LAND SOUTH AND EAST OF ADASTRAL PARK, MARTLESHAM SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (AREA A) AND EXCAVATION (AREA D)

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:
DC/17/1435/OUT

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land South and East of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk: An Archaeological Evaluation (Area A) and Excavation (Area D)

Local Planning Authority:	**East Suffolk District Council**
Planning Reference:	**DC/17/1435/OUT**
Central National Grid Reference:	**TM 24951 44642 (Area A)** **TM 25776 44580 (Area D)**
Site code:	**XSFADP21**
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Report No.	**R15181**
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ABSTRACT

Between 25th October and 12th November 2021, part of a programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land south and east of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk. The investigation, which was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, forms part of a wider programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation that was designed to meet the requirements of planning conditions that were attached to planning consent for the development of the site by Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils (now East Suffolk District Council).

Oxford Archaeology were originally contracted to undertake the entirety of this programme of archaeological investigation, but due to other commitments were unable to undertake the excavation of Area D or the additional trial trenching in Area A, both of which need to be completed by the end of 2021 to conform with the developer's construction programme.

In Area A, nine evaluation trenches were excavated to supplement an earlier stage of trial trenching undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service in 2008. The trenches were located near the remains of a prehistoric barrow, in areas where it was considered that archaeological remains may be encountered. Despite the apparent potential, no archaeological remains were encountered in the trenches.

In Area D, excavation revealed three ring ditches (Ring Ditches A-C), the surviving remains of a small Early Anglo-Saxon barrow cemetery. There were no human remains, in the form of inhumations or cremations, associated with the ring ditches, such remains having been lost due to plough truncation and the acidity of the sandy soils. A radiocarbon date obtained from charcoal taken from a posthole associated with Ring Ditch A provided a date range of 535-605calAD at 95.4% probability for the monument. Four undated pits or postholes, two probable tree throw hollows and a ditch of probable modern date were also recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between 25th October and 12th November 2021, part of a programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land south and east of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk (site centred on NGR TM 25267 44495; Fig. 1). The investigation, which was commissioned by RPS Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, forms part of a wider programme of archaeological mitigation that was designed to meet the requirements of planning conditions that were attached to planning consent for the development of the site by Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils (now East Suffolk District Council, DC/17/1435/OUT, Conditions 45-47).

1.2 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were originally contracted to undertake the entirety of this programme of archaeological investigation, but due to other commitments were unable to undertake the excavation of Area D or the additional trial trenching in Area A, both of which need to be completed by the end of 2021 to conform with the developer's construction programme.

1.3 The parts of the investigation that PCA were commissioned to undertake consisted of additional trenching in Area A (site centred on NGR TM2491 44642) and an excavation in Area D (site centred on NGR TM 25776 44580). The requirements for the investigation were outlined in two *Written Scheme of Investigations* (WSIs) prepared by RPS, namely *Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation: Land south and east of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk* (RPS 2021a) and *Written Scheme of Investigation for Open Area Excavation: Land south and east of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk* (RPS 2021b). An addendum to these WSIs, specific to the work being undertaken by PCA, was approved by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) prior to the commencement of fieldwork (PCA 2021).

1.4 The additional evaluation of Area A, which was located in the western part of the site known as 'Grainger', consisted of 9no. 30m trial trenches that supplemented a previous stage of evaluation undertaken by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Services in 2008 (SCCAS 2009). The excavation in Area D (0.24ha) investigated an area where two tumuli are shown on historic mapping; a trial trench excavated in this area in 2008 had not succeeded in locating the remains of the barrows, although several archaeological features had been identified.

1.5 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSIs (RPS 2021a; RPS 2021b: PCA 2021), *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2019a,

revised 2021), *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation* (SCCAS 2019b, revised 2021), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2020a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2020b).

1.6 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

1.7 Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

2.1.1 The overall development site is located directly south and east of Martlesham Heath, which lies *c.* 4km southwest of Woodbridge and *c*. 8km east of Ipswich city centre (Fig. 1). The site, which has been extensively exploited for mineral extraction over the past 15 years, consists of the remnant heathland of Brightwell Heath. It is covered in gorse and scrub, coarse grassland, and former sand and gravel pits. The boundaries are formed by Ipswich Road to the south, Newbourne Road to the east, a holiday park to the north-east, the A12 to the west and Adastral Park to the north-west.

2.1.2 Topographically, the site is situated on a plateau of gently undulating ground overlooking the valley of Mill River, a tributary of the River Deben, which flows eastwards *c.* 1km to the south of the site's southern boundary. Ground level within the site lies at approximately 25m above Ordnance Datum.

2.1.3 The geology of the site consists of Neogene and Quaternary deposits of the Red Crag Formation, consisting of coarse-grained, poorly sorted, cross-bedded, abundantly shelly sands (BGS 2022). The Red Crag deposits are overlain by superficial fluvial deposits of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup, consisting of bodies of cross-bedded and massive, moderately sorted sand and gravel.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

2.2.1 The following section has been taken from *Land South and East of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy* (Orion Heritage 2018). It provides a brief summary of the archaeological background for the area surrounding the site, based on a search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER), and includes mention of previous archaeological works undertaken to date.

2.2.2 A number of phases of work have been undertaken across the development area, as part of the evaluation and mitigation strategy for the previous mineral extraction works on site. This includes monitoring works (MRM 139) and a large-scale trial trench evaluation in 2008 (MRM 140; SCCAS 2009). The investigation revealed, in relation to the size of the area under investigation, scant archaeological deposits and features. Two areas of archaeological interest were identified in the north-west part of the site, including a series of ditches and occasional pits and postholes dated to the Late Iron Age to early Romano-British periods.

2.2.3 The study site lies in a well-documented archaeological landscape with prehistoric finds and features forming much of the search results recorded on SHER. The site contains two scheduled areas: two bowl barrows in Spratt's Plantation in the north of the study site (NHLE 1008731), and Bowl Barrow and Pill Box 450m northwest of Sheep Drift Farm (NHLE 1008730). The bowl barrow and pill box in the western part of the site was archaeologically investigated in 2008 by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (now part of Cotswold Archaeology).

2.2.4 The site of two round barrows at the junction of Martlesham, Brightwell and Waldringfield parishes are also recorded in the SHER (SHER MSF3720 and MSF3718). These fall within an area which has been archaeologically investigated in a number of phases, including the 2008 SCCAS evaluation. No above-ground trace of either barrows remain, due to ploughing and quarrying (SCCAS 2009). A similar crop mark site south of the Spratt's plantation yielded a concentration of artefacts, hence the requirement for further works in this area.

2.2.5 Evidence of Later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age pottery weighing 68g were recovered from the lower fills of a pit in Trench 337 of Area G in the 2008 evaluation. The sherds are sand and grog tempered and include a rim and a base which may be from the same vessel. Environmental analysis identified the presence of large quantities of charred remains and burnt stone, which has suggested that the pit is part of the wider ritual landscape, including the barrows.

2.2.6 Evidence for Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity was identified during the 2008 evaluation in Area D, with postholes containing Iron Age pottery recorded, alongside some ditches that were undated but interpreted as a Roman field system.

2.2.7 RAF Martlesham Heath (SHER MSF22020), a military airfield, was used in both World Wars and post-war to 1963. The airfield was initially opened in 1917 as the base for the Aeroplane Experimental Unit. In 1922 a fire damaged part of the technical buildings and the airfield was subsequently enlarged to become the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment (AAEE). From 1939 the first fighter squadron was stationed on the airfield with a permanent squadron from 1940 and throughout the Second World War, being used by the RAF and from 1943 by elements of the US air force. The airfield reverted to RAF use after the war and was finally closed in 1973 (Smith, 1995 and Kinsey, 1983)

2.2.8 The study site falls partially within the 20th-century airfield (SHER MSF22020), and a

number of SHER entries within the study site relate to associated built heritage features. This includes field boundaries and footpaths in the eastern edge of the heath (SHER 17775), a WWI practice trench recorded in the eastern part of the site (SHER MXS22580) and a WWII bomb crater (MXS22590). A possible light aircraft machine gun (SHER MXS22554), a Type 23 Pillbox associated with the gun emplacement (SHER MXS22553) and an eight-sided built brick base to the radio mast (SHER MSF25705) are extant in the western part of the site. The possible light aircraft machine gun (SHER MXS22554) is in poor condition. The WWII features have been subject to RCHME Level III recording as part of mineral consent C/10/1441 (SCCAS 2009).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Evaluation

3.1.1 The main aim of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (RPS 2021a, 6), was to seek to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works also aimed to:

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains;
- provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
- provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits;
- Provide additional data on areas previously evaluated to allow for decisions to be made on any required mitigation;
- set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions;
- provide, in the event that archaeological remains are found, sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

3.2 Excavation

3.2.1 The overall aim of the investigation, as stated in the WSI (RPS 2021b, 6), was to confirm the presence or absence of the round barrow in Area D and preserve by record the archaeological evidence prior to damage by development, and investigate the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, and significance of the remains revealed, and place these in their local, regional and national archaeological context.

3.3 Regional Research Frameworks

3.3.1 All stages of the programme of archaeological investigation have been related to the Regional Research Frameworks:

- Glazebrook J 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern*

counties: 1. Resource Assessment, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **3**;

- Brown, N & Glazebrook, J 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **8**;
- Medlycott, M 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **24**;
- The East of England Research Framework online resource (https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The excavation in Area D covered an area of *c.* 0.2ha and was centred on Trench * of the evaluation undertaken by SCCAS in 2009 (Figs 2 and 3). The archaeological evaluation in Area A comprised 9no. 30m trial trenches at 2.0m wide (a total of 270 linear metres; Figs 2 and 7).

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 Ground reduction during both the excavation and evaluation was carried out using a 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator. Topsoil and other overburden was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. The topsoil was stored separately from other overburden in sealed bunds next to the excavation area or alongside evaluation trenches.

4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate, and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and finds recovery

4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Geomax GPS rover units with RTK differential correction, giving a three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.3.2 Archaeologically significant deposits were cleaned and excavated with hand tools and recorded in accordance with the PCA fieldwork manual *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor and Brown 2009). Deposits and layers were recorded using PCA's *pro forma* recording sheets under the unique site code **XSFADP21**. Plans and representative sections were drawn at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Final excavation limits, features and deposits contained within were surveyed using Geomax GPS equipment to provide feature location plans tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features, deposits and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Metal-detectors were not set to discriminate against

iron. No objects of archaeological significance were found with the metal detector.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

4.4 Sampling strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were typically half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Where large or significant finds assemblages were present, features were subsequently 100% excavated for finds recovery.

4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly spaced slots amounting to 10–25% of their lengths. The ring ditches were investigated by means of regularly spaced slots amounting to 25% of their lengths, and then 100% excavated. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be clearly discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated, and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

4.5 Environmental sampling

4.5.1 In accordance *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (HE 2011), a total of 12 bulk samples (generally 20-40 litres in volume) were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The broad aim of this sampling was to investigate the past environment and economy of the site, the diets of the past inhabitants and the agricultural basis of the settlement during different periods of occupation. An additional aim of bulk soil sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection alone, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	4
Context sheets	33
Section register sheets	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	31
Trench record sheets	9
Photo register sheets	3
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital archive

Digital photos	234
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Struck flint	6 (-)
Burnt flint	4 (7g)
Pottery	2 (15g)
Environmental bulk samples	12 (38no. 10 litre tubs)

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Area D excavation (Figs 3-6; Plates 1-31)

6.1.1 The excavation of Area D revealed three ring ditches (Ring Ditches A-C), the surviving remains of a small Early Anglo-Saxon barrow cemetery partly shown on Ordnance Survey maps of the area, where two tumuli are indictaed. There were no human remains, in the form of inhumations or cremations, associated with the ring ditches, such remains having been lost due to plough truncation and the acidity of the sandy soils. A radiocarbon date obtained from charcoal taken from a posthole associated with Ring Ditch A provided a date range of 535-605calAD at 95.4% probability for the monument.

6.1.2 Ring Ditch C was truncated by an east-to-west aligned Ditch [8]. The date of the ditch is uncertain, but its loosely compacted fill indicates that it is likely to be modern. Several small undated pits or postholes were also investigated but none contained any artefactual dating evidence.

General stratigraphy

6.1.3 The geological substrate consisted of light yellow and mid orangey brown sand and gravel. There was no subsoil and the substrate was overlain directly by topsoil, which was between 0.4-0.5m thick and consisted of mid to dark grey silty sand. There was a high incidence of plough scarring that necessitated the removal of a further 0.1-0.2m of mixed topsoil, sand and gravel in order to visually identify the cuts of archaeological features.

