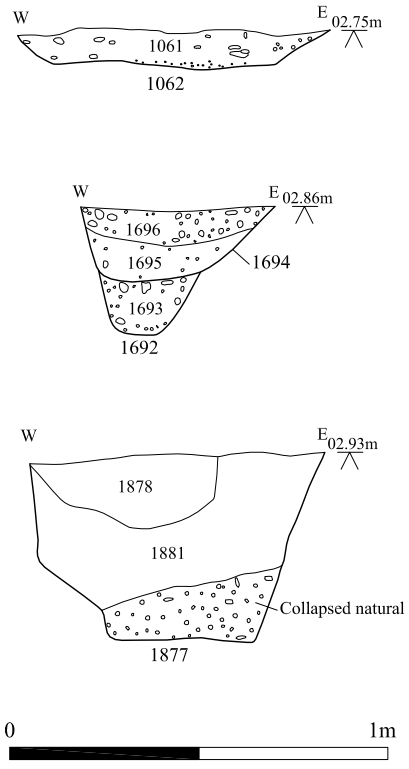

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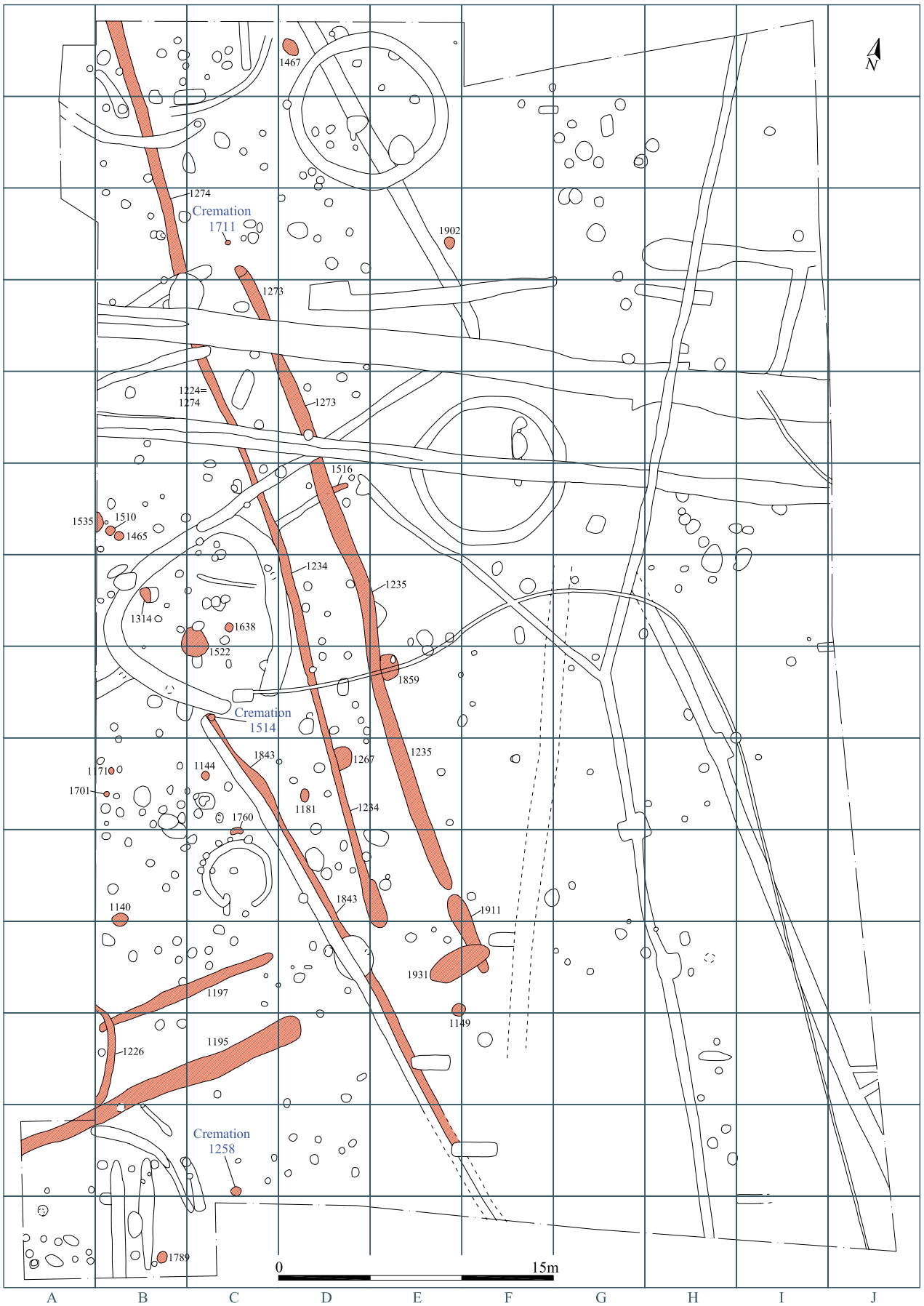
Fig. 6 Phase 1 (Late Neolithic) sections

Scale 1:20 at A4



Phase 2: Late Bronze Age to Iron Age

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Fig. 7 Phase 2 (late Bronze Age to Iron Age) plan

Scale 1:300 at A4

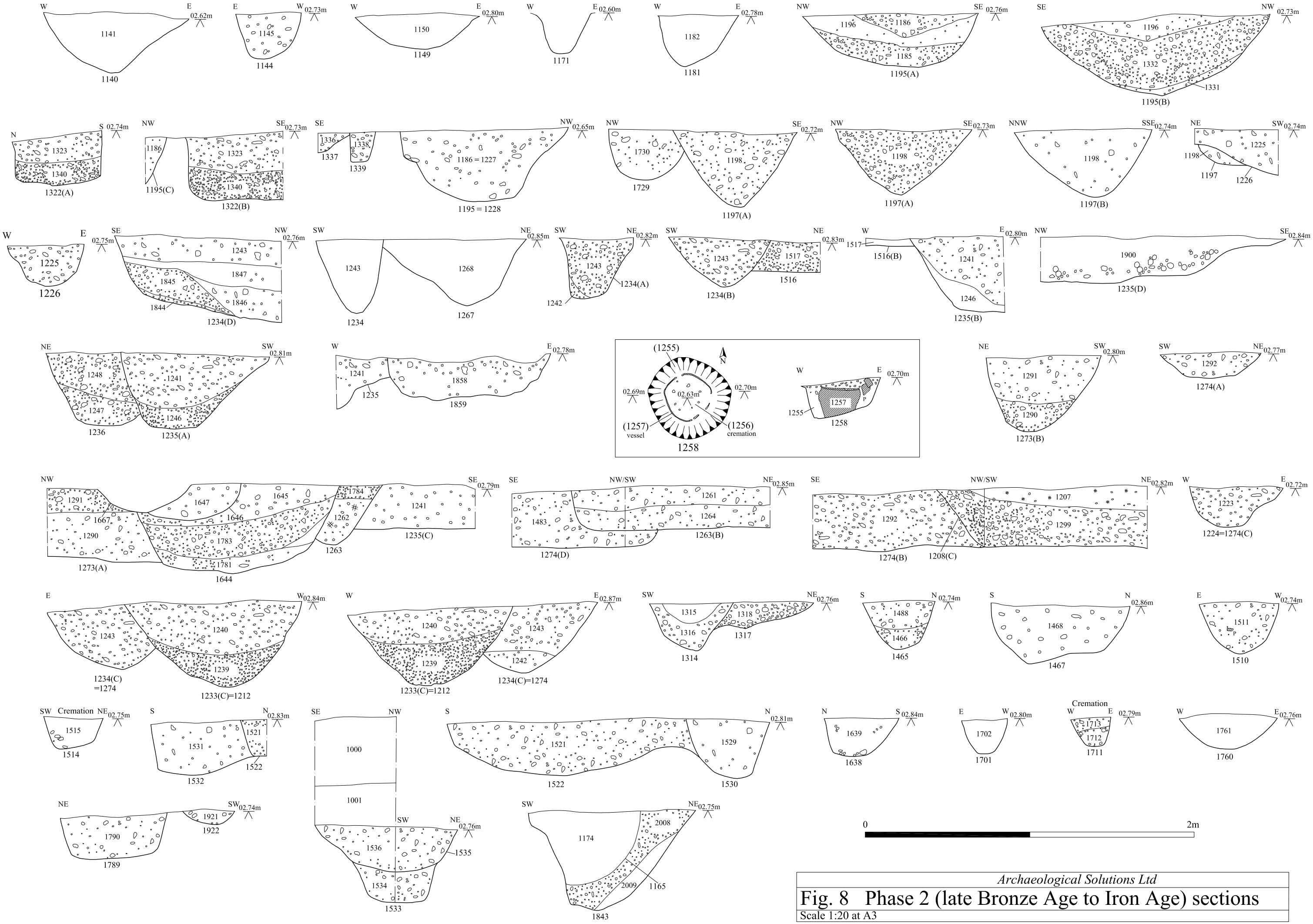

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Fig. 8 Phase 2 (late Bronze Age to Iron Age) sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

