Cotswold Archaeology

Land at Lawn's Farm Lytham St Anne's Lancashire

Archaeological Evaluation

for:
Landgage Heritage

on behalf of:
Lightsource Renewable Developments Limited

CA Project: CR1080
CA Report: CR1080_2

September 2022

Andover Cirencester Milton Keynes Suffolk

Land at Lawn's Farm
Lytham St Anne's
Lancashire

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Lawn's Farm
Location:	Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire
NGR:	336153 431249
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	26 April –13 May 2022
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Lancashire County Council Museum Services and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
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Between April and May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire. The evaluation, comprising the excavation of a total of 42 trenches, was carried out to inform a future planning application. The proposed site is located on Lytham Moss, in the immediate vicinity of Peel Hall Farm, in an area investigated as part of the North West Wetlands Survey. A general spread of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age lithics was recovered during fieldwalking of fields to the east and south of Peel Hall Farm, including parts of the proposed development area, while particular concentrations of waste material from flint knapping were recovered in the north part of the proposed development area, as site LA45, and to the immediate south as site LA41. At the latter, along with waste material including cores and flakes, a significant component of finely-made flint tools including arrowheads and flake knives were recovered and the site was suggested in the resulting report to potentially be associated with a now ploughed-out barrow.

A preceding geophysical survey indicated a low potential for archaeological remains other than those associated with post-medieval and modern agricultural activity.

The evaluation revealed a cremation and a likely associated small pit located in Trench 3, in an area where fieldwalking had previously identified a small flint scatter. The cremation comprised two vessels, the smaller being largely complete, dating to the Early Bronze Age. A small assemblage of burnt lithics, including two scrapers, were recovered from the cremation and likely represent 'pyre goods'. Three additional trenches were excavated radiating out from the cremation; however, no further cremations or features were revealed, suggesting this was an isolated burial with no evidence of an associated monument.

With the exception of Trench 3, the archaeological remains recorded across the rest of the site almost exclusively relate to agricultural practice during the post-medieval and modern periods. Ditches forming field boundaries, some of which correlated with those depicted on 19th century mapping of the site, were identified in a number of trenches, some of which had been deliberately backfilled, likely associated with the post-War amalgamation of smaller fields into larger ones. A pond depicted on historic mapping was exposed in Trench 12; modern waste was recovered from the backfill.

The majority of the remaining undated ditches and pits revealed by the evaluation also likely relate to this phase of activity.

Thick peat deposits were encountered in the northeast and east of site, correlating with the lower lying topography. These areas would have been subject to seasonal flooding. Two undated ditches revealed in Trenches 16 and 18, sealed by the peat, likely represent drainage features. No dating material was recovered from the peat which would have taken a prolonged period of time to accumulate to this extent.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Between April and May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire (centred at NGR: 336153 431249; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken for Landgage Heritage on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Development Limited.

1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for the development of a solar installation and associated infrastructure, which will be made to Flyde District Council (FDC).

1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions between Landgage Heritage and the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to FDC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by the AA.

1.4. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015a) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015b).

The site

1.5. The proposed development site is *c.*28ha in extent and comprises four arable fields. The site is located *c.*3km to the southeast of Blackpool, and is bounded by agricultural land to the north, east and south, and to the west by Peel Road and a commercial plot. The site slopes from east to west, approximately 11m AOD, at the western boundary, falling to 3m AOD at the northeastern boundary.

1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Kirkham Mudstone Member formed approximately 237 to 247 million years ago in the Triassic Period. This is overlain by Devensian Till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Superficial deposits of peat are mapped in the north-eastern corner of site (BGS 2022). This evaluation revealed the peat deposits extend further south than depicted on the mapping.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The archaeological background of the site has been detailed in a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (LH 2021). The following is summary of this report.

Prehistoric

2.2. The proposed site is located on Lytham Moss, in the immediate vicinity of Peel Hall Farm, in an area investigated as part of the North West Wetlands Survey. A general spread of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age lithics was recovered during fieldwalking of fields to the east and south of Peel Hall Farm, including parts of the proposed development area, while particular concentrations of waste material from flint knapping were recovered in the north part of the proposed development area, as site LA45, and to the immediate south as site LA41. At the latter, along with waste material including cores and flakes, a significant component of finely-made flint tools including arrowheads and flake knives were recovered and the site was suggested in the resulting report to potentially be associated with a now ploughed-out barrow (Middleton, R. Wells, C.E & Huckerby, E. 1995).

2.3. Mesolithic and Neolithic flint artefacts were recovered during fieldwalking undertaken ahead of the construction of Lawn's Farm, to the south of the site (HER MLA24702. Middleton 1995). However, subsequent archaeological fieldwork failed to identify any remains of interest (OA 2006).

2.4. Neolithic flint scatters are also recorded approximately 900m to the west and northwest of the site (HER MLA20148 and MLA20149 respectively). A Bronze Age hoard consisting of seven flat axes was recovered by a metal detectorist in 2019 in Lower Ballam, 250m to the east of the south-eastern corner of the site (HER MLA38529).

Early medieval and medieval

2.5. There are no records of medieval evidence within the site. Medieval evidence in the wider area consists of evidence of a potential moated site (HER MLA12819), close to an ancient settlement of Peel, which is located approximately 250m to the west of the site.

Post-medieval and modern

2.6. The HER records no evidence of post-medieval remains within the site. However, the historic mapping reviewed for the site suggests that a small farmstead, or potentially

a few cottages were present in the northern part of the site. This is evidenced by the 1840 Wesby Tithe Map and the 1847 OS map of the site (LH 2021 pp30).

Archaeological trial trenching

2.7. Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 2006, prior to the construction of Lawn's Farm immediately to the south of the southern boundary of site. The trial trench evaluation revealed modern field drains and associated drainage gullies, discrete pits and ditched linear field boundaries associated with modern agriculture.

Geophysical Survey

2.8. A geophysical survey was conducted across the current site (MS 2021) which identified anomalies of agricultural origin, including former field boundaries, drainage features and modern ploughing. An old clay pit and infilled ponds recorded on historic maps were identified along with a similar likely related unmapped feature. The geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies likely to be of archaeological interest; however, it was noted that high magnetic readings resulting from modern activity may have masked weaker anomalies.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable FDC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork was intended to comprise the excavation of 39 trenches, each measuring 40m in length and 1.8m in width (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. With the approval of the client and the AA, three additional trenches were subsequently excavated extending from Trench 3, in order to identify

and investigate any additional features associated with a cremation identified in that trench.

4.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.

4.3. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites.*

4.4. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.5. CA will make arrangements with Lancashire County Council Museum Services for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014b; updated October 2020).

4.6. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.

5.2. The natural geological substrate, consisting of a mix of brown pink, brown yellow and blue grey silty clay, was encountered at an average of 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl) across most of the site.

5.3. The stratigraphy of the trenches varied across the site. Within trenches 24, 26, 29 and 32-39 the natural substrate was sealed by the topsoil, comprising mid grey brown clay silt with an average thickness of 0.28m. The natural substrate in trenches 1-16, 23 25 28, 30 and 31 was overlain by a layer of subsoil, comprising mid yellow brown clay silt and averaging 0.19m thick, which was then sealed by the topsoil. Within trenches 17-22 in the northeast of the site and Trench 27 in the east the natural substrate was overlain by deposits of dark brown peat measuring up to 1.4m thick. Topsoil sealed the peat deposits in all of these trenches apart from Trench 27, where two layers of clay totalling 0.5m thick had been deliberately deposited, presumably to build-up and stabilise the ground. This made ground was subsequently sealed by topsoil.

5.4. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed within Trenches 2, 4-8, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-22, 24, 26-31 and 36.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

5.5. Partially exposed pit 103, located centrally to the trench, was sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The pit measured 1.1m long by over 0.65m wide with a depth of 0.12m. No finds were recovered from the single fill (104), comprising a mid brown grey sandy silt derived from natural silting processes.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 4)

5.6. Cremation 303 was exposed in the north-eastern end of Trench 3. Three extensions were excavated to the north, southeast and west of the trench in order ascertain if there were any further cremations or associated features.

5.7. Cremation cut 303 was circular with steep straight sides, a concave base, and measured 0.32m in diameter by 0.16m deep. It contained the remains of a heavily fragmented cremation urn 304, surrounded by a deliberate backfill deposit (305), comprising dark brown grey clay silt.

5.8. Fifty-six sherds of pottery were recovered from the cremation pit (Sample 2). Two vessels could be identified one of which, a small accessory cup, was largely complete and dates to the Early Bronze Age. The unfeatured second vessel, which was heavily

fragmented and was potentially a receptacle for the human remains, is consistent with an Early Bronze Age date. The lack of rim or base sherds may suggest a selective deposition of pot sherds as opposed to the entire vessel. Two scrapers and fifteen flint flakes were recovered from the cremation (sample 2) with the flakes showing evidence of secondary working. The flint was burnt, implying their possible presence as 'pyre goods'.

5.9. The majority of the bone was highly fragmented; however, fragments of the skull, a tooth root and limb bone shaft were sufficiently identifiable to suggest a child burial. The total weight of the bone recovered is less than that of a complete individual, likely a combination of truncation of the upper level and only a proportion of the cremated individual being buried. The bone was thoroughly cremated, consistently fully white in colour; thoroughly cremated bone being typical of Bronze Age cremation practice.

5.10. The environmental sample (2) produced a large quantity of charcoal including fragments of oak, which is often used in cremation practices due to its ability to burn at very high temperatures. The material sampled likely represents the waste material relating to the cremation process.