Ring Ditch A (Figs 3 and 4; Plates 1-11)

6.1.4 Ring Ditch A was located in the southwest corner of the excavation area (Fig. 3). Only part of the ditch circuit was exposed within the confines of the original excavation area, so the excavation area was extended southwards in order to expose the ditch in its entirety.

6.1.5 Ring Ditch A was the largest of the three ring ditches, measuring 7.05m in outside diameter and 5.50m internally (Fig. 4). A causeway on its east side measured 0.7m wide. Initially nine 1m wide slots (including the terminals) were excavated at regular intervals around the circuit (Fig. 4, Sections 12-16; Plates 5- 8). Following recording of the slots, the remaining fill was excavated (Plate 11). The ditch averaged around 0.65m wide around its circuit but ranged between a maximum width of 0.80m and a minimum

width of 0.60m. The depth of the ditch averaged around 0.25m and ranged between a maximum of 0.35m and a minimum of 0.20m. The ditch sides varied in degree of slope from gentle to gradual whilst the base was generally concave. It was filled by a single deposit of gravelly mid brownish grey silty sand represented by contexts (25), (27), (29), (31) & (33) from the respective slots through the ditch. Two residual pieces of struck flint dated to the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods were recovered from the ditch fills. Environmental sampling recovered a low quantity of charred cereal remains.

6.1.6 A large posthole [38] was located 1.25m from the outside edge of the ditch circuit and central to the east causeway (Fig. 4). The circular cut had a diameter of 0.73m and a depth of 0.65m. The sides of the cut were very steep whilst the base was flat (Fig. 4, Section 24; Plates 9 and 11). The primary fill of the cut consisted of mid to dark grey sand (37), which was mostly located at the base of the cut but also lined its south side. extending to the top edge. Secondary fill (35) occupied the central and uppermost part of the cut and comprised mid to dark brownish grey sand. It contained moderate quantities of charcoal throughout, but it mainly clustered within the upper parts of the south side.

6.1.7 Upper fill deposit (36) was situated on the north side of the cut and consisted almost entirely of charcoal but interspersed with lenses of brownish orange sand and gravel. The junction between fill deposits (35) and (36) was almost vertical but slightly inclined to the south. This suggests that an object, probably a post, formed a vertical barrier that served to restrict the charcoal deposit (36) to the cut side. There was no evidence for *in situ* burning in the form of scorching of the surrounding natural sands. Hence it is likely that the charcoal was inserted as backfill once the postulated post had been inserted and could represent material from a funeral pyre.

6.1.8 The only artefacts recovered from the feature were four pieces of residual struck flint dated to the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods and an abraded residual sherd of pottery (12g) dated the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods. A radiocarbon date obtained from charcoal taken from the secondary fill (35) of the posthole provided a date range of 535-605calAD at 95.4% probability.

Ring Ditch B (Figs 3 and 5; Plates 12-15 and 20)

6.1.9 Ring Ditch B was in the southeast part of the excavation area at a distance of 17.10m northeast of Ring Ditch A and just 0.76m north of Ring Ditch C (Figs 3 and 4). Its unbroken circuit measured 5.27m in outside diameter and 3.95m internally. Initially seven 1m wide evenly spaced slots were excavated around the ditch circuit (Plate 12).

Following recording of the slots, the remainder of the ditch fill was fully excavated (Plate 20). The width of the ditch averaged 0.60m around its circuit although it varied considerably from a minimum of 0.54m to a maximum of 0.85m. Its depth averaged around 0.20m but varied between a minimum of 0.15m and a maximum of 0.29m. In profile, the cut had gently or gradually sloping sides whilst the base was concave (Fig. 5, Sections 18-22 and 25; Plates 13 and 14). The ditch was filled with a deposit of gravelly mid greyish brown silty sand represented by contexts (41), (43), (45), (49), (51) and (53). A small and abraded residual sherd of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery was the only artefact found in the ditch fill.

6.1.10 Pit or posthole [48] was located within the ditch circuit and offset from the centre on the east side (Fig. 5). It was circular in plan with a maximum diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.12m. The sides of the cut were gradually sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 5, Section 48; Plate 15). It was filled by a single deposit of dark brownish grey silty sand (47). No finds were recovered from the feature.

Ring Ditch C (Figs 3 and 5; Plates 16-20).

6.1.11 Ring Ditch C was located in the south part of the site and positioned just 0.76m south of Ring Ditch B (Figs 3 and 5). Parts of the south side of its circuit had been truncated by ditch [8] although the south edge of the ring ditch survived on the external south side of the ditch. Due to this truncation, it was not possible to establish whether the ring ditch formed a complete circuit since it is feasible, although unlikely, that a causeway may have been present within the truncated parts. The circuit measured 4.54m in outside diameter and 3.57m internally. Initially five 1m wide evenly spaced slots were excavated around the ditch circuit (Plate 16). Following recording, the remainder of the ditch fill was completely removed (Plate 20).

6.1.12 The ditch averaged around 0.40m wide with variations to a minimum of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.60m. The sides of the cut varied between gradually and steeply sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 5, Sections 27, 30, 62 and 64; Plates 17 and 18). It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand represented by contexts (59), (61), (63), (65) and (57).

6.1.13 A pit or posthole [68] was in the centre of the ring ditch (Fig. 5). The cut was ovoid in plan and measured 0.60m long, 0.46m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig. 5, Section 31; Plate 19). The sides of the cut were gradually sloped, although it was steep on the southwest side and the base was sloped. The ditch was filled with greyish brown silty sand (67). No finds were recovered from the feature.

Ditch [8] (Figs 3 and 6; Plates 21-25)

6.1.14 An east-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditch [8] was recorded in the south part of the site (Figs 3 & 6). At its west end it curved abruptly towards the northwest where it was recorded as context (0039) in the evaluation trench. Due to plough truncation the ditch was difficult to trace across the site and appeared to be interrupted in places.

6.1.15 Segment [8] located at its eastern end measured 0.67m wide by 0.34m deep (Fig. 6, Section 8; Plate 21). It had steep sides, a concave base and was filled with mid brown silty sand (7).

6.1.16 Segments [6] and [10] appear to represent terminals either side of an offset entranceway which measured 1.25m wide. The postulated terminal on the east side [10] measured 0.71 wide by 0.28m deep and had moderately sloped sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, Section 9; Plate 22). It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand (9). The postulated terminal on the west side [6] measured 0.25m wide by 0.1m deep (Fig. 6, Section 3; Plate 23) and was filled with dark greyish brown sandy silt (5).

6.1.17 Segment [56] was located around 4.5m west of Terminus [6]. Here, the ditch measured 1.55m wide by 0.26m deep. The sides of the ditch were gently sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 6, Section 26; Plate 24). It was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (55).

6.1.18 Segment [15] was located 7m west of Segment [56]. It measured 0.5m wide by 0.07m deep. The ditch had gently sloped sides and a flat base (Fig. 6, Section 4; Plate 25) and was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (16).

6.1.19 The loosely compacted nature of the ditch fill excavated in the evaluation trench suggested a recent date for the ditch, with it possibly being related to military use of the site (SCCAS 2009). No artefacts were recovered from the ditch fill by either phase of work, but the loosely compacted nature of the fills was also recorded in segments excavated as part of the current phase of work so the ditch has been interpreted as a modern feature.

Probable postholes [2] and [14] (Figs 3 and 6; Plates 26 and 27).

6.1.20 Two closely spaced probable postholes [2] and [14] were located in the west part of the site (Figs 3 and 6). No artefacts were recovered from either feature, so they are undated.

6.1.21 Probable posthole [2] was circular in plan and measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.26m in depth. The sides of the cut were steep whilst the base was flat (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 26). It was filled with loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty sand (1).

6.1.22 Probable posthole [14] was circular in plan and measured 0.66m in maximum diameter and had a depth of 0.26m (Fig. 6, Section 11; Plate 27). The feature had steep sides, a concave base and was filled with firmly compacted mid greyish brown silty sand (13).

Probable postholes [19] and [21] (Figs 3 and 6; Plates 28 and 29)

6.1.23 Another pairing of probable undated postholes [19] and [21] was situated in the north part of the excavation area. Probable posthole [19] was circular in plan with a maximum diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.17m (Fig. 6, Section 6; Plate 28). The feature had steep sides, a sloping base and it was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (20).

6.1.24 Probable posthole [21] was ovoid in plan and measured 0.7m long, 0.31m wide and 0.12m deep (Fig. 6, Section 7; Plate 29). It had gradually sloped sides, a sloping base and was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand.

Probable tree throw hollow [17] (Figs 3 and 6; Plate 30)

6.1.25 Probable tree throw hollow [17] was located in the southwest part of the site, c. 3m to the north of Ring Ditch A (Figs 3 and 6). It was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 1.2m long, 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep. The feature had gently sloped sides, a concave base (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 30) and it was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (18).

Probable tree throw hollow [4] (Figs 3 and 6; Plate 31)

6.1.26 Probable tree throw hollow [4] was in the southwest part of the site, c. 5m to the west of Ring Ditches B and C (Figs 3 and 6). It was linear in plan, measuring 1m long, 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep, and had steep sides and a slightly convex base (Fig. 6, Section 2; Plate 31). It was filled with mid reddish brown sandy silt (3).

6.2 Area A evaluation (Figs 2 and 7; Plates 32-33)

6.2.1 Nine evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m long by 2m wide, were excavated in Area A. The trenches were required to investigate areas between the locations of trenches that had been excavated during an earlier phase of trenching, where it was considered possible that archaeological remains may be encountered. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were present in any of the trenches. Details of the trenches and the thicknesses of the overburden are summarised in Table 1 below.

General stratigraphy

6.2.2 The geological substrate consisted of light yellow and mid orangey brown sand and gravel. There was no subsoil and the substrate was overlain directly by topsoil, which was between 0.32-0.45m thick and consisted of mid to dark grey silty sand. Plough scars were noted in all of the trenches, indicating a high degree of truncation to below ground deposits.

Table 1: Evaluation trench details

Trench No	Orientation	Length	Width	Depth	Height at ground level	Height at base
1	East-West	30m	2m	0.35m	23.00m OD	22.65m OD
2	North-South	30m	2m	0.32m	23.07m OD	23.75m OD
3	North-South	30m	2m	0.40m	22.29m OD	21.89m OD
4	North-South	30m	2m	0.33m	23.10m OD	22.77m OD
5	North-South	30m	2m	0.35m	24.10m OD	23.75m OD
6	North-South	30m	2m	0.35m	24.45m OD	24.10m OD
7	East-West	30m	2m	0.45m	25.13m OD	24.68m OD
8	East-West	30m	2m	0.40m	23.39m OD	22.99m OD
9	North-South	30m	2m	0.35m	23.32m OD	22.97m OD

7 FINDS

7.1 Lithics *by Barry Bishop*

Introduction

7.1.1 The archaeological excavation resulted in the recovery of small assemblages of struck flint and unworked burnt stone. The assemblages have been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details of each piece (Appendix 2). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance.

7.1.2 The assemblage was recorded following standard technological and typological classifications and largely follows the methodology of Inizan *et al.* (1999) with modifications and additions as indicated in the text by the author. Measurements were taken following the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification and distribution

Table 2: Quantification of the lithic material

Feature	Chip <10mm	Flake	Blade: prismatic	Flake fragment <10mm	Unworked burnt stone (no.)	Unworked burnt stone (wt:g)
Ditch 26			1	1		
Posthole 38	2	1		1	4	7

7.1.3 Six pieces of struck flint and four pieces of unworked burnt stone were recovered during the investigations (Table 2). The struck flints came from ditch [26], the terminus of Ring Ditch A, which provided two pieces, and from nearby posthole [36] which contained four pieces. The unworked burnt stone all came from posthole [36].

Burnt stone

7.1.4 All four pieces of unworked burnt stone comprise flint that had been heated to very high temperatures, resulting in it becoming shattered, ‘fire-crazed’ and changing to a grey-white colour. Where identifiable, it consists of small pebbles with rounded and

worn outer surfaces typical of that found in the Kesgrave gravel terraces. Unworked burnt flint is inherently undatable, but the small quantity and size of the fragments would be most suggestive of residual background waste emanating from the use of ground-set hearths.

Description of the struck assemblage

7.1.5 The four struck pieces were made from a good knapping-quality translucent flint that varies in colour from dark grey to mid brown. One of the pieces retains a smooth rolled cortex and it is most probable that the raw materials were gathered from the Kesgrave terrace gravels that underly the site and surrounding area. The pieces are all chipped to some extent and are probably redeposited, but the post-depositional damage is light, and it is likely that they were discarded close to where they were recovered.