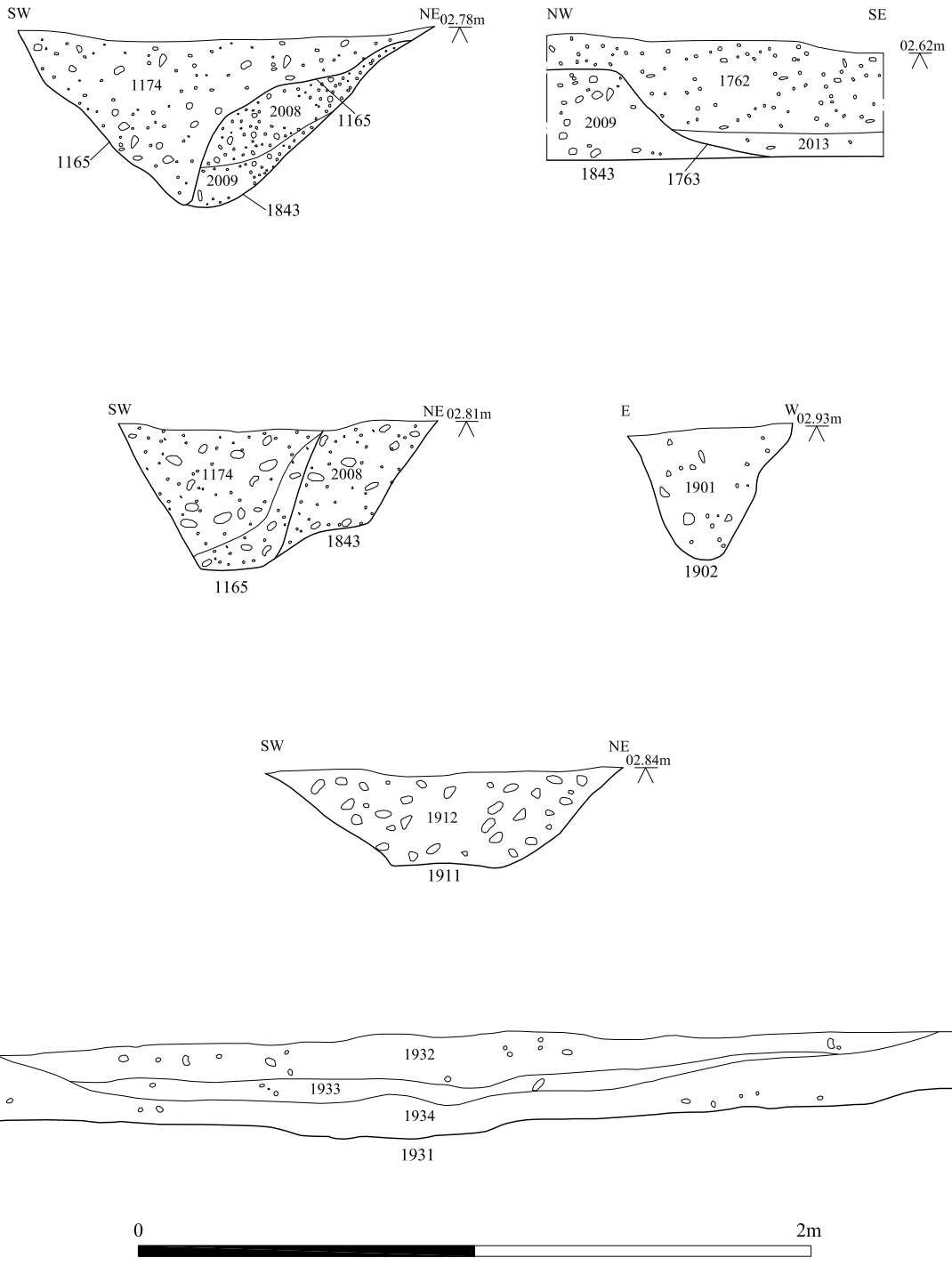

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Fig. 9 Phase 2 (late Bronze Age to Iron Age) sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