5.11. Pit 306, directly to the southwest of cremation 303, was of a similar size. Its fill (307) had the same characteristics as fill (305) from cremation 303, however no pot or burnt bone was evident during the excavation of the feature. On the basis of physical proximity, the pits are likely from the same phase of activity. An environmental sample (3) taken from (307) revealed a large volume of charcoal, a single hulled wheat glume base and a few fragments of hazelnut. The assemblage is compatible with an Early Bronze Age date.

5.12. The trench was located targeting a flint scatter identified by fieldwalking, LA40. However, no further flints were recovered from the trench.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2 & 3)

5.13. Two furrows were exposed in the northeastern half of Trench 9 broadly aligned east/west, consistent with the alignment of furrows in the eastern limits of the site identified by the geophysical survey and historic field boundaries directly to the north and south. Furrows 903 and 905 measured on average 0.87m wide by 0.12m deep and contained no finds.

Trench 10 (Figs. 2 & 3)

5.14. Ditch 1003 and recut 1005 were located at the northern end of Trench 10, aligned east/west and corelating with a field boundary ditch shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1847. Ditch 1003 had moderate straight sides with a concave base and measured 1.5m wide by 0.3m deep. It was filled with secondary silting deposit (1006), comprising an undated mid grey brown silty clay.

5.15. Recut 1005 measured 1.36m wide by 0.37m deep with moderate straight sides and a concave base. It was filled with deliberate backfill 1006, comprising a mixed deposit of mid grey brown silty clay and redeposited natural, followed by a final silting deposit (1007) in the top. The backfilling may represent the amalgamation of two fields in the modern period. No finds were recovered from either ditch.

Trench 12 (Figs. 2 & 3)

5.16. Pond 1203 was partially exposed, covering 14m of the central portion of Trench 12. The pond corelates with a large anomaly identified on the geophysical survey and a pond depicted on the 1847 OS map. A sondage was hand excavated from the southern edge which exposed a moderate concave side and a depth exceeding 0.4m. It was filled by two deliberate backfill deposits, 1204 and 1205, from which burnt clay, CBM, plastic and an iron nail were recovered, all dating to the modern period.

Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

5.17. Ditch 1603 was north/south aligned and terminated within the trench. The ditch measured 0.76m wide by 0.28m deep with straight moderate sides and a concave base. No finds recovered from the two fills, 1604, a natural silting event and 1605, possibly a levelling event.

5.18. The trench was located targeting a flint scatter identified by fieldwalking, LA45. However, no further flints were recovered from the trench.

Trench 18 (Figs. 2 & 5)

5.19. Ditch 1806 was located in the north-eastern end of Trench 18, aligned east/west. The ditch measured 0.44m wide by 0.13m deep with moderate straight sides and a concave base. It contained fill 1807, comprising a dark yellow brown humic silt, similar to peat deposits 1801-1804, which sealed the ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch or overlying peat deposits likely formed by seasonal flooding.

5.20. An environmental sample (1) was taken from (1807) from which a moderately small number of uncharred weed seeds typical of wetland species often found in ponds, along river edges and in aquatic environments in ditches was recovered. Given the low-lying nature of the land in this area and environmental sample indicting an aquatic environment it is possible ditch 1806 had a drainage function.

5.21. The trench was located targeting a flint scatter identified by fieldwalking, LA44. However, no further flints were recovered from the trench.

Trench 23 (Figs. 2 & 3)

5.22. Ditch 2303 was located centrally to Trench 23 on a north/south alignment corresponding with an anomaly on the geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on historic mapping. The ditch measured 0.7m by 0.52m wide with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Ditch 2303 was filled with deliberate backfill deposit 2304, comprising mixed mid brown grey and mid brown orange silty clay, from which no finds were recovered. The backfilling may represent the amalgamation of two fields in the modern period.

Trench 25 (Figs. 2, 3 & 6)

5.23. Ditch 2503 was located at the northern end of Trench 25 and aligned northwest/southeast. The ditch measured 0.44m wide by 0.13m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from fill 2504, a mid grey brown silty clay formed through natural silting.

Trench 32 (Figs. 2, 3 & 6)

5.24. North/south aligned ditches 3202 and 3204 were located in the north-western and central areas of Trench 32 respectively. Ditch 3204, which correlates with a weak anomaly on the geophysical survey, was irregular in plan measuring 1.31m wide by 0.47m deep with steep concave east side and moderate west side with a concave base. Fill 3205, comprising a mid brown grey clay silt with patches of white and yellow, contained no finds. The ditch, aligned parallel to a post-medieval boundary, is likely related to this phase of activity.

5.25. Ditch 3202 was recorded in plan only, measuring 2.1m wide and filled with (3203) comprising dark grey brown clay silt. The ditch correlates with a field boundary identified on historic mapping.

Trench 33 (Figs. 2, 3 & 4)

5.26. Ditch 3302 was aligned north/south and correlates with an anomaly on the geophysical survey representing a continuation of boundary ditch 3202. The ditch, recorded in plan only, measured 2.8m wide and filled with a dark brown grey silty clay (3303).

5.27. Possible pit 3304 was partially exposed in the eastern half of Trench 33. It was ovoid in plan with shallow concave sides and a flat base. Measuring 1.87m wide by more than 0.34m long with a depth of 0.21m, it contained a single fill comprising mid grey brown clay silt from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 34 (Figs. 2, 3 & 7)

5.28. Aligned east/west, ditch 3402 and two associated recuts, 3404 and 3406, was located in the northern half of Trench 34. Ditch 3204 had moderate concave sides and a concave base and measured 0.59m wide by 0.2m deep. Fill 3403, comprising mid brown grey sandy silt, was cut by ditch 3404. Ditch 3204 had steep straight sides with a concave base and measured 0.67m wide by 0.5m deep. It was filled by natural silting deposit, 3405, comprising mid orange brown clay silt. Ditch 3406, the final phase of re-cutting, had steep concave sides and a concave base, measuring 1.08m wide by 0.53m deep. Ditch 3406 was filled by silting deposit, 3407 and 3408, possibly a backfilling event. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these ditches.

5.29. The ditches likely form a boundary which is not identified on either the geophysical survey or historic mapping. It is possible that this boundary, which aligns with ditches 1005 and 1007, relates to an earlier field layout.

Trench 35 (Figs. 2 & 3)

5.30. Pit 3503 was partially exposed in the southern half of Trench 35. It was sub-circular in plan with moderate straight sides and a concave base and measured 0.75m long by over 0.37m wides and 0.2m deep. The fill ,3503, comprised dark grey brown clay silt that produced no dating evidence.

Trench 37 (Figs. 2 & 3)

5.31. Ditch 3702, a continuation of ditches 3204 and 3404, was located centrally to the trench, aligned north/south. The ditch correlates with an anomaly on the geophysical survey and a former field boundary depicted on historic mapping. The ditch was recorded in plan only, measuring 2.6m wide and filled by a dark grey brown clay silt, from which no finds were recovered (3703).

Trench 38 (Figs. 2 & 3)

5.32. Ditch 3802, broadly aligned east/west, was located centrally within the trench. The ditch correlates with an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and a former field boundary shown historic mapping. Recorded in plan, only the ditch measured 2.4m wide and was filled with 3803, comprising an undated dark orange brown clay silt.

Trench 39 (Fig. 2, 3 & 7)

5.33. Ditch 3902 ran through the southeastern half of Trench 39 on a northeast/southwest alignment and corelated with a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and a field boundary depicted on historic mapping. The ditch measured 2.23m wide with steep straight sides and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m without reaching the base.

5.34. The ditch contained a series of silting deposits that had accumulated before it was deliberately backfilled with redeposited natural substrate (3908). The final fill, (3909), which has similar characterises to the silting deposits identified on site, is most likely part of the backfilling and levelling phase. Three sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from 3909, dating to post *c.*1780, and a fragment of post-medieval CBM was recovered from 3908.

5.35. Pit 3910 was partially exposed in the centre of Trench 39. The pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.55m long by over 0.68m wide with shallow sides and an undulating base, up to 0.18m deep. It contained two fills, 3911 and 3912, comprising dark brown grey silty clay and light green grey sandy silt respectively. No finds or dating evidence was recovered from either deposit.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. Artefactual material, listed in appendix B and further described below, was recorded from four deposits. The earliest and the most significant material was associated with cremation burial 303 and consists of quantities of prehistoric pottery and worked flint. The finds have been recorded in accordance with the CIfA Finds Toolkit (CIfA 2021). The pottery and other material were recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet from which appendix B/ Table 2 has been adapted.

Lithics

6.2. Worked flint was recorded from 305 of cremation burial 303 (soil sample <2>). All was fully calcined as the result of exposure to fire, quite possibly from the cremation process. Two scrapers were identifiable, one of which was broken, in three joining fragments (Figs 8 & 9). The scrapers are of similar, elongate form (33-34mm in length and 18-19mm wide) and made from relatively thick, cortical flakes. The broken example features abrupt retouch to its full circumference. The second example is retouched in a similar manner to its distal and one of its longer edges only. The remaining material is made up 15 fragments, including small chips and spalls, which derive from an uncertain number of flakes, none of which exhibit clear signs of secondary working or utilization.

Pottery

6.3. Pottery amounting to 59 sherds (315g) was recorded, all but 3 sherds (9g) coming from cremation burial 303. Burial 303 was much truncated, with the result that the associated artefactual material was recovered from a bulk soil sample (<2>).