7.1.6 All of the struck pieces are small and essentially comprise knapping debris, which hampers their identification and dating. The two pieces from the ring-ditch terminus comprise a probable prismatic blade fragment and a small fragment from a thin flake. Prismatic blades are most commonly encountered in Mesolithic or Early Neolithic contexts whilst the fragment can only be more broadly placed within the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age periods. The pieces from the posthole are even less diagnostic but the flake, although small, has been competently detached and one of the chips may have come from platform edge trimming, suggesting that these too belong to the Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age periods.

Significance

7.1.7 The struck pieces indicate prehistoric flint knapping occurring at the site, most probably between the Mesolithic and Early Bronze Age, although the quantities present are small and are not suggestive of flint being intensively worked. Unfortunately, the small size of this assemblage and lack of diagnostic pieces means that their interpretative value is limited and little further can be said concerning the precise chronology or the nature of the activities represented. The burnt flint indicates pyrotechnic activities, most probably the use of ground-set hearths.

7.1.8 The assemblage has been compressively catalogued and no further metrical or technological analyses are warranted for the purposes of the archive. The struck flint demonstrates prehistoric activity at the site, and it is recommended that a brief mention, which can largely be based on this report, is included in any published accounts of the investigations.

7.1.9 The unworked burnt flint has also been fully recorded and subsequently discarded but it is recommended that it is also mentioned in any published accounts.

7.2 Prehistoric pottery *by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne*

Introduction

7.2.1 A very small assemblage comprising two sherds (15g) of handmade prehistoric pottery was recovered from the excavation. The evaluation of the wider site area also produced 14 sherds (110g), recovered from four features that dated to the Late Neolithic to Early Iron Age and the Iron Age, spread across Areas D and G (Tester 2009).

7.2.2 The pottery derived from two contexts, relating to a ditch and a posthole (Table 3). The pottery recovered can be provisionally assigned to two broad periods; the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (LNEO-EBA; one sherd, 2g) and the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (LBA-EIA; one sherd, 3g).

7.2.3 The sherds were exclusive, although the extremely small size and poor condition of the assemblage limits their ability to date the features they derive from. The ceramics are in a stable condition. This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage with a brief discussion.

Table 3: Prehistoric pottery by context

Context	Cut	Feature type	No. of sherds	Wt(g)	Overall context spot date	Fabrics	Reason for date
36	38	Posthole	1	2	LNEO-EBA	GR1	Fabric
51	52	Ditch	1	3	LBA-EIA	FL1	Fabric

Table 4: Prehistoric fabric code breakdown

SSFabric code	Fabric type	Description
FL1	FL-rs-fm	Rare to sparse, fine to moderate calcined flint
GR1	GR-rs-fm	Rare to sparse, fine to moderate grog

Methodology

7.2.4 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and

modal size. Fabric groups are designated based on abbreviated codes, recorded as INCLUSIONTYPE-frequency-size in the catalogue. These groups were then given site specific codes i.e. FL1, QUFL2 in this report (Table 4). Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (all sherds within the assemblage were handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. All pottery recovered in the excavation was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (two sherds, 100% by sherd count (SC)). The assemblage contained no sherds that could be assigned to form.

Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age

7.2.5 The Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery assemblage was solely recovered from Posthole [38]. This was located in close proximity to a ring-ditch to the east (Ring Ditch A), thought to represent the remains of a barrow. It comprised a single, small potsherd (2g) in poor condition. Although little of any conclusive value can be gleaned from such a limited assemblage, the fabric type (fine grog) and thin appearance of the sherd suggests it derives from a vessel belonging to one of the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age urn traditions.

Assemblage Characteristics- Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

7.2.6 The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery assemblage was also recovered from a single feature, Ditch [52]. This formed the ring ditch of a small barrow (Ring Ditch B), which formed part of a small group. It comprised a single, small potsherd (3g) which as with the prior period assemblage was in poor condition. The hard, well-fired nature of the sherd suggest it derives from the Post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (Barrett 1980; Brudenell 2012), although it is plausible it may date to earlier periods, as this fabric recipe is common to various prehistoric periods.

Discussion

7.2.7 The pottery recovered can be assigned to two periods, the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2500-1500 BC) and the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (*c.* 1150-400/350 BC), although due to the size and condition of the assemblage these designations cannot be made with any confidence and there is a high probability that the material is residual.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains *by Val Fryer*

Introduction and method statement

8.1.1 The excavation recorded pits, postholes, ring ditches and other discrete features. Dateable artefactual material could be assigned to the Mesolithic to Early Iron Age periods, but the very small quantities indicate that the material is probably residual. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal taken from a pit ([38]) associated with Ring Ditch A returned a date in the second half of the 6th century AD, indicating that the ring ditches are probably the remains of a small Early Saxon barrow cemetery. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area and twelve were submitted for assessment.

8.1.2 The samples were bulk floated and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds, arthropod remains and thorns were present throughout, but are not recorded within the table. Some assemblages did include materials suitable for radiocarbon dating, although in most cases, the potential was low.

Results

8.1.3 Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout (being especially common within the assemblages for posthole/post pipe [38] (Samples 6 and 7)), other plant remains are very scarce, with most being present as single specimens within an assemblage. Samples 1, 3 and 4, from sectors within Ring Ditch A, all contain cereal grains (including wheat (*Triticum* sp.)), with a further possible grain fragment coming from Sample 9 from Ring Ditch B. The only chaff element recorded is a single possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.) rachis node noted within the assemblage from sample 1. Individual small grass (Poaceae) fruits within Samples 1, 2 and 3 are the only seeds recorded. Perhaps more notably, the same assemblages also include fragments of heather (Ericaceae) stem along with a single heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) capsule and a possible bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) pinnule fragment. Other possible heather stem fragments are present within Sample 7 from Ring Bitch B, Sample 11 (pit/posthole [48]) and Sample 12 from Ring Ditch C.

8.1.4 Much of the recovered charcoal/charred wood is highly comminuted and abraded.

However, the material from Samples 6 and 7 is mostly large and robust, although pieces are rounded and abraded. It is noted that in both assemblages, the material also has a distinctive flaked appearance, which is generally associated with the high temperature combustion of ring porous woods. Other plant macrofossils are generally scarce.

8.1.5 Other remains are also very limited in nature, although small pieces of black porous material are present at a low density within eight of the assemblages studied. It is thought most likely that these are derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, possibly including cereal grains. A residual prehistoric pottery sherd was found within the assemblage from Sample 6.

Conclusions

8.1.6 In summary, the assemblages are mostly small (i.e. 0.1 litres in volume or less) and very limited in composition. However, the presence of cereals, grass seeds, heather and possibly bracken with the Ring Ditch A assemblages may be of note. Ring Ditch A, which is *c.* 6m in diameter, penannular in form with posthole [38] placed centrally within the 'entrance', was thought by the excavator to be funerary in nature. The plant macrofossils certainly could be derived from cereal processing waste and gathered plant remains used, for example, within a pyre. However, it should be noted that they could also be components of hearth waste, bedding or thatching materials used within a small structure. The assemblages from posthole [38] are, perhaps, unusual as they contain only charcoal. Whether this is possibly indicative of *in situ* burning is currently unclear. Ring Ditches B and C are both smaller annular features, but the paucity of plant materials gives no indications of how the features may have functioned.

8.1.7 As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

9 RADIOCARBON AGE DETERMINATION

9.1 A bulk soil sample taken from posthole [38] (Sample 6) contained a sizeable amount of large, robust charcoal pieces, possible from a burnt timber post. A piece of this charcoal (Sample 14) was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The results are summarised in Table 5 below and presented in full in Appendix 4.

9.2 Given the sizeable quantity of charcoal present in the posthole and the large size of many of the pieces, the potential for residuality is considered to be extremely low and the calibrated date range obtained from the charcoal can be taken with confidence. The species of wood was not determined prior to being submitted for dating, but it is likely to have come from a reasonably large post cut from a tree of some maturity, so the date for the posthole can only be broadly dated to the Early Saxon period.

Table 5: Radiocarbon date summary

Laboratory no.	**Context no.**	**Radiocarbon age (BP)**	**$\delta^{13}C$ ‰**	**Material**	**Context type**	**Calibrated date range 95.4% confidence**
SUERC-106624 (GU-61901)	(35)	1519 ± 22	-27.3	Charcoal	Pit [38]	535-605calAD (91.9%) 479-495calAD (2.7%) 442-449calAD (0.9%)

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Area D excavation

10.1.1 In Area D, excavation identified the remains of three Early Anglo-Saxon ring ditches, the remains of a small barrow cemetery. Charcoal from a posthole associated with one of the ring ditches produced a radiocarbon date indicating a late 6th or early 7th century AD date for the monument.

10.1.2 The tumuli are shown on Ordnance Survey maps from the 1880s until the present and are referred to as the 'Waldringfield Quarry Tumuli' in the evaluation report (SCCAS 2009). No above ground evidence of the tumuli were visible at the time of the evaluation in 2008, suggesting that the tumuli had been destroyed by ploughing; plough damage to the site was evident in the form of narrowly spaced plough marks across the entirety of the Area D excavation area.

10.1.3 Evaluation trenching in the approximate area of the tumuli failed to locate them, but the excavation, with the benefit of exposing a larger area, succeeded in identifying three ring ditches. Two of the ring ditches were located between the south arms of the crossed evaluation trenches and another was situated a short distance southwest of the area of trenching.

10.1.4 No evidence for inhumations or cremations were recorded and no artefacts of Anglo-Saxon date were recovered. Any inhumations or cremations which may have been encircled by the ditches are likely to have been lost due to plough truncation and the acidic sandy soils on the heath are not favourable to the preservation of bone.

10.1.5 Ring ditches associated with Early Anglo-Saxon burial practices did not always have associated mounds. It could be that they mark the line of fences or had low banks (Williams 2011). However, the tumuli marked on Ordnance Survey maps of the area indicate that mounds were associated with at least some of the Martlesham ring-ditches. Ring Ditch A is the largest of the three at 7.05m diameter and is the only one with a causeway and posthole located outside the ring circuit but centrally to the causeway. Ring-ditches B and C formed continuous circuits, but each had a single pit or posthole located within the ring. In Ring Ditch B the pit or posthole was off centre but in Ring ditch C it was located centrally to the ring. It remains possible that these features held posts or some other type of marker.

10.1.6 The admixture of ring ditches with and without causeways has been recorded on other

sites such as the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Finglesham, Kent (Hawkes and Grainger 2006). At Finglesham, some of the causewayed ring ditches had postholes located in the same position opposing the causeway as that associated with Ring Ditch A at Martlesham. It remains unclear what function the post had, but the causeway may have allowed access to burials in the centre (Williams 2011).

10.1.7 Burials enclosed by ring ditches can be either cremations or inhumations and can occur in cemeteries alongside a mixture of burials practises. At the Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Springfield Lyons (Tyler and Major 2005) only two burials out of a total of 257 were surrounded by a ring ditch. One ring ditch surrounded a cremation burial whilst the other enclosed an inhumation.

10.2 Area A evaluation

10.2.1 Despite the proximity of the trenches to the remains of a prehistoric bowl barrow in Area A, additional evaluation encountered no features or deposits of archaeological interest. The only features recorded by the 2008 evaluation were two small ditches in the western part of the site, so the additional trenching confirmed that this area has low archaeological potential, aside from the surviving earthworks of the barrow.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS Consulting Ltd for commissioning and funding the work on behalf of their client and Suffolk County Council's Archaeology Service for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

11.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Gary Trimble (Project Officer), Katie Ray, Elisabetta Dal'Olio, Naomi Pierrepoint and Romy Mcintosh. This report was written by Gary Trimble, with specialist contributions from Barry Bishop, Lawrence Morgan Shelbourne and Val Fryer, and the figures were prepared by Joanna Nastaszyc. The project was managed for PCA by Simon Carlyle and for RPS by Duncan Hawkins.