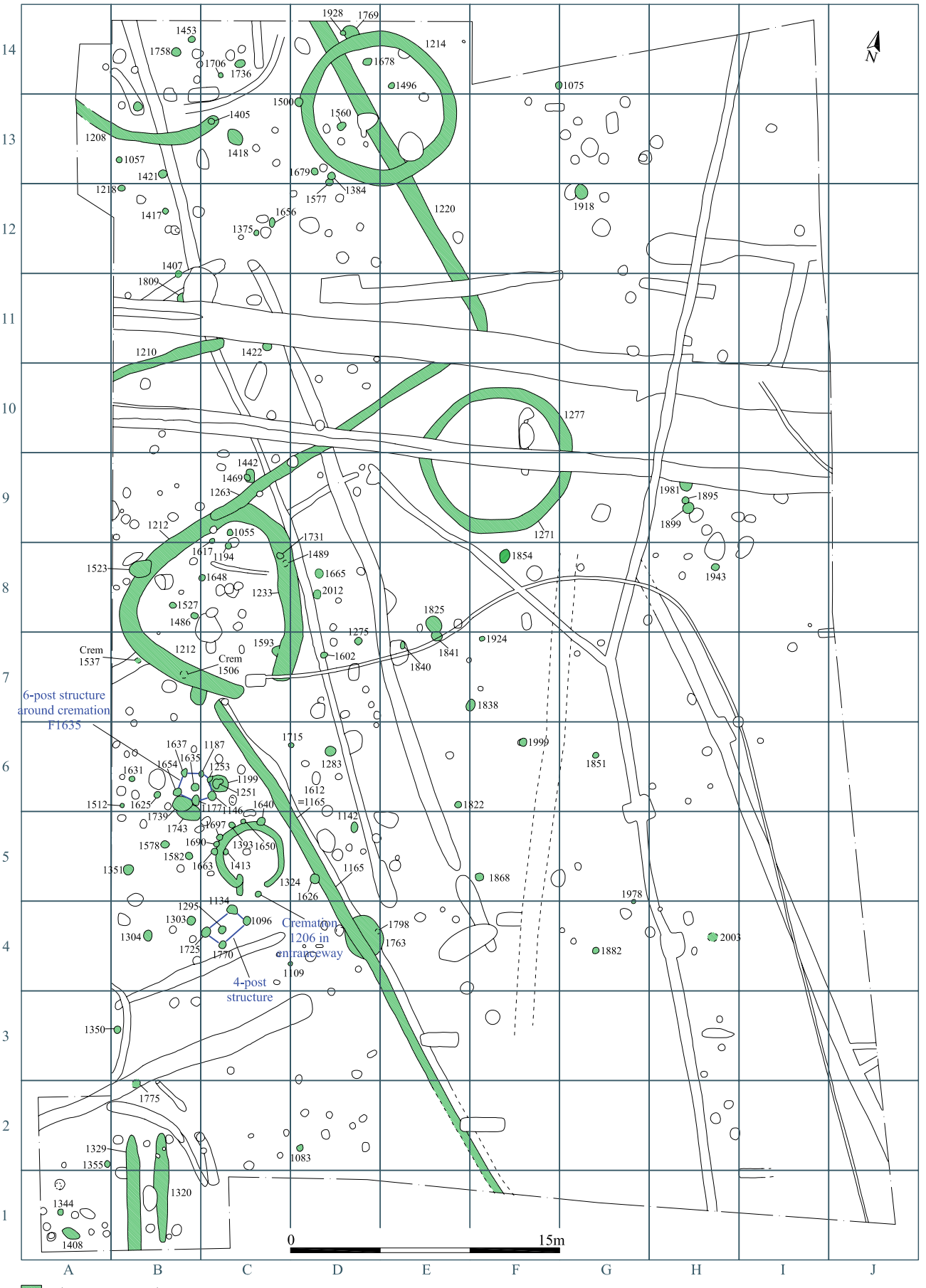

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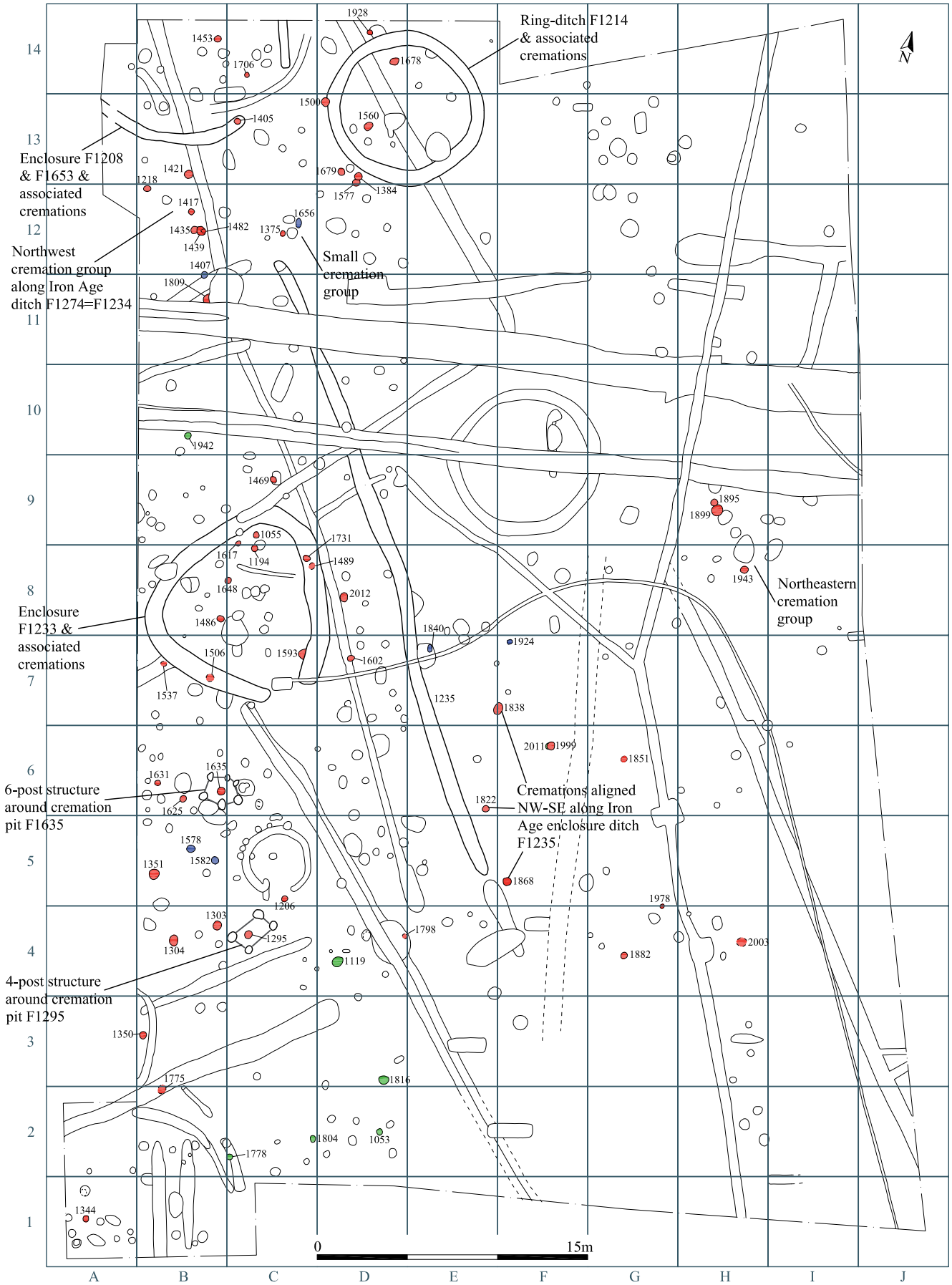
Fig. 10 Phase 3 (Anglo-Saxon) plan

Scale 1:300 at A4



Urned Saxon cremations

Un-urned Saxon cremations

Un-urned possible Saxon cremations

Possible structure

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Fig. 11 Phase 3 and possible Phase 3 cremations

Scale 1:300 at A4

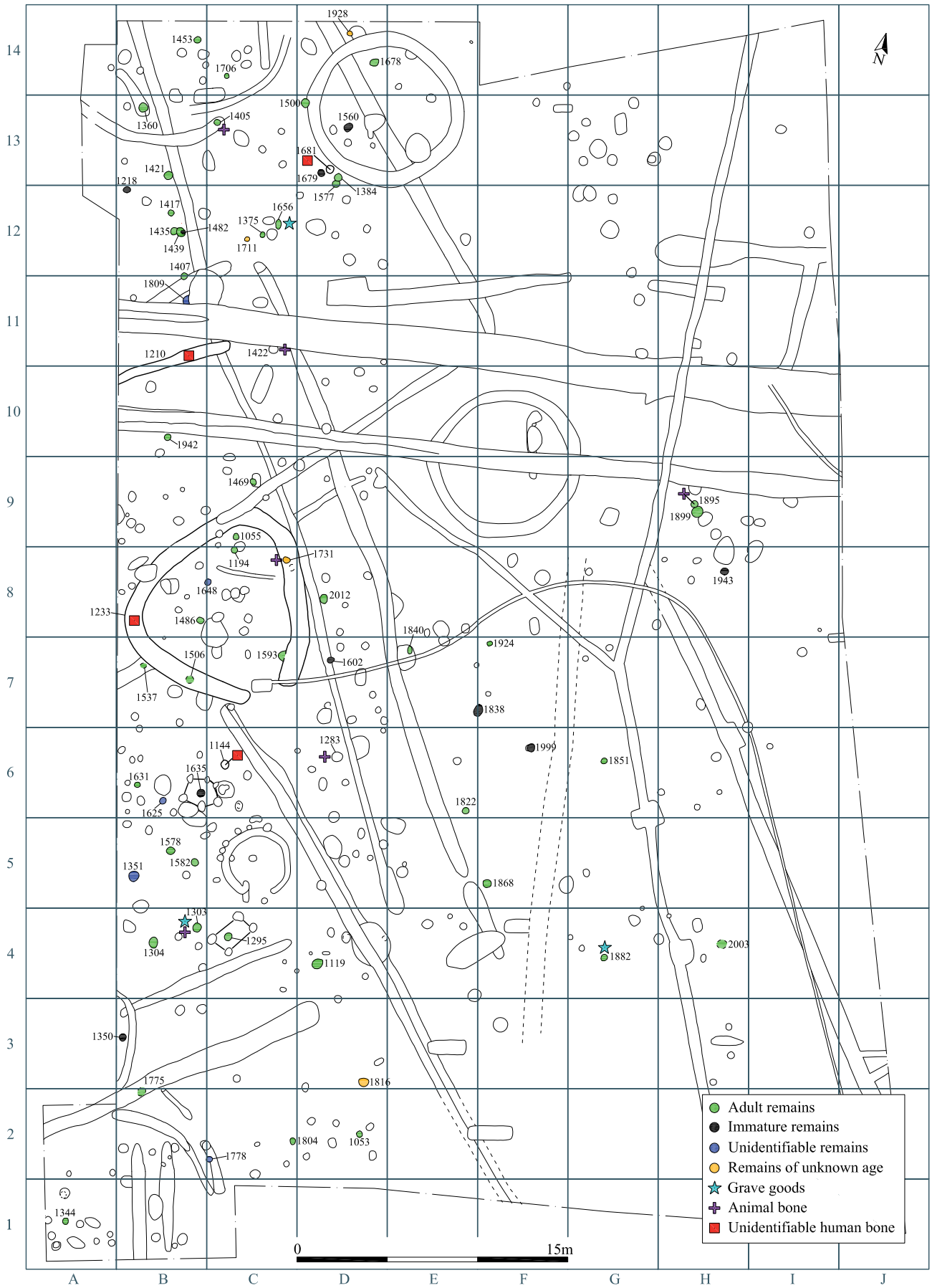

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Fig. 12 Age and finds distribution within Phase 3 and possible Phase 3 Cremations

Scale 1:300 at A4

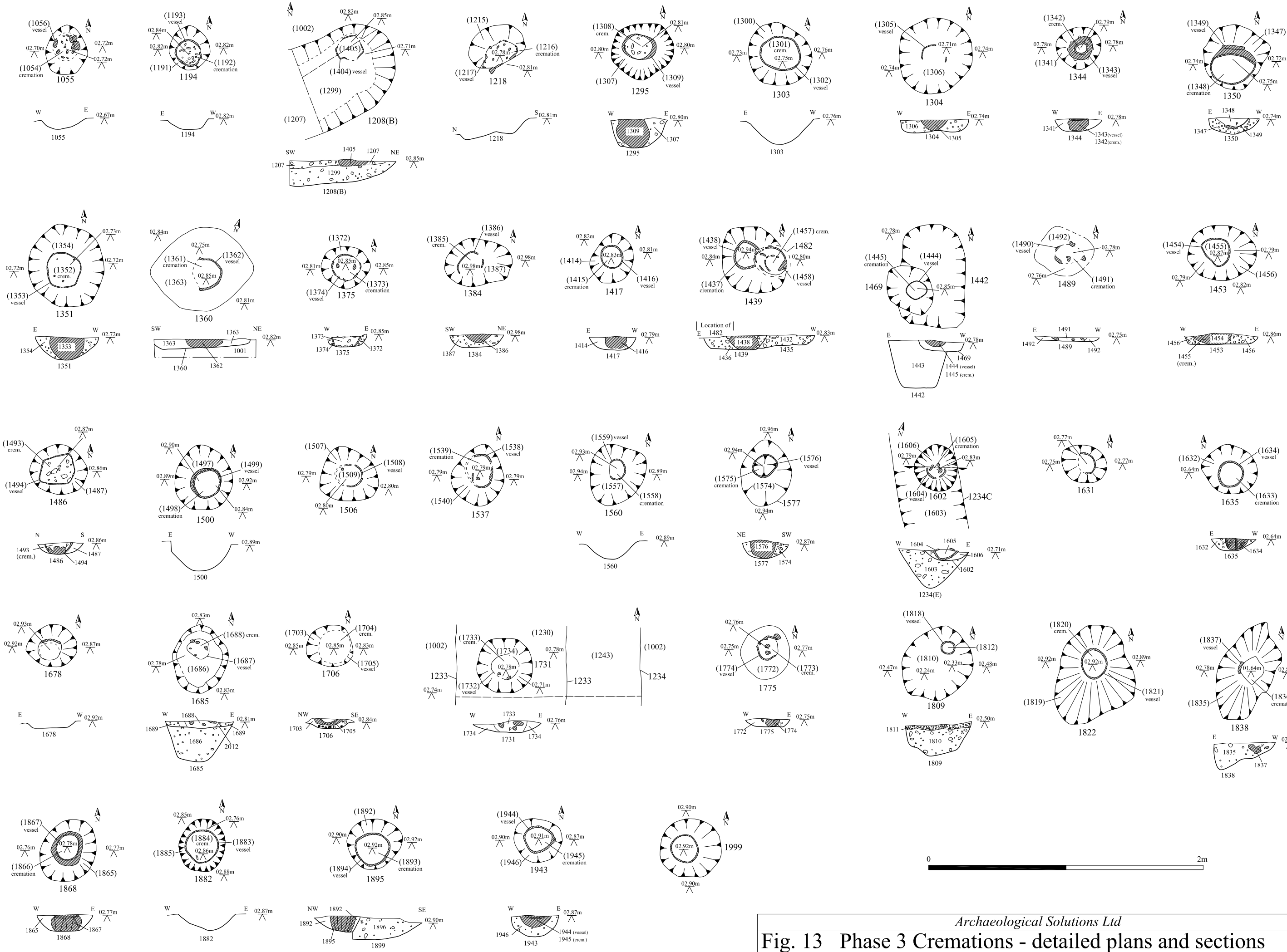

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Fig. 13 Phase 3 Cremations - detailed plans and sections

