# Hamdon Hill, Montacute, Somerset.

## An Archaeological Evaluation

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# Hamdon Hill, Montacute, Somerset

***- An Archaeological Evaluation -***

(NGR 48402 16085)

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April 2009/Report No. 880
Event Number: TTNCM14/2009

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*Between the 10th and 23rd of February 2009, Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation within the southwestern defences of Hamdon Hill, Montacute, Somerset. Ten Evaluation trenches, totalling 200m in length, were excavated and the identified features therein were of largely later prehistoric (Iron Age) date. The evaluation was commissioned by Ham Hill Stone Quarry as part of a planning condition by Somerset County Council and English Heritage prior to proposed quarry expansion.*

*A digital contour survey of the area of evaluation demonstrated a well-defined 'bowl', almost completely enclosed by raised ridges, and it was this depression and the lower slopes of the ridges that contained the majority of the exposed archaeology.*

*Identified archaeology during the evaluation can be summerised as being:*

- *An Iron Age rectilinear enclosure containing a complete inhumation, which appears to respect the 'middle ground' of a large geological depression within the area of investigation.*

- *A pit cluster of a potentially Iron Age date, one of which contained a complete human inhumation.*

- *An Iron Age curvilinear ditch/enclosure with a wide, deep ditch showing several phases of extensive re-cutting. No indication of original purpose was identified, although the depth and obvious maintainence of the ditch is suggestive of an important role.*

- *A field/ boundary system, largely devoid of material culture and possibly representative of an earlier, Bronze Age agricultural network or of a fieldsystem broadly contemporary with the Iron Age enclosure and associated features.*

- *An undated circular bank that seemingly marked the nadir of the large geological depression respected by the Iron Age rectilinear enclosure. The high level of groundwater as noted during the excavation suggested some importance to the enclosed area, whether through use as a watering-hole/ dew-pond for cattle or for some ritual significance.*

- *The presence of a concentration of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ceramics within the sub-soil suggesting an earlier prehistoric presence not identified elsewhere.*

*A detailed study and analysis of unexpextedly deep deposits of sub-soils overlying the archaeology was also undertaken, suggesting the presence of a highly turbated and an as yet undated 'buried-soil' horizon across the evaluated area.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook an archaeological evaluation between the 10th and 23rd February 2009 of an area within the southwestern defences of Hamdon Hillfort, Montacute, Somerset, in advance of possible eastward expansion of the Ham Hill Stone Quarry, commissioned by the quarry director Dr Michael Lawrence. Ten evaluation trenches, totalling 200m in length, were opened and a total of twenty-six archaeological features were revealed. The majority were dated by pottery or other evidence to the Iron Age. Previous archaeological evaluations and excavations immediately to the west and southwest have demonstrated a moderate quantity of Early or Middle Iron Age activity.

### *Planning Background and Archaeological Considerations*

The use of Hamdon Hill as a source for stone has been identified from the Romano-British period; potentially Medieval or unrecorded quarry pits have been identified throughout the enclosed area of the hillfort, the most pertinent are likely to be represented by the large clusters of anomalies shown immediately to the southeast of the current area of investigation during the Geophysical survey (Geophysical Surveys Bradford 2001). Extensive quarrying of the monument from the nineteenth century continues in certain areas to the present day (Gerrard 1985, Jope 1964) and it has been estimated that approximately 35.3% of the total enclosed area of the hillfort has been quarried to some degree (Sharples 2008a after RCHME 1997); the largest area of quarrying appears to have been within the northern spur and west of Hamdon Hill.

The Hamdon Hill hillfort is unarguably a monument of great significance and as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Somerset number 100), English Heritage has a strong interest in preserving it from further damage. However, Hamdon Hill is the only source of Hamstone which since at least the Medieval period has been the preferred building stone both locally and regionally within southern England for ecclesiastical foundations, stately homes and other important structures (Durman 2006). The continued and uninterrupted supply of newly quarried Hamstone allows English Heritage to renovate, conserve and restore historic structures.

The remaining stone reserves in the quarry, and therefore stone extraction, are now focused in the extension area subject to Planning Permissions Ref: 912246 (17/03/1993) and 97/02080/CPO (15/01/1998), to the immediate west and south west of the current area of archaeological evaluation. It was envisaged, at the planning application stage that this area contained sufficient reserves until 2017. A series of faults have been found to run across the southeastern corner of this area where the stone is of poor quality. Stone extraction in this area is not economically viable and the reserves of stone at the quarry have been reduced to one and a half years.

The Ham Hill Stone Company Ltd intends to give up the consented area of poor quality stone and seeks planning consent to extend the quarry into the adjacent field (the focus of this work) to continue the supply of stone for a further 80 years. Due to the proposed extension area being located within a Scheduled Ancient Monument, an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to accompany the planning application to assess the significance of the impact such an extension would have on known and potentially preserved archaeological features.

The sequence of planning permissions for quarrying within the western and southwestern area of the hillfort is shown in Table 1.

| Date | Reference | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| 27/08/1951 | 11459(a) | After cessation of quarrying, permission lapsed in 1979 |
| 29/12/1982 | 821289 | Reopening of quarry |
| 23/07/1985 | 850755 | Operation changes to quarry for stockpiling, access, reworking quarry wastes & removal of topsoil/quarry waste |
| 25/01/1991 | 902784 | Operation changes to quarry for stockpiling, access, reworking quarry wastes & removal of topsoil/quarry waste |
| 17/03/1993 | 912246 | Consent for a small extension of the quarry to enable progressive restoration and further operational changes |
| 15/01/1998 | 97/02080/CPO | Modification to previous permission to construct a bund and change stockpiling |

**Table 1.** Planning permissions Ham Hill Stone Quarry.

*Topography, Geology and Archaeological Background*

Hamdon Hill, commonly known as Ham Hill, is situated approximately 6km west of Yeovil (fig. 1), on an outcrop of Upper Liassic (Early Jurassic) Ham Hill Limestone and Yeovil Sands. The evaluated area is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 48402-16085 and is approximately 120m above Ordnance Datum (OD), and offers extensive views to the south, east and west and across the Somerset Levels. The area under investigation is currently under thick grass that is intermittently grazed.

The hillfort is comprised of a roughly rectangular enclosed area of approximately 800m north-south and 900m east-west, with a northwestern 'spur' continuing a further 550m (north-south, by 360m east-west). Hamdon Hill is one of the largest hillforts in Britain with 88.1 hectares enclosed within its defensive perimeter (Forde-Johnston 1976), is classified as a *developed hillfort* by Cunliffe (1982) and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Somerset No. 100). The defences around the majority of the enclosed area are comprised of a bank, ditch and counterscarp bank. The northern 'spur' demonstrates two major banks and ditches, with both an external and internal bank surviving up to a height of 12m, suggesting at least one period of expansion during the hillfort's occupation.

Extensive quarrying within the northern 'spur', as well as the westernmost area of the hillfort, from at least the Romano-British period, has removed large portions of the archaeological material and Ham Hill Stone Quarry continues to extract stone from the southwest of the monument (adjacent to the current evaluated area). The quarrying activities, especially during the 19$^{th}$ and early 20$^{th}$ centuries, have led to numerous archaeological discoveries and its recent continuation has allowed several archaeological surveys, evaluations and excavations to be conducted. The excavation and finds evidence for Hamdon Hill is indicative of activity on the hilltop from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic period; with a primary concentration identified, largely through chance finds of ceramic and metal artefacts, of the 7$^{th}$ century BC,

when the first defences are likely to have been built. The greatest intensity of occupation appears to have been during the 1st century BC, with the southwestern area of the hillfort apparently seeing a lower level of Iron Age usage than the northern spur. It is possible that the focus of identified activity within the northern area, as well as the contrast in defences between the north and south of the hillfort, demonstrates that the narrow northern 'spur' was the location for the earliest hillfort; the wider main plateau being originally unenclosed and occupied to a lesser degree before being incorporated at a later date.

The outer defences of the northern 'spur' were first excavated in a limited capacity by Walter (1907) and then by St. George Gray between 1923 and 1930 (Gray 1924, 1925 and 1926); although the results remain largely unpublished, they have been summarised in later works (Seaby 1950; Burrow 1981). Recent studies have also been made involving the later prehistoric ceramic assemblage from these excavations (Morris 1987). A watching brief during the winter of 1975, during the removal of 40,000 tons of quarrying waste, led to the observation of several features as well as the collection of several finds (Ellison & Pearson 1977; Adkins & Adkins 1992b). A Roman fort has been tenuously postulated within the northern spur (Manning 1976) and a 2nd century Romano-British villa has been partially excavated within the eastern circuit of the hillfort defences.

The southwestern corner of the hillfort, immediately adjacent to the current area of investigation, has been the subject of more detailed recent studies prior to systematic quarry expansion (fig. 1). Excavation of a small area of this quarrying in 1983 identified several large Middle Iron Age pits, as well as the postholes potentially associated with a 'double ring' type roundhouse indicating at least small scale Middle Iron Age occupation (Smith 1991). An adjacent area was evaluated by three trenches in 1991 (Adkins & Adkins 1992b), when two further pits of Middle/Late Iron Age date were identified. These investigations were, in some part, responsible for a large geophysical survey of the southwestern area of the hillfort (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, 1992) on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (see below).

Further excavation was carried out adjacent to the current area of investigation in 1994 based on the geophysical results (McKinley 1995). A single Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit containing Beaker pottery fragments was the only feature dated as non-Iron Age whilst 38 pits were dated to the Early and Middle Iron Age (7th-1st centuries BC); two shallow gully/ditches of undefined date were also recovered. No definite indication of any domestic structures was found and it was suggested that any such structures lay to the west, in the 'lee of hillfort defences' (*ibid.* 44). A 1998 excavation of an area immediately east of the 1994 investigation revealed further Middle Iron Age pits, along with two probable Iron Age ditches (McKinley 1998 and 1999). A final area of trenched evaluation and excavation was investigated in 2002 (Leivers *et al.* 2006), and which lay immediately adjacent to the area of current investigation. Within this area were found 21 pits dating from the Middle/Late Iron Age (4th-1st centuries BC) and two ditches thought to represent a rectilinear enclosure with a possible bank; the uppermost fill of the latter was cut by a circular gully with possible structural origins (McKinley 1999: 44).

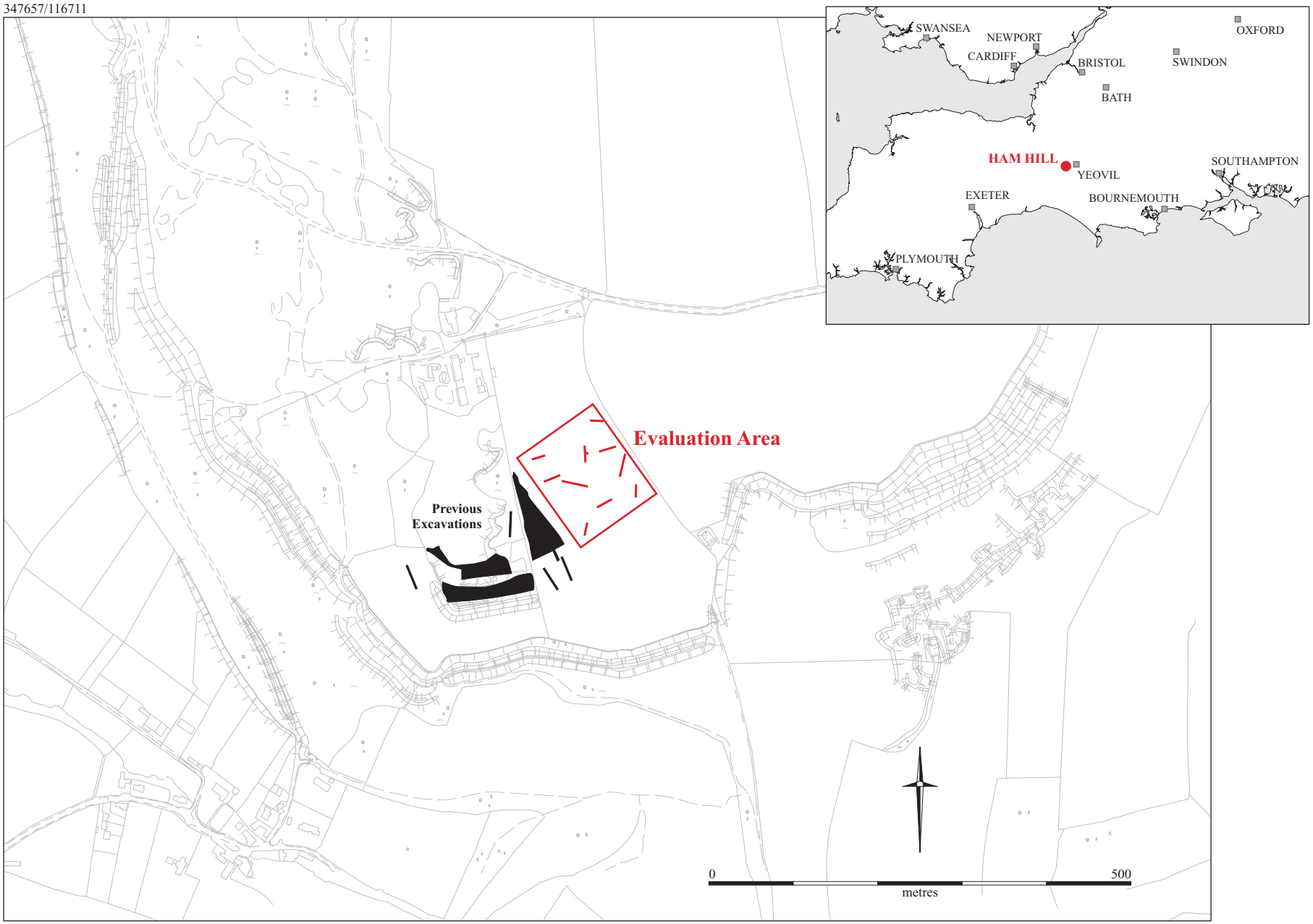


Figure 1. Location map


Figure 2. Geophysical survey, with contour survey. (After Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, (2001)).