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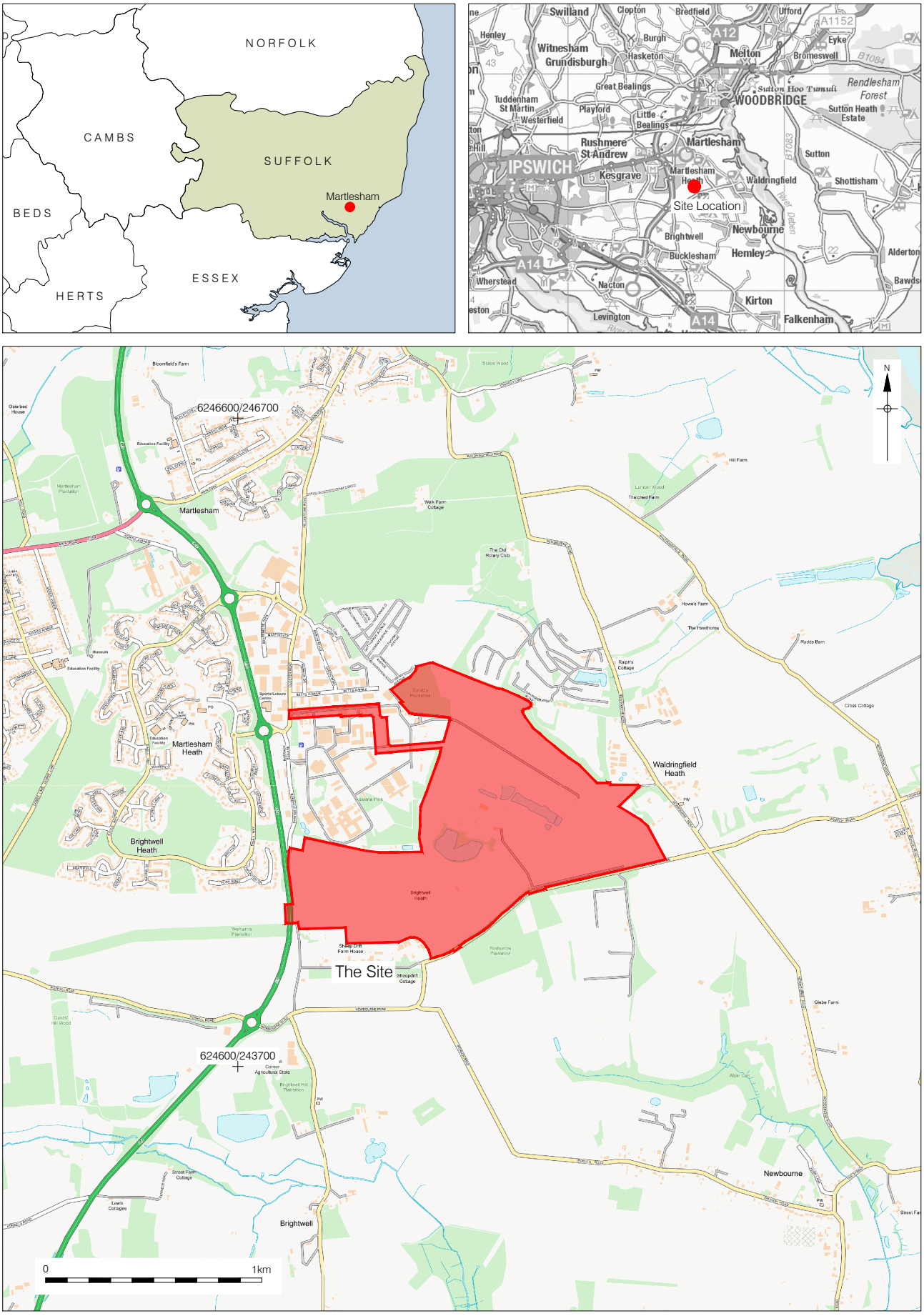
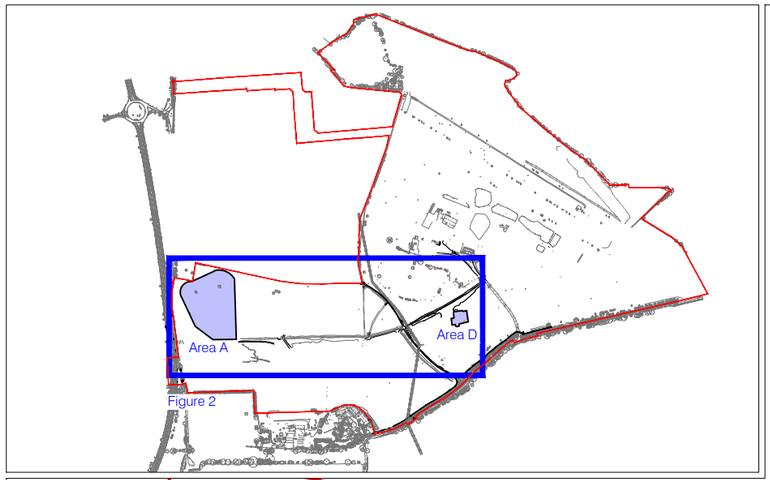


20/04/2022 JN

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4



625200

625400

625600

N

AREA A

AREA D

244600

244400

Phase 1 Trench Containing Archaeology Area A (SCCAS 2009)

Phase 1 Blank Trench Area A (SCCAS 2009)

Phase 2 Trench Area A (PCA 2021)

Phase 1 Trench Containing Archaeology Area D (SCCAS 2009)

Phase 1 Blank Trench Area D (SCCAS 2009)

Phase 1 Archaeological Feature (SCCAS 2009)

Phase 2 Archaeological Feature Area D (PCA 2021)

Phase 2 Natural Feature Area D (PCA 2021)

0 100m

22/04/2022 JN

Figure 2
Overall Site Plan: Area A and Area D
Inset 1:20000, Plan 1:2500 at A3

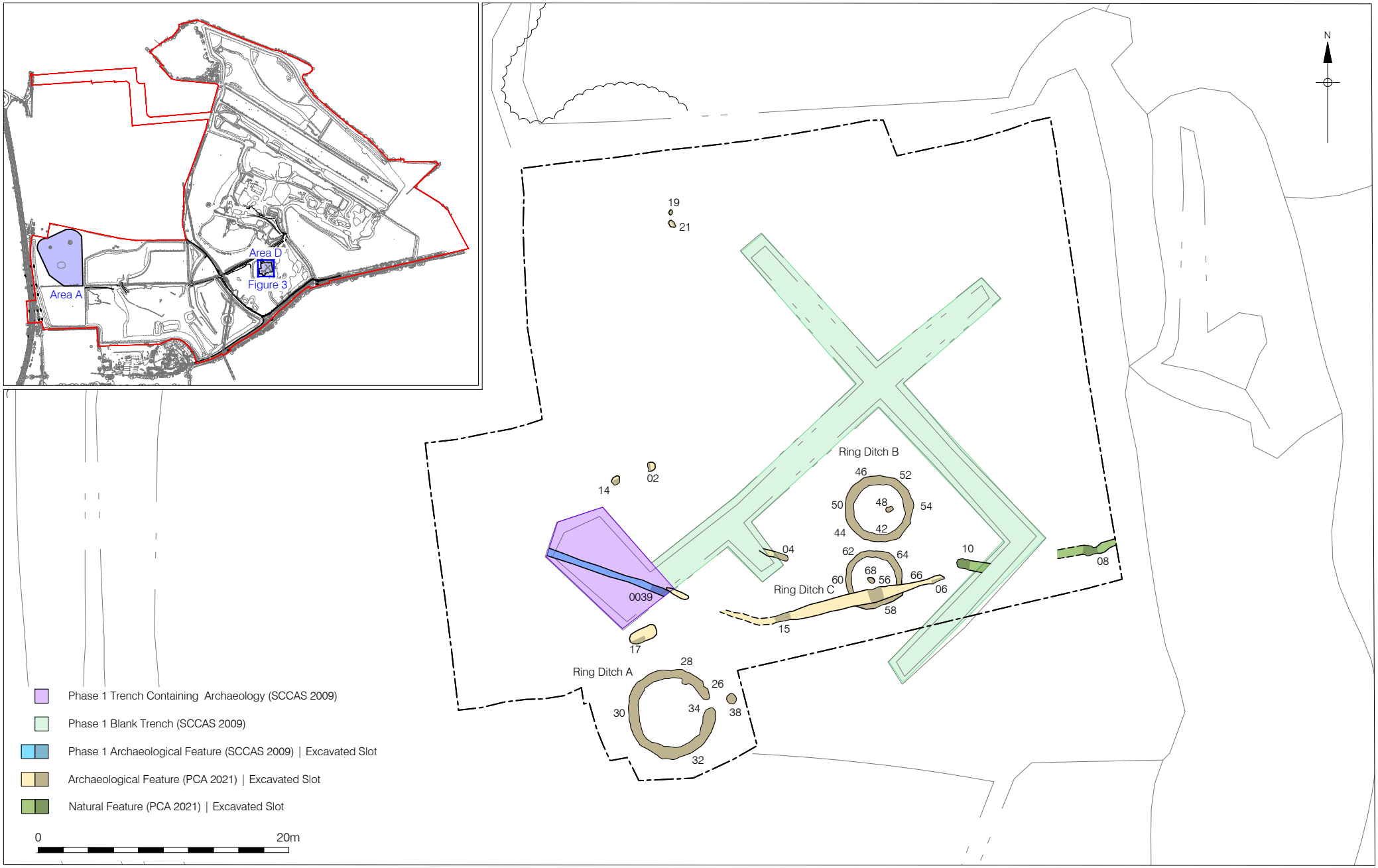


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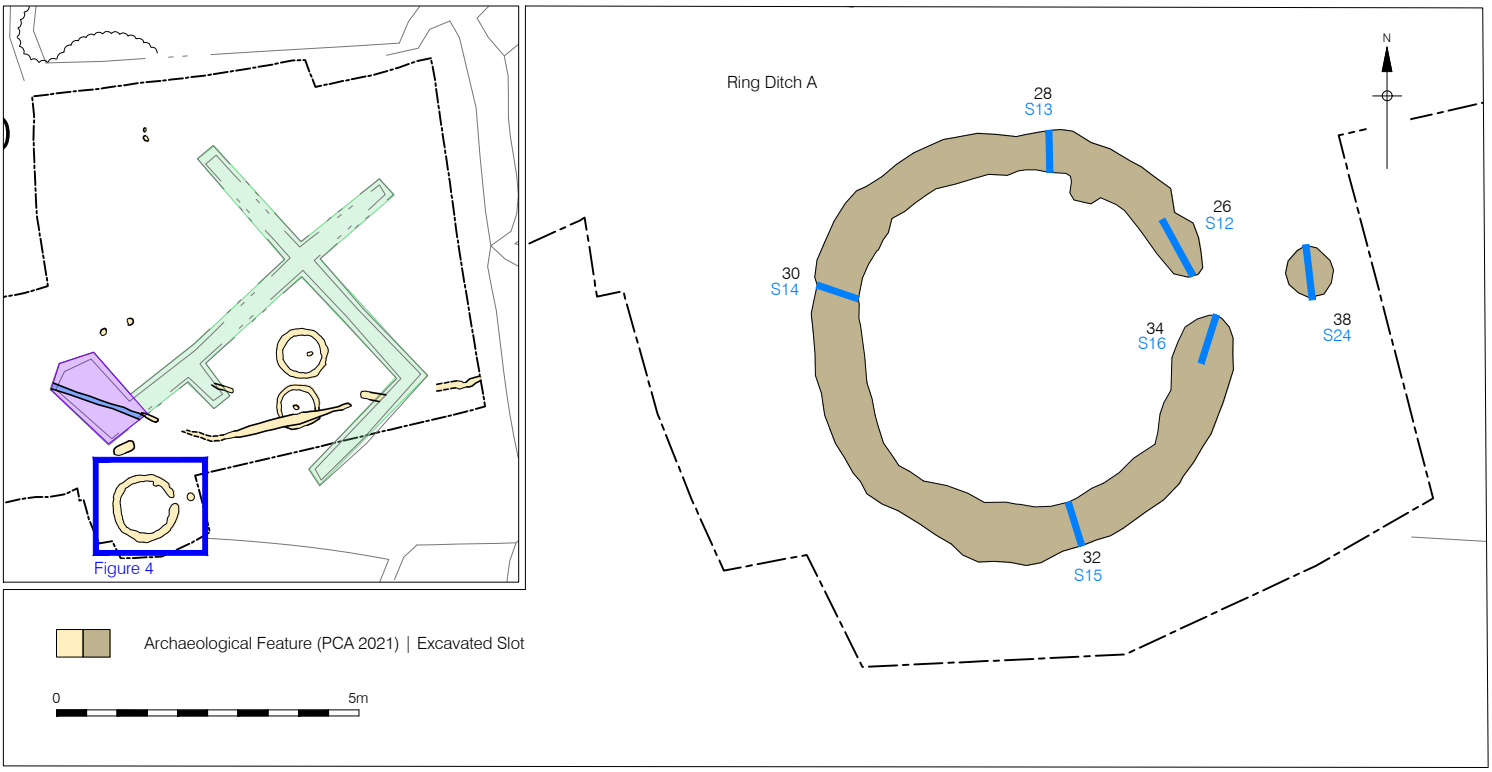
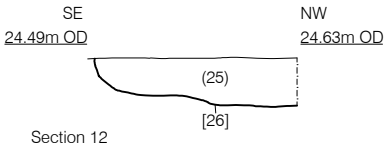
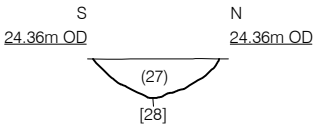
Figure 3
Detailed Site Plan of Area D
Inset 1:20000, Plan 1:400 at A4