Scale 1:25 at A3

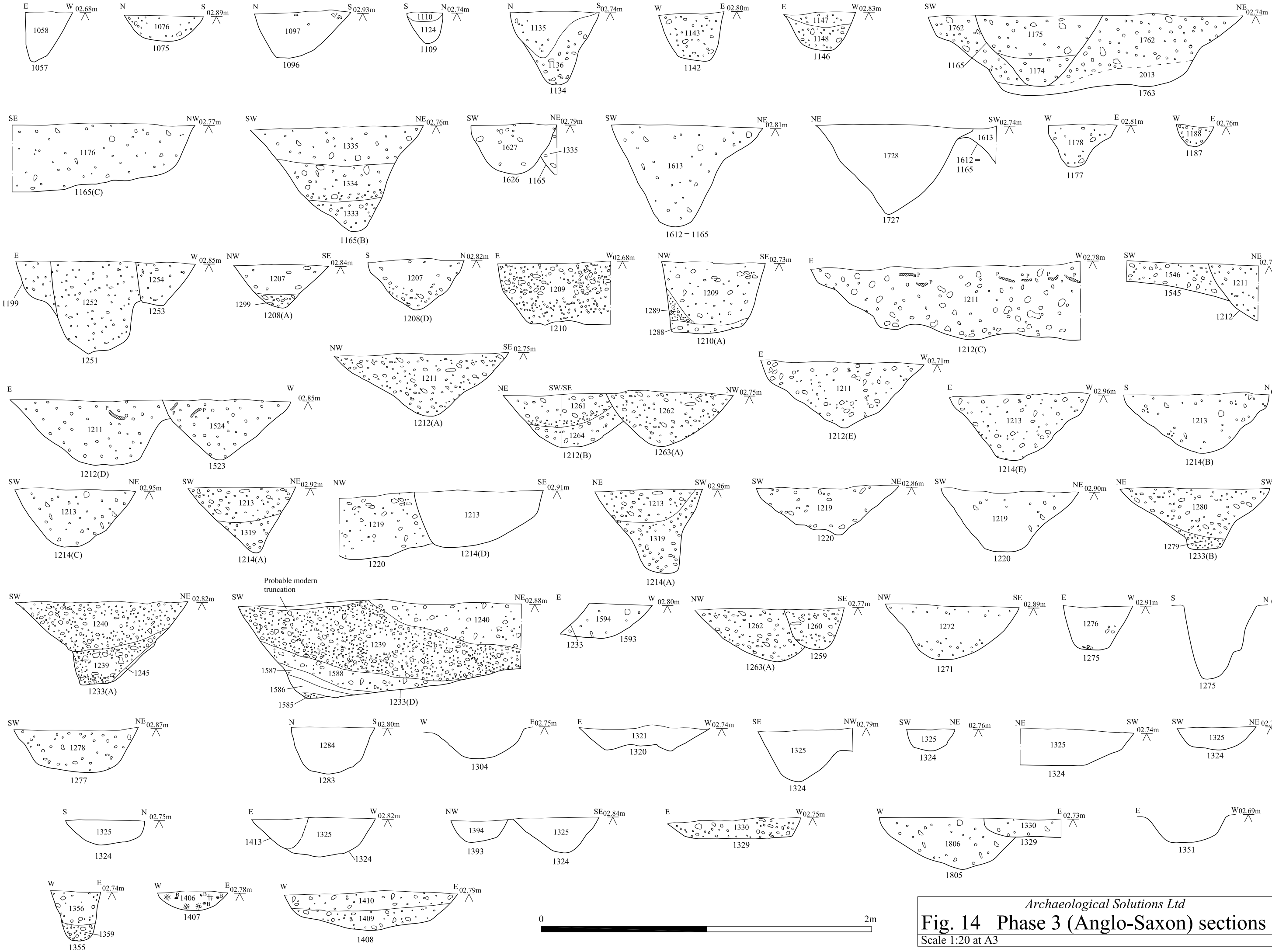

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Fig. 14 Phase 3 (Anglo-Saxon) sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