During 1992 and again in 2001, large areas of the southern plateau were included in a gradiometer survey (Geophysical Surveys Bradford 1992 and 2001) which showed a widespread distribution of sub-surface features. The area under current investigation revealed a large rectilinear enclosure with internal curvilinear features, as well as possible discrete features (pits or quarries) and a series of parallel linear ditches possibly representing trackways or field boundaries (fig. 2).

Despite the considerable number of previous excavations and surveys, as well as the quantities of isolated finds throughout the locale of the hillfort, Hamdon Hill remains a poorly understood monument. The most striking of the identified archaeology within the south and eastern enclosed area defences is that of what appears to be a co-axial system of enclosures with varying sizes on a generally north-northeast by south-southwest and north-northwest by south-southeast alignment.

The size and multivalation of the defences of Hamdon Hill make it comparable with other regionally close *developed hillforts* such as Hod Hill and Maiden Castle in Dorset (Richmond 1968, Sharples 1991) and Cadbury Castle in Somerset (Barrett *et al.* 2000). The surveyed and excavated archaeology of these hillforts, however, shows sharp contrast with that identified at Hamdon Hill: both Cadbury Castle and Maiden Castle were much more densely occupied with the interiors almost entirely covered with pits, postholes and houses, with clearer 'roads' crossing the sites from the entrances, which in the case of Hod Hill, acted as a focus for the house structures.

Similar enclosures to those identified throughout the interior of Hamdon Hill have been identified within the developed hillfort of Castle Ditches, South Wiltshire. The survey of which shows an extensive enclosure system which, although not as rigidly co-axial as those at Hamdon Hill, either cuts or is cut by numerous structural hut-circles (Payne *et al.* 2006). Suggestions that the date of the enclosures at Castle Ditches, and by extention to Hamdon Hill, to either represent Romano-British occupation have been made (Sharples 2008a).

The visibly co-axial system of the enclosures at Hamdon Hill could be compared with the rigid fieldsystems common in the Later Bronze Age (Yates 2007) and it is quite possible that whilst the enclosures themselves are not of a contemporaneous date, they respect a previous layout. Similar continuity of earlier fieldsystems by later enclosures has been identified in open, lowland Middle and Late Iron Age occupation sites in eastern England (eg Slater 2009), where a pre-existing co-axial field or enclosure system appears to have acted as a guide for later, and more individual Iron Age enclosures. Similar continuity of use has been identified within Wessex with the deep Iron Age boundary ditches dividing the landscape commonly having Bronze Age predecents (Cunliffe 2000).

*Methodology*

In concordance with the previously submitted project design (Sharples 2008b) and the research proposal of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Evans 2009) a series of excavation objectives, which corresponds with those suggested by Somerset County Council was agreed upon:

- To ascertain the presence/ absence, function, date and chronology of the archaeological deposits.

- To assess fully the remains for their future research potential.
- To fully characterise linear features, especially large enclosure ditches.
- To recover environmental information likely to provide information on the economy and local environment of the area.
- To compile enough detailed information to allow a mitigation strategy which incorporates research elements relevant to the importance of the site to be produced.

Following a pre-excavation contour survey of the area of investigation, a total of ten trenches, 200m in overall length, were opened representing slightly over 2% of the proposed quarry extension. The trenches were targeted in relation to anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey (fig. 2; Geophysical Services of Bradford, 1992) and followed consultation with the CAO and English Heritage. Each trench was surveyed into position, with the topsoil and any identified sub-soil thereafter removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or the geological natural using a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. A 'bucket-sampling' strategy was carried out during the machining process, involving the retrieval and examination for surviving material culture of 100 litres of each soil horizon at either end of each trench as well as at the centre of the longer trenches. The topsoil and sub-soil from each trench was stacked separately, ready for reinstatement following the satisfactory completion of the project.

Any deviation from the pre-agreed trench plan was undertaken only after consultation with and agreed by both the CAO and English Heritage. A 2m by 4m extention to the centre of Trench 4 was dug to fully expose archaeological features (see below).

All exposed archaeological features, as well as the trench sides were cleaned and all archaeological features recorded in plan following the opening of each trench (fig. 3). Excavation involved half-sectioning the discrete features by hand (pits and postholes), whilst one-metre segments were excavated by hand through linear features. Excavation of all large features was undertaken in order to fully characterize the archaeological value and potential of the exposed remains; the only features not excavated were those discrete features only partially exposed within the trenches. All trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:10. Digital, as well as colour slide and black and white print, photographs were taken of all excavated features. Recording was conducted using the CAU-modified Museum of London system (Spence 1990). Feature numbers are referred to in the text by the prefix 'F.', while context numbers are referred to in bracketed type (e.g. [001] for cuts and fills). All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen & Holt 2002). The excavations, including written and drawn records, were regularly checked by Bob Croft (Somerset County Council CAO) and Rob Iles (English Heritage); the site code was TTNCM14-2009.

An on-site team of four experienced field archaeologists and a site director carried out the excavation and recording of exposed archaeological features and an an archaeological surveyor located and undertook a detailed contour survey of the site.

An environmental strategy devised by Evans (2009) was carried out under the supervision of Dr Mike Allen, who also inspected on site soil morphology (Allen, below). Soil micro-morphology sample tins were also taken from key sites within the evaluated area (French, below).

During the excavation, the excavated fills of five major features were 100% sieved (4mm mesh), with recovered materials being added to those finds identified by eye during the excavation process. The object of such screening was to quantify small-fraction items of material culture, as well as small animal bones, which otherwise may have been overlooked. Three of the five sieved features revealed low to negligible quantities of material. These were Enclosure Ditch F. 1001 (Trench 10), from which a small quantity of highly eroded ceramic was recovered; Enclosure Ditch/Burial F. 1011/F. 1021 (Trench 10), with low quantities of both animal and human bones, as well as minor amounts of charcoal; the Enclosure Ditch in Trench 4 (F. 1019), yielding small fragments of human bone and teeth.

'Ring-ditch' F. 1022 (Trench 8) and Pit F. 1024 (Trench 4) generated no such sieve-residue material whatsoever.

Post-excavation research and analysis was carried out by both Cambridge Archaeological Unit 'in house' as well as more regionally based and accredited specialists. Post-excavation work was carried out between February and April 2009. Those involved in post-excavation work were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Managers | Robin Standring & Christopher Evans (CAU) |
| Site Director | Adam Slater (CAU) |
| Human Bone | Natasha Dodwell (CAU) |
| Lithics | Lawrence Billington (CAU) |
| Early Prehistoric Ceramics | Mark Knight (CAU) |
| Later Prehistoric Ceramics | Matthew Brudenell (CAU) |
| Metalwork | Grahame Appleby (CAU) |
| Geology/ Stone | Simon Timberlake (CAU) |
| Surveying | Jane Matthews/ Donald Horne (CAU) |
| Graphics | Bryan Crossan (CAU) |
| Faunal Analysis | Lorrain Higbee (free-lance) |
| Archaeobotany | Chris Stevens (Wessex Archaeology) |

*Archive Content and Location*

The evaluation's paper archive consists of eight large permatrace sheets of trench plans, detailed plans of specific features and feature elevations, 80 completed Cambridge Archaeological Unit context/ feature description sheets, a disc of digital photographs, two packets of black and white print and 3 boxes of colour slide photographic prints and one index folder.

The recovered finds and material culture amounted to a total of 251 bone fragments (both animal and human), 24 flints, 133 ceramic sherds, a ferrous fragment, three pieces of iron slag and 651 fragments of worked/ unworked and burnt stone.

The archive and finds will be securely housed at The CAU, 34a Storeys Way, Cambridge until successful completion of the project. The archive will be transferred to the correct Somerset county storage/ museum following consultation with Somerset County Council.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

**Soil Geomorphology** Mike Allen

The area of evaluation lies in the southern central interior of the hillfort on the hilltop plateau. The hilltop itself is one of gently undulating ground, which is locally significant in view of the loose and sandy soils. The soils are mapped as typical brown earths of the South Petherton Association.

The area of evaluation trenching is topographically bounded to the north and south by low-lying but significant ridges, and the ground rises to the west towards the current quarry forming a shallow local topographical 'bowl'; it has wide views, especially southwards.

The geology is highly locally variable with Hamstone being exposed in the northeastern and southwestern edges of the trenched area. The sandstone outcrops irregularly as laminar and tabular sandstones and is mantled by moist firm yellowish brown to reddish brown sands.

The topographical 'bowl' forms a receptor area for sandy colluvium and two profiles were described on site in detail (Trenches 6 and 9). A third location (western end of Trench 9) was also described because of the present of a patchy, dark and humic horizon at the base of the exposed profile (fig. 10).

The profiles exposed were cleaned and described using standard notation following Hodgson (1976) and Munsell colours recorded in the field moist; full details are given in Tables 2-4.

| Context | Depth* (cm) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| [1000] | 0-19cm | Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) stone-free humic fine sand/coarse silt loam, weak indistinct medium crumb structure, common fine fleshy roots, many medium fibrous roots, clear wavy boundary.<br>Ah of colluvial brown earth |
| [1001] | 19-68cm | Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) stone-free firm fine sandy loam, massive structure, common medium (4-6mm) vertical macropore voids (earthworm burrows), few filled with A horizon material, gradual boundary.<br>Sandy Colluvium /B horizon of colluvial brown earth |
| [1039] | 68-92cm | Dark yellowish brown to brown (10YR-7.5YR 4/4) stone-free ?humic silty clay loam, with increasing fine silt and clay with depth, very weak indistinct medium to large blocky structure just distinguishable especially towards the base, rare fine fleshy roots, rare medium vertical macropores (largely filled with loose A horizon material), very rare fine charcoal flecks present elsewhere in this horizon.<br>At 80cm dark yellowish brown (19YR 4/4-6) firm moist, stone-free silty clay loam, 0.2-0.5% very fine macropores, clear to abrupt wavy boundary.<br>Buried soil (buried A/B horizon) |
| Geo. Natural. | 92+cm | Yellowish brown to strong brown (10YR-7.5YR 5/6) firm moist massive fine sand, to sandy loam, rare fine fleshy roots.<br>Weathered parent material (Rw) |

**Table 2:** Colluvial Sequence 1; Trench 6 (0.75m from west end): under rough grass (see also fig. 10)

| Context | Depth* (cm) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| [1000] | 0-18cm | Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), stone-free humic fine sand/coarse silt loam, weak poor medium crumb structure, common fine fleshy roots, many medium fibrous (to 2mm) roots), clear wavy boundary.<br>Ah of colluvial brown earth |
| [1001] | 18-43cm | Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) stone-free massive firm coarse silt loam, rare fine fleshy roots, common medium (4-6mm) vertical macropores, clear wavy boundary.<br>Sandy Colluvium /B horizon of colluvial brown earth |
| [1039] | 43-66cm | Brown (7.5YR 4/6) firm stone-free massive silty clay loam, common medium vertical macropores to 60cm+ containing A horizon material, rare fine charcoal flecks to 2-3mm noticed, 0.2% very fine macopores towards base, clear to abrupt wavy boundary.<br>Buried soil (buried A/B horizon) |
| Geo. Natural | 66-80+cm | Strong brown (7/5YR 5/6) stone-free firm massive silty clay loam (will polish).<br>Weathered parent material (Rw) |

**Table 3:** Colluvial Sequence 2; Trench 9 (0.90m from west end): under rough grass (see also fig. 10)

| Context | Depth* (cm) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| [1000] | 0-28cm | Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) stone-free humic coarse silt loam, weak large crumb to small blocky structure, common fine fleshy roots, some medium fibrous roots, clear wavy boundary.<br>Ah of colluvial brown earth |
| [1001] | 28-63cm | Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) stone-free massive firm fine sand loam, rare fine fleshy roots, common medium (4-6mm) vertical macropores, gradual boundary.<br>Sandy Colluvium /B horizon of colluvial brown earth |
| [1039] | 63-76cm | Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sand loam with some fine charcoal present, common medium vertical macropores, indurated boundary.<br>Buried soil (buried A/B horizon) |
| F1020, [1050] | 76-100cm | Zone characterised by patches of ?humic brown (10YR 4/3) firms silty clay (occasionally greasy), in a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sand loam matrix, as above, clear to abrupt boundary.<br>In adjacent 'feature' this is to dark brown (10YR 3/3), with many very fine macropores, and rare medium flint.<br>Mixed horizon below buried soil. |
| Geo. Natural | 110+ cm | Yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) massive stone-free fine sand, with lenses of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) almost 'grey' fine silty sand.<br>Weathered parent material (Rw) |

**Table 4**: Colluvial Sequence 3; Trench 9 (east end, see fig. 10)

The natural 'bowl' is a receptor for hillwash and the archaeological features within this area are sealed by up to 0.9m of sandy colluvium, the base of this contains the remnant of a buried soil. The overlying colluvium is sandy and derived from thinner brown earths over Hamstone on the upslope ridges and high ground to the northeast, probably as a result of cultivation in the later Medieval and post-Medieval periods.

The buried soil itself is severely truncated, but what survived is much less sandy, and slightly humic, and testimony to a well-developed humic brown soil. Its upper profile has been

truncated by colluviation, or has been pedogenically incorporated into the colluvium. The presence of fine charcoal flecks in a number of locations indicates the presence of limited local activity. Whether archaeological features are sealed by or cut this basal buried soil is difficult to determine. Continued pedogenesis has reworked the buried soil, blurring and obscuring cuts in this horizon. Instead, features are more readily and sometimes only, visible in the surface of the natural which they cut.