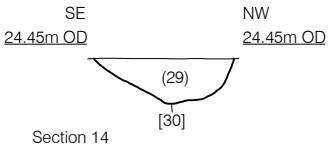




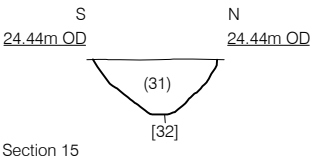
Section 12
Ring Ditch A Area D
Northeast Facing



Section 13
Ring Ditch A Area D
East Facing



Section 14
Ring Ditch A Area D
Northeast Facing



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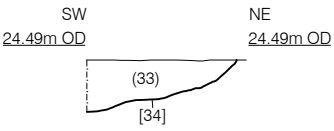
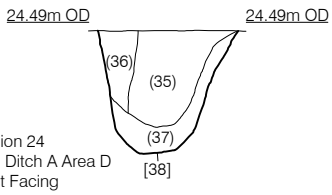
Ring Ditch A Area D
East Facing



Section 16
Ring Ditch A Area D
Southeast Facing

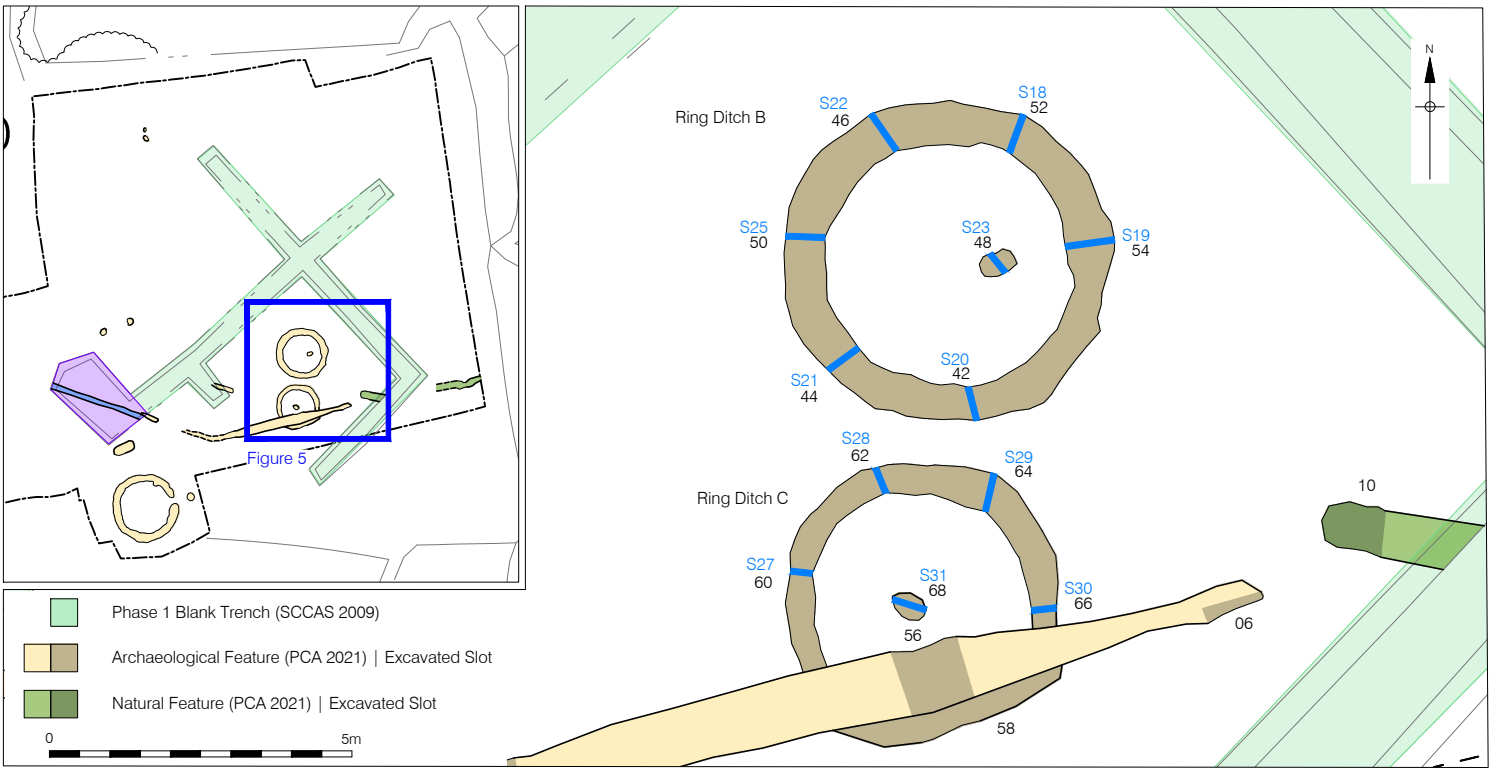


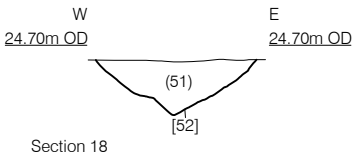
Section 24
Ring Ditch A Area D
West Facing

0 2m

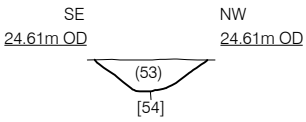
21/04/2022 JN

Figure 4
Plan of Ring Ditch A and Sections
Inset 1:800, Plan 1:125, Section 1:40 at A4

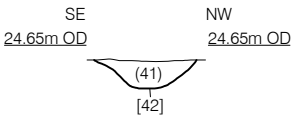




Section 18
Ring Ditch B Area D
South Facing



Section 19
Ring Ditch B Area D
Northeast Facing



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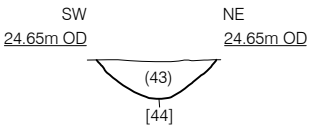
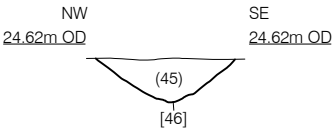
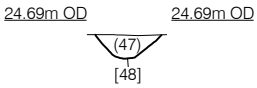
Northeast Facing



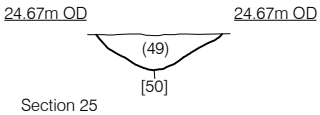
Section 21
Ring Ditch B Area D
Northwest Facing



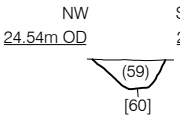
Section 22
Ring Ditch B Area D
Southwest Facing



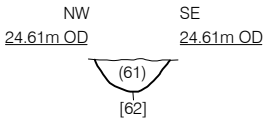
Section 23
Ring Ditch B Area D
Southwest Facing



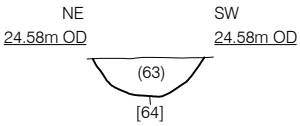
Section 25
Ring Ditch B Area D
Southwest Facing



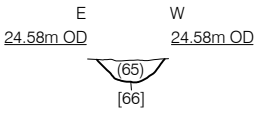
Section 27
Ring Ditch C Area D
Southwest Facing



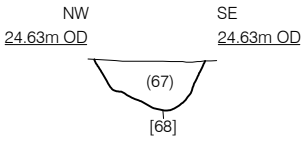
Section 28
Ring Ditch C Area D
Southwest Facing