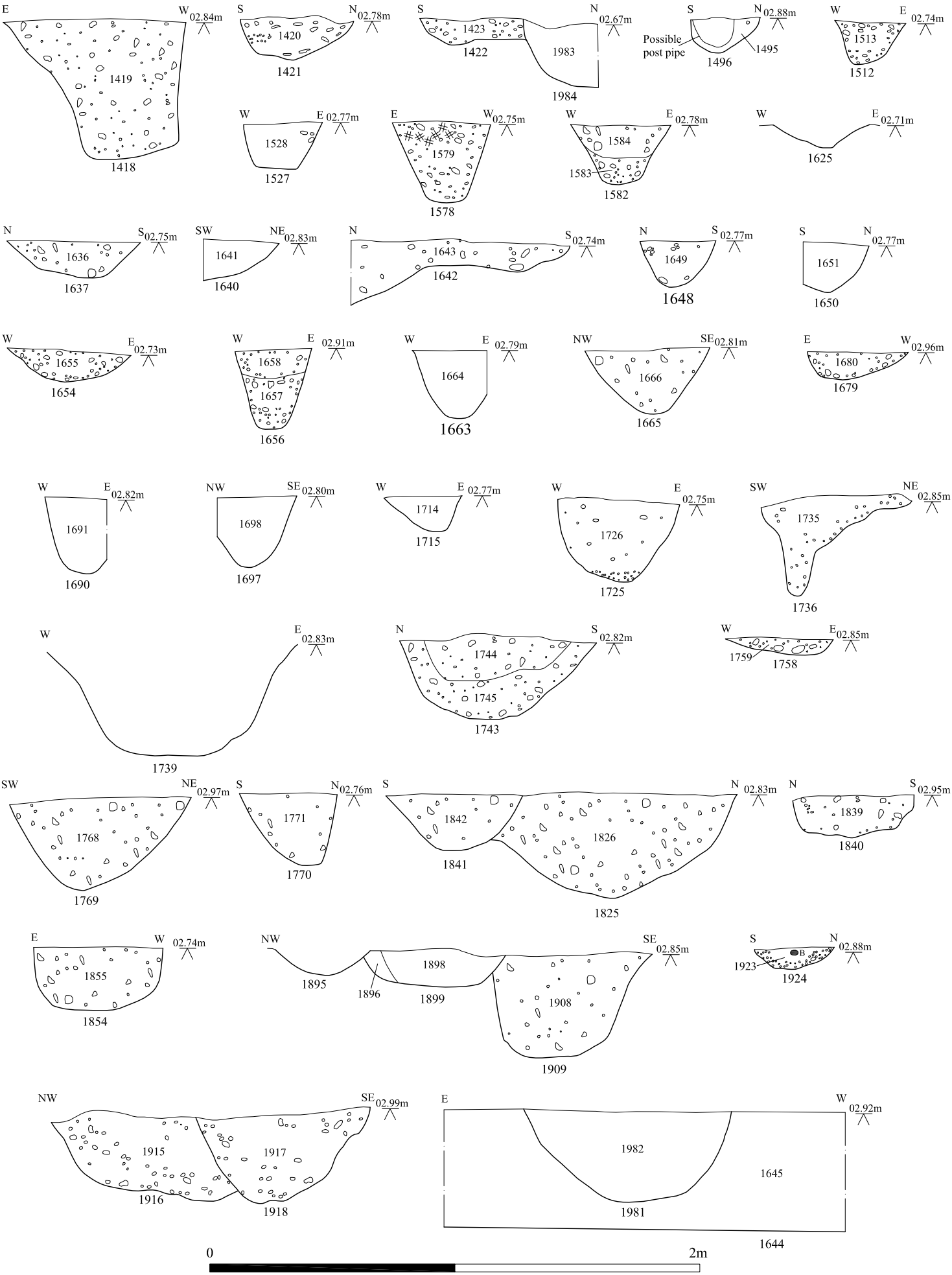

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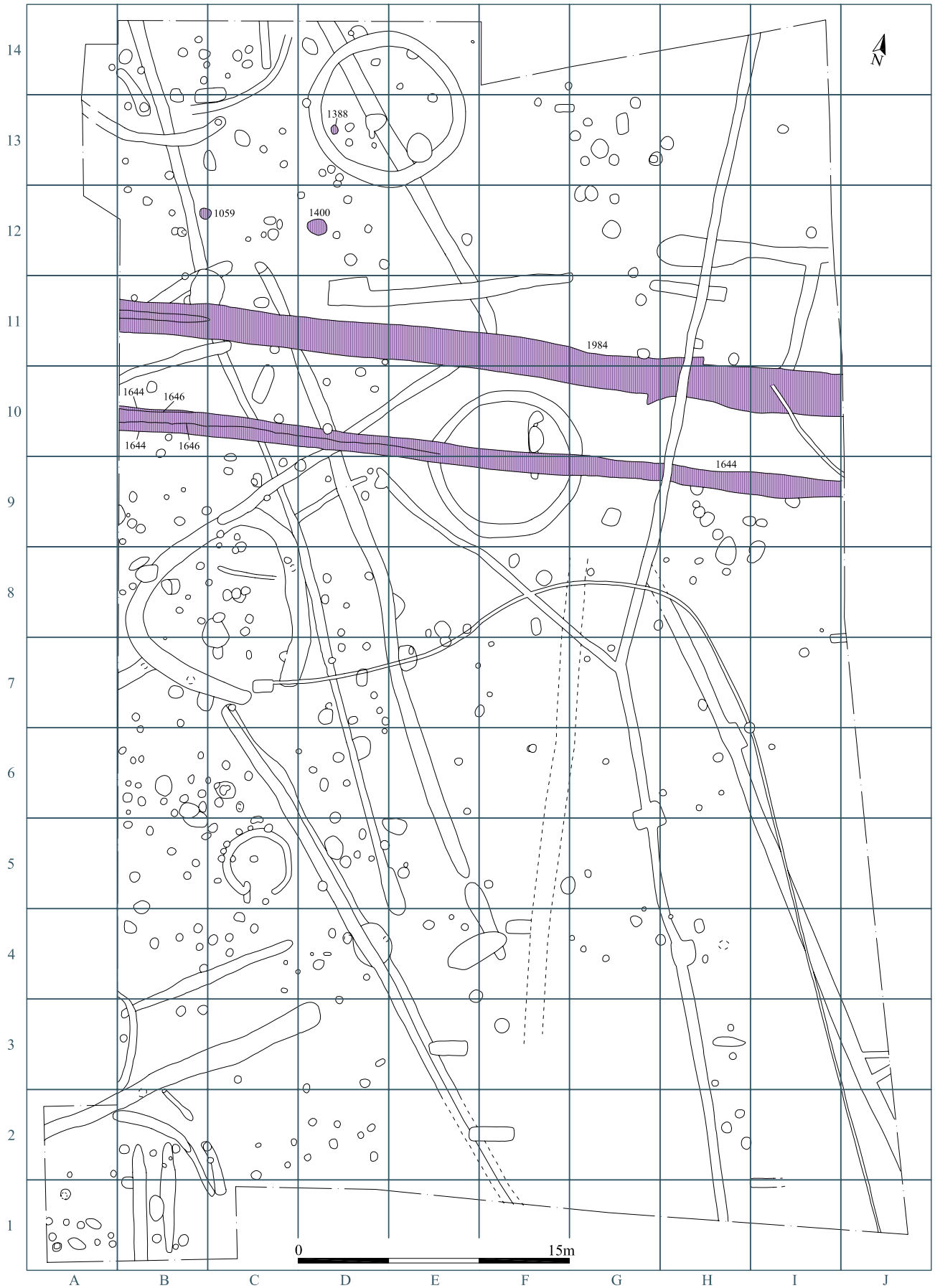
Fig. 15 Phase 3 (Anglo-Saxon) sections

Scale 1:20 at A4



Phase 4: Post-medieval

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Fig. 16 Phase 4 (post-medieval) plan