6.4. Two vessels could be identified from feature 303 (fill 305), one of which, a small accessory cup, is substantially complete (Fig 12). The second vessel (304) is heavily fragmented and comprises unfeatured bodysherds only (Figs 10 & 11). The thickness of the sherds (10-12mm) indicates a substantial vessel, which potentially served as the receptacle for the cremated remains. The lack of base or rim sherds indicates the whole vessel was not placed within the cremation pit. Its fabric, described in appendix B (RT1) is consistent with the Early Bronze Age date suggested for the accessory cup. It most likely represents a vessel in the Food Vessel style, a tradition commonly recorded from burials in northern England, often in association with accessory cups (Gibson 2007). The accessory occurs in a slightly finer fabric (RT2) compared to the larger vessel. It survives to its full height of 45mm and measures 62mm in diameter. It is undecorated, of simple bipartite form, with slightly concave neck and rounded rim above. The absence of decoration and bipartite form, which is reminiscent of Food Vessel styles, are features shared with accessory vessels from northern England and Wales. Dating corresponding to that of the Food Vessel series (*c.* 2000–1500 BC) can be suggested.

6.5. Pottery of modern dating was recorded from a single deposit, ditch fill 3909. The three unfeatured sherds (9g), occur in a yellow ware/Mocha type ware, a type dateable after *c.* 1780/1800.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.6. Five featureless fragments of brick or tile (54g) for which broad, post-medieval or modern dating, can be suggested, were recorded from two deposits (appendix B).

Other finds

6.7. A nail, probably of mild steel and of modern (6") type was recorded from deposit 1205.

Summary

6.8. Clearly the most significant elements among the small artefactual assemblage are the pottery and lithics associated with cremation burial 303. The substantially complete accessory vessel from this feature supports an Early Bronze Age date. The associated lithics, including two scrapers, were burnt, implying their possible presence as 'pyre goods'.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Cremated human bone

7.1. A single deposit of cremated human bone was recovered from pit 303 (Trench 3, fill 305 sample 2). This feature is dated to the Early Bronze Age by the pottery urn (see finds report) which contained the cremated bone, two burnt flint scrapers and a small accessory vessel or cup.

7.2. The total weight of the cremated bone recovered was 138.5g. This is a very low weight of bone recovered when compared to the potential total weight of bone for an adult from a modern crematorium which can vary from about 1000 to 3600g (McKinley 2000, 404). However, the size of the long bone shaft fragments and thin cranial fragments suggest that this may be a child, and therefore the original total weight of bone will have been less.

7.3. The total weight though still falls short of the complete individual. The surviving feature was though truncated vertically, which may have contributed to some loss of bone. However, it is frequently found that 50% or less of the bone available after cremation is included in the burial (McKinley 2000). So, it is unlikely that the entire cremated individual was originally deposited in the ground.

7.4. The edges of the cremated bone were heavily abraded which suggests that taphonomic factors may have played a role reducing the quantity of bone, in particular spongy bone which is more susceptible to destruction.

7.5. The majority of bone was in the 5-2mm (Table 3) fraction size, followed by the 10-5mm, indicating very high fragmentation levels. The largest fragment was 23 x 10mm this is well below the average, 45.2mm (McKinley 1994, 340-1), and the same study found that on average 50% of the bone was over 10mm, which is not the case with this deposit of cremated bone. It is a further indication of the high fragmentation level. Most fragmentation occurs during and after excavation (McKinley 1994: 341). However, the low weights of bone mean that any apparent patterns may be over inflated.

7.6. The small size and abraded nature of the bone, combined with the low quantity has meant that few fragments of bone could be confidently identified to skeletal element. There were three cranial fragments, and one tooth root identified, and limb bone shafts (Table 4). Cranial fragments are easy to identify, even down the smallest fragment and are often the highest quantity, so do not necessarily infer a selection bias.

7.7. The bone was consistently fully white in colour which indicates full oxidation of the bone. This is only achieved by temperatures of over 600°C (McKinley 2004) for enough time, usually several hours. Thoroughly cremated bone is quite typical for the Bronze Age, where it was clearly important that the entire individual was reduced to the full white colour.

7.8. The few cranial fragments and long bone shafts indicated a small size of individual, and most likely a child. There were no repeated elements or different age/size parts to suggest more than one individual.

Discussion

7.9. Bronze Age burials are occasionally located isolated, but more commonly found in small groups, any ground disturbance in the area around the location of the burial should take this into consideration. Cremation burials in the Bronze Age are commonly found in association with a barrow, although flat cemeteries are also known. Barrows (with associated cremation burials) are more commonly found in upland areas but were also once common in lowland areas but later farming activities have largely removed any evidence of them (Middleton 1996, 49). A similar urn with decorated accessory cup (or incense cup as it was described) was found at Betchton, Cheshire in 1928 (Newstead 1939), though no details regarding the cremated bone were made other than to say there were fragments of skull and long bones. Cremation

burials with these accessory vessels (also known as pygmy cups) have been associated with children, but they are also found with adults (Gibson 2007). It is likely that the cremation burial found in Trench 3 was that of a child.

7.10. Walsh (2013) attempted to examine non-adult burials (inhumation and cremation) from the Bronze Age period in the north of England, but was limited by the lack of data (only 22 non-adults in the cremation sample), the only pattern observed was that in Lancashire they were most often buried alone (not with an adult) and all four of those deposited alone had included in the burial an object (e.g., flint, flint knife, pot or urn).

Methodology

7.11. Standard methodology and reporting were followed McKinley 2004, Mays *et al.* 2018, Mitchell and Brickley 2017.

7.12. The sample was processed as environmental sample, which involved wet sieving using flotation and 0.5mm residue mesh. The dry bone was then removed from the sample and sieved through 10, 5 and 2mm mesh size. The weight of the bone retained in each fraction and spit was recorded and its percentage of the total weight of the cremation was calculated. This enabled the degree of fragmentation to be quantified in each cremation.

7.13. The bones retained from each sieve size were examined in detail and sorted into the following identifiable bone groups: skull (including mandible and dentition); axial (clavicle, scapula, ribs, vertebra and pelvic elements); upper limb and lower limb. The separation of the bone into these groups helps illuminate any deliberate bias in the skeletal elements collected for burial. Each sample was weighed on digital scales and details of colour and largest fragment were recorded. Where possible, the presence of individual bones within the defined bone groups was noted. Any unidentifiable fragments of long bone shafts or cancellous bone, which are often the majority recovered from cremations, were weighed and incorporated into any subsequent quantitative analysis. The prevalence of unidentifiable bone is largely dependent on the degree of fragmentation, whereby larger fragments are easier to identify than smaller ones.

7.14. It must also be taken into consideration that some skeletal elements are more diagnostic and more easily identifiable than others and, therefore, more often

recorded. This may create bias in calculations of the relative quantities of skeletal elements collected for burial.

7.15. Fragments below a certain size are not distinguishable as to whether they are human or animal except microscopically or chemically.

7.16. Age estimations from cremated remains are dependent on the survival of particular age diagnostic elements, which did not occur in this instance. Sex estimation of adult burnt bone relies on the preservation of specific elements and is uncommon in cremated material. The quantity of warping and shrinkage of the bone during the cremation process must also been taken into consideration when estimating sex using the standard analytical techniques used on dry bone.

Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

7.17. Two bulk environmental samples (20 litres of soil) and a single column sample (2 litres of soil) were processed from Trenches 3 and 18, from cremation pit 303, pit 306, and ditch 1806 (respectively). This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The bulk environmental samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2) for the recovery of charred material, and the column sample was processed by wet sieving (250 micron mesh size) (CA Technical Manual No.2) for the recovery of waterlogged material.

7.18. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 5 for the bulk samples and Table 6 for the column sample, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals.

7.19. The flots from the bulk samples were moderate to large in size with low to high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material displayed varying levels of preservation, with much of the charcoal being silt/iron impregnated and comminuted. Consequently, the potential for C14 dating using this material is as a result limited.

Trench 3

Cremation pit 303

7.20. Sample 2 of cremation pit 303 contained a single tuber stem and fragment alongside a very small number of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) seeds. A large quantity of charcoal was noted and includes fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) wood. This assemblage is compatible with the Early Bronze Age date for the feature.

Pit 306

7.21. Fill 307 (sample 3) of pit 306 contained a single hulled wheat glume base (emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*)) as well as a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shells. A large volume of charcoal was noted in the assemblage. This assemblage would also be compatible with an Early Bronze Age date.

Trench 18

Ditch 1806

7.22. Sample 1 of ditch 1806 contained a moderately small number of uncharred weed seeds, including those of rush (*Juncus* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), and bur-reed (*Sparganium* sp.). These species are typical wetland species and are often found in ponds, along river edges and in aquatic environments in ditches. There is nothing in this assemblage that suggests a likely date for this ditch.

Summary

7.23. The charred remains recovered from cremation pit 303 are likely to be indicative of waste material relating to the cremation process. Cremated bone fragments were recovered from the sample residues and the charred assemblage contained a few tuber fragments and some oak charcoal. This is typical of a cremation related deposit. Plant tubers can be found in cremation deposits (Godwin 1984; Robinson 1988) and it is thought that some of these tubers and stems may represent material uprooted while creating a fire break around the cremation site and then used as tinder (Stevens 2008). Oak is often used as the main fuel source for cremation practices due to its ability to burn at very high temperatures.

7.24. The environmental remains recovered from sample 3 of pit 306 are likely to be indicative of a dump of hearth waste material. Due to the close proximity of this feature to cremation 306, it may also relate to funerary activities in the Early Bronze Age. No cremated bone was recorded in the assemblage.