**Soil Profiles** Charles French

Profiles in two trenches (6 & 9) were recorded and four 50cm long monolith tins taken for initial soil assessment:

*Trench 6* (fig. 10)

The *c*. 1m deep profile is described as follows:

| **Depth** (cm) | **Unit** | **Description** | **Horizon interpretation** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0-25 | 1000 | turf and pale greyish/yellowish brown sandy loam, dominated by fine-medium sand | Ah and A1 |
| 25-75 | 1001 | pale-medium brown sandy (clay) loam | A2 |
| 75-95 | 1039 | medium brown sandy clay loam | Bw to Bwsg at base |
| 95+ | 1051 | pale yellowish brown sandy clay | C or natural |

**Table 5:** Soil Profile, Trench 6.

*Trench 9* (fig. 10)

The *c*. 1.35m deep profile is described as follows:

| **Depth** (cm) | **Unit** | **Description** | **Horizon interpretation** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0-25 | 1000 | turf and pale greyish/yellowish brown sandy loam, dominated by fine-medium sand | Ah and A1 |
| 25-65 | 1001 | pale-medium brown sandy (clay) loam | A2 |
| 65-105 | 1039 | medium brown sandy loam to sandy clay loam | Bw |
| 80-130 (east end only) | 1050 | mottled brown/yellowish brown sandy clay loam | amorphous and manganese iron mottled Bs/g |
| 105-130 | 1051 | pale yellowish brown sandy clay | C or natural |

**Table 6:** Soil Profile, Trench 9.

Although I was not able to actually view these profiles in the field, the soil profile represented in these two trenches is a thick sandy loam to sandy clay loam with poor horizon definition. This largely undifferentiated and homogeneous soil appears to be a product of the weathering of the sandy clay sedimentary rock substrate beneath, although there may have been some localised within-soil illuviation, leading to the creation of a weakly developed textural B horizon (Bw). The only soil forming process observed is in a *c*. 10cm zone in Trench 9 just above the base of the profile with evident iron and manganese deposition. This is a slightly

gleyed horizon (or Bsg), reflecting a zone of slightly higher groundwater influence due to the very fine-grained and relatively impermeable nature of the fine sandy clay substrate.

On balance, this is probably a weakly acidic, iron-enriched, brown soil with a partially gleyed basal B horizon. This relatively thick soil is mainly a product of the weathering of the fine-grained (Jurassic) sedimentary solid geology of sandy limestone.

## Artefact-Sampling Results

During mechanical removal of topsoil and sub-soil, and with a hope of identifying the presence of any buried soil deposits, a hand-sorted sample of 100 litres of each discernible context was taken from the ends of the shorter evaluation trenches (T1, T5, T8 and T10) and from both the ends and the approximate centre of each longer trench (T2-4, T6, T7 and T9).

| **Trench** | **Location** | **Context** (Type) | **Material** | **Date** | **Quantity** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Centre | [1001/1039] sub-soil/'Buried Soil' (see also [1077]. | **Pottery** | Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age | 20 sherds (73g) |
| 5 | West | [1001] sub-soil/colluvium | **Pottery** | Iron Age | 1 sherd (11g) |
| 6 | West | [1001] | **Bone** | N/A | 1 frag. (1g) |
| 6 | West | [1039] | **Burnt Flint** | N/A | 1 frag. (2g) |
| 6 | West | [1001] | **Pottery** | Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age | 2 sherds (26g) |
| 7 | North | [1001] | **Flint** | Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic | 1 piece (4g) |
| 8 | Centre | [1001] | **Flint** | Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic | 1 piece (2g) |
| 9 | East | [1001] | **Pottery** | Iron Age | 1 sherd (2g) |
| 9 | East | [1039] | **Pottery** | Iron Age | 7 sherds (7g) |
| 9 | East | [1039] | **Flint** | Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic | 1 (2g) |
| 9 | Centre | [1001] | **Flint** | Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic | 1 (1g) |

**Table 7**: Finds from removed deposits recovered by 'Bucket' sampling.

As can be seen in Table 7, a total of 31 sherds of pottery, four pieces of struck flint (plus one unstruck burnt flint) and a single fragment of animal bone were recovered from both the upper sub-soil/colluvial deposit [1001] and lower sub-soil 'buried soil' horizon [1039]. With the possible exception of the high quantity of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ceramics identified within Trench 3, no significant 'clustering' of finds could be identified. A slight increase in small, highly abraded Middle or Late Iron Age ceramics was identified in the east of Trench 3 and this is likely to represent the focus of hill-wash and downslope creep from the higher ground surrounding it.

The 20 sherds of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age ceramics recovered from the centre of Trench 3 corresponds well with the position of the shallow depression [1077] within the sub-

soil deposits that, although not identified in plan during the bucket sampling and overburden removal, yielded a comparable assemblage (see Knight, below).

## Trench Results

*Trench 1*

This was aligned east-northeast by west-southwest, and was 17m in length; it was a maximum of 0.9m deep in the east-northeastern end and 0.68m in depth at the west-southwest. The topsoil/sod layer [1000] was between 0.2 and 0.36m in depth and overlay a sub-soil or potentially colluvial layer [1001] which varied between 0.46-0.65m deep; the latter sealed a second sub-soil or potentially 'buried soil' horizon [1039] whose depth varied between 0.1m and 0.16m.

Trench 1 contained no archaeological features. The geological 'natural' comprised irregular, fractured Hamstone bedrock sloping down to the east-southeast. Several distinct fissures within the thin layer of bedrock revealed raised, sterile deposits and softer geological sand beneath; this is likely to have been responsible for the suggestion of a linear and potential sub-circular feature identified during the geophysical investigations.

*Trench 2*

This was aligned east-northeast by west-southwest, was 20m in length and had a maximum depth of 1.0m in its east-northeastern end and was 0.85m deep in the west-southwest. The topsoil/sod layer [1000] was between 0.2m and 0.25m in depth; [1001] varied in depth between 0.25m and 0.45m, and a lower horizon of possibly 'buried soil' ([1039]) varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.15m.

Trench 2 contained no archaeological features. The geological 'natural' comprised irregular, fractured Hamstone bedrock sloping down to the east-northeast. Several distinct fissures within the thin layer of bedrock revealed softer geological sand beneath; this is likely to have been responsible for the suggestion of a linear and potential sub-circular feature identified during the geophysical investigations.

*Trench 3*

30m in length, Trench 3 was aligned west-northwest by east-southeast; it was a maximum of 1m in depth in the east-southeastern end and was 0.65m deep in the west-northwest. The topsoil/sod layer [1000] was between 0.2m and 0.25mdeep; a homogenised, possibly colluvial sub-soil [1001] varied in depth between 0.28 and 0.36m and a lower sub-soil layer [1039] was between 0.1m and 0.18m deep.

The geological 'natural' was of fractured Hamstone bedrock within the west-northwestern end of the trench, demonstrating a moderately steep slope to the southeast, and light yellow-orange sandy-clay throughout the rest of the trench. Irregular ridges of raised bedrock protruded through the softer geology; the contrast between the two geological densities is likely to have been represented as potential features during the geophysical survey.

Two archaeological features were present. F. 1009 was a broad, steeply sloping, north-south aligned ditch (F. 1009; 3.3m wide and 1.35m deep) that cut through the natural bedrock and lower, soft geology within the west-northwestern end of the trench (fig. 5a) Its relatively sterile basal fills appear to represent primary slumping, similar in make-up to the colluvially deposited sub-soil [1001] identified throughout the site. Several episodes of what appeared to represent the collapse of a bank originally upcast from the truncated bedrock were apparent ([1030], [1031], [1032] & [1034]), but which did not clearly demonstrate collapse from one side or another.

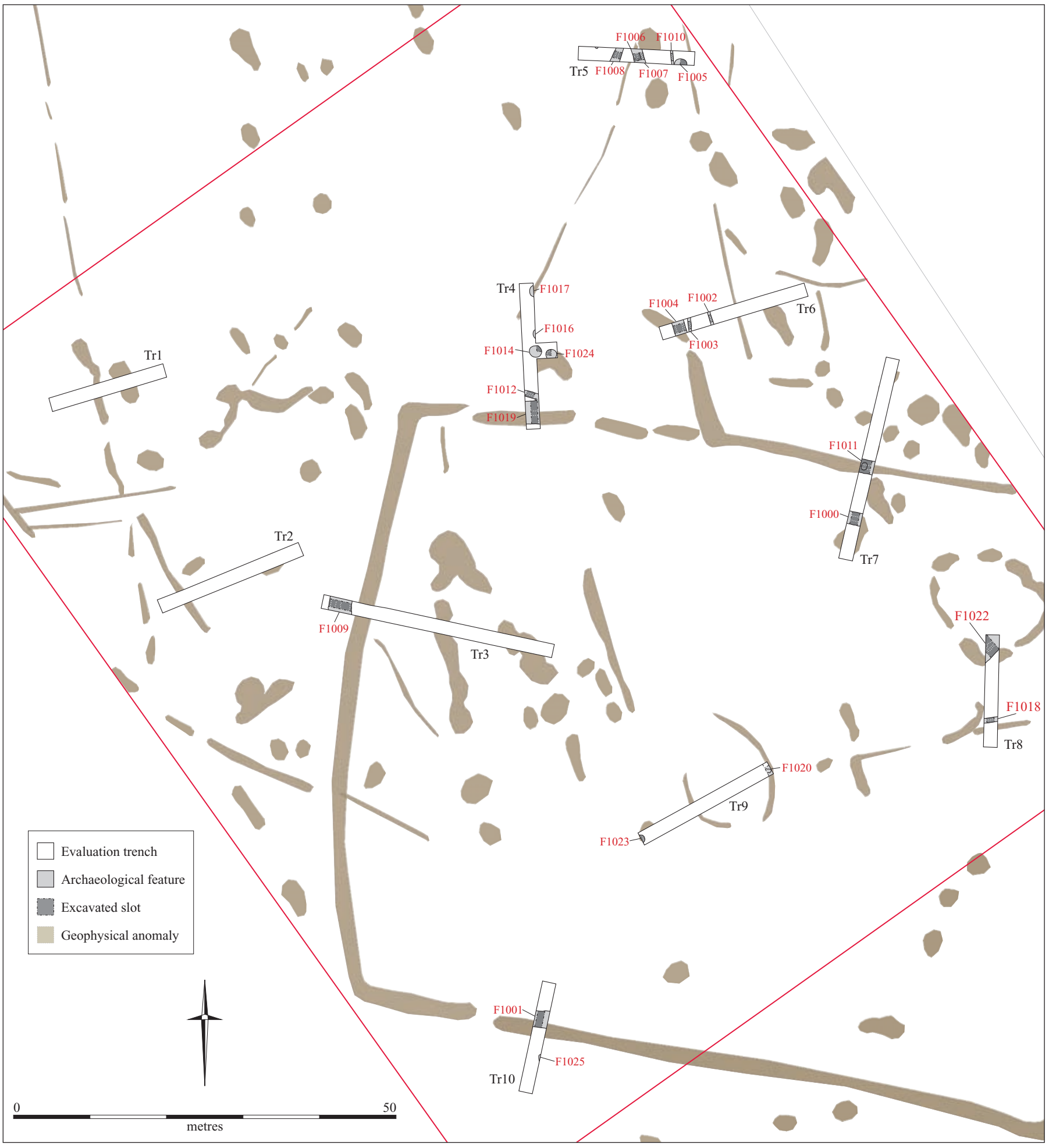


Figure 3. Exposed features within trenches.

**Figure 4**: Western Enclosure Ditch F. 1009.

A probable shallower recut of the ditch ([1028]) truncated the stony, collapsed fills. 2m in width and 0.9m deep, its lower fills were suggestive of a second phase of inner bank collapse ([1026] & [1027]) and there was definite evidence of slumping from the eastern (internal) edge. No evidence of a period of primary silting was identified and it is entirely possible that the original bank, composed of bedrock and softer geological sand, slid or was pushed into the original ditch before being dug out and re-used again as bank material. The absence of sandy slump fills below the collapsed stone is indicative of the short period between digging and collapse of the second bank, with it comprising just stone; given the shallowness of the ditch, it was potentially less imposing than the first. The seemingly short lifespan of the secondary ditch, along with the thin deposit of charcoal-, bone- and pottery-filled silty clay [1025] which overlay the bank collapse, contrasted with the rest of the ditch fills in terms of the quantity of material culture. It suggests nearby occupational activity and is potentially indicative of a deliberate 'decommissioning' of the ditch.

The location and orientation of F. 1009, corresponding as it did with the geophysical survey, associates it with the western side of the large rectilinear enclosure and with other excavated segments across its perimeter (F1019; T4, F1011; T7, F1001; T10).

A small, seemingly localised, deposit of light grey-brown sandy silt ([1077]), up to 0.85m long and containing several sherds of Beaker pottery, was identified within the southern section of the centre of the trench. The irregular extent of [1077] and its unclear contextual boundaries with sub-soils [1001] and [1039] made it unlikely to represent a deliberately cut feature; it may have been a 'catchment hollow' immediately adjacent to and downslope from a raised bedrock ridge. The largely unworn appearance of the pottery and the presence of several refits (see Knight, below) discounts any protracted presence within the ploughsoil but does suggest a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age presence adjacent to Trench 3.