Scale 1:300 at A4

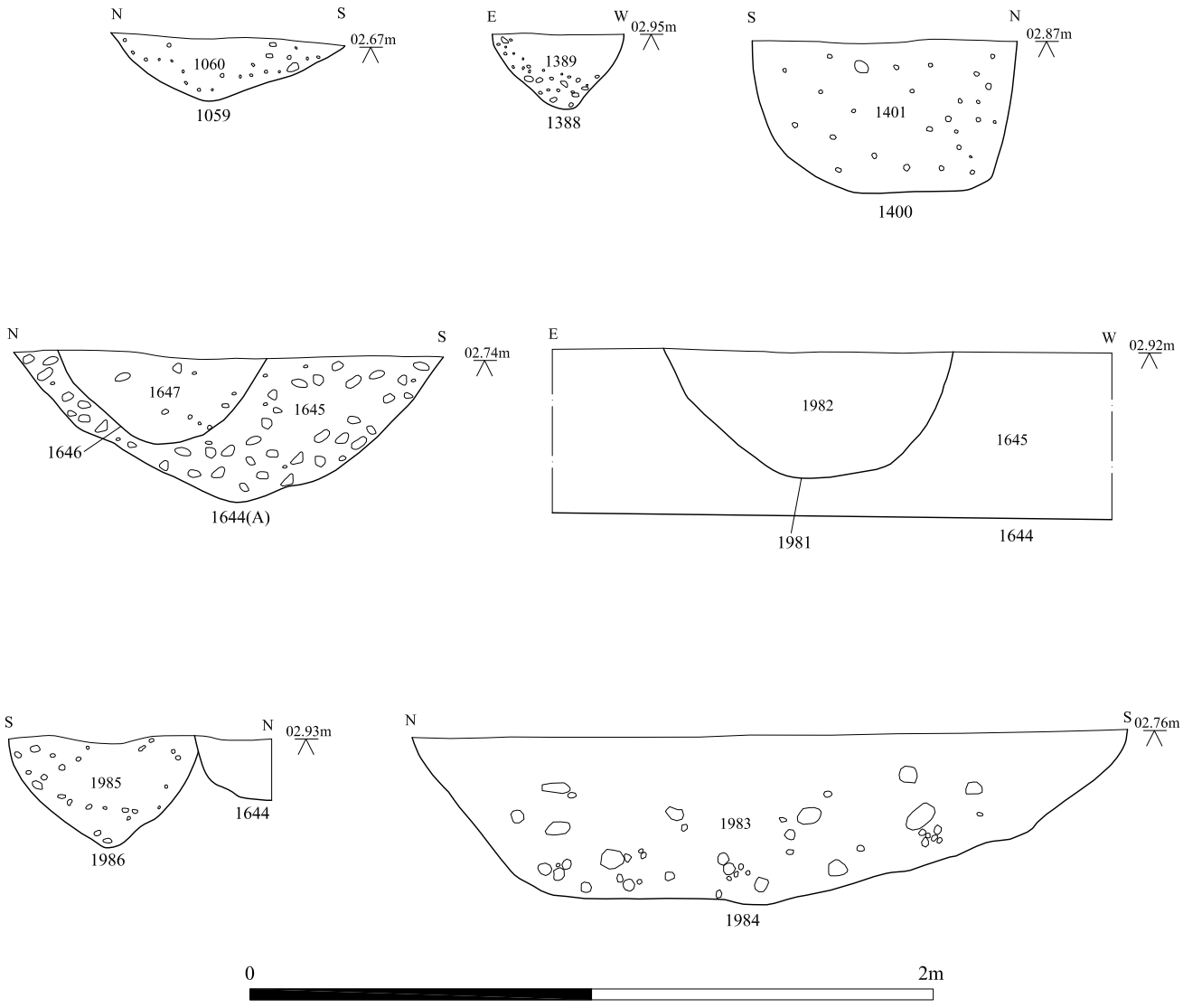

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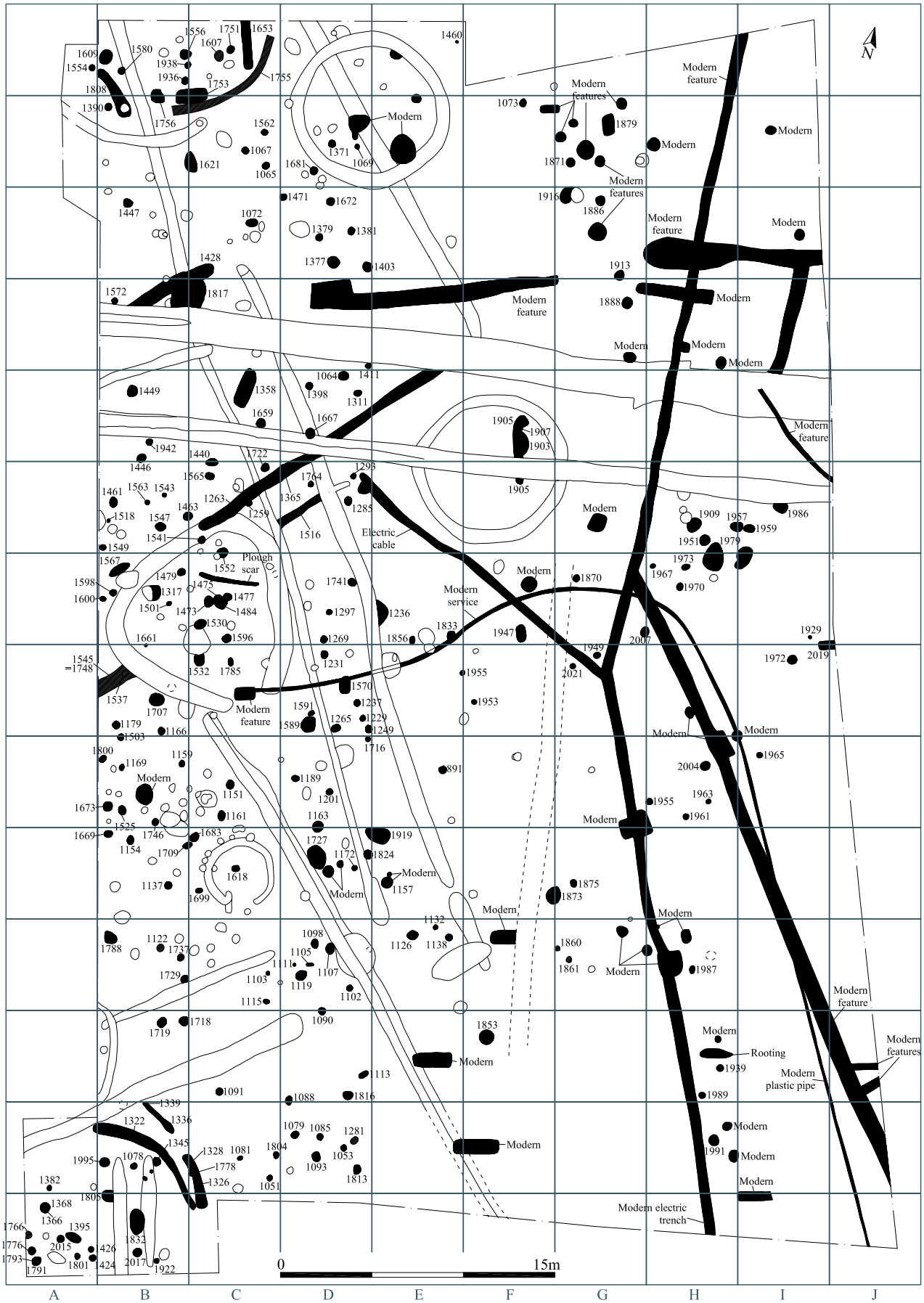
Fig. 17 Phase 4 (post-medieval) sections
Scale 1:20 at A4



Unphased / modern

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Fig. 18 Unphased / modern features plan

Scale 1:300 at A4

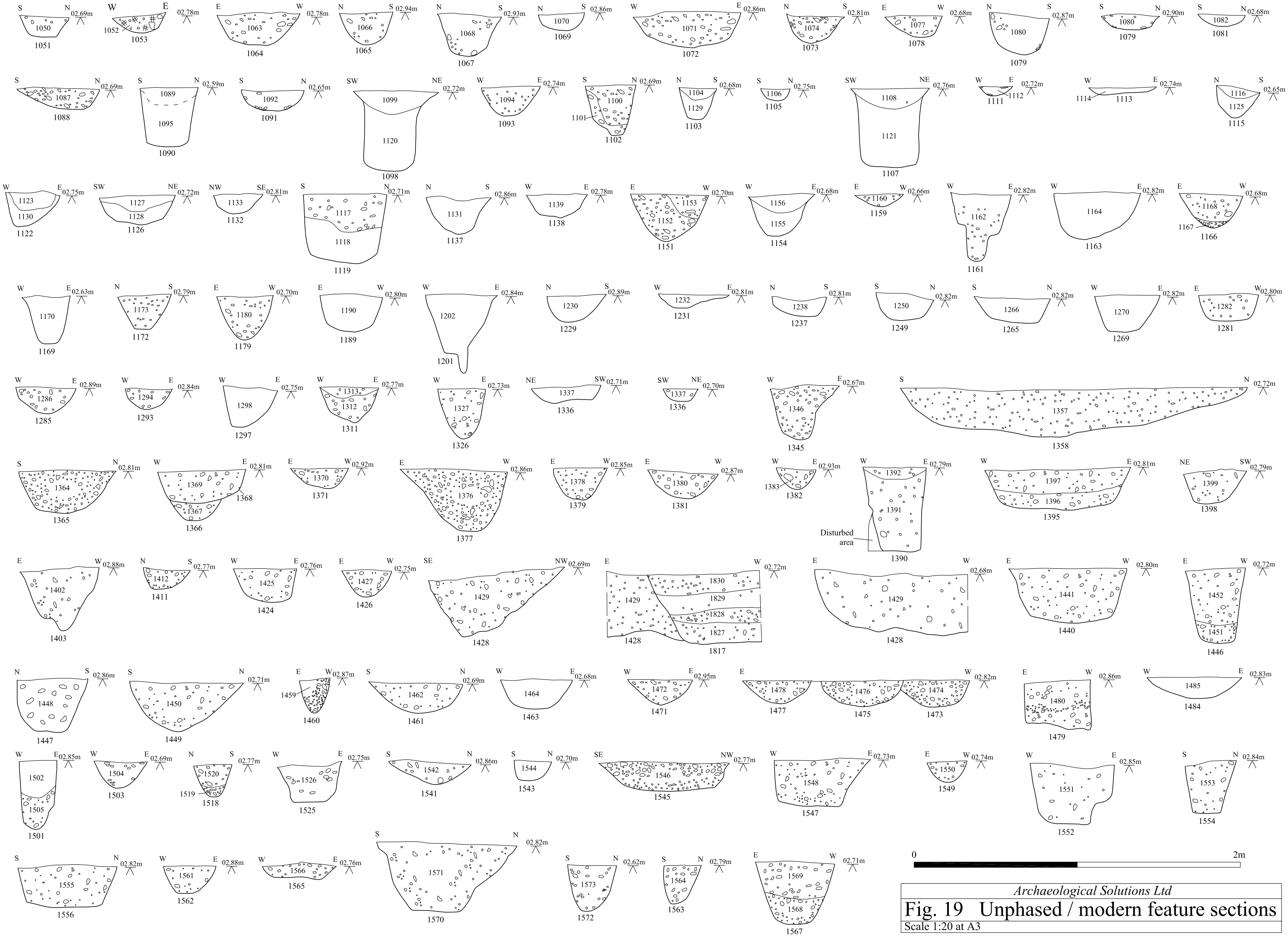

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Fig. 19 Unphased / modern feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

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Fig. 20 Unphased / modern feature sections

Scale 1:20 at A3

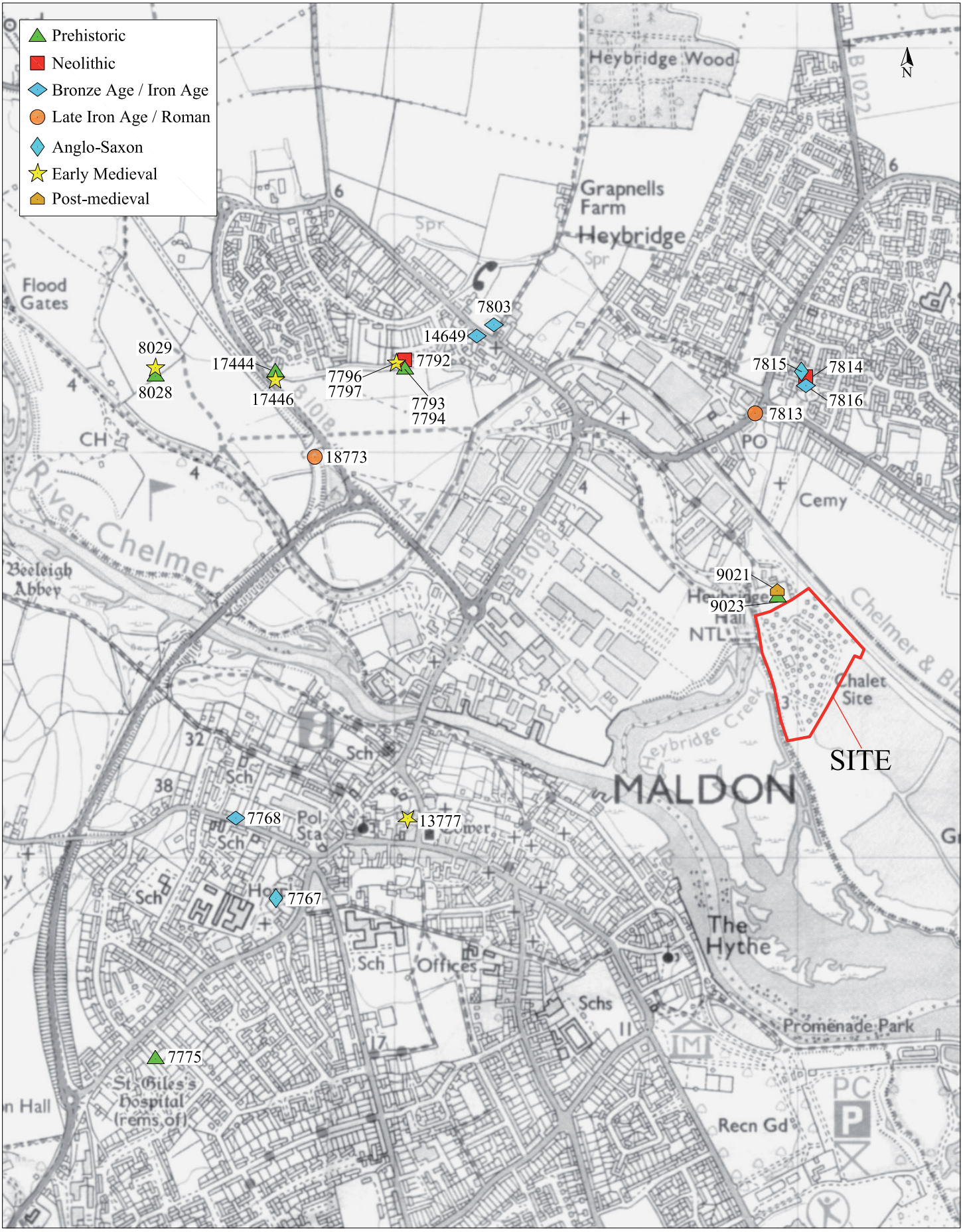

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Fig. 21 Significant sites in the Heybridge area