7.25. The waterlogged remains noted from ditch 1806 indicate that the ditch permanently contained water or that this area may have been occasionally flooded. This is due to the presence of wetland seed species that are typically found in fenland type environments. The environmental remains suggest that ditch 1806 may have been used, at least occasionally, as a drainage ditch and provide an insight into the environment of the area through the flora.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. With the exception of the cremation in Trench 3, the archaeological remains recorded almost exclusively relate to agricultural practice during the post-medieval and modern periods. This is consistent with the results of the previous archaeological works undertaken on the site and directly to the south of the site. The geophysical survey, which was broadly accurate, proved more effective than the evaluation in identifying the remains of furrows associated with the former agricultural landscape, likely due to modern ploughing truncating the furrow bases, which frequently did not penetrate beneath the subsoil.

8.2. In contrast to the North West Wetlands Survey fieldwalking of parts of the site area, no lithic material was recovered from the topsoil in the trenches, the only lithic material recovered deriving from stratified features. This is likely to be in large part due to all the trench locations being in areas of pasture or mature crop, little or no topsoil being visible. Any lithic material that may have been present in the topsoil within the trenches themselves is likely to have been incorporated within the upcast in the machine bucket, assuming that after five seasons of systematic fieldwalking in the Peel Hall area significant quantities of material are still present in the ploughsoil here.

Bronze Age

8.3. Cremation 303 was identified on a natural crest at the north-eastern end of Trench 3, in an area where a flint scatter had been recorded during field walking (Fig. 3). The thickness of the cremation urn sherds, which are of an Early Bronze Age date, indicate a substantial vessel which potentially contained an accessory vessel, cremated bone and burnt flint. However, the lack of any base or rim sherds, along with the low bone weight count, would infer the whole vessel was never placed in the pit and the cremation deposit relates to a selective deposition of pot sherds. The nearly complete accessory vessel is reminiscent of Food Vessel styles dating to *c.* 2000–1500 BC and commonly recorded in burials in northern England. Cremation

burials with these accessory vessels (also known as pygmy cups) have been associated with children, consistent with the age identification of the cremated bone recovered. Analysis of burials from the Bronze Age in northern England established a pattern of non-adult burials in Lancashire often being buried alone, with an associated burial object such as worked flint.

8.4. While Bronze Age burials are more commonly found in small groups or associated with a barrow, commonly on high ground, no further cremations were visible within the trench, or subsequent extensions, to indicate this was part of a small group. While the burial was located on a small crest no evidence of a possible barrow has survived and the cremation and seemingly associated pit 306, which did not contain any pot or burnt bone to suggest it was a separate cremation, likely represents an isolated burial.

Post-medieval

8.5. The majority of the ditches revealed on site all likely relate to former field boundary ditches, with most evident on historic mapping from 1847. Three sherds of pottery recovered from ditch 3902 dating to the post-medieval period constitute the only physical dating material recovered from these features. Some of the ditches had been deliberately backfilled, likely as a result of the amalgamation of smaller fields into larger parcels in the post-World War II period.

8.6. A pond identified on historic mapping was revealed in Trench 12. Plastic found within the backfill indicate the pond was still open well into the 20 century.

Undated

8.7. Three undated ditches were exposed in Trenches 16 and 18, in the north of the site, and Trench 25, in the centre of site. Ditches 1603 and 1806 had a potential drainage function, being located in a low-lying area with a large build up a peat sealing the ditches, although given the sinuous nature of ditch 1806 then formation as the result of water run-off/ erosion is equally possible. No dating material was recovered from the peat layer, however, the considerable build-up sealing the ditches would suggest a prolonged period of accumulation.

8.8. The development of the peat sequences in Lytham Moss and the Peel area is explored in the North West Wetlands Survey (Middleton, R. Wells, C.E & Huckerby, E. 1995) and is generally well-understood. Analysis and associated C14 dating of cores from Peel (site 7v Peel, Lytham Moss) - providing a record of environmental/

vegetation change from the early Bronze Age and evidencing periods of marine transgression interleaved with periods of peat development, with the sequence from Peel 7v demonstrating a change from saltmarsh to reed swamp then to fen carr, followed by a brief reversion to marine conditions (Middleton, R. Wells, C.E & Huckerby, E. 1995, pg. 179). Assessment of peat samples from the current site, should they be viable, may have the potential to further refine or extend the sequence obtained from Peel 7v.

8.9. The alignment of ditch 2503 does not correlate with the post-medieval ditches in this area and possibly represents a separate phase of activity.

8.10. Four undated pits were identified within Trenches 1, 33, 35 and 39. All the pits were shallow and may represent natural as opposed to archaeological features.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Liam Wilson, assisted by Amy Evans, Annabel Johns, Kane Starr and Beth Moreing. This report was written by Ralph Brown. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Ed McSloy and Emma Aitken, respectively. The cremation report was written by Sharon Clough. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Julian Newman.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Fill of	Context type	Interpretive Category	Comments	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
1	101		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
1	102		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
1	103		Cut	Pit	Sub circular as seen with shallow concave sides and a flat base	1.1	>0.65	0.12
1	104	103	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt	1.1	>0.65	0.12
2	200		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
2	201		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
2	202		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
3	300		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.15
3	301		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.1
3	302		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
3	303		Cut	Cremation Cut	Circular with steep straight sides and a concave base	0.32	0.32	0.16
3	304	303	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt with moderate charcoal inclusions	0.27	0.27	0.16

3	305	303	Fill	Cremation Deposit	Firm dark brown grey clay silt with occasional small stone and frequent charcoal inclusions	0.32	0.32	0.16
3	306		Cut	Pit	Circular with steep straight sides and a concave base	0.42	0.42	0.14
3	307	307	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt with occasional large stones and frequent charcoal inclusions	0.42	0.42	0.14
4	400		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
4	401		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
4	402		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
5	500		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.15
5	501		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
5	502		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
6	600		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
6	601		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
6	602		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
7	700		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
7	701		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25

7	702		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
8	800		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
8	801		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
8	802		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
9	900		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.15
9	901		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
9	902		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
9	903		Cut	Plough Furrow	E-W Linear with a rounded end, shallow concave sides and a flat base	>2	0.85	0.07
9	904	903	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay	>2	0.85	0.07
9	905		Cut	Plough Furrow	E-W linear with straight shallow sides and a flat base	>2.5	0.9	0.17
9	906	905	Fill	Secondary Fill	Fill of possible furrow	>2.5	0.9	0.17
10	1000		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.4
10	1001		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
10	1002		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
10	1003		Cut	Ditch	E-W Linear with moderate straight	>1	1.5	0.3

					sides and a concave base			
10	1004	1003	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions	>1	1.5	0.3
10	1005		Cut	Ditch	E-W Linear with moderate straight sides and a concave base	>1	1.36	0.37
10	1006	1005	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Firm mixed mid grey brown and mid brown orange silty clay with occasional stone inclusions	>1	1.36	0.37
10	1007	1005	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions	>1	0.44	0.15
11	1100		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
11	1101		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
11	1102		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
12	1200		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
12	1201		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.15
12	1202		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
12	1203		Cut	Pond	Too large to see in plan with moderate concave sides and base not seen	>14m	>1.8	0.4
12	1204	1203	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Firm mixed mid grey brown and mid brown orange silty clay with occasional stone inclusions	>1.55	>1	0.21

12	1205	1203	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions and CBM fragments	>1.55	>1	0.38
13	1300		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
13	1301		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.15
13	1302		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
14	1400		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
14	1401		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.15
14	1402		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
15	1500		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
15	1501		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
15	1502		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
16	1600		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
16	1601		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
16	1602		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
16	1603		Cut	Ditch	N-S linear with a rounded end, moderate straight	>0.94	>0.40	0.28

					sides and a concave base			
16	1604	1603	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions	>0.94	>0.40	0.19
16	1605	1603	Fill	Secondary Fill	Soft light brown grey with white mottling, clay silt	>0.8	>0.3	0.09
17	1700		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.4
17	1701		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable dark grey brown humic clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.5
17	1702		Layer	Natural	Firm light blue grey silty clay	>40	>1.8	-
18	1800		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.32
18	1801		Layer	Peat deposit	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.18
18	1802		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable black silty humic deposit with frequent wood inclusions	>40	1.8	0.5
18	1803		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable dark grey brown silty humic deposit with frequent preserved wood	>40	1.8	0.3
18	1804		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable dark brown humic silt deposit with small wood fragment inclusions	>40	1.8	0.15
18	1805		Layer	Natural	Firm light blue grey silty clay	>40	>1.8	-
18	1806		Cut	Ditch	E-W Linear with moderate straight sides and a concave base	>1	0.44	0.15
18	1807	1806	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark yellow brown humic clay silt	>1	0.44	0.15
19	1900		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.35
19	1901		Layer	Peat deposit	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
19	1902		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable black silty humic deposit with frequent wood inclusions	>40	1.8	0.45