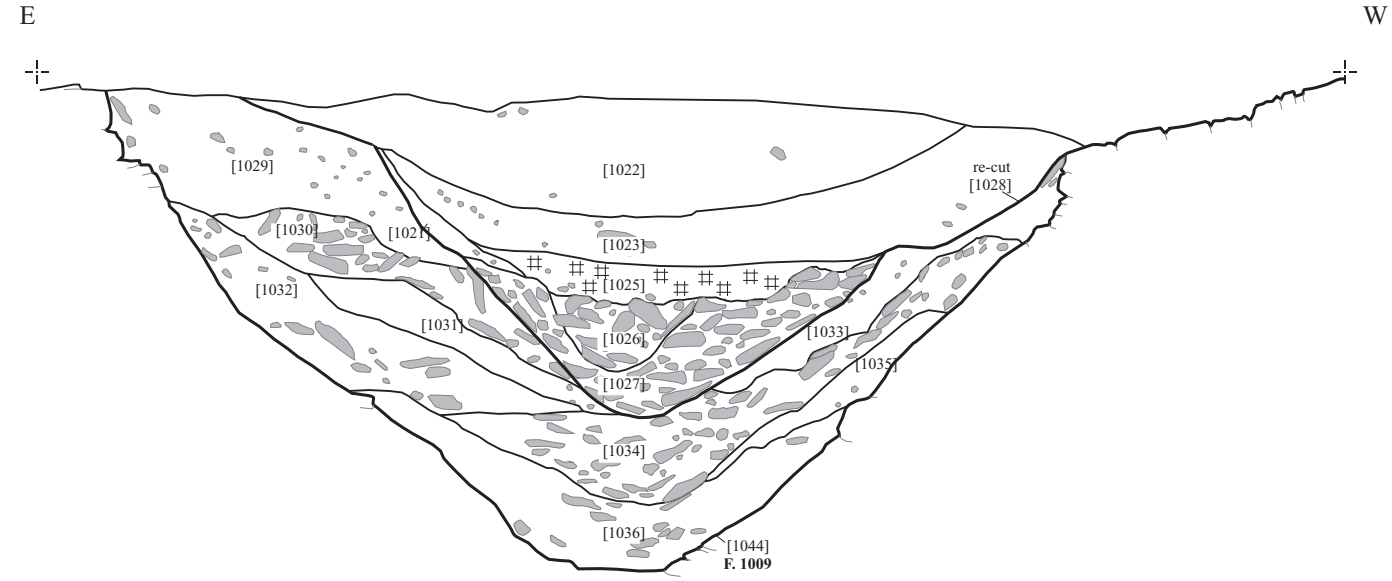


Figure 5. West side of Enclosure Ditch, F. 1009, Trench 3.

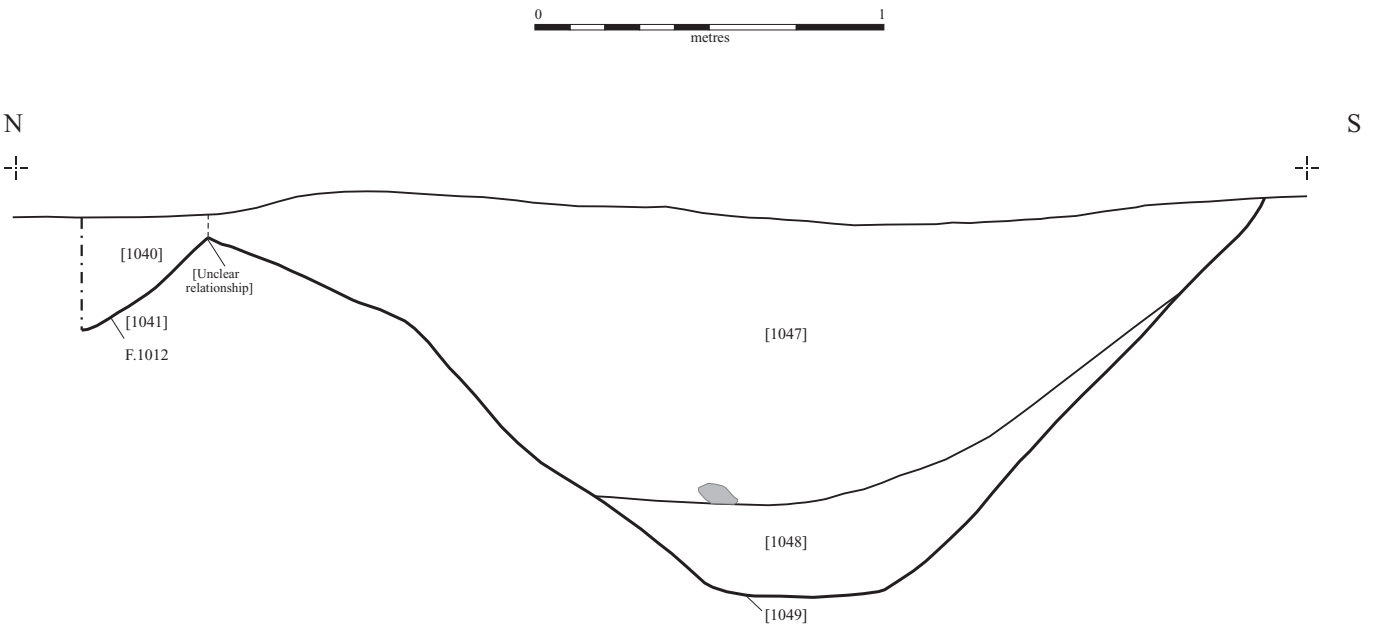


Figure 5a. North side of Enclosure Ditch, F.1019, Trench 4.

*Trench 4*

Aligned north-south, this was 18m in length and had a maximum depth of 0.85m throughout. A 2 x 2m addition was made to the mid-point of the eastern side. The topsoil layer, [1000], was between 0.2m and 0.28m in depth and overlay a sub-soil/colluvial layer [1001], which varied in depth between 0.26 and 0.38m, and lower sub-soil or potential 'buried soil' horizon [1039] which was 0.1-.016m deep. The geological 'natural' within Trench 4 was a light yellowy-grey, compacted sandy clay with much evidence of bio-turbation; several localised deposits of exposed bedrock were also present throughout the trench.

Six archaeological features were present within Trench 4. F. 1019 was a steep-sided, wide east-west oriented ditch, 3.1m wide and 1.15m deep, located in its southwestern end and which corresponded to the northern side of the rectilinear enclosure identified during in the geophysical investigation. Two fills were present within F. 1019: a basal slumping deposit of light yellowy grey sandy clay [1048], very similar to the soft geological natural within the trench base, was seen to respect the cut of the southern (inner) edge of the ditch (fig. 5b). It is likely that this represents the natural silting and primary collapse of an earthen bank created from the upcast of the ditch to the southern (inner) side of the enclosure. The main fill of the ditch, [1047], comprised of a homogenous orangey-brown sandy silt and contained an isolated burned stone at the base (as well as a single flint), a possible slingshot bolt and had bone (possibly human) throughout. [1047] was a maximum of 0.8m thick and was greatly affected by prolonged root agitation. Bio-turbation made exact stratigraphic relationships between lower sub-soil [1039] and the cut of the ditch unclear. The complete absence of any surviving layering within the ditch and the absence of any quantity of charcoal within the fill could suggest its deliberate 'decommissioning' through a single act of backfilling using material derived from upstanding bank material, rather than the ditch gradually silting.

A narrow, west-northwest by east-southeast oriented, round-bottomed ditch/gully, F. 1012 (0.8m wide and 0.3m deep), was located immediately north of ditch F. 1019. A homogenous and root disturbed fill ([1040]) yielded a single flint (see Billington, below), as well as a large unburnt stone. No direct relationship between F. 1012 and Enclosure Ditch F. 1019 could be ascertained due to the bioturbated nature of both fills.

An area of pitting was identified to the north of ditch F. 1019 and gully F. 1012, with four pits being completely or partially exposed. Two were completely exposed and excavated: F. 1014 was circular, with a diameter of 1.55m, possessed moderate to steeply sloping sides to a flat base and had a maximum depth of 0.22m. A single, probable young adult male skeleton [1064] was found lying in a crouched position in its western side, with its head to the northwest and hands drawn up to the chest; no grave goods were present (fig. 6). Covering the burial, a single, mid to light red-brown, moderately compacted sandy silty clay fill ([1072]) contained small quantities of ceramic and displayed high levels of root action. Similarities of the fill with the soft sandy clay geological 'natural' of Trench 4 suggest a rapid silting or deliberate backfilling of the pit following deposition of the burial; the still articulated bones, however, preclude the possibility of the burial's extended exposure.

Adjacent to Burial F. 1014 was pit F. 1024. Circular in plan, 1.5m in diameter with very steeply, almost vertical, sides leading to a flat base, it had a maximum depth of 0.39m and a basal fill of light orange-brown firmly compacted silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking [1075]; similarities between this basal fill and the surrounding natural suggest it to be a slumping/silting deposit, with the absence of visible banding suggesting deposition over a relatively short period (fig. 9b) The upper/main fill of the pit was a dark greyish brown moderately compacted silty clay [1074] with moderate to infrequent charcoal inclusions and occasional small gravels. No material culture was recovered from this deposit and it was unclear as to whether this fill was representative of deliberate backfilling or resulted from protracted exposure.

Two partially exposed and unexcavated pits were also identified within Trench 4: F. 1016 lay immediately adjacent to Burial F. 1014 and had a potential diameter of 1.4m and an exposed upper fill of light orange-brown sandy clay; F. 1017 lay 4.5m further north and had an estimated diameter of 1.55m and an exposed upper fill of light to mid grey sandy silt.

**Figure 6**: Pit F. 1014 with burial and pit F. 1024 to rear (unexcavated).

*Trenches 5 and 6*

Trenches 5 and 6 were located within the northeastern corner of the area of investigation and revealed several linear features which were potentially contiguous or at least associated with one another. Aligned east-west, Trench 5 was 15m in length and 0.9m deep throughout. The topsoil/sod layer ([1000]) was 0.22-0.36m in depth and overlay the sub-soil/potentially colluvial layer, [1001], whose depth varied between 0.4m and 0.48m; lower sub-soil or 'buried soil' layer, [1039], was between 0.25 and 0.3m deep. The geological 'natural' within the trench was a light yellow-brown, moderately compacted sandy clay overlying irregular fractured Hamstone bedrock.

Trench 6 was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast, was 20m in length, had a maximum depth of 1.2m in its west-southwestern end and was 0.46m deep in the east-northeast. It showed a well-defined geological transition from fractured Hamstone bedrock (forming the easternmost 6m of the trench) to soft, light yellow-brown sandy clay. The topsoil/sod layer [1000] was between 0.2m and 0.25m in depth; [1001] varied sharply between 0.26m in depth over the exposed bedrock and 0.85m over the softer geological sands. The lower sub-soil or 'buried soil' horizon, [1039], was 0.05m deep over exposed bedrock and had 0.36m depth above the softer geology.

Five features were revealed within Trench 5. A shallow pit, F. 1005, of indeterminate function and date, was partially exposed within the southern section of the trench's eastern end and contained an homogenous light sandy silt fill ([1013]) with an unclear relationship with lower sub-soil deposit, [1039]. F. 1005 was located in close proximity to a possible north-south oriented gully or ditch identified during geophysical surveying and it was noted that it may possibly represent a terminal of a segmented ditch. The same feature was, however, identified as continuing through the centre of Trench 6 on the geophysical survey, but was not present during the evaluation, and may, therefore, have been anomalous; no material culture was recovered from F. 1005 and a date and/or function could not be determined.

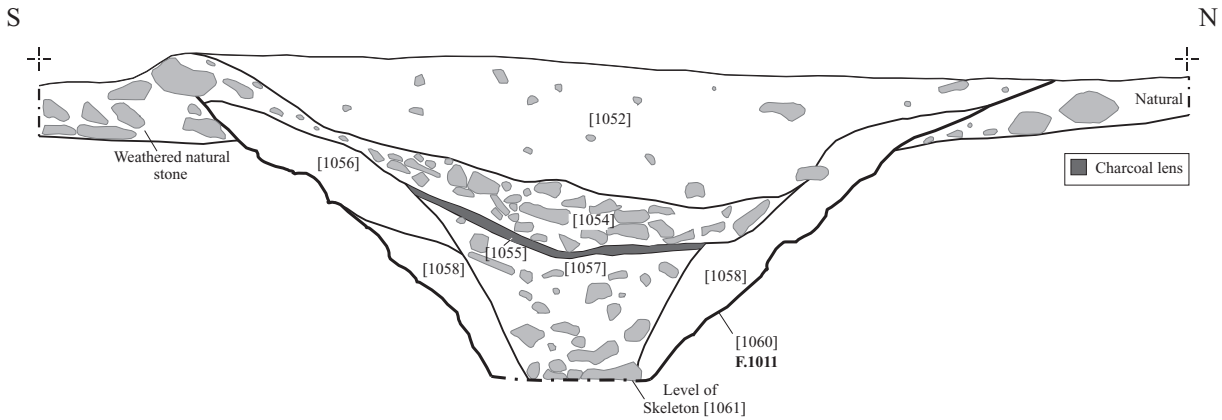


Figure 7a. East side of Enclosure Ditch F. 1011 showing depth of burial F.1021, Trench 7.

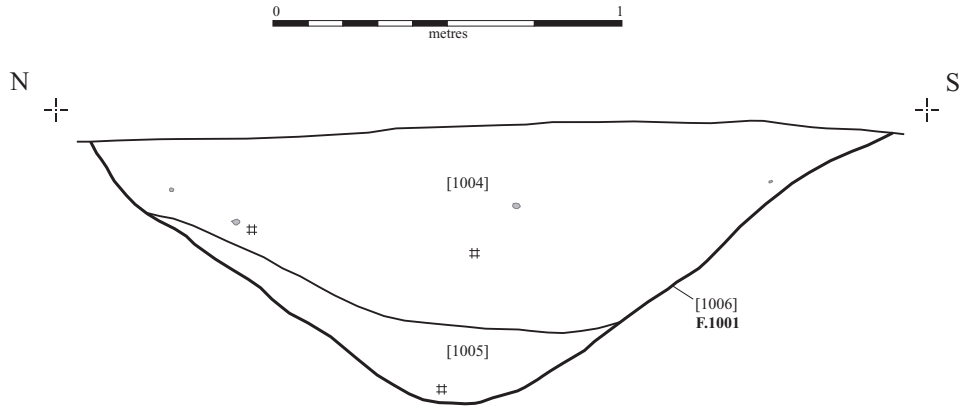


Figure 7b. South side of Enclosure Ditch F.1001, Trench 10.