Scale 1:12,500 at A4

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Fig. 22 Chapman & André's map, 1777
Not to scale

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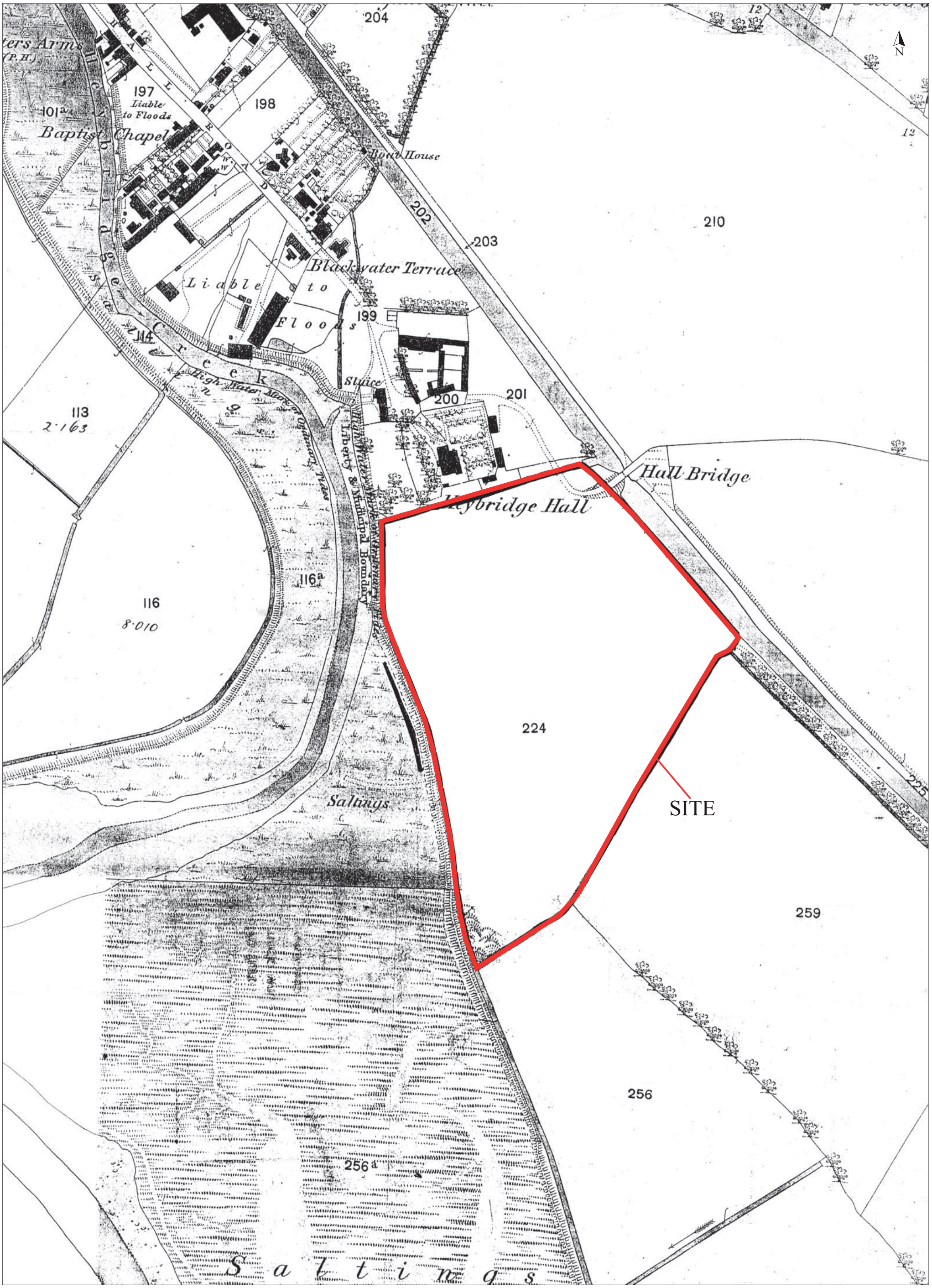
Fig. 23 Tithe map, 1847

Not to scale



Reproduced from the 1873 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright
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Fig. 24 Reproduced from the 1873 OS map

Scale 25" to 1 mile at A3

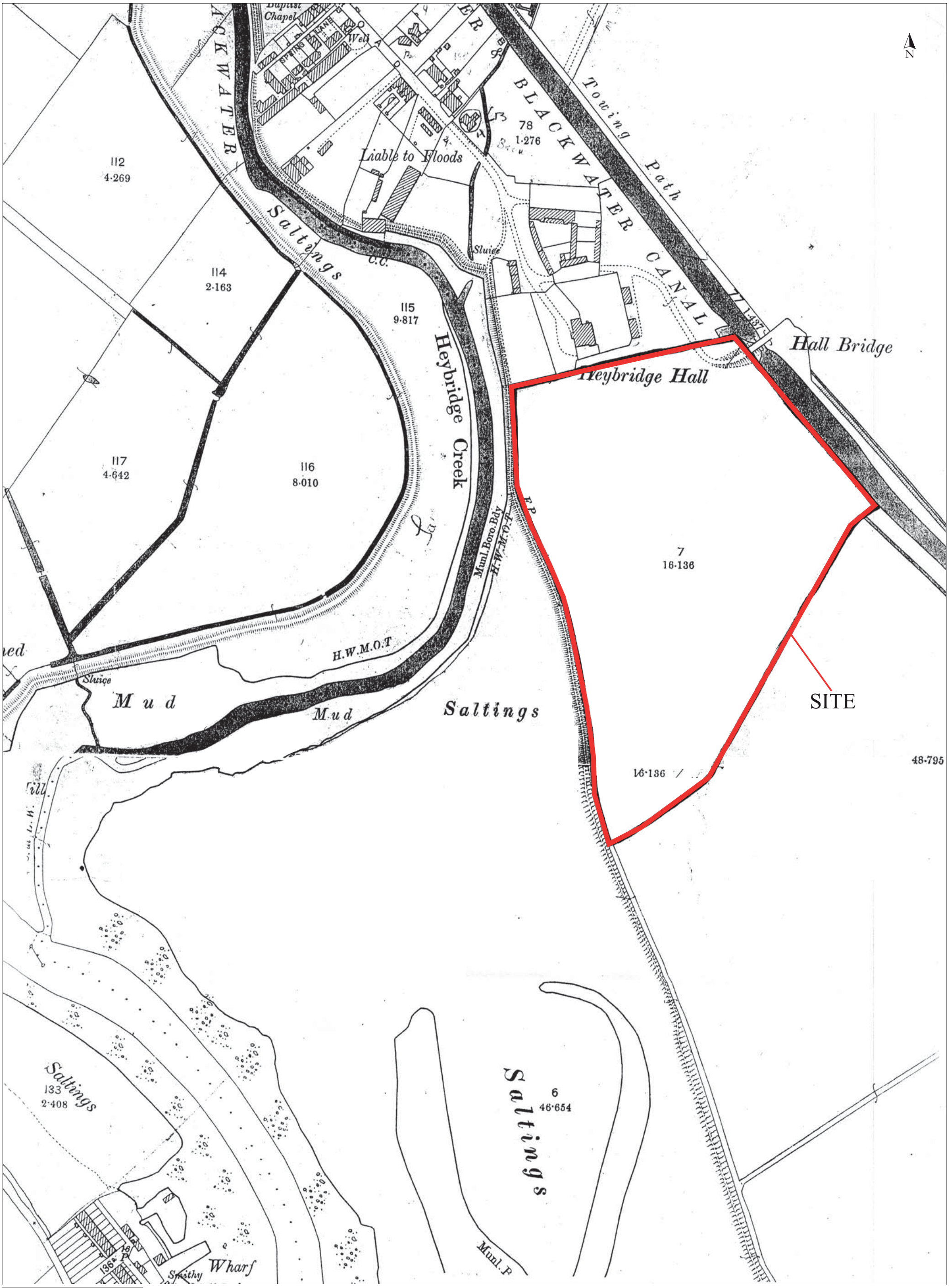

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Fig. 25 Reproduced from the 1897 OS map