19	1903		Layer	Natural	Firm light blue grey silty clay	>40	>1.8	-
20	2000		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
20	2001		Layer	Peat deposit	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
20	2002		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable black silty humic deposit with frequent wood inclusions	>40	>1.8	0.5
20	2003		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable dark grey brown silty humic deposit with frequent preserved wood	>40	>1.8	0.3
20	2004		Layer	Natural	Blue grey clay	>40	>1.8	-
21	2100		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
21	2101		Layer	Peat deposit	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
21	2102		Layer	Peat deposit	Friable black silty humic deposit with frequent wood inclusions	>40	>1.8	0.45
21	2103		Layer	Natural	Firm light blue grey silty clay	>40	>1.8	-
22	2200		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
22	2201		Layer	Peat deposit	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
22	2202		Layer	Natural	Firm light blue grey silty clay	>40	>1.8	-
23	2300		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
23	2301		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
23	2302		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
23	2303		Cut	Ditch	N-S linear with moderate concave sides and a concave base	>1	0.7	0.52
23	2304	2303	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Mixed mid brown grey and mid brown orange silty clay	>1	0.7	0.52

24	2400		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.35
24	2401		Layer	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	-
25	2500		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
25	2501		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
25	2502		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
25	2503		Cut	Ditch	NW-SE linear with steep straight sides and a flat base	>1	0.44	0.13
25	2504	2503	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay with orange patches and moderate stone inclusions	>1	0.44	0.13
26	2600		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.38
26	2601		Layer	Natural	Firm light brown pink with patches of light brown yellow silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	0.08
27	2700		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.25
27	2701		Layer	Made Ground	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.2
27	2702		Layer	Made Ground	Light grey silty clay	>40	1.8	0.3
27	2703		Layer	Peat deposit	Dark grey brown clay silt peat	>40	1.8	1.1
27	2704		Layer	Peat deposit	Mid brown clay silt peat deposit	>40	1.8	0.3
28	2800		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.28
28	2801		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.1
28	2802		Layer	Natural	Reddish grey silty clay with occasional gravel patches	>40	>1.8	-
29	2900		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3

29	2901		Layer	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	-
30	3000		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.28
30	3001		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.08
30	3002		Layer	Natural	Reddish grey silty clay with occasional gravel patches	>40	>1.8	-
31	3100		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
31	3101		Layer	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.05
31	3102		Layer	Natural	Reddish grey silty clay with occasional gravel patches	>40	>1.8	-
32	3200		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.27
32	3201		Layer	Natural	Reddish grey silty clay with occasional gravel patches	>40	>1.8	-
32	3202		Cut	Ditch	N-S linear, not excavated	>3	2.1	-
32	3203	3202	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt	>3	2.1	-
32	3204		Cut	Ditch	N-S linear with moderate concave sides and a concave base	>1	1.31	0.47
32	3205	3204	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt with wite yellow mottling and occasional sub-rounded stones	>1	1.31	0.47
33	3300		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.35
33	3301		Layer	Natural	Reddish grey silty clay with occasional gravels	>40	>1.8	-
33	3302		Cut	Ditch	N-S linear, not excavated	>2	2.8	-
33	3303	3302	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay	>2	2.8	-
33	3304		Cut	Possible pit	Ovoid as seen with shallow concave sides and a flat base	>0.34	1.87	0.21

33	3305	3304	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with yellow white mottling and occasional subrounded stone inclusions	>0.34	>0.99	0.21
34	3400		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.37
34	3401		Layer	Natural	Reddish grey silty clay with occasional gravel patches	>40	>1.8	-
34	3402		Cut	Ditch	E-W linear with moderate concave sides and a concave base	>1	0.59	0.65
34	3403	3403	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions	>1	0.59	0.2
34	3404		Cut	Ditch	E-W linear with steep straight sides and a concave base	>1	0.67	0.5
34	3405	3404	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt with occasional sub rounded stone inclusions	>1	0.67	0.5
34	3406		Cut	Ditch	E-W linear with steep concave sides and a concave base	>1	1.08	0.53
34	3407	3406	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm light brown grey clay silt with mid brown grey mottling and rare sub-rounded stone inclusions	>1	0.96	0.23
34	3408	3407	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions	>1	0.99	0.4
35	3500		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.3
35	3501		Layer	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with yellow white mottling and occasional subrounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-

35	3502		Cut	Pit	Sub circular as seen with straight moderate sides and a concave base	>0.37	0.75	0.2
35	3503	3502	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions	>0.37	0.75	0.2
36	3600		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.35
36	3601		Layer	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with yellow white mottling and occasional subrounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
37	3700		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.45
37	3701		Layer	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with yellow white mottling and occasional subrounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
37	3702		Cut	Ditch	N-S linear, not excavated	>1.8	2.6	-
37	3703	3702	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt	>1.8	2.6	-
38	3800		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.33
38	3801		Layer	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with yellow white mottling and occasional subrounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-
38	3802		Cut	Ditch	NE-SW linear, not excavated	>1.8	2.4	-
38	3803	3802	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark orange brown clay silt	>1.8	2.4	-
39	3900		Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	>40	>1.8	0.33
39	3901		Layer	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay silt with yellow white mottling and occasional subrounded stone inclusions	>40	>1.8	-

39	3902		Cut	Ditch	NE-SW linear with steep straight sides and the base not seen	>1	2.23	>1.2
39	3903	3902	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone and waterlogged organic material inclusions	>1	0.98	>0.28
39	3904	3902	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with waterlogged organic material inclusions	>1	0.48	0.14
39	3905	3902	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with waterlogged organic material inclusions	>1	0.45	0.17
39	3906	3902	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm mid grey orange silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions	>1	0.98	0.31
39	3907	3902	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm mid orange grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions	>1	1.02	0.24
39	3908	3902	Fill	Deliberate Backfill	Firm mixed yellow orange silty clay with light grey patches and moderate sub-angular stone inclusions	>1	2.13	0.44
39	3909	3902	Fill	Tertiary Fill	Friable mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions	>1	2.06	0.27
39	3910		Cut	Possible pit	Circular as seen with straight shallow sides and a undulating base	1.55	>0.68	0.18
39	3911	3910	Fill	Secondary Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay	>0.77	>0.68	0.09
39	3912	3910	Fill	Secondary Fill	Friable light green grey with brown orange mottling sandy silt	>0.67	>0.4	0.09

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Summary

Type	Category	Count	Weight(g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	56	306
	Modern*	3	9
CBM	Post-Medieval/modern*	5	54
Metal (objects)	Ferrous*	1	26
Flint	worked	17	18
Other	Plastic*	1	1

*will not be retained

Table 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Material	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
304/5	Pottery	Accessory cup (fabric RT2)	5	106	EBA
<2>	Pottery	Urn (Fabric RT1)	51	200	
	Flint	Scraper (burnt)	1	6	
	Flint	Scraper (burnt)	1	7	
	Flint	Flakes/spalls (burnt)	15	5	
1205	Plastic	Colourless, flat	1	1	Mod.
	CBM	Tile fragment	1	35	
	CBM	Brick fragment	2	17	
	Fe.	6” nail; round-sectioned	1	26	
3908	CBM	Brick/tile	2	2	Pmed/mod.
3909	Pottery	Yellow ware	3	9	C19+

Prehistoric Pottery Fabrics

RT1 Soft, with light brown surfaces, hackly fracture and harsh feel. Contains abundant, well-sorted inclusions of angular quartzite or chert (1.5-2.5mm) and sparser shale and possible grog.

RT2 Soft, with orange brown surfaces/core, hackly fracture and harsh feel. Contains common, well-sorted inclusions of angular quartzite or chert (1-2mm) and sparser shale and possible grog.

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Table 3: Cremated bone deposit total weight by fraction size

Context	Sample number	Cut number	Total Weight of cremated bone (g)	<10mm (g)	10-5mm (g)	5-2mm (g)
305	2	303	138.5	5.7 (4.1%)	57.5 (41.5%)	75.3 (54.4%)

Table 4: Total weight of bone by skeletal area

Context	Cranial	Axial	Upper limb	Lower limb	Unidentified
303	0.7g	0g	0g	0g	137.8g

Table 5 Assessment of charred remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 3												
Cremation pit 303	304/305	2	20	45	80	-	-	-	*	cf. tuber stem; cf. tuber; *Avena/Bromus*	****/****	-
Pit 306	307	3	10	285	15	-	*	hulled wheat glume base	*	*Corylus avellana*	*****/*****	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