Section 29
Ring Ditch C Area D
Southeast Facing



Section 30
Ring Ditch C Area D
North Facing

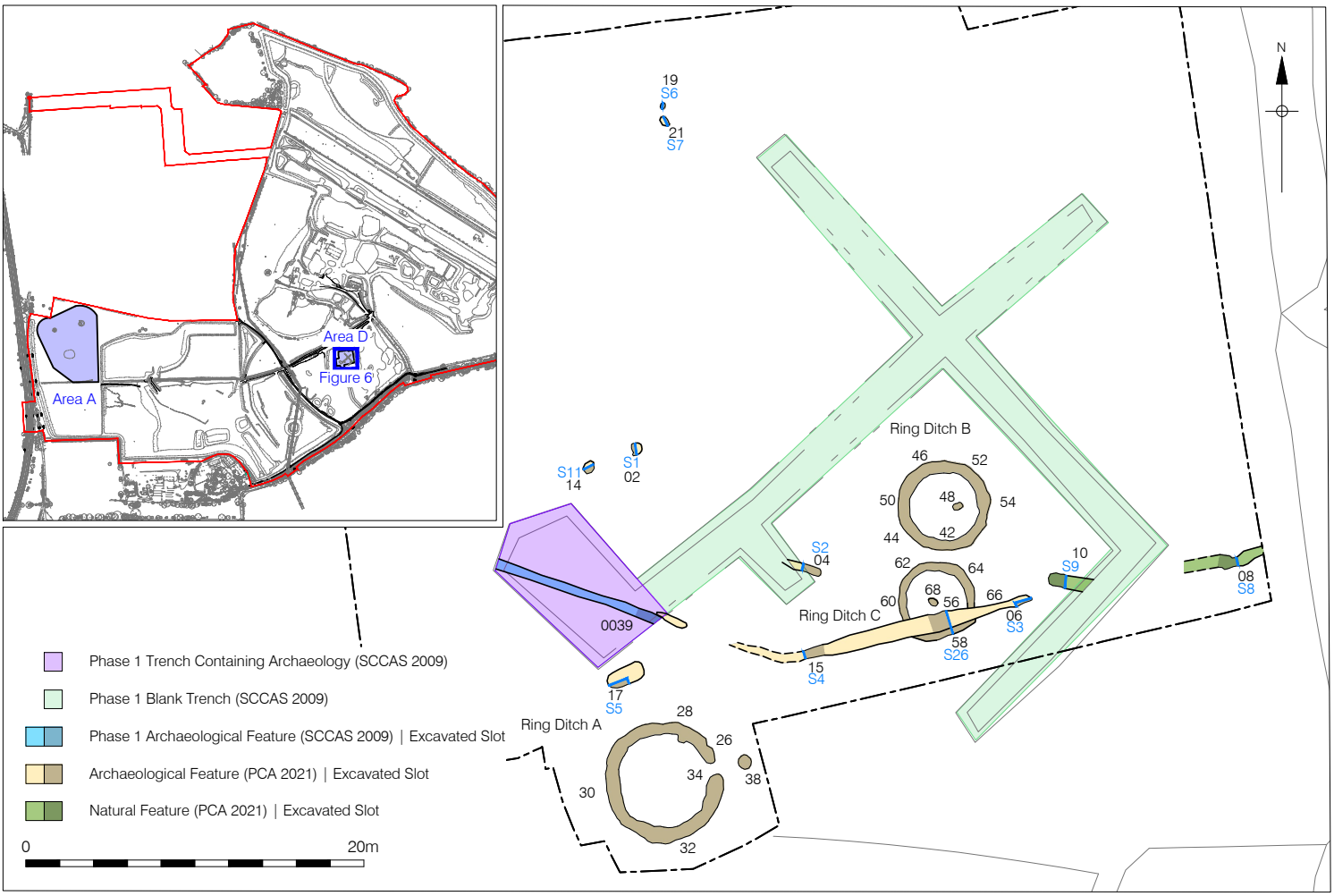


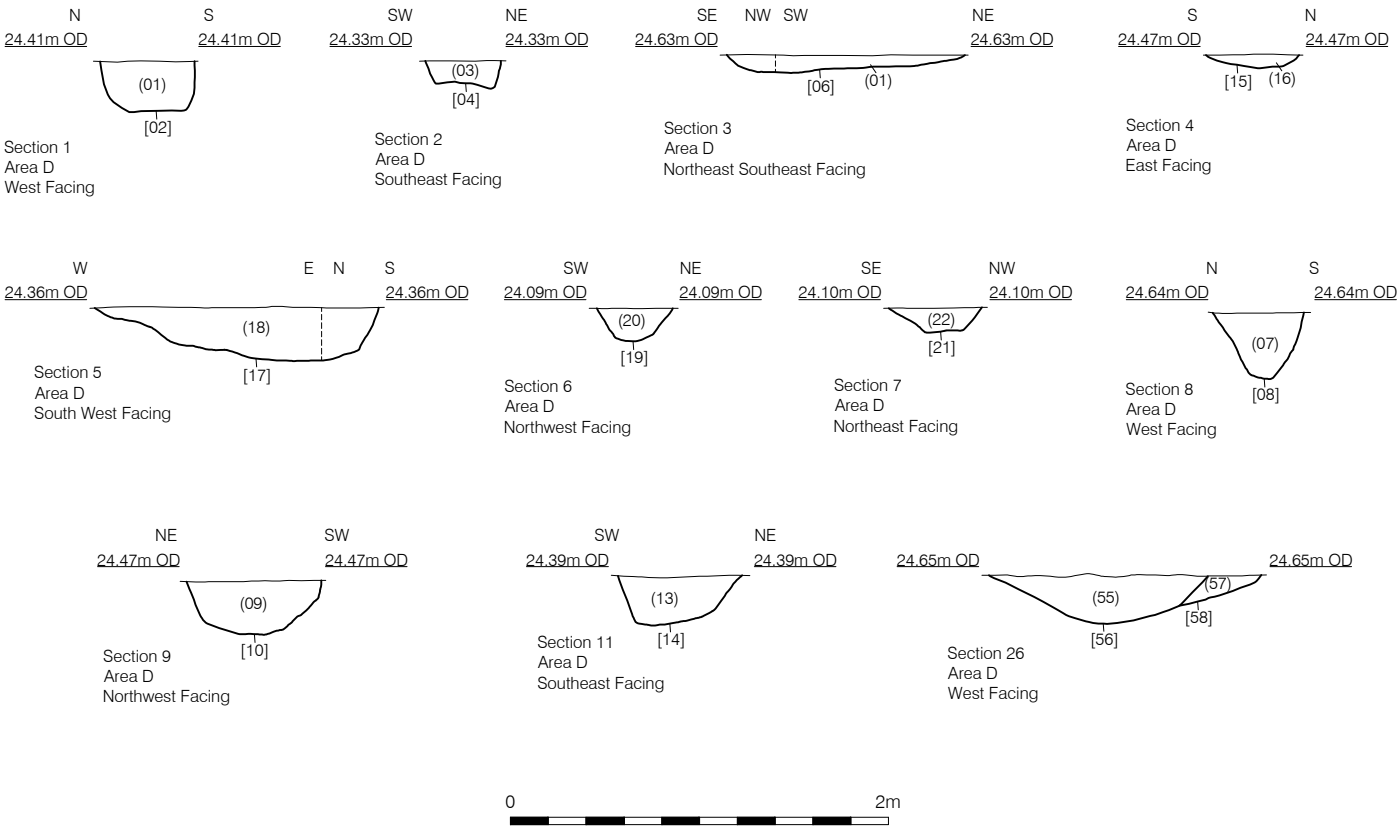
Section 31
Ring Ditch C Area D
Southwest Facing

0 2m

Figure 5
Plan of Ring Ditch B and Ring Ditch C and Sections
Inset 1:800, Plan 1:125, Section 1:40 at A4

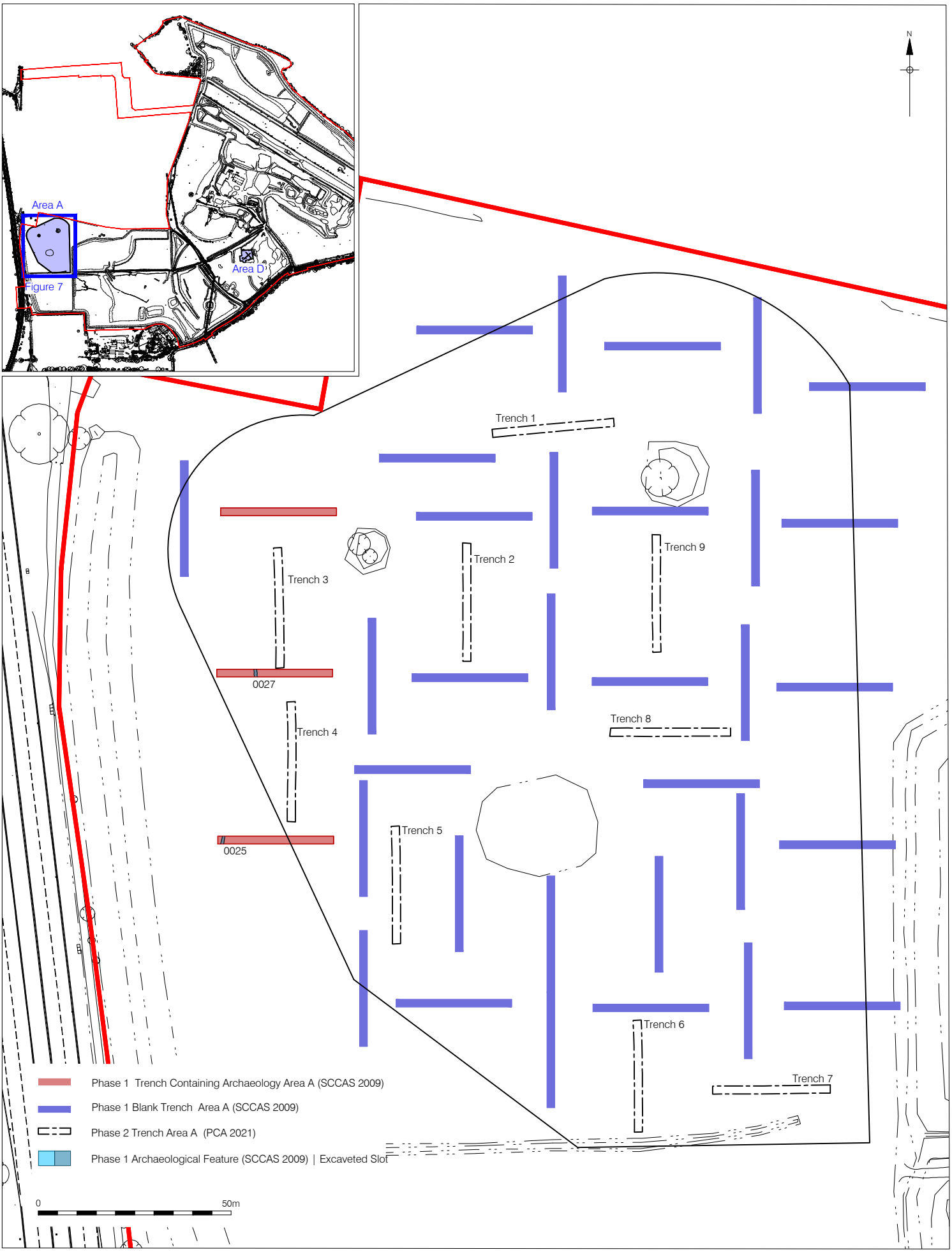
21/04/2022 JN





21/04/2022 JN

Figure 6
Plan of Area D and Sections
Inset 1:20000, Plan 1:400, Section 1:40 at A4