Scale 25" to 1 mile at A3

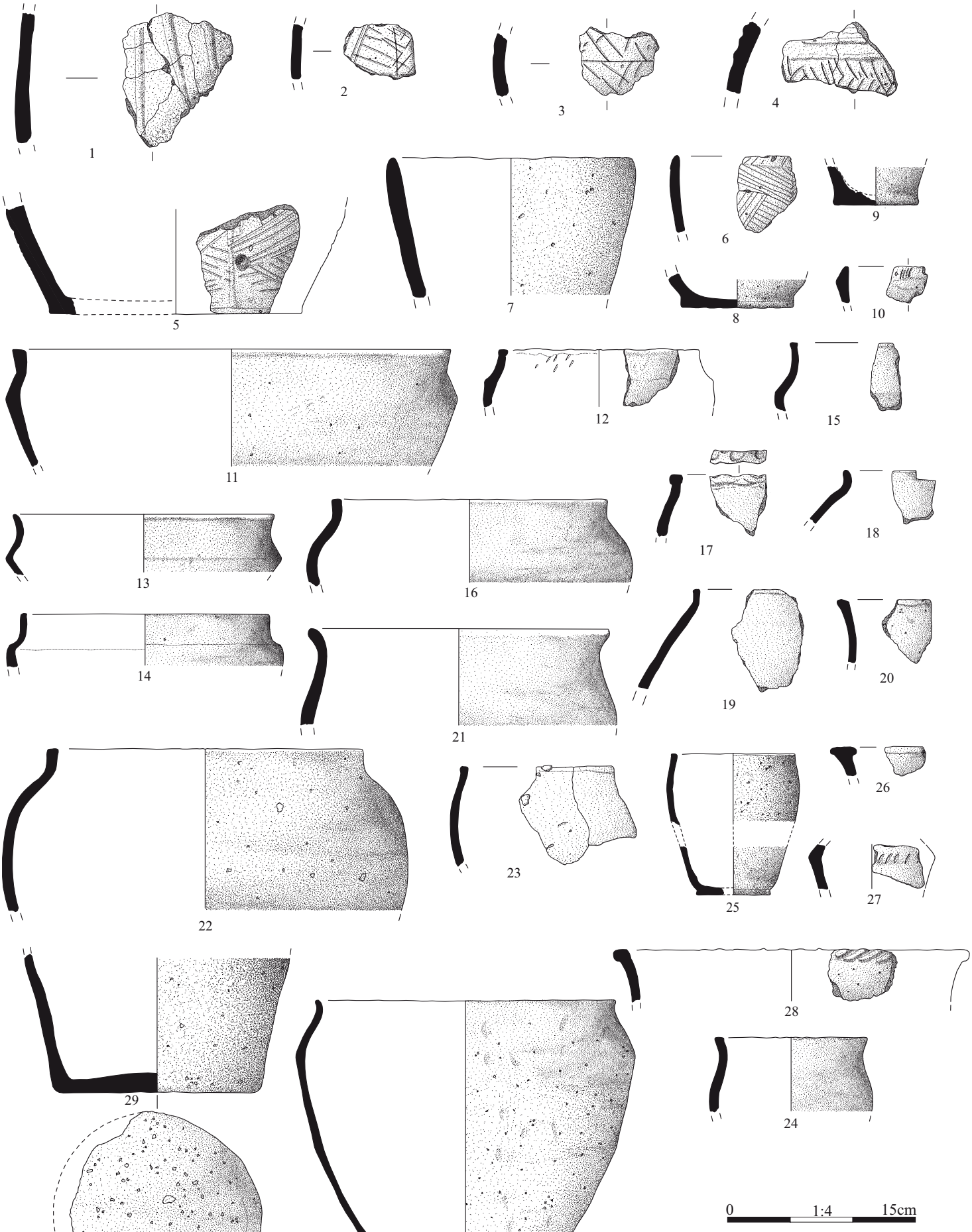

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Fig. 26 Pottery illustrations

Scale 1:4 at A4

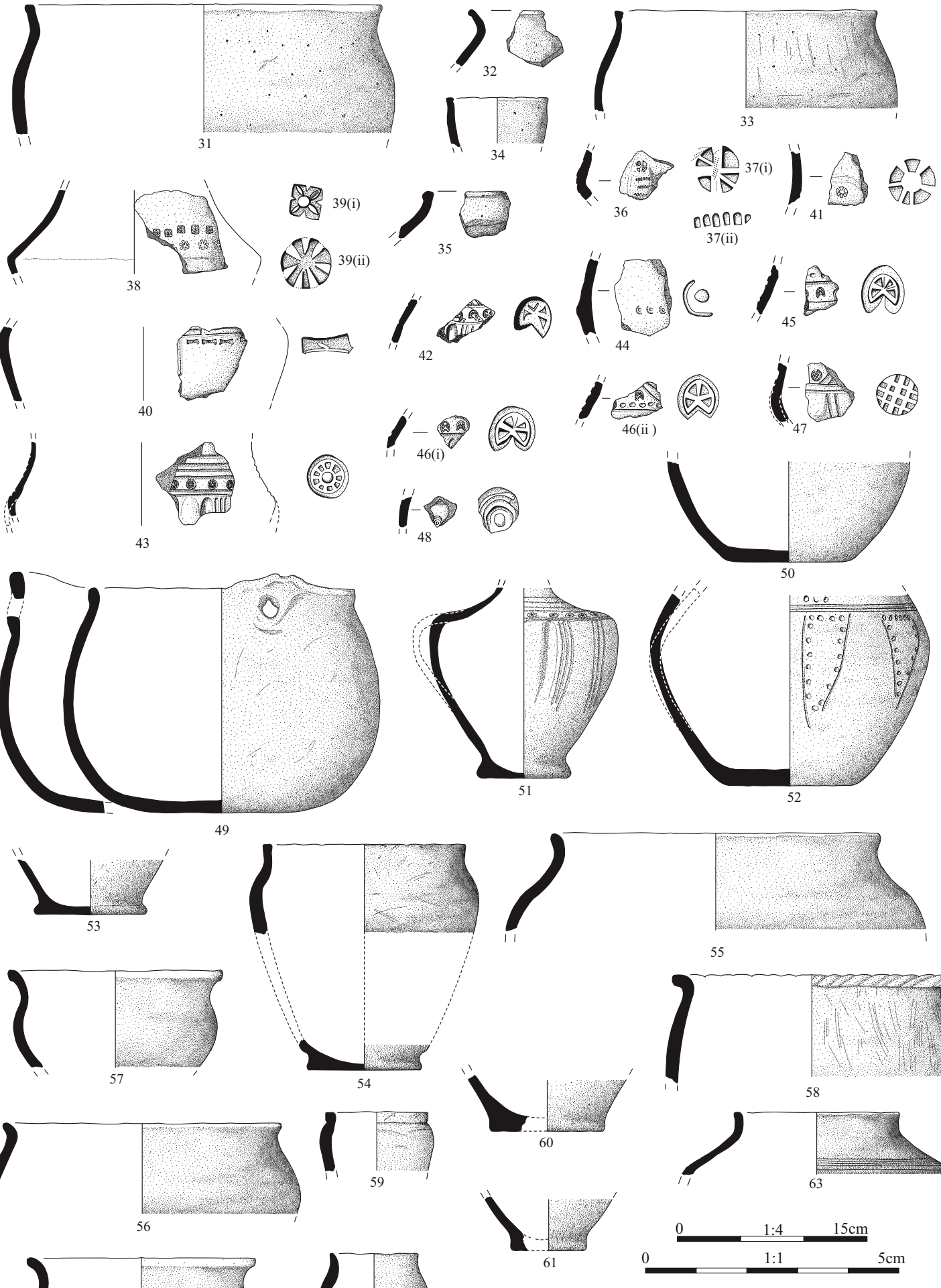

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Fig. 27 Pottery illustrations

Scale 1:4 except stamps at 1:1 at A4

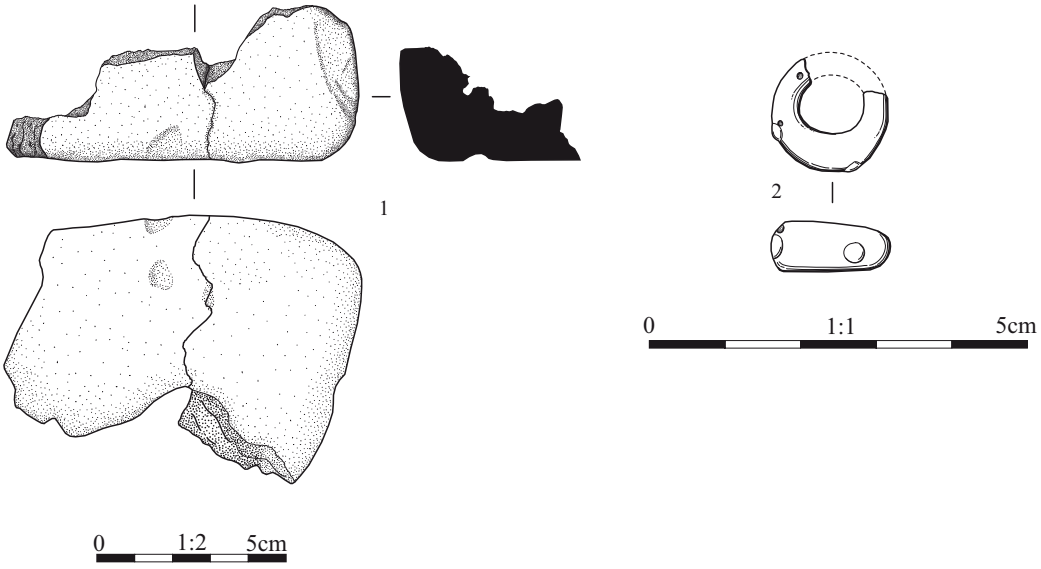

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Fig. 28 Small finds illustrations
Scale 1:2 and 1:1 (bead) at A4