Apart from pit/gully F. 1005, the remaining four features within Trench 5 represented shallow ditches and gullies. F. 1010 was an undated east-northeast to west-southwest orientated gully with a single homogenous sandy fill ([1037]). It was potentially associated with gully F. 1003 within Trench 6 to the south. F. 1006 was a narrow northwest to southeast oriented gully with a single homogenous fill ([1017]) and it appeared to be a re-cutting of F. 1007, a similarly aligned shallow gully with a similar homogenous fill ([1015]). Both features appear to be on the same alignment as gully F. 1002 within Trench 6. A wide north-northeast to south-southwest gully/shallow ditch, F. 1008 with similar, largely homogenous fills ([1020] & [1021]) contained a single flint. The position of F. 1008 corresponds with a linear feature identified during the geophysical survey as continuing towards the northern end of Trench 4; however, it was not present during the evaluation and is probably a result of geophysical plotting inaccuracies through such deep overburden.

Trench 6 contained three archaeological features. One was a shallow, wide gully/ditch, aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, F. 1004 and which had a single, heavily bioturbated, uniform silty sand fill ([1008]) containing several small, heavily degraded fragments of ceramic, as well as a possible stone sling-shot bolt. The alignment of F. 1004 appeared to correspond with a north-northwest to south-southeast oriented feature identified during the geophysical survey as potentially extending from the northern side of the rectilinear enclosure. It is possible that F. 1004 represents part of a field/boundary or droveway system associated with the enclosure. However, no direct physical relationship or firmly datable material culture existed to indicate that the two features were contemporary and the presence of several, short, linear geophysical anomalies within the enclosure itself suggest the existence of a field/boundary system pre- or post-dating the enclosure. Two shallow, narrow north-south oriented gullies were identified adjacent to gully/ditch F. 1004: F. 1003, was likely to have been associated with F. 1010 in Trench 5; F. 1002, was seemingly on the same alignment as either F. 1006 or F. 1007 in Trench 5. All had the same, re-deposited sandy clay fills; F. 1002 and F. 1003 both contained small quantities of abraded, presumably residual, ceramic.

*Trench 7*

25m in length, Trench 7 was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest; it had a maximum depth of 0.85m in its south-southwestern end and was 0.45m in the north-northeastern end. The topsoil [1000] was between 0.18m and 0.26m in depth; sub-soil layer [1001] was 0.26-0.4m deep and the lower sub-soil/'buried soil' horizon ([1039]) varied in depth between 0.26m and 0.35m. The 'natural' within Trench 7 was a fractured Hamstone bedrock throughout, demonstrating a noticeable slope to the south, with several shallow 'seams' of sterile reddish-brown sandy clay representing decomposed bedrock filling depressions in the stones.

Trench 7 contained two archaeological features, both ditches. East-west orientated, F. 1000 was located within the southern end of the trench; its steeply sloping sides cut through bedrock to a depth of 0.65m, the flat planes of the natural Hamstone causing a distinctive 'stepping' towards an irregular flat base. No indication of tool marks or abrasion of any kind was identified on the sides of the cut ([1003]), suggesting that a method of 'levering' each stone from the horizontally bedded limestone was employed to originally dig the ditch. A single fill was identified: [1002] a homogenous mid red-brown silty clay, with very infrequent charcoal flecking and high levels of root agitation. A slight suggestion of a lighter sandy-clay basal fill was noted, but exact contextual boundaries could not be identified; in accordance with the remainder of features identified during the investigation, it had an unclear upper contextual boundary with lower sub-soil or 'buried soil' horizon [1039].

Located centrally within Trench 7 was east-west oriented ditch F. 1011, which corresponded with the northern side of the large rectilinear enclosure: 1.8m wide with steeply sloping, generally straight, sides and whose obvious stepping related to the bedrock planes. The excavated segment through F. 1011 could not be taken to the base of the ditch due to the presence of Burial F. 1021.

The lowest exposed fills of ditch F. 1011 (figs 7a & 8) were mid to dark orange-brown clays ([1058] & [1056]), identified as showing the slump-like profile of the re-deposited natural/colluvial fills identified at the base of all the other excavated enclosure ditch-slots. An oval grave, F. 1021 ([1063]), was inserted into the ditch's silting fills. Aligned north-south, 1.05m in length with a maximum width of 0.48m, the grave also cut into the stone edges of the ditch. Within the grave cut was a crouched inhumation provisionally identified as a young adult male [1061], positioned on its back with head to the south, legs drawn to the west and hands clasped beneath the chin. A fragment of iron (see Appleby, below) was recovered from the area of the mandible/hands and a flint flake of probable late prehistoric manufacture (see Billington, below) was recovered from west side of the skull. A possible thin grave fill [1062] may represent disturbed ditch fill [1058] mixed with upper fill matrix [1057].

Immediately overlying the inhumation was a deposit of brown-orange silty clay with a high abundance of flattened angular fragments of Hamstone ([1057]), thought to represent the original upcast from excavation of the ditch F. 1011 into a now-collapsed bank. Within the matrix of [1057] were moderately high quantities of animal bone, along with disarticulated human bones: mandible, ribs and vertebrae (Dodwell, below). The absence of any silting over and around the burial discounts it being left exposed for a protracted period, and the relative survival of the bones under the stone fill suggests a careful/deliberate backfilling, potentially utilising at least part of an upstanding stone bank to cover the remains.

A thin lens of dark brown-grey silty clay ([1055]) overlay the primary stony fill of the ditch/grave, indicating that for a short period the now much shallower ditch was still open. A fill of orange-brown silty clay with very high quantities of angular, flattened Hamstone fragments ([1054]) then filled the ditch; this seemed to favour the southern side of the cut. These are indicative of the collapse of a probably much reduced inner bank. Above the stone was a thick tertiary deposit of orange-brown silty sandy-clay ([1052]), similar to the upper deposits in the other enclosure ditch slots.

Although not fully excavated, the width of 1.8m revealed the profile and estimated depth of the ditch. Truncating the natural bedrock, this seemed to show a marked contrast with the much wider F. 1019 truncating softer geology within Trench 4 and appears to more closely resemble the sand-cut southern side of the enclosure within Trench 10 (F. 1001), as well as the upper re-cut of the western side identified within Trench 3, F. 1009. The early deposition of largely homogenous sandy, silty clay corresponds well with all the enclosure ditch slots, as does the later bank collapse and thick, sterile upper fill. Following full on-site recording, the skeletal remains were carefully packed for support *in situ* prior to being backfilled.

**Figure 8:** Burial F. 1021 within Ditch F. 1011.

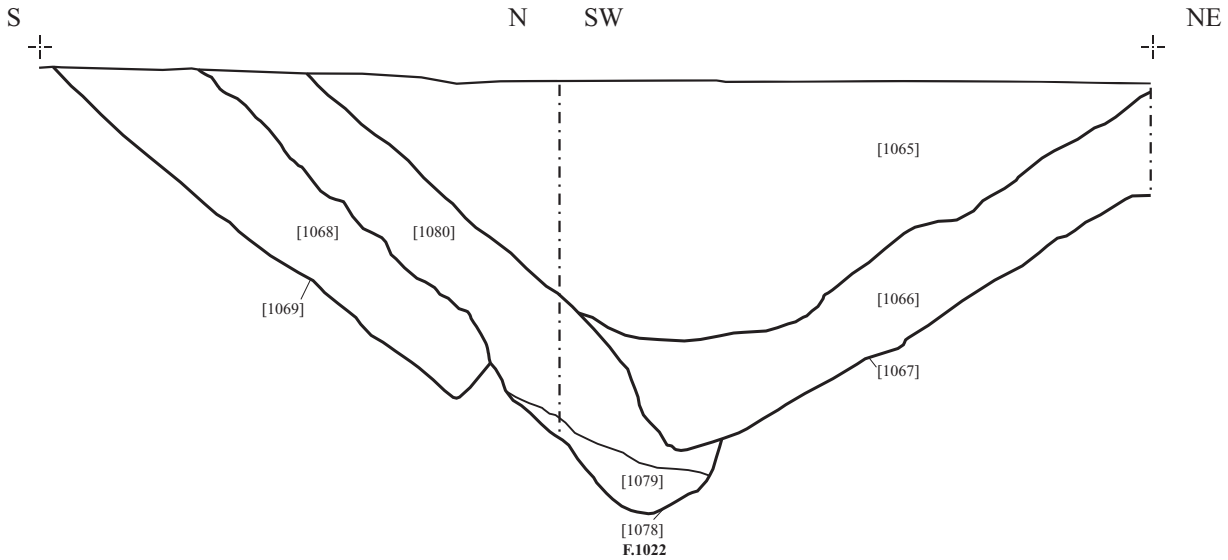


Figure 9a. “Ring Ditch” F. 1022, Trench 8.

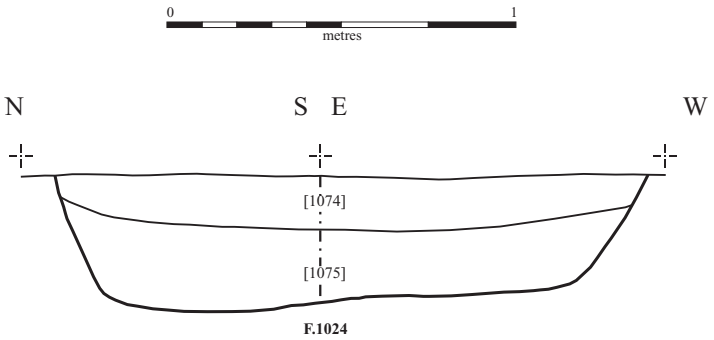


Figure 9b. Quarter section of pit F. 1024, Trench 4.

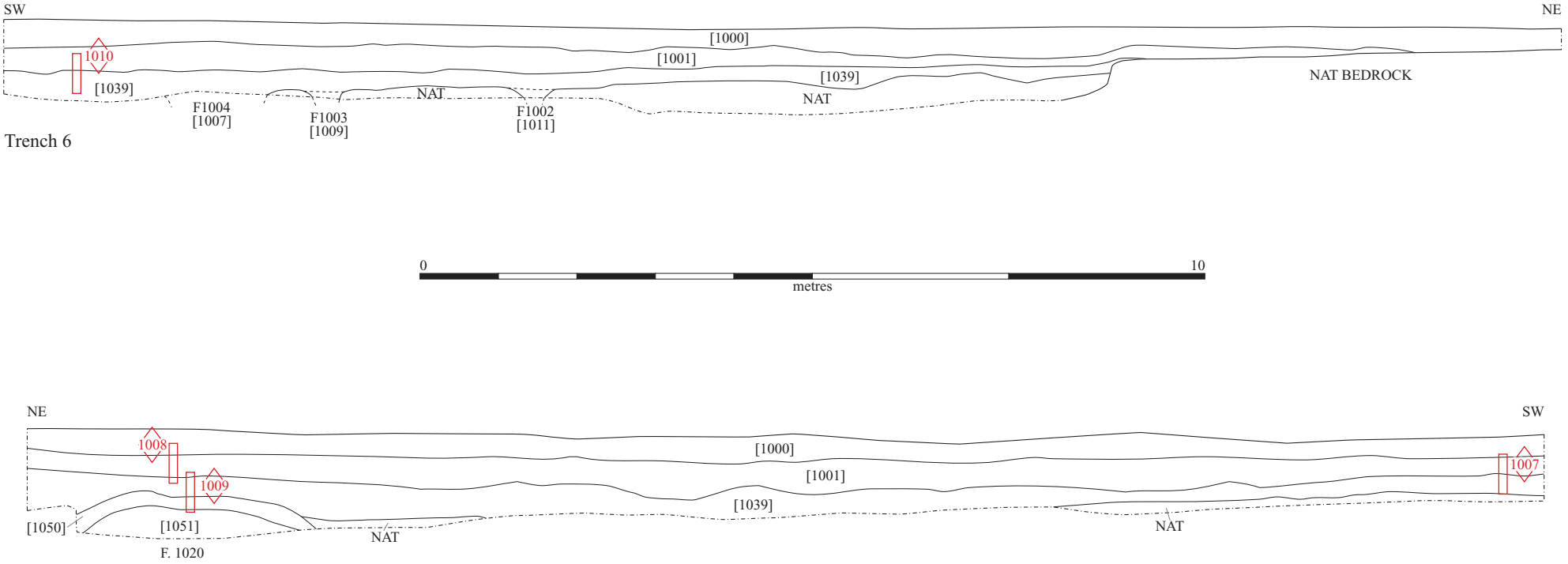


Figure 10. Sections of trenches 6 and 9, showing soil profiles, geomorphology sample areas and location of bank feature F.1020.

*Trench 8*

Trench 8 was aligned north to south, was 15m in length and had a maximum depth of 0.9m throughout. The topsoil [1000] was between 0.18m and 0.25m in depth and the sub-soil layer [1001] varied in depth between 0.3m and 0.45m, and itself sealed potentially 'buried soil' layer [1039] which varied in depth between 0.2 and 0.28m. The geological 'natural' within Trench 7 was mid yellow-brown firmly compacted sandy clay with occasional large root disturbances related to the field boundary immediately to the east.

Two features were identified within Trench 8. One, F. 1081, was a narrow/shallow east-west oriented gully located within the southern end of the trench, corresponding with an east-west orientated linear identified during the geophysical survey. Its fill was a homogenous, mid orange-brown silty clay redeposited 'natural' ([1045]), and which yielded no datable material culture and only occasional charcoal flecking.