08/11/2022 JN

Figure 7
Plan of Area A
Inset 1:20000, Plan 1:1250 at A4

PLATES

Plate 1: View of Area D, looking northwest

Plate 2: View of Area D, looking northeast

Plate 3: View of Area D, looking southeast

Plate 4: View of Area D, looking southwest

Plate 5: Ring Ditch A partially excavated, looking west

Plate 6: Ring Ditch A north terminus, looking west

Plate 7: Ring Ditch A south terminus, looking west

Plate 8: Ring Ditch A [30], facing southwest

Plate 9: Posthole [38], looking east

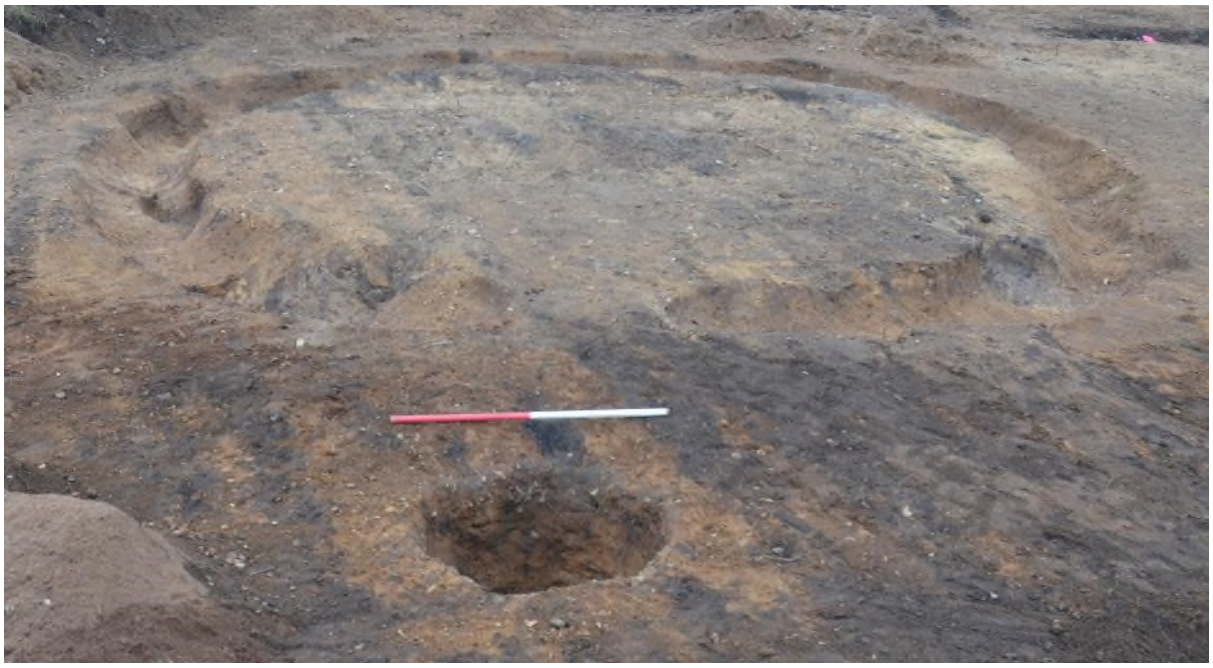


Plate 10: Ring Ditch A fully excavated, looking west

Plate 11: Posthole [38] fully excavated, looking west

Plate 12: Ring Ditch B partially excavated, looking northeast

Plate 13: Ring Ditch B [52], looking east-southeast

Plate 14: Ring Ditch B [50], looking north

Plate 15: Pit or Posthole [48], looking northwest

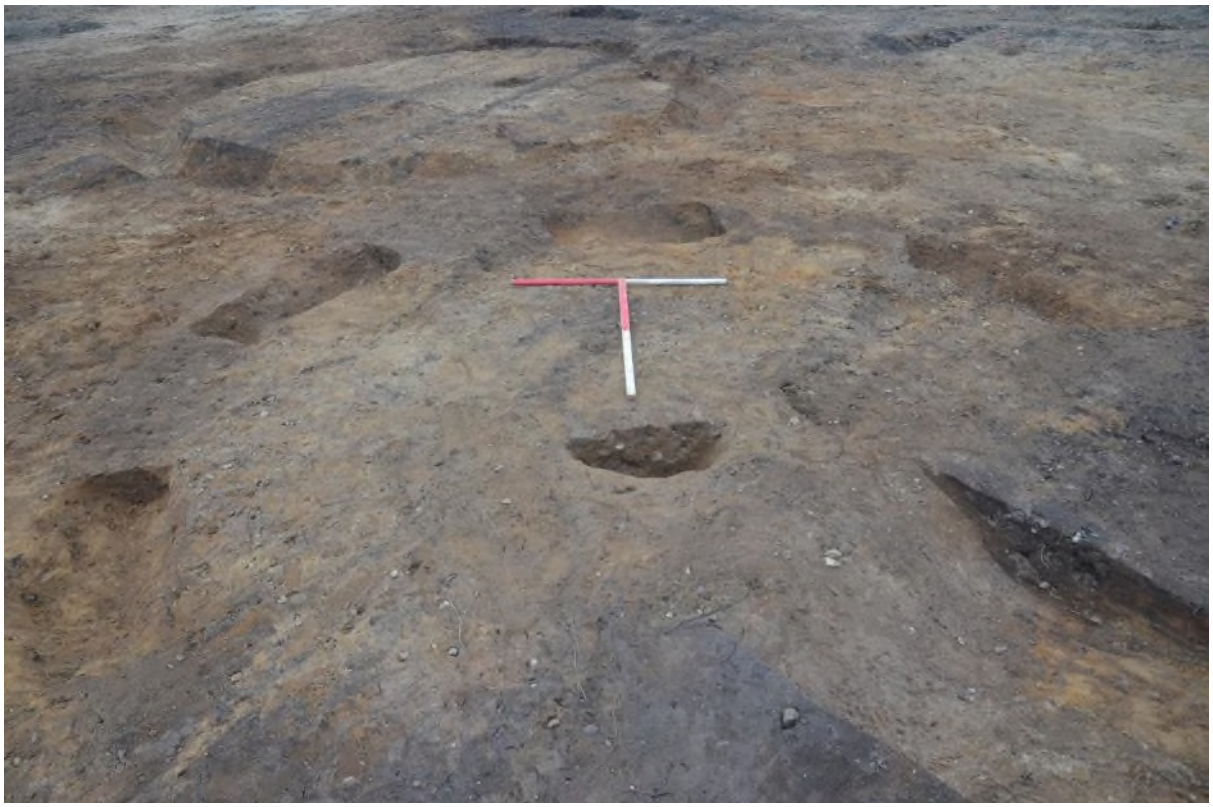


Plate 16: Ring Ditch C partially excavated, looking north-northeast

Plate 17: Ring Ditch C [60], looking north

Plate 18: Ring Ditch C [64], looking southeast

Plate 19: Pit or Posthole [68], looking northeast

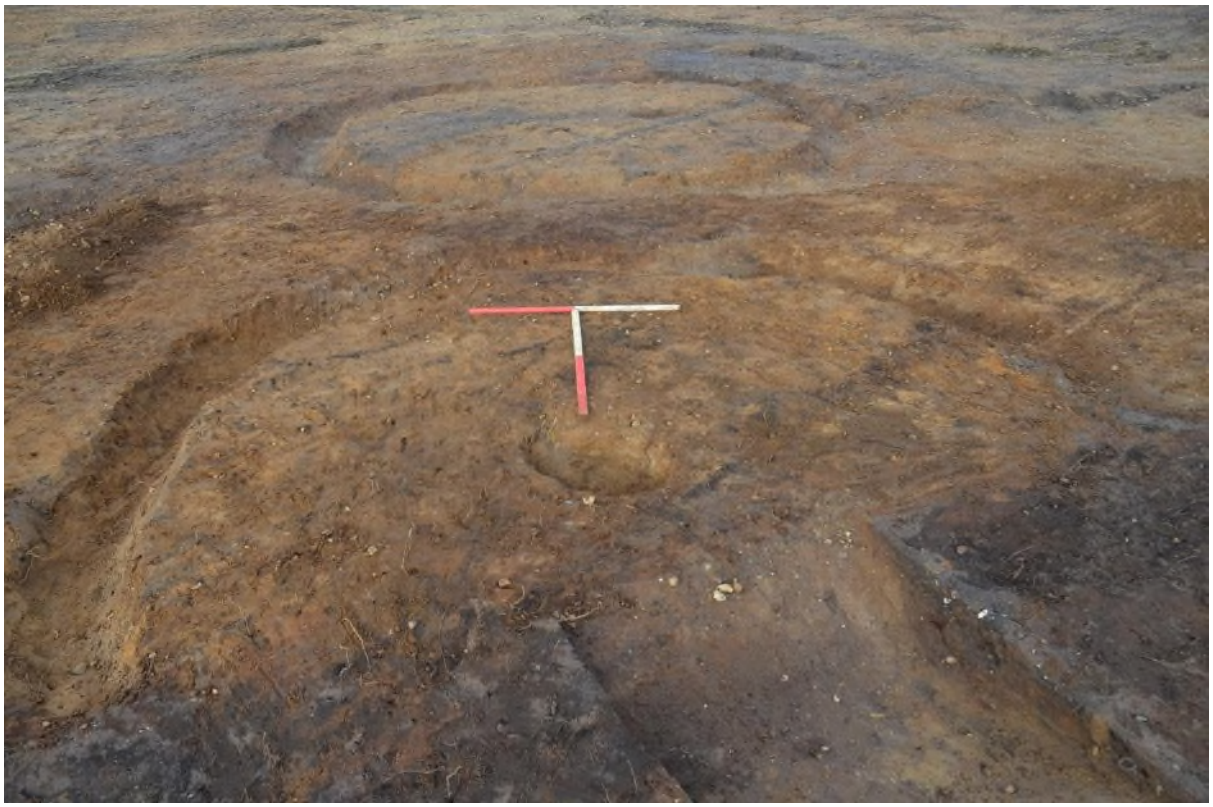


Plate 20: Ring Ditches B and C fully excavated, looking north-northeast

Plate 21: Ditch [8], looking east

Plate 22: Ditch Terminus [10], looking east

Plate 23: Ditch Terminus [6], looking north-northwest

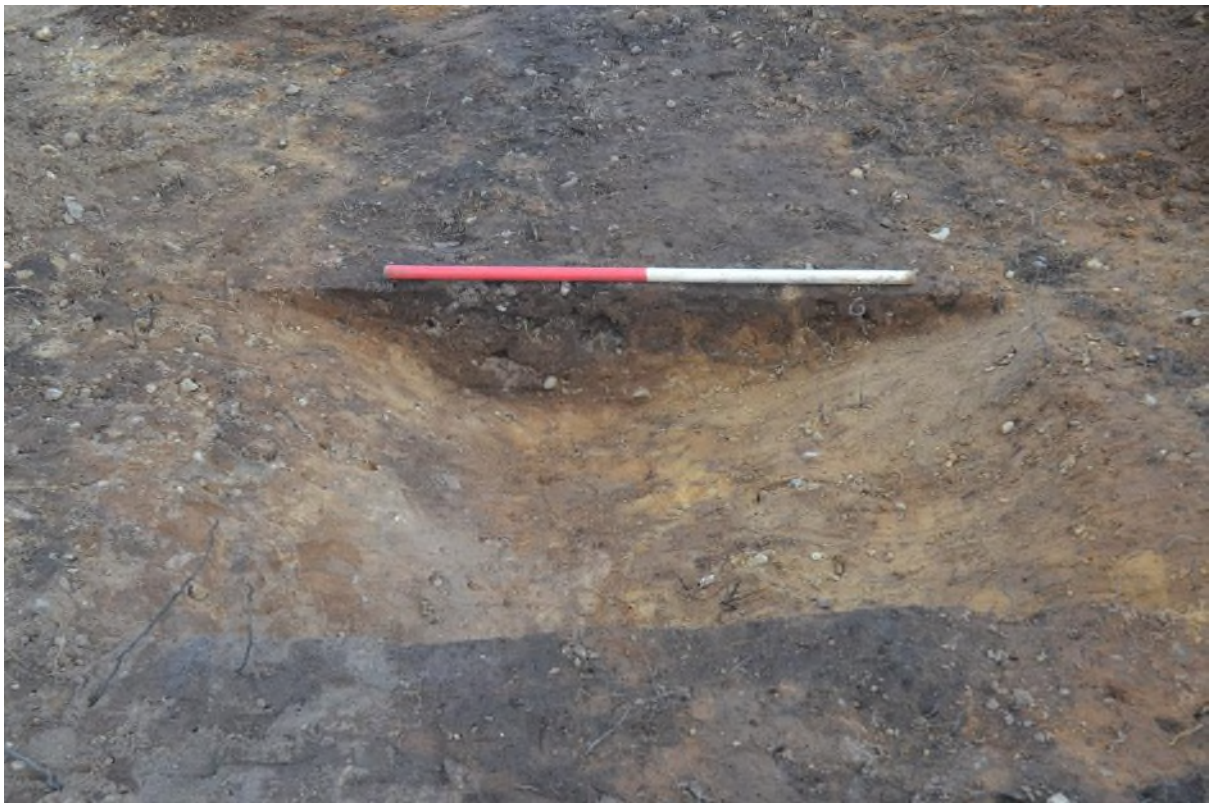


Plate 24: Ditch [58] and south side of Ring Ditch C, looking east-northeast

Plate 25: Ditch [15], looking west

Plate 26: Probable Posthole [2], looking west

Plate 27: Probable Posthole [14], looking north-northwest

Plate 28: Probable Posthole [19], looking west

Plate 29: Probable Posthole [21], looking west-southwest

Plate 30: Probable Tree Throw [17], looking east-northeast

Plate 31: Probable Tree Throw Hollow [4], looking east-northeast

Plate 32: View of Area A, looking north

Plate 33: Trench 2, looking south

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation	Other Comments
1	2	Fill	Pit		0.5	0.26	loose, dark greyish brown sandy silt, with rooting	natural infill	
2	2	Cut	Pit		0.5	0.26	circular, steep, sharp break of slope, flat base	post pit	base is very compacted as if something heavy has been stood on it
3	4	Fill	Ditch	1	0.4	0.15	loose, mid-reddish-brown sand, with occasional angular stone	natural infilling	
4	4	Cut	Ditch	1	0.4	0.15	linear, moderate sides, sharp break of slope, uneven base, NE-SW	ditch terminus	terminus of [15]
5	6	Fill	Ditch	1	0.25	0.1	loose, dark greyish brown sand, with occasional stones	natural infilling	
6	6	Cut	Ditch	1	0.25	0.1	linear, gentle sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NW-SE	ditch terminus of possible field boundary	
7	8	Fill	Natural	3.31	0.67	0.34	moderate, mid-blackish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
8	8	Cut	Natural	3.31	0.67	0.34	linear, steep sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, E-W	possible tree bole	irregular shape, not tree throw shaped but could possibly be a tree bole, or just natural
9	10	Fill	Natural	2.07	0.71	0.28	firm, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
10	10	Cut	Natural	2.07	0.71	0.28	irregular, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NW-SE	possible tree bole	irregular shape, not tree throw shaped but could be a tree bole, or just natural
11	12	Fill	Pit	0.79	0.7	0.2	firm, dark brownish black silty sand	natural infilling	
12	12	Cut	Pit	0.79	0.7	0.2	circular, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base	pit, unknown function	situated near to Ring Ditch B
13	14	Fill	Pit	0.61	0.66	0.26	firm, mid-greyish brown silty sand	natural infilling	
14	14	Cut	Pit	0.61	0.66	0.26	circular, steep sides, gradual break of slope, concave base	pit, unknown function	
15	15	Cut	Ditch	1	0.5	0.07	sub-linear (elongated), gentle sides, diffuse break of slope, flat base, E-W	natural infilling	same ditch as [4]
16	15	Fill	Ditch	1	0.5	0.07	loose, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with moderate gravel	ditch, possible boundary	elongated cut measuring roughly 20m in total
17	17	Cut	Ditch	1.2	0.75	0.28	Moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with occasional stones	natural infilling	

Context	Cut	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation	Other Comments
18	17	Fill	Ditch	1.2	0.37	0.28	sub-linear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, sloping base, E-W	ditch, unknown function	doesn't appear to be a boundary
19	19	Cut	Posthole	0.4	0.37	0.17	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with moderate gravel	natural infilling	
20	19	Fill	Posthole	0.4	0.37	0.17	sub-circular, steep sides, sharp break of slope, sloping base, NE-SW	posthole	possibly related to nearby modern pit [21]
21	21	Cut	Pit	0.7	0.31	0.12	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with moderate gravel and rooting	natural infilling	
22	22	Fill	Pit	0.7	0.31	0.12	sub-circular, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, sloping base, N-S	pit, unknown function	
23	23	Layer	Topsoil					topsoil	
24	24	Layer	Natural					natural layer	
25	26	Fill	Ditch	1.15	0.49	0.25	moderate, mid-brownish grey silty sand, with moderate stones and rooting	natural infilling	
26	26	Cut	Ditch	1.15	0.49	0.25	curvilinear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, NW-SE	ring ditch terminus	
27	28	Fill	Ditch	1	0.6	0.18	moderate, mid-brownish grey silty sand, with moderate gravel, stones and rooting	natural infilling	
28	28	Cut	Ditch	1	0.6	0.18	curvilinear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, N-S	ring ditch	
29	30	Fill	Ditch	1	0.75	0.23	moderate, mid-brownish grey silty sand, with occasional stones and rooting	natural infilling	
30	30	Cut	Ditch	1	0.75	0.23	curvilinear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, sloping base, E-W	ring ditch	
31	32	Fill	Ditch	1	0.65	0.28	moderate, mid-brownish grey silty sand, with moderate gravel and rooting	natural infilling	
32	32	Cut	Ditch	1	0.65	0.28	curvilinear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, N-S	ring ditch	
33	34	Fill	Ditch	0.8	0.54	0.17	moderate, mid-brownish grey silty sand, with moderate gravel	natural infilling	
34	34	Cut	Ditch	0.8	0.54	0.17	curvilinear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, NE-SW	ring ditch terminus	
35	38	Fill	Posthole	0.73	0.62	0.5	moderate, mid-brownish grey silty sand, with occasional charcoal, rooting and stones		