Table 6 Assessment of waterlogged environmental remains

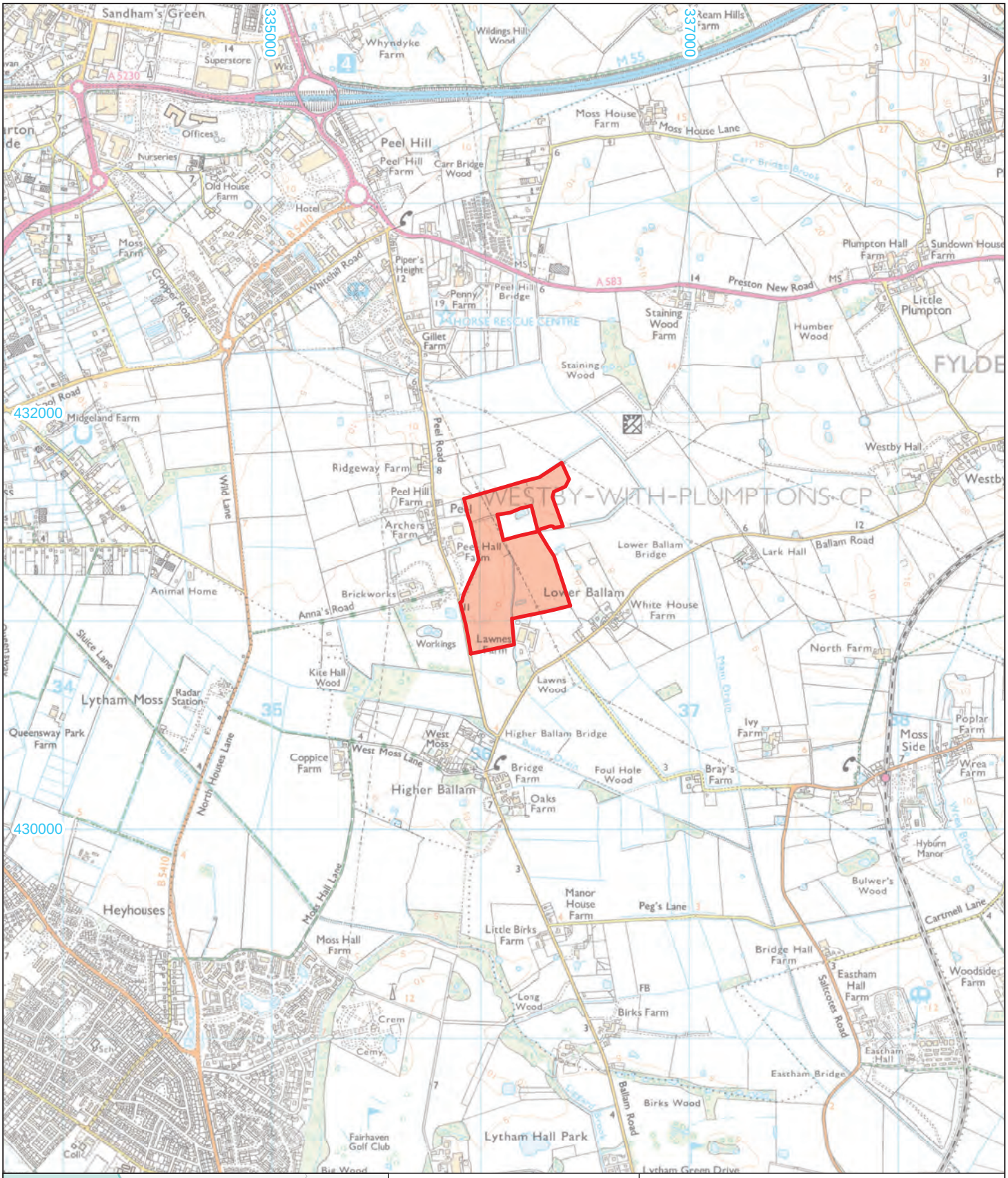
Area		Tr. 18
Feature Type		Ditch
Feature		1806
Context		1807
Sample		1
Sample Type		W/L
Processed vol (L)		2
Percentage assessed (%)		1mm = 100%: 0.25mm = 50%
Waterlogged material		
Juncus sp.	rush	++
Eleocharis sp.	spike-rush	+
Carex sp. L. trigonous	sedge trigonous seed	+
Sparganium sp. L.	bur-reed	+
Wood/twigs frags > 4mm		+
Wood/twigs frags > 2mm		++
Leaf/root/stem frags		++++
Other		
Insect remains		++
Insect fly pupa case		++

Key: + = 1–49 items; ++ = 50–100 items; +++ = >100 items

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire
Short description	Between April and May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire. The evaluation, comprising the excavation of a total of 42 trenches, was carried out to inform a future planning application. The proposed site is located on Lytham Moss, in the immediate vicinity of Peel Hall Farm, in an area investigated as part of the North West Wetlands Survey. A general spread of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age lithics was recovered during fieldwalking of fields to the east and south of Peel Hall Farm, including parts of the proposed development area, while particular concentrations of waste material from flint knapping were recovered in the north part of the proposed development area, as site LA45, and to the immediate south as site LA41. At the latter, along with waste material including cores and flakes, a significant component of finely-made flint tools including arrowheads and flake knives were recovered and the site was suggested in the resulting report to potentially be associated with a now ploughed-out barrow. A preceding geophysical survey indicated a low potential for archaeological remains other than those associated with post-medieval and modern agricultural activity. The evaluation revealed a cremation and a likely associated small pit located in Trench 3, in an area where fieldwalking had previously identified a small flint scatter. The cremation comprised two vessels, the smaller being largely complete, dating to the Early Bronze Age. A small assemblage of burnt lithics, including two scrapers, were recovered from the cremation and likely represent 'pyre goods'. Three additional trenches were excavated radiating out from the cremation; however, no further cremations or features were revealed, suggesting this was an isolated burial with no evidence of an associated monument. With the exception of Trench 3, the archaeological remains recorded across the rest of the site almost exclusively relate to agricultural practice during the post-medieval and modern periods. Ditches forming field boundaries, some of which correlated with those depicted on 19th century mapping of the site, were identified in a number of trenches, some of which had been deliberately backfilled, likely associated with the post-War amalgamation of smaller fields into larger ones. A pond depicted on historic mapping was exposed in Trench 12; modern waste was recovered from the backfill. The majority of the remaining undated ditches and pits revealed by the evaluation also likely relate to this phase of activity. Thick peat deposits were encountered in the northeast and east of site, correlating with the lower lying topography. These areas would have been subject to seasonal flooding. Two undated ditches revealed in Trenches 16 and 18, sealed by the peat, likely represent drainage features. No dating material was recovered from the peat which would have taken a prolonged period of time to accumulate.
Project dates	26 April –13 May 2022
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation
Previous work	Desk Based assessment (LH 2021) Geophysical Survey (MS 2021)

Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire	
Study area (m^2/ha)	28ha	
Site co-ordinates	336153 431249	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	-	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Julian Newman	
Project Supervisor	Liam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	Cremation, ditch, pit	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery, cremated human bone	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	**Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)**	**Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical	Lancashire County Council Museum Services	ceramics, cremated bone
Paper	Lancashire County Council Museum Services	Context sheets, Trench sheets, sections report
Digital	ADS	digital photos, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 *Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report CR1080_2		



Site boundary

N

0 1:25,000 1km

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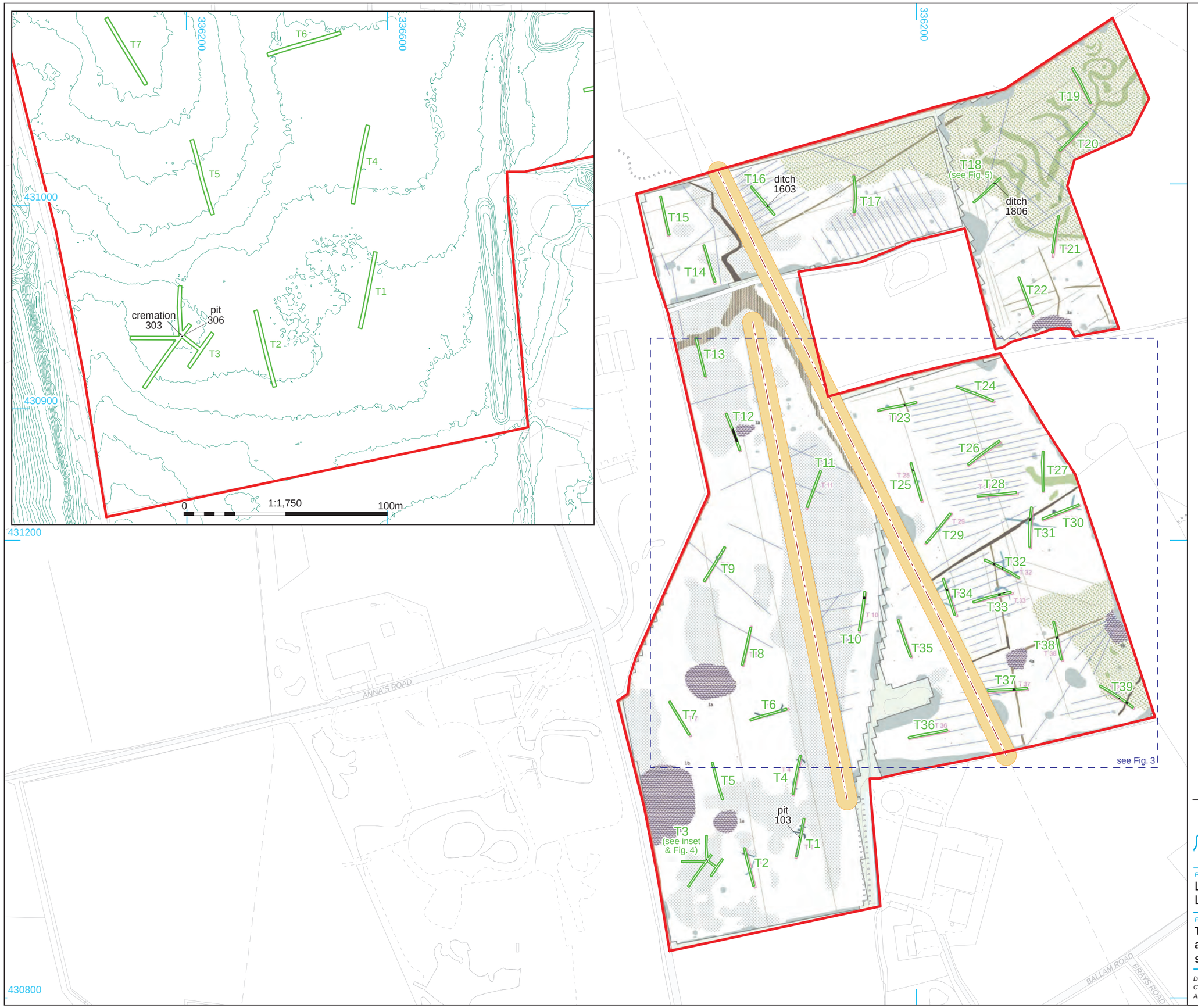
PROJECT TITLE

Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR1080	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/05/2022	1
APPROVED BY	JN	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan, showing archaeological features, geophysical survey results and elevation data

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR1080	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/06/2022	2
APPROVED BY	JN	SCALE@A3	1:3500 & 1:1,750	

Historic Mapping © Landmark Information Group, purchased from www.promap.co.uk

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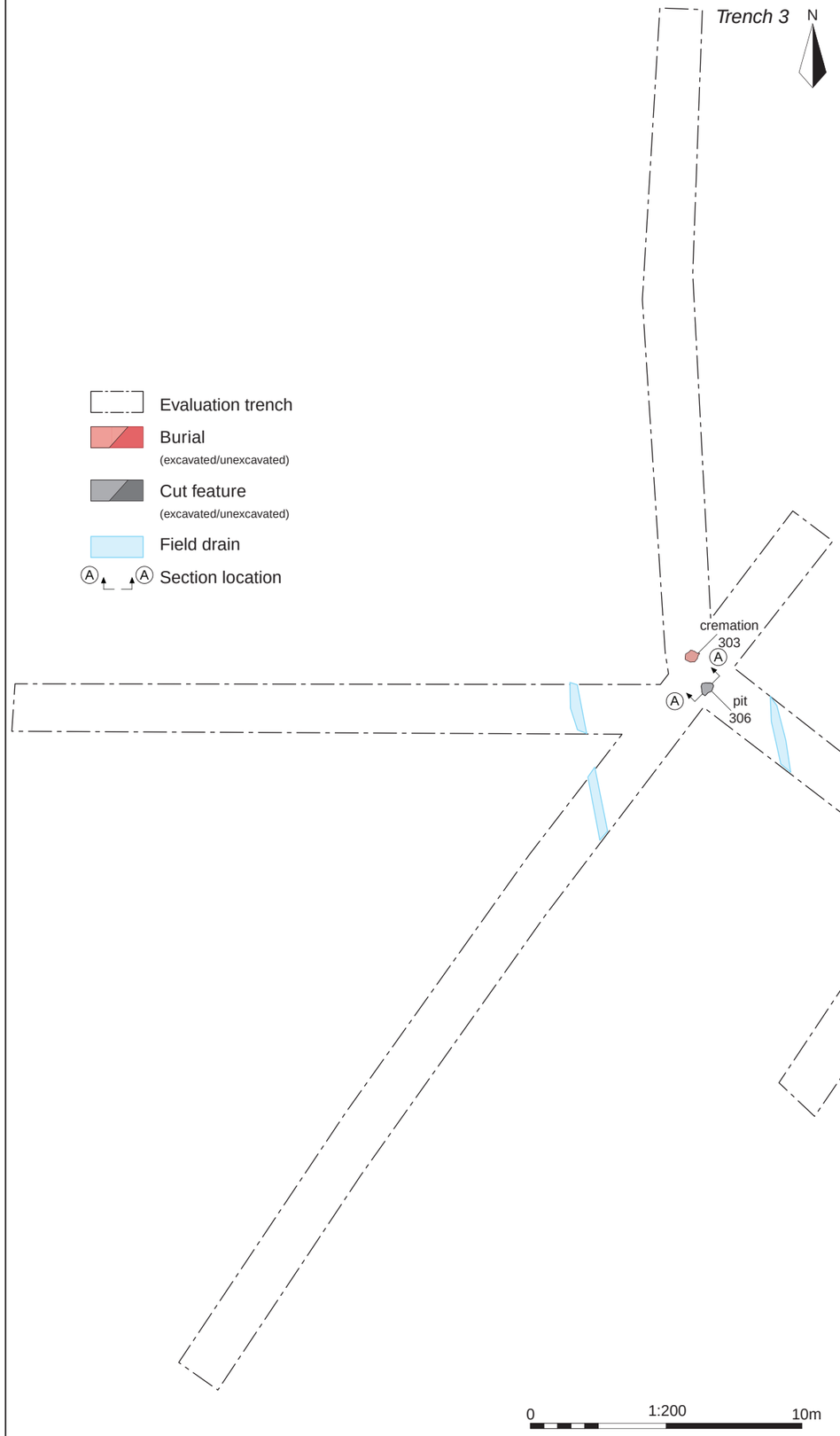
PROJECT TITLE

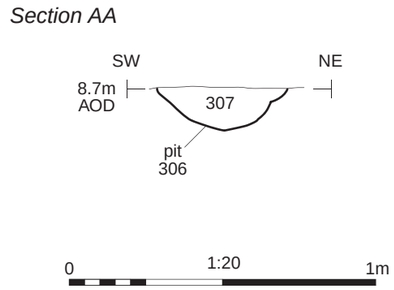
Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

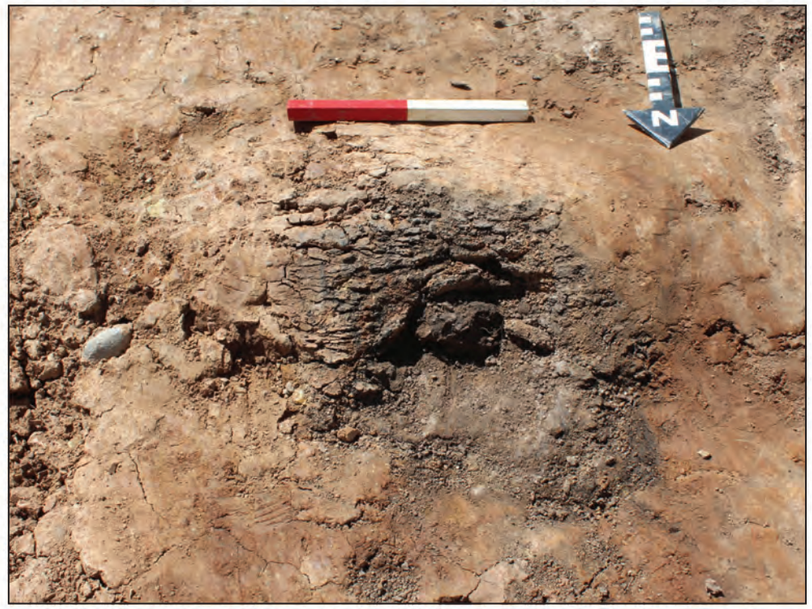
FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan showing archaeological features overlain onto extracts from the 6" Lancashire & Furness Ordnance Survey map, 1847

DRAWN BY	**KM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1080**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**22/06/2022**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**JN**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:1500**	







Cremation 303, pre-excavation, looking south (scale 0.2m)

Pit 306, looking east (scale 0.2m)

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PROJECT TITLE

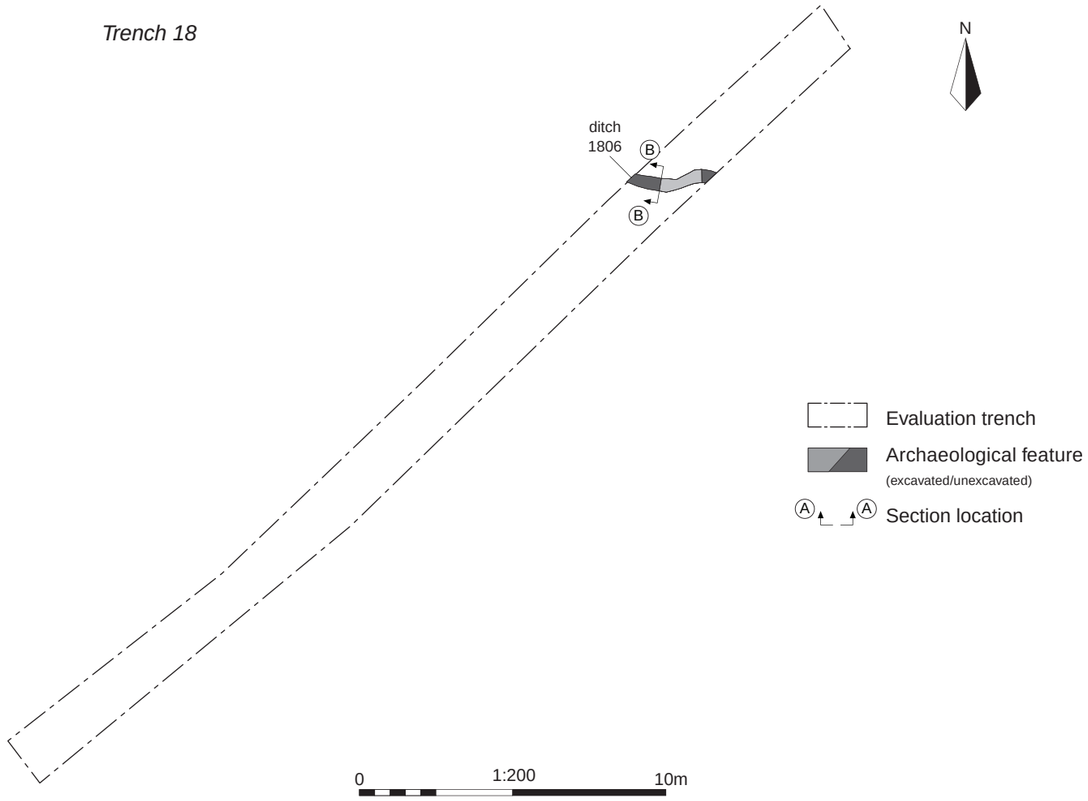
Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: plan, section and photographs