The northern end of Trench 8 contained a wide, although not fully exposed, curvilinear ditch F. 1022 (fig. 9a), corresponding with an anomalous ring, approximately 15m in diameter, identified on the geophysical survey (fig. 2). The exposed ditch was 3.2m wide and comprised of a 0.95m deep steeply sloping 'V'-shaped primary cut ([1069]). This was filled with a single, homogenous sandy clay ([1068]) with very infrequent charcoal flecking, high quantities of root agitation and a single sherd of Glastonbury Ware (see Brudenell, below). A rounded terminal of a 'V'-shaped primary recut ([1078]) was identified within the eastern side of the excavated slot. With steeply sloping sides and a maximum depth of 1.27m, the basal fill of this recut ([1079]) was a light to mid grey sandy clay deposit. What appeared to comprise the remainder of the fill was a mid orangey brown sandy clay ([1080]) with high amounts of bio-turbation. A second, final recutting event, comprising a less steeply sloping 'V'-shaped cut, a maximum of 1.1m deep and 2.4m wide, was filled by a basal deposit of light orange brown redeposited natural slump ([1066]); seeming to be more pronounced to the northern (inner) edge; its bedding suggests that a possible inner bank was at some point present. A main fill of dark orange-brown sandy clay ([1065]), with a fragment of burned saddle quern, very infrequent charcoal mottling and high levels of bio-turbation filled the ditch. An unclear relationship existed between the fills and the lower sub-soil/'buried soil' horizon ([1039]).

*Trench 9*

25m in length, Trench 9 was aligned east-northeast to west-southwest, and had a maximum depth of 1.35m in its east-northeastern end and was 0.9m deep in the west-southwest. The topsoil [1000] was 0.2-0.25m in depth; the sub-soil/colluvial layer [1001], 0.6-0.76m in depth, sealed a lower sub-soil or 'buried soil' layer [1039] which varied in depth between 0.45 and 0.6m. The geological 'natural' within Trench 9 was light yellow-brown firmly compacted sandy clay overlying fractured Hamstone bedrock, visible within the east-northeastern end of the trench. Trench 9 was the only trench within the evaluated area to demonstrate permanent waterlogging throughout the period of investigation.

Two features were located in Trench 9. The one was a partially exposed, irregular cut into the exposed bedrock within the very west-southwestern end of the trench, F. 1023, and it corresponded to a marked anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. Filled with material very similar to lower sub-soil /'buried soil' deposit ([1039]) and with no clear upper contextual boundary, F. 1023 could potentially have represented a natural depression within a once-exposed seam of bedrock. However, as the majority of features from the evaluated area had unclear upper boundaries with [1039], many with largely homogenous, relatively sterile fills and, as the full extent of F. 1023 was not revealed, it could still represent the edge of a larger feature.

Within the east-northeastern end of the trench was revealed a potential raised bank, F. 1020, the profile of which was revealed in the trench sections (fig. 10); this appeared to correspond with the northeastern side of a sub-circular feature identified during in geophysical investigation. The bank comprised of a deposit, 2.4m wide and 0.45m deep, of compacted, very sterile yellow sandy clay ([1051]) considered to be upcast of soft geological sands; tip lines of orange-brown sandy clay were visible in the section. Capping the bank was a 0.18m thick deposit of mid to dark grey mottled silty clay ([1050]); demonstrating several irregular, darker, and more compacted patches throughout its length, this appeared to represent a sealed, grass or turf layer. The sub-soil/'buried soil' horizon ([1039]) was identified as clearly sealing [1050].

The identification of bank F. 1020 within both of the long sections of Trench 9 is suggestive of a linear or curvilinear continuation of the bank as demonstrated within the geophysical survey. It is likely that the geophysical anomaly was, in fact, related to an outer ditch, the source of the bank upcast, which lay beyond the

extent of Trench 9. The presence of the southern 'return' of the ditch was not identified during the evaluation. The location of Trench 9 features within the wider landscape will be discussed further below.

*Trench 10*

15m long, Trench 10 was aligned north-northeast by south-southwest, and had a depth of 0.6m. throughout. The topsoil/sod layer [1000] was 0.2m-0.26m deep; sub-soil/colluvial layer [1001] varied in depth between 0.2m and 0.28m and the depth of the lower sub-soil/potentially 'buried soil' layer [1039] was between 0.14m and 0.27m. The geological 'natural' was a light yellow-brown firmly compacted sandy clay.

Two features were located within this trench. One was a partially exposed pit (not excavated) that lay within the north-northeastern end (F. 1025); it had an estimated diameter of approximately 1m and an upper, exposed fill of mid to dark brown-grey, sandy clay.

A broad, west-northwest to east-southeast oriented ditch, corresponding with the southern side of the rectilinear enclosure boundary, was identified approximately centrally within the trench (F. 1001); with a wide rounded base, this steep to moderately steeply sloping ditch was 0.76m deep and 2.3m in width. A basal deposit ([1005]), although only thin, was apparently a slumping fill and showed a greater degree of 'respect' to the northern (inner) side of the ditch and potentially represents at least part of a collapsed/eroded bank; it contained small quantities of bone and eroded ceramic (fig. 7b). The main fill was, like the upper fills of the majority of features identified during the evaluation, largely homogenous, sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking and high levels of root agitation. Sparse quantities of burned stone, ceramic and flint were present within it and, although no clear banding or layering was visible, it is possible that this was contemporary with the thin layers of domestically-related material identified within enclosure ditch segments of F. 1011 and F. 1009.

**Human Bone** Natasha Dodwell

Disarticulated human bone was recovered from the collapsed rubble bank of Enclosure Ditch F. 1011. The rubble fills [1054] and [1058] covered an articulated skeleton, [1061], the grave of which was cut into ditch-silting deposit [1057]. The skeleton itself was not lifted and remains *in situ*.

The majority of the disarticulated bones, an adult mandible, vertebrae and ribs, were recovered from [1057]. Seven complete, or near complete, cervical vertebrae and nine complete and fragmentary thoracic vertebrae were identified. The upper ten vertebrae all articulate with each other, but the lower ones are too fragmentary to say if they do or not. In the seven articulating cervical vertebrae, all but the axis exhibit changes characteristic of osteoarthritis (small raised plaques of bone and an increase in porosity on the body surfaces and slight marginal osteophytes). Rib shafts and six rib heads were also recovered from this context. Other rubble ditch fills, [1054] and [1058], also produced fragments of human rib and a thoracic vertebrae; no cut marks were observed.

An adult female mandible with eleven *in situ* teeth was also recovered from [1057], the primary rubble fill of burial [1061]. The dentition is crowded (the left canine overlaps the lateral incisor). Periodontal disease affects the whole jaw - the alveolar bone has resorbed considerably, so that the roots of all the teeth are exposed; on several of the posterior teeth the bone has receded to such an extent that *c*. 6mm of root are exposed below the margin of the crown. Smooth, cream plaques of new lamellar bone, indicative of an infection, were observed bilaterally on the internal surface of the mandible beneath the molars. These plaques of bone protrude away from the bone surface and above the alveolar margin and must have been felt beneath the gum. Flecks to medium deposits of calculus, including sub-gingival calculus were recorded on most of the teeth.

| Feature | Context | Identifiable elements | Age/Sex | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F. 1011 | [1054] | thoracic vertebra & 2 rib frags. | adult | rubble fill |
| F. 1011 | [1057] | mandible, loose maxillary incisor, ribs, articulating thoracic & cervical verts. | ?female adult (34-45yrs) | rubble fill |
| F. 1011 | [1058] | rib frags | adult | rubble fill |
| F. 1021 | [1061] | 2nd metatarsal (left) | adult | from the skeleton left *in situ* |
| F. 1019 | [1047] | skull & single tooth root | ? | cremated (1g) |

**Table 8**: Location and identity of recovered bone:

Whilst the articulating vertebrae are obviously all from the same individual there is nothing amongst the rest of the skeletal material in terms of size, age, colour or appearance to suggest that they do not derive from the same person: a possible female adult, aged between 35-45 years (based on the morphology of the jaw and the pattern of molar wear as described by Brothwell 1981).

A very small quantity (1g) of very fragmented cremated bone (largest 24mm) was recovered from F. 1019 ([1047]). The fragments are buff white in colour indicative of complete oxidation. A fragment of skull and a tooth root are the only identifiable pieces.

## Material Culture

***Lithics*** Lawrence Billington

The excavations recovered 23 pieces of struck flint (80g), together with two pieces of worked chert (36.9g). Four of the worked flints had been heavily burnt, resulting in breakage and heat crazed surfaces. Listed by type in Table 9, the flint is generally of high quality with cortex suggestive of a secondary, derived, source. The assemblage consists entirely of small unretouched removals with little cortex, suggesting only that the later stages of core reduction are represented. The vast majority of the assemblage represents intrusive material inadvertently caught up in the fills of later features or in soil layers sampled during trenching. The only piece that does not appear to be residual was a large chert flake from Burial F. 1021.

Most of the struck flint demonstrates a structured reduction sequence geared towards the production of narrow flakes and blades, the hallmark of Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic technologies. This can be seen most clearly in the blade products recovered from F. 1000, F. 1019, F. 1022 and layer [1001], but flakes from F. 1012 and F. 1022 also bear similar technological traits. Most of these pieces have been struck with soft hammers from carefully trimmed platforms and some bear the scars of previous blade removals on their dorsal surfaces. A concentration of eight flakes and blades with these characteristics were recovered from layer [1001] and the fills of ditch F. 1022 in Trench 8. A core tablet was recovered from F. 1001, this specialised rejuvenation flake is most closely associated with the formal and dedicated blade production techniques of the Mesolithic.

A number of flakes, including examples from F. 1000 and layer [1001], do not demonstrate the structured approach to flint working seen in the examples above. These pieces could represent the un-diagnostic component of earlier Neolithic/Mesolithic technologies, but equally might relate to later activity of Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A side scraper was recovered from F. 1021; manufactured on a broad chert flake with crude, expedient abrupt retouch on one side, this may also relate to later activity at the site.

A large chert flake was recovered from Burial F. 1021. This appeared to represent a deliberate deposit, positioned against the skull of the skeleton. The flake shows traits consistent with a later prehistoric date: it is broad and irregular in morphology with a large unprepared platform and shows evidence for a lack of control and anticipation in the flaking process in the form of hinged and stepped flake scars on its dorsal surface. All of these attributes are consistent with the well-documented decline in lithic technology through later prehistory

(Ford *et al*. 1984). Although previously neglected, evidence for the use of flaked stone after the Bronze Age is now increasingly recognised (see Humphrey & Young 1999), and it seems likely that this piece is the product of an Iron Age lithic industry.

| Trench | Feature/Context No. | Deposit type | Chip | Chunk | Secondary Flake | Tertiary Flake | Secondary Blade | Tertiary Blade | Scraper | Core Tablet | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **3** | F. 1009 | Layer | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| **4** | F. 1012 | Ditch fill | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| **4** | F. 1014 | Pit fill | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| **4** | F. 1019 | Ditch fill | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| **5** | [1021] | Layer | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| **6** | [1039] | Layer | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| **7** | [1001] | Layer | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| **7** | F. 1000 | Ditch fill | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| **7** | F. 1011 | Ditch fill | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| **7** | F. 1021 | Grave fill | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| **8** | [1001] | Layer | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| **8** | F. 1022 | Ditch fill | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 8 |
| **9** | [1039] | Layer | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| **9** | [1001] | Layer | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| **10** | F. 1001 | Ditch fill | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| **10** | [1005] | Layer | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | ***Totals*** | *4* | *1* | *5* | *7* | *4* | *2* | *1* | *1* | *25* |

**Table 9:** Flint by feature/context.

The lithic assemblage largely relates to Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic activity on the site. No retouched forms of this date were recovered and it is difficult to characterize the activities that this material represents except to say that only the later stages of core reduction appear to be represented. A single probably Iron Age flake found in close association with a burial attests to the limited use of lithic resources in this period.

***Early Prehistoric Pottery*** Mark Knight

The earlier prehistoric pottery assemblage comprised 34 sherds weighing 185g (MSW 5.4g). All of the sherds were slightly abraded and most were small (3 x 3cm or less). Two fabric types were identified and these were both grog-rich - Fabric 1: medium hard with frequent to abundant small and medium rounded grog; Fabric 2: medium with frequent small rounded grog and rare sand. Sherd thickness ranged between 6-14mm, with the feature sherds including one rim and two base fragments. Nineteen were decorated; this involved incised lines or finger-pinched rustication. The majority of the fragments appeared to belong to small/medium diameter vessels (*c*. 18cm).

| Catalogue No. | Trench | Context | Number | Weight | Fabric |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 1001 | 1 | 11 | 2 |
| 2 | 6 | 1001 | 2 | 26 | 2 |
| 43 | 3 | 1001 | 20 | 72 | 1 |
| 65 | 3 | 1077 | 11 | 76 | 1 |
| *Totals* | | | *34* | *185* | |

**Table 10:** Assemblage Composition.

Contexts [1001] and [1077] (Trench 3) yielded 17 sherds that shared the same distinctive incised decoration made up of closely-spaced horizontal lines. Several of the sherds refitted and all had the same pale buff oxidised exteriors and dark grey un-oxidised interiors. The decoration comprised short (*c*. 3cm in length), thin and parallel horizontal lines arranged in adjoining columns that covered the entire surface of the vessel. A single rim fragment (a simple flattened form) was also decorated around its lip with incised lines. The vessel form was less apparent, although it seemed to have had a slightly bulbous body beneath an upright neck. The pot was coil-built and its coil joins gave the vessel a vaguely corrugated quality. Its shape, fabric and 'all-over' decoration situates the vessel within the Beaker tradition and although incised, its decoration was reminiscent of all-over comb-impressed Beakers.

Context [1001] Trench 3 also contained a couple of fragments from a thick-walled vessel that was decorated with a raised plastic design of paired or pinched fingertips characteristic of rusticated Beakers. Two conjoining flat base fragments from another vessel came from [1001], Trench 6, whilst a plain body sherd of the same fabric was found in [1001], Trench 5.

Residual sherds of earlier prehistoric pottery were located within assemblages from [1053] and [1066]. The former contained a grog tempered fragment similar in appearance to the rusticated Beaker sherds within [1001], Trench 3; the latter also produced a flint-rich fragment, but with a 'soapy' texture and impressed decoration; it may be Peterborough Ware.

Previous investigations at Ham Hill have produced small amounts of Beaker pottery, including fragments made with similar grog-rich but sand-free fabrics (see Morris in McKinley 1994; also Smith 1991). Both cord and comb-impressed forms have been identified as well as small fragments from a rusticated vessel.

***Later Prehistoric Pottery*** Matthew Brudenell

A small quantity of abraded Iron Age pottery was recovered from the evaluation, totaling 76 sherds and weighing 225g (mean sherd weight of 3.0g). The pottery was recovered from 15 contexts, relating to nine separate features, the sub-soil and a possible buried soil or lower sub-soil horizon.

The ceramics were recorded following the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics research Group (PCRG 1997).

*Fabrics*

A total of eight fabrics were defined (Table 11). Most could be matched with those described in previous excavation reports from Ham Hill (Morris 1995; Leivers *et al*. 2006).

Quartz sand group

**Q1**: Fine micaceous sand (Leivers *et al*. 2006: fabric Q2)

**Q2**: Common to abundant very coarse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (Morris 1995: fabric Q5; Leivers *et al*. 2006: fabric Q5)

**Q3**: Common fine quartz sand (association with Morris 1995 and Leivers *et al*. 2006 uncertain)

**Q4**: Fine micaceous sand with some rare quartzite, shell and ?limestone (Leivers *et al*. 2006: fabric Q1).

**Q5**: Moderate to common extremely coarse quartz; some rare calcined flint (Morris 1995: fabric Q6; Leivers *et al.* 2006: fabric Q6)

Fossil shell group

**S1**: Common to abundant moderate to coarse fossil shell or vesicles (Morris 1995: fabric S1; Leivers *et al*. 2006: fabric S1)

**S2**: Common to abundant coarse fossil shell and limestone (Morris 1995: fabric S2; Leivers *et al*. 2006: fabric S2)

Rock group

**R1**: Unidentified, crushed angular rock fragments in a sandy clay matrix (association with Morris 1995 and Leivers *et al*. 2006 uncertain, though possibly R2)

| Fabric | No. sherds | Wt. (g) | % by count | % by count | MSW (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q1 | 11 | 40 | 14.5 | 17.8 | 3.6 |
| Q2 | 9 | 21 | 11.8 | 9.3 | 2.3 |
| Q3 | 1 | 9 | 1.3 | 4.0 | 9.0 |
| Q4 | 1 | 5 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 5.0 |
| Q5 | 1 | 2 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| R1 | 1 | 2 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| S1 | 50 | 134 | 65.8 | 59.6 | 2.7 |
| S2 | 2 | 12 | 2.6 | 5.3 | 6.0 |
| **TOTAL** | 76 | 225 | 99.9 | 100 | 3.0 |

**Table 11:** Assemblage quantification (MSW= mean sherd weight).

The provenance of the Ham Hill fabrics has been discussed by Morris (1987; 1995), who suggests that those with shell (S1, S2), limestone (Q4) and quartz (Q1, Q4, Q5) are likely to be locally derived (on site or within a 10km radius of it). Fabric Q2 is of non-local origin, and has been described as a coarse Durotrigian ware whose source lies in Wareham-Poole Harbour (Morris 1995). One small abraded sherd from Enclosure Ditch F. 1001 ([1004]) has unidentified (possibly igneous) rock inclusions; this sherd (fabric R4) is also likely to be non-local.

*Forms, Decoration and Surface Treatment*

No vessel forms could be reconstructed from the assemblage. Only three different vessel rims and a base were identified. Enclosure Ditch F. 1009, [1025] contained fragments of a vessel in fabric S1 with an everted rounded rim (nine sherds, 31g). This was decorated at the base of the neck-angle with a faintly incised horizontal line, with bands of diagonal lines below it. The same context also yielded a fragment of a flat base in fabric S2 (one sherd, 6g).

Gully F. 1003, [1010] yielded the lip of a rounded rim in fabric Q2 (one sherd, 1g), whilst the buried soil, context [1039] yielded a beaded rim, also in fabric Q2 (one sherd, 1g). The only other decorated sherd in the assemblage derived from 'Ring-ditch' F. 1022, [1066]. This was a smoothed shoulder sherd in Fabric Q3 (9g) decorated with an incised horizontal line and beginnings of two curvilinear lines above. This presumably belonged to a Glastonbury-style vessel, suggesting a date in the 2$^{nd}$ or 1$^{st}$ century BC.

No burnished sherds were identified. Six sherds (26g) had carbonised residues, and a further six (24g) had sooting.

*Feature and Context Assemblages*

| Trench | Feature | Context | Number | Weight | Fabric |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 1001 | 1004 | 9 | 31g | Q1, Q2, S1, S2, R4 |
| 10 | 1001 | 1005 | 5 | 9g | Q1, S1 |
| 6 | 1002 | 1012 | 1 | 1g | Q2 |
| 6 | 1003 | 1010 | 1 | <1g | S1 |
| 3 | 1009 | 1022 | 1 | <1g | S1 |
| 3 | 1009 | 1025 | 25 | 88g | S1, S2 |
| 3 | 1009 | 1032 | 1 | 3g | S1 |
| 7 | 1011 | 1053 | 5 | 16g | S1 |
| 4 | 1014 | 1072 | 3 | 7g | Q2, S1 |
| 4 | 1019 | 1048 | 1 | 3g | S1 |
| 7 | 1021 | 1062 | 1 | 4g | S1 |
| 8 | 1022 | 1066 | 1 | 9g | Q3 |
| 8 | 1022 | 1068 | 15 | 44g | Q1, Q2. S1 |
| - | Sub/Soil | 1001 | 1 | 2g | Q5 |
| - | Sub/Soil | 1039 | 5 | 6g | Q1, Q2 |
| | | *Total:* | *76* | *225g* | |

**Table 12**. Later Prehistoric Ceramic by Feature/ Context.

Given the size and condition of this assemblage, it is difficult to closely date the pottery within the Iron Age. However, the presence of a few decorated sherds, including a shoulder of a Glastonbury-style vessel, and also the occurrence of fabrics Q2, R1 and a beaded rim, all imply a later Iron Age date, possibly centered on the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.

***Metalwork*** Grahame Appleby

A single fragment of iron (<089>), a heavily corroded nail, was recovered from F. 1021 [1062]. 34mm in length and 4mm wide, this tapered to a rounded point with a square cross-section. Prior to mass-factory production of nails using drawn wire, all iron nails were hand-made with the basic form represented by this example spanning the Middle Iron Age to the mid 19th century.

***Geology, Worked and Burnt Stone*** Simon Timberlake

The near-complete succession of Upper Toarcian (Upper Lias, Lower Jurassic) rocks seen within the well-exposed outcrop of Hamdon Hill consists of a thin capping of Ham Hill Stone limestones (max. 30m depth) which is separated from approximately 120m of underlying Yeovil Sands (a local equivalent of the Bridport Sands in Dorset) by a thin (5-10m thick) fossiliferous basal conglomerate sometimes visible within the base of the quarries. At the very base of the hill, beneath the Yeovil sands, lies the Junction Bed Limestones and Pennard Sands of Middle Toarcian date. The Ham Hill Stone limestones are in general quite poorly fossiliferous, though examples of the sub-zone type ammonite *Dumortieri moorei* (ammonite) are occasionally found (Prudden 1995).

The Ham Hill Stone (Hamstone) which forms the capping of this flat-topped hill and the plateau base for the hillfort consists of a shelly, sandy, and partly ferruginous (bioclastic) limestone largely made up of small fragmented shell debris. The upper horizon of this stone (the 'thin limestones and sandy beds'; *ibid.*), which outcrops within the area of the current hillfort investigation close to the locality of the still active and expanding quarry, consists of thin lenticular layers of evenly bedded shelly limestones (once quarried as tilestones) intercalated with still thinner sandy beds. Underneath this, and exposed within the historic quarry faces, can be seen the 'massive beds' of the Hamstone, a slightly sparry and more compact bioclastic limestone which was sought and quarried locally as a building stone.

Many of the Hamstone outcrops include examples of trough cross-bedding (indicating the sediment palaeo-current direction) and other contemporary sedimentological features such as erosional scours and channeling, whilst the effect of later tectonics (faulting) can be seen in the form of numerous striated fault planes (slickenside), echelon tension gashes (in-filled with calcite crystals), and N-S fracture joints (pseudostylolites) associated with E-W strike-slip fault structures. Both the cross-bedding and micro-tectonic features present in the Hamstone provide it with its unique and attractive appearance in cut ashlar stonework, though the fractures are also a great source of weakness in the stone resulting in the high level of wastage for the quarry operator, and probably a factor also governing the type of weathering and erosion of the stone, and thus the shape of the top of the hill.

On a larger scale the regional faulting has governed both the drainage and erosional landforms. The valley of the River Parrett runs north-south along a probable strike-slip fault, the Ham Hill plateau to the south and east of this fronted by a fine escarpment of both Ham Hill Stone and Yeovil Sands, both relatively resistant rock types, which combine to form a steep north- and west-facing escarpment and undulating plateau to the south. The landform of the southern side of Ham Hill and the area of Witcomb beyond is characterized by a number of 'U'-shaped and sometimes steep-sided and blunt-ended dry valleys or *combes*; the latter formed along faulted fracture zones where local spring lines resulted in permafrost freeze-thaw action and as a result periglacial mass wastage and hillslope recession during the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene (Prudden n.d.).

Other important features of the exposed Hamstone outcrop on the top of Ham Hill include a wide network of small sub-vertical (< 60cm) fissures or gulls which traverse the rock. It is believed these may have formed during the transition from arctic-like permafrost conditions to a more temperate climate during a time of excessive melting, ground water and slope instability; in some respects this represents a quite similar process to that forming the dry valleys. Both gulls and fractures contribute to the solution of the limestone by groundwater, and in places to the redeposition and precipitation of calcium carbonate as flowstone (stalagmite).

Ham Hill has been acknowledged as one of the best inland geological localities in Somerset and is statutorily protected as an SSSI within the working quarry at the southern end of the hill and with four designated Regionally Important Geological Sites (Prudden 1995). The RIGS sites include the northeast quarry face which shows the succession of the Ham Hill Stone, bedding structures, fracture sets, periglacial gulls and the basal conglomerate (ST 4784 1715); The Pinnacle and adjacent old quarry face which exhibit good examples of the fracture zone (ST 4780 1711); at the south end of the hill, the Limekiln Trail and Deep Quarry which shows some of the gulls, trough cross-bedding and tool marks (ST 4814 1650); the Limekiln

Face with its en echelon striated fault surfaces (slickensides), brecciaed rock and gulls (ST 4808 1640).

*Worked Stone*

A hammerstone made from a naturally waisted, shaped cobble of honey-brown coloured flint or chert was recovered from Enclosure Ditch F. 1009 ([1027]). Indications are present to suggest that this has been utilized at both ends. At the narrowest end the area of crushing covers the whole (approx 60mm diameter) surface but is more pronounced along one side, where it extends over the edge of the stone and as such this end is quite rounded; at the broad end, the area of pounding and wear is focused mainly along one prominent edge or projection (a 90mm x 40mm area), although there is also a minor amount of work around the other edges. The hammerstone was probably hand-held and used by a right-handed individual. The flattest surface of the cobble seems to have been used (probably prior reworking, judging from the slight wear and patination cover) as a small crushing mortar, or alternatively as a flat-sided hammer end for knocking in small diameter posts or stakes. The circular area of indentation here is approximately 40mm wide. Whilst it is possible that this implement was used for the course shaping of flint or chert, it is more likely that it was used for facing and breaking limestone, as a hammer for wood, or else in a domestic context.

F. 1009 Enclosure Ditch ([1027] upper fill) - Overall dimentions; 140 x 80mm, 65mm (middle); weight 1030g.

A fragment from the edge of a probable saddle quern made of sandstone was recovered from 'Ring-ditch' F. 1022 ([1065]). Evidently this was slightly burnt (reddened) and, therefore, heat-fractured, perhaps through use as a hearth stone. The lithology suggests a decalcified ferruginous sandstone-grit, the fossil evidence (including the edge of an external mould of an unidentified terebratulid brachiopod, some bivalve shell and small unidentified gastropod moulds), suggesting Mesozoic sandstone, perhaps immediately local or even regionally local Jurassic sandstone. The decalcification of the fossil material lends this rock a slightly porous 'gingerbread' texture. What survives of the grinding area and curvature of the slightly concave grinding surface of the quern suggests a 'later prehistoric' origin (Late Bronze Age-Iron Age). Examples of this type of quern are common in the Iron Age;

F. 1022 'ring-ditch' ([1065]) - 100 x 70 x 60mm; 490g.

*Stone Pebbles*

A total of eight rounded stone pebbles were recovered from varied contexts:

Two pebbles were recovered from the fill of ditch F. 1001 ([1005]). A sub-spherical to oval shaped pebble of flint with a grey-buff coloured cortex. The presence of a 3mm indent hollow at one end, plus a white speckling, suggests a nodule formed around a sponge fossil; typically these form spherical flint nodules. The well-rounded alluvial pebble could be an example of one collected from river gravels, though the possibility remains that the large number of sling stones of flint and chert collected (rather than of other lithologies) suggests a source on the south coast such as between Bridport and Weymouth (Hayward in Leivers *et al.* 2006) or even from Chesil Bank (Jefferson 1992). The second was an oval-shaped and slightly asymmetric well rounded pebble, probably composed of a quartzitic Greensand chert.

F. 1001 ([1004]) - x1 35-40mm diam pebble 52g.
F. 1001 ([1005]) - x1 25-35mm diam pebble 26g.

A small well-rounded asymmetric pebble, recovered from shallow boundary ditch F. 1004, of grey flint; a nodule probably enclosing a small sponge fossil.

F. 1004 ([1008]) - 25-27mm diameter pebble 18g.

Three pebbles were recovered from Enclosure Ditch F. 1019: a slightly flattened, but sub-round and smooth, pebble of flint with a cream coloured cortex (32-34mm diameter; weight 32g). The presence of an indent aperture and mottling suggests a nodule containing a sponge fossil. A slightly asymmetric rounded pebble of pale pink quartzite (39-43mm; weight 58g): a river gravel or beach pebble possibly of Bunter (Triassic) origin or a cobble from a southwest England beach source such as Budleigh Salterton (Devon). Finally, an oval-shaped pebble of cream coloured flint exhibiting the surface 'chatter marks' sometimes typical of beach cobbles (32-50mm; weight 60g).

F. 1019 ([1047]) - 32-34mm, 32g; 39-43mm, 58g; 32-50mm, 60g.

Two pebbles were recovered from ditch F. 1009 ([1027]): a slightly flattened spherical pebble of grey cortex flint (35mm diameter; weight 36g) and a well-rounded, but asymmetric, grey flint pebble with one naturally flattened facet (29-36mm diameter; weight 36g).

F. 1009 ([1027]) - 35mm, 36g; 29-36mm, 36g.

*Natural/Quarried Fragments of Stone*

Part of a small river pebble (52g) of a well-cemented fine grained sandstone was recovered from shallow gully F. 1008 [1021], showing wedge-set cross-bedding. This might derive from the geology of the hill or even nearby, but not from the hilltop nor the outcrop of the massive or thin lenticular beds. Its origin could well be as a sandstone clast derived from the basal conglomerate (Junction Beds) which underlies the quarried horizon of Ham Hill Stone. As such, this pebble would must have been brought to the top of the hill. The iron patination that covers the surface of this broken pebble suggests long-term weathering and exposure. Such a stone could have been recovered from the stream bed nearby, where it cuts down through the strata of the hill; as such, it can only have been imported.

F. 1008 ([1021]) - irregular shape, 52g.

*Burnt Stone*

All encountered burnt stone was retrieved from the evaluation. Other than those burnt stones that were themselves artefacts, the samples were weighed, examined and discarded.

The identification of burnt stone from this site is problematic in some cases, given the ferruginous nature of some of the limestone, and in particular the correspondence of what appears to be iron/manganese pan horizons with some of the burnt stone recovered from the ditch fills. However, further examination of this stone indicates a greater friability and flakiness of the stone within those areas of slight reddening, the latter suggesting a slight calcination of the cement holding the shell debris together. The loss of the silty-sand matrix to the limestone may be a burning or else a weathering and leaching effect. Table 13 and its accompanying bar chart (fig. 11) indicate the different proportions of burnt stone recovered from each of the various ditches and gullies. The much higher proportion of burnt limestone recovered from the higher fills of Enclosure Ditch F. 1009 would seem to suggest the presence nearby (close to Trench 3) of a hearth or other domestic activities from which material was incorporated into the ditch fill. To a lesser extent, we find burnt stone being incorporated into the fills of Enclosure Ditch F. 1001 and probable boundary gully F. 1003. This could provide us with some indications of where burning took place. Whether this distribution is meaningful, given the very small number of features from which stone was sampled or recovered, remains an interesting question.

Of relevance perhaps to the location of such burnt material, was the recovery of a small fragment of burnt quern stone from the fill of F. 1022. The re-use of quern stone as hearth- or oven-lining has been suggested at a number of Roman or Romano-British sites where moderate amounts of burnt and broken quern stone have been found, for example at Babraham, South Cambridgeshire (see Timberlake *et al.* forthcoming). Another explanation for the burning could be the intentional breaking up of a discarded quern to make rubble for use in the construction of a road or track, or else fragments of flat stone for use in posthole packing. In a hillfort setting the re-use of this quern as hearth stone, or else as packing in postholes, seems by far the most likely explanation. In these locations any better quality stone than the available bedrock would be prized, and certainly useful beyond its original purpose.

Whilst it could be argued that the fragment of saddle quern from F. 1022 is much more likely to be Iron Age in terms of its association with the hillfort, in stylistic and technological terms it is in fact probably earlier than the Late Iron Age rotary querns previously recorded from pits located within the hillfort interior (Smith 1991; Leivers *et al.* 2006). This suggests that we might be looking at substantially earlier features, or at least earlier material redeposited within them. A suggested reconstruction of the saddle quern based on the small surviving fragment

and fairly typical parallels (e.g. Curwen 1937), suggests that this particular example was probably oval-elongate (ark-shaped) and up to 150-170mm wide, between 200-250mm long, and between 70-100mm deep. Most likely the base of this was flattened or keel-like in order to anchor the stone in the soil. The origin of the rock could not be determined, though this might be local, and most probably from the Mesozoic of southwest England, possibly from the Axe valley.

| Feature | Weight BS(g) | Other |
|---|---|---|
| F. 1001 | 804 | x2 sling stones |
| F. 1003 | 580 | |
| F. 1009 | 1868 | x1 hammerstone + x2 sling stones |
| F. 1019 | 22 | burnt daub + x3 sling stones |
| F. 1022 | 262 | x1 burnt saddle quern frag |

**Table 13**: Quantities of burnt stone recovered from ditch fills.

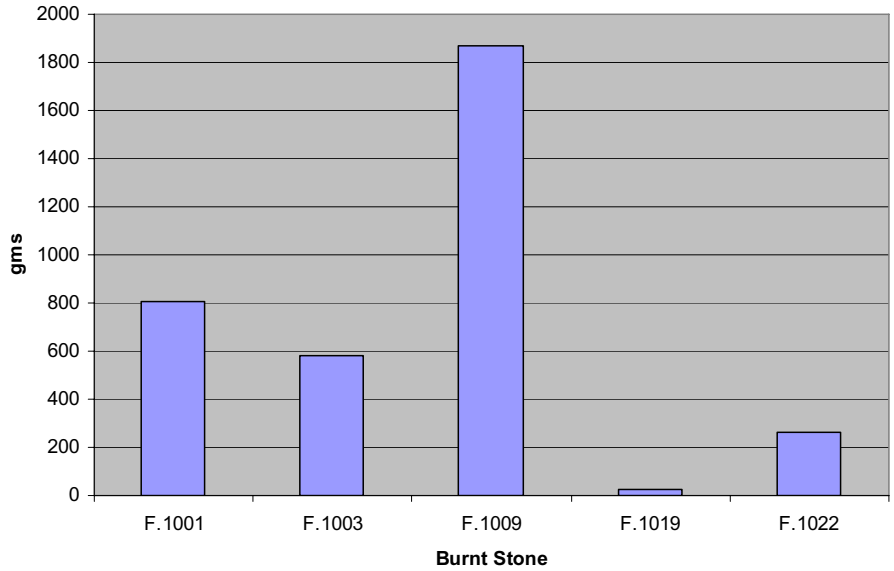


**Figure 11**: Quantities of burnt stone by weight within ditch/gully fills.

The hammerstone recovered from the fill of the Enclosure Ditch F. 1009 weighed a kilo and was fashioned from an unmodified naturally waisted cobble of honey-brown coloured chert, the latter probably an erratic and well-patinated cobble derived from chertified beds within the Greensand, some beds of which outcrop 10km to the south of Ham Hill. Most likely this cobble was recovered from river beds or river gravel deposits nearby. An earlier phase of use of this implement, either as a small crushing anvil/mortar or else as a mallet (perhaps as a flat-sided hammer end for knocking in small diameter posts or stakes), is suggested by a circular indentation on the flattest surface of the cobble, which also shows a surface patination and wear across it. Such a utilitarian use and re-use of cobble hammerstones has often been noted in tools used for mining and quarrying during the prehistoric period (Timberlake 2003), though the absence of serious flaking resulting from its use suggests that its function was for close pounding and crushing, perhaps also as a mallet. Whilst it is possible that this artefact was used for the coarse shaping of flint or chert, it is much more likely that it was used for facing and breaking poorly competent limestone, as a hammer for wood, or else in a domestic context. The position of the hammered surfaces suggests that this was hand-held, probably

used by a right-handed individual. Similar cobble stone hammers, some partially grooved for hafting, have been recovered from Iron Age hillforts in Clwyd, such as Braich y Dinas, and thus are probably much commoner than imagined in those Iron Age contexts where good quality stone was valued.

The presence of sling stones within the fills of features, as well as from ploughsoil contexts, inside of the hillfort is clearly a recognized feature of archaeological investigations on Hamden Hill. Some 171 small 'oval-shaped' pebbles, falling in the size-range 30-40mm wide and 35-45mm long (and weighing between 42-48g), were recovered during excavations undertaken in 1983 (Smith 1991), where 528 'ovate flint or chert pebbles', with an average diameter of 50mm and a mean weight of 40g, were recorded from a single pit in 2002 (pit 108; Leivers *et al*. 2006). Meanwhile, large collections of pebbles of this sort are known from Danebury and Maiden Castle, including 11,000 found in a single pit just inside of the main gate at Danebury (see Brown in Cunliffe 1984).

From a quick study of the small collection of well-rounded pebbles recovered from the 2009 ditch fills it was clear that these matched the size/weight/shape range and lithologies of the pebbles recovered from the excavated pits on Ham Hill during previous excavations, and are also very similar to the Danebury and Maiden Castle examples credibly described as sling stones (Table 14). The majority of the Ham Hill stones would appear to be composed of small and well rounded water-worn pebbles of flint with perhaps a smaller percentage of Lower Greensand derived chert (see Hayward in Leivers *et al.* 2006). Whilst most of the more rounded pebbles recovered from the 2009 excavated ditches appear to have been nodules of flint originally formed around sponge fossils (and as such eroded out of the Chalk), one of these was composed of a quite distinct pinkish quartzite (a pebble from F. 1019). The most likely origin for this was as a re-worked pebble from the Triassic Budleigh Salterton Pebble Bed which outcrops at Budleigh Salterton near Exmouth in Devon (West 2009). Over time vast numbers of these extremely competent quartzite pebbles have been eroded out of the cliffs and carried eastwards through the mechanism of longshore drift, and as a result, today these form a classic a recognisable component of the make-up of beach cobbles and pebbles along the coastline of Southern England; one significant concentration being the much-studied graded pebble beach at Chesil in Dorset (West & Harvey 2008). The bulk (98%) of the pebbles on the latter beach in fact consists of flint and chert, including the grey-brown flint from the Chalk and the grey chert from the Upper Greensand. Although some of the Ham Hill flint pebbles could have been collected from river gravels, rather than a beach source, these are still very unlikely to be local. Moreover, the idea that some of the Ham Hill flint and chert could have been collected from beach material along the south coast, such as between Bridport and Weymouth, had previously been suggested by Hayward (in Leivers *et al.* 2006), whilst Jefferson (1992) suggested Chesil Bank.

More conclusive perhaps in the present sample is the recognition of small crescentic *chatter marks* (<2mm in diameter) on the surfaces of some of the pebbles from F. 1019. These marks, which are made evident here as a result of the slight iron oxide staining imparted by the limestone soils during burial, provide a very good indication of pebbles from a coastal beach source. Where present on pebbles, cobbles or boulders these represent the classic indicators of percussion resulting from the impact of waves hammering large particles one against each other (West & Harvey 2008; Sanjaume & Tolgensbakk 2008). Despite the significant distance to the coast at Chesil, it is important to remember that the existence here of a readily graded source of well-rounded hard and compact pebbles from one area of the bank (with typically 35-50mm diameter clasts) could in fact make the actual process of collection of suitable

material quite easy, even if the transport of these pebbles to Somerset proved a little more problematic. However, there may have been 'historical' reasons for this. If, for instance, such a tradition of sourcing these had begun in the Dorset Iron Age with coastal hillforts such as Maiden Castle, one can easily see how this may then have continued and developed, though naturally in this case one would expect to be able to see a cut-off point where these distances became too great, at points where hillforts were established closer to other suitable sources. In fact this may be what we are seeing at Danebury, where the size, weight and lithology of the sling stones clearly indicates yet another distinct source for these pebbles (see Table 14).

| Site | Feature type | Number | Shape | Diameter | Weight | Lithology |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ham Hill (2009) | F. 1001 (Enclosure Ditch) | 1 | oval | 35x40mm | 52g | flint |
| Ham Hill (2009) | F. 1001 (Enclosure Ditch) | 1 | oval | 25x30mm | 26g | Greensand chert |
| Ham Hill (2009) | F. 1004 (Boundary Ditch/Gully) | 1 | round | 25x27mm | 18g | flint |
| Ham Hill (2009) | F. 1019 (Enclosure Ditch) | 3 | sub-round and oval | 32x50mm | 50g (mean) | flint (x2) and Budleigh Salterton quartzite |
| Ham Hill (2009) | F. 1009 (enclosure ditch) | 2 | round and flattened | 29x36mm | 36g | flint |
| **Ham Hill** (2009) **total** | **Ditches** | **8** | **sub-round - oval** | **31x37mm** (mean) | **37g** (mean) | **x6 flint, chert and quartzite** |
| Ham Hill (1983) | ploughsoil | 77 | oval | 32x42mm | 42g