Context	Cut	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation	Other Comments
36	38	Fill	Posthole	0.73	0.62	0.47	moderate, light brownish grey silty sand, with occasional charcoal, rooting and sand	natural infilling	
37	38	Fill	Posthole	0.73	0.62	0.14	compact, with occasional rooting		more compacted which could be due to a post being on top of it
38	38	Cut	Posthole	0.73	0.62	0.64	sub-circular, vertical sides, sharp break of slope, slight concave base, N-S	posthole	situated near to the entrance of Ring Ditch A
39	40	Fill	Ditch	1	0.59	0.16	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
40	40	Cut	Ditch	1	0.59	0.16	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NE-SW	ring ditch	
41	42	Fill	Ditch	1	0.54	0.15	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
42	42	Cut	Ditch	1	0.54	0.15	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, E-W	ring ditch	
43	44	Fill	Ditch	1	0.63	0.2	moderate, mid-greyish brown, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
44	44	Cut	Ditch	1	0.63	0.2	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NW-SE	ring ditch	
45	46	Fill	Ditch	1	0.73	0.23	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
46	46	Cut	Ditch	1	0.73	0.23	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NE-SW	ring ditch	
47	48	Fill	Ditch	0.4	0.35	0.12	moderate, dark brownish black silty sand	natural infilling	
48	48	Cut	Ditch	0.4	0.35	0.12	sub-circular, steep sides, gradual break of slope, concave base	pit, unknown function	
49	50	Fill	Ditch	1	0.66	0.2	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
50	50	Cut	Ditch	1	0.66	0.2	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NE-SW	ring ditch	damaged by plough scar
51	52	Fill	Ditch	1	0.68	0.21	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty	natural infilling	

Context	Cut	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation	Other Comments
							sand, with rare very small, rounded stones		
52	52	Cut	Ditch	1	0.68	0.21	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NW-SE	ring ditch	damaged by plough scar
53	54	Fill	Ditch	1	0.84	0.29	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
54	54	Cut	Ditch	1	0.84	0.29	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, NW-SE	ring ditch	damaged by plough scar
55	56	Fill	Ditch	1	1.44	0.26	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with rare very small, rounded stones	natural infilling	
56	56	Cut	Ditch	1	1.44	0.26	linear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, E-W	ditch, unknown function	cuts one edge of Ring Ditch C
57	58	Fill	Ditch	1	0.45	0.16	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand	natural infilling	
58	58	Cut	Ditch	1	0.45	0.16	curvilinear, moderate sides, gradual break of slope, concave base, E-W	ring ditch	
59	60	Fill	Ditch	1	0.39	0.15	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with moderate gravel, stones and roots	natural infilling	
60	60	Cut	Ditch	1	0.39	0.15	curvilinear, sloped sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, E-W	ring ditch	
61	62	Fill	Ditch	1	0.42	0.17	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with occasional gravel, stones and rooting	natural infilling	
62	62	Cut	Ditch	1	0.42	0.17	curvilinear, gentle sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, NW-SE	ring ditch	
63	64	Fill	Ditch	1	0.59	0.2	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with occasional stones	natural infilling	
64	64	Cut	Ditch	1	0.59	0.2	curvilinear, gentle sides, gradual break of slope, slight concave base, NE-SW	ring ditch	
65	66	Fill	Ditch	1	0.36	0.12	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand, with occasional stone, gravel, roots	natural infilling	
66	66	Cut	Ditch	1	0.36	0.12	curvilinear, gentle sides, gradual break	ring ditch	

Context	Cut	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation	Other Comments
							of slope, concave base, E-W		
67	68	Fill	Posthole		0.59	0.26	moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand with patches of yellowish-brown sand, with moderate medium sub-rounded stones, frequent bioturbation	natural infilling	
68	68	Cut	Posthole		0.59	0.26	sub-circular/oval-shaped, steep sides, sharp break of slope, concave base	posthole	situated in the centre of Ring Ditch C

APPENDIX 2: LITHIC CATALOGUE

Context	Sample	Feature	Group	Chip <10mm	Flake	Blade: prismatic	Flake fragment <10mm	Unworked burnt stone (no.)	Unworked burnt stone (wt:g)	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Suggested date range	Comments
25	<1>	Ditch 26	Ring ditch A			1				Translucent light brown	None	Good	Meso/ENeo	Small, distal end missing but appears systematically produced
25	<1>	Ditch 26	Ring ditch A				1			Translucent dark grey	None	Good	Meso-EBA	Small mesial fragment, possibly from a blade?
35	<6>	Posthole 38		1						Translucent light brown	None	Chipped	Preh.	Knapping shatter
35	<6>	Posthole 38						2	4	Unknown	Smooth rolled	Burnt	Undated	Heavily burnt small rounded pebbles of flint
36	<7>	Posthole 38		1						Translucent light brown	None	Chipped	Preh.	Small flake, possibly from platform edge trimming?
36	<7>	Posthole 38					1			Translucent light brown	None	Chipped	Preh.	Small fragment from the distal end of a flake
36	<7>	Posthole 38			1					Translucent dark brown	Smooth rolled	Slightly chipped	Meso-EBA	Small but competently struck flake
36	<7>	Posthole 38						2	3	Unknown	None	Burnt	Undated	Heavily burnt flint

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL RESIDUES

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare fg = fragment

RD = ring ditch ph/pp = post hole/post pipe U/D = undated

L.Neo/EBA/LBA/EIA = Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

G = grain CH = charcoal N/A = nothing collected

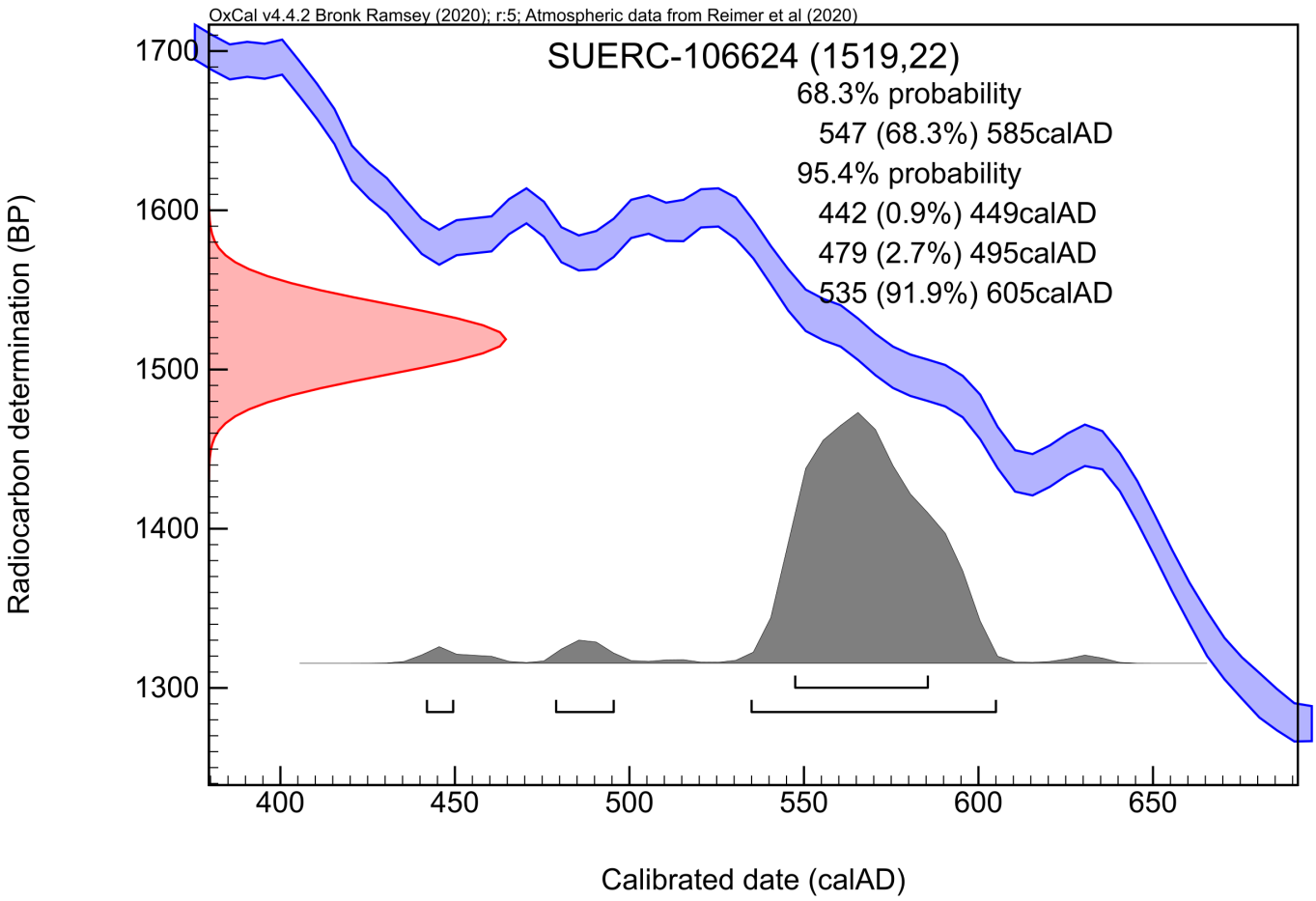
L/M/H = low/medium/high

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
Context No.	**25**	**33**	**27**	**29**	**31**	**35**	**36**	**45**	**49**	**41**	**47**	**67**
Feature No.	**26**	**34**	**28**	**30**	**32**	**38**	**38**	**46**	**50**	**42**	**48**	**68**
Feature type	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**ph/pp**	**ph/pp**	**RD**	**RD**	**RD**	**Pit/ph**	**ph**
Group	**RDA**	**RDA**	**RDA**	**RDA**	**RDA**	**RDA**	**RDA**	**RDB**	**RDB**	**RDB**		**RDC**
Date	**U/D**	**U/D**	**U/D**	**U/D**	**U/D**	**L.NEO/EBA**	**L.NEO/EBA**	**?LBA/EIA**	**?LBA/EIA**	**?LBA/EIA**		
Cereals												
Hordeum sp. (rachis node)	xcf											
Triticum sp. (grains)	x			x								
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		x	xcffg					xcffg			
Dry land herbs												
Small Poaceae indet.	x	x	x									
Heathland plants												
Calluna vulgaris L. (capsule)		x										
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	x	x	x				xcf				xcf	x
Pteridium aquilinum (L.)Kuhn (Pinnule frag.)		xcf										
Other plant macrofossils												
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xx	x	x	x	xxxx	xxx	x	xxx	x		
Charcoal >5mm	xx	x	x		x	xxxx	xxx	x	x	x		

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
Charcoal >10mm	x				x	xxxx	xxxx		x			
Charcoal >40mm							x					
Charred root/stem	x	xx		x			x		x	x		
Indet. rhizome/tuber frag.								xcf				
Indet. seeds				x								
Other remains												
Black porous material	x	x	x	x	x			x		x		x
Burnt/fired clay								x				
Burnt stone							x					
Pottery						x						
Sample volume (litres)	**36**	**38**	**32**	**36**	**31**	**31**	**18**	**32**	**36**	**18**	**5**	**5**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**2**	**0.4**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**<10%**	**25%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Material removed for potential C14	G	N/A	G	G	N/A	CH	STEM	N/A	N/A	STEM	STEM	N/A
Estimated potential	L/M	N/A	L	L	N/A	M/H	L/M	N/A	N/A	L	L	N/A

APPENDIX 4: RADIOCARBON AGE DETERMINATION



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal20 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*

† Reimer et al. (2020) *Radiocarbon 62(4) pp.725-57*

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

Summary for preconst1-433505

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-433505
Project Name	Land South and East of Adastral Park, Martlesham, Suffolk
Sitename	Land South and East of Adastral Park, Martlesham
Activity type	EVALUATION, Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	XSFADP21
Planning Id	DC/17/1435/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	25-Oct-2021 - 12-Nov-2021
Location	Land South and East of Adastral Park, Martlesham NGR : TM 25310 44452 LL : 52.052626, 1.284771 12 Fig : 625310,244452
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : East Suffolk Parish : Brightwell
Project Methodology	In Area A, nine evaluation trenches were excavated to supplement an earlier stage of trial trenching undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service in 2008. The trenches were located near the remains of a prehistoric barrow, in areas where it was considered that archaeological remains may be encountered. Despite the apparent potential, no archaeological remains were encountered in the trenches. In Area D, excavation revealed three ring ditches (Ring Ditches A-C), the surviving remains of a small Early Anglo-Saxon barrow cemetery. There were no human remains, in the form of inhumations or cremations, associated with the ring ditches, such remains having been lost due to plough truncation and the acidity of the sandy soils. A radiocarbon date obtained from charcoal taken from a posthole associated with Ring Ditch A provided a date range of 535-605calAD at 95.4% probability for the monument. Four undated pits or postholes, two probable tree throw hollows and a ditch of probable modern date were also recorded.
Project Results	This was not collected in OASIS IV when this record was originally created
Keywords	Barrow - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service;

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