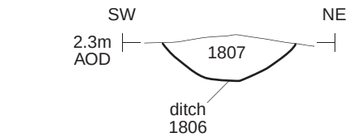
DRAWN BY	**KM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1080**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**22/06/2022**	**4**
APPROVED BY	**JN**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

Trench 18



Trench 18, baulk section, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Section BB



Ditch 1806, looking north-west (scale 0.4m)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 18: plan, section and photographs

				FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	CR1080	5
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/05/2022	
APPROVED BY	JN	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	

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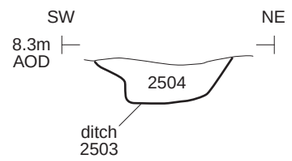

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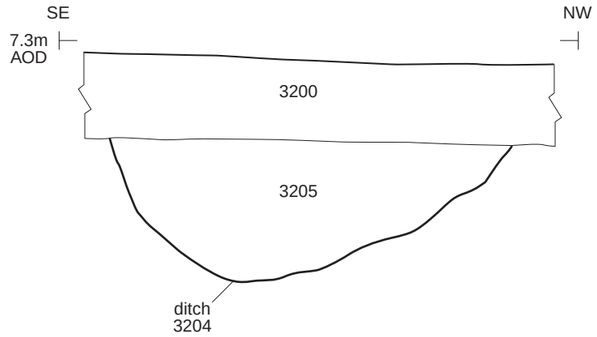

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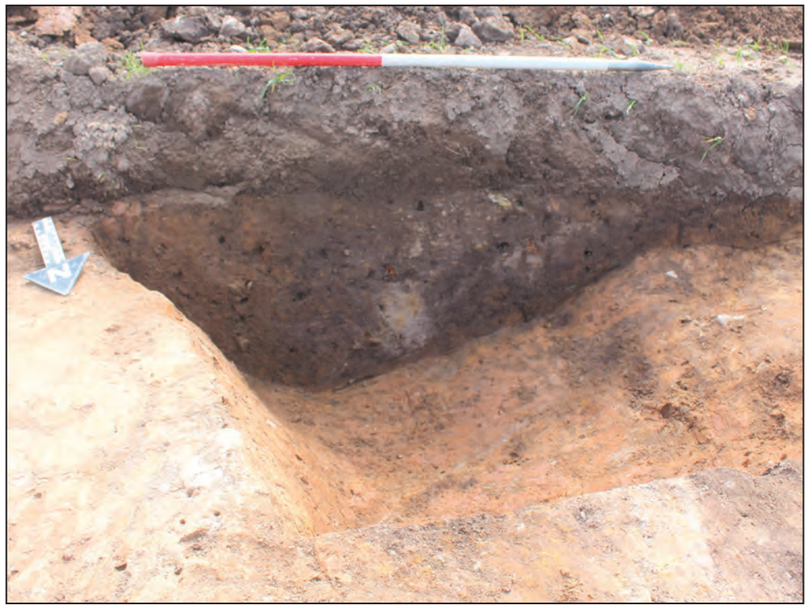
Ditch 2503, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Ditch 3204, looking south-east (scale 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

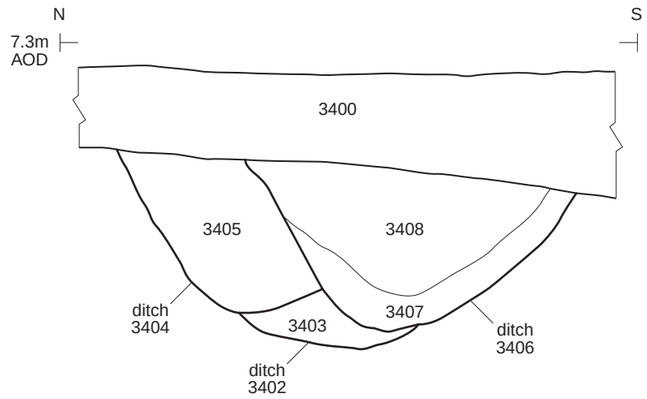
Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 25 and 32: sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	**KM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1080**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**22/06/2022**	**6**
APPROVED BY	**JN**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

Section EE



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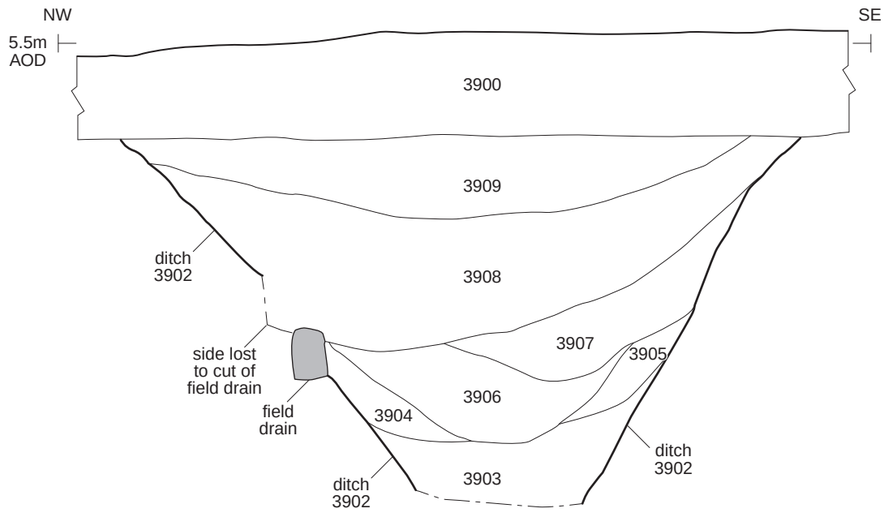

0 1:20 1m

Ditches 3402 and 3406, looking east (scale 1m)

Ditch 3902, looking north-east (scale 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Lawn's Farm, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 34 and 39: sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	**KM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR1080**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**22/06/2022**	**7**
APPROVED BY	**JN**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

Fig. 8: Context 305 – flint scraper

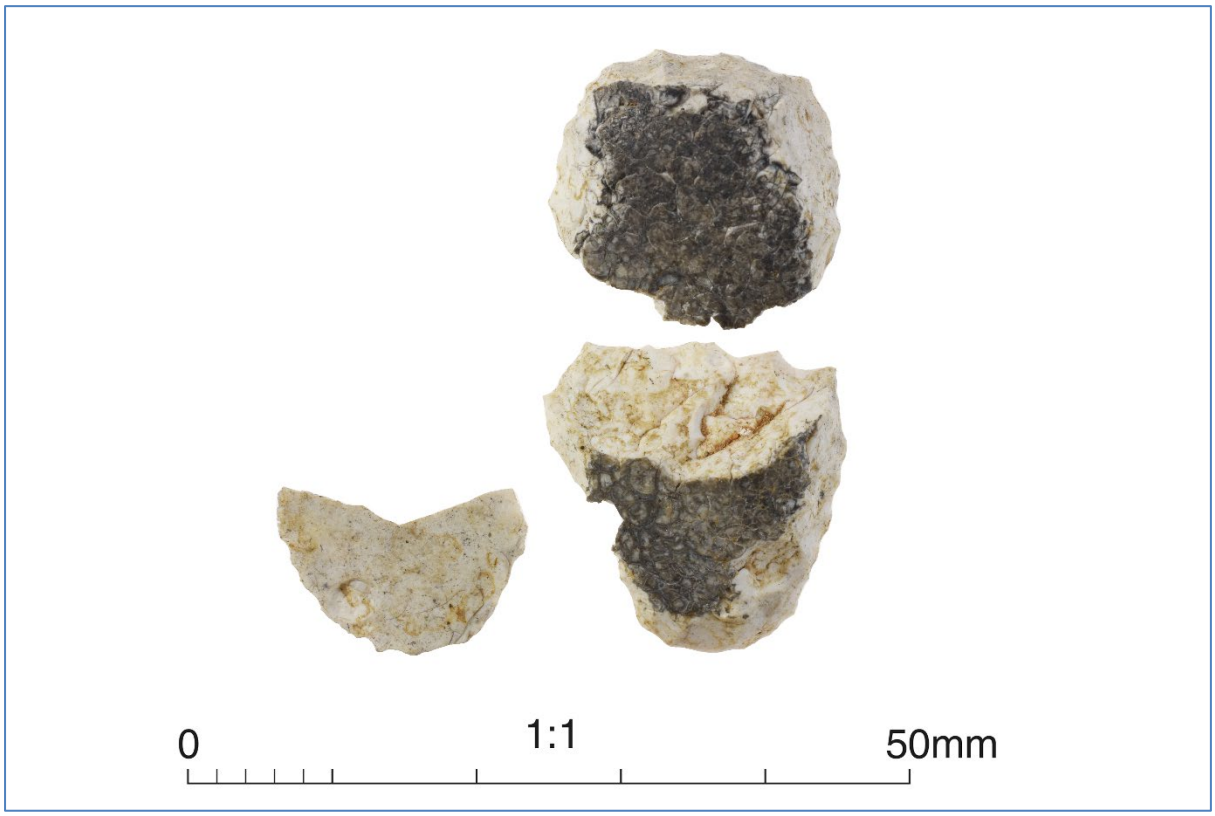

Fig. 9: Context 305 – flint scraper (broken)

Fig. 10: Early Bronze Age vessel from context 303 – external view

Fig. 11: Early Bronze Age vessel from context 303 – internal view

Fig. 12: Early Bronze Age food vessel type cup from context 303 – external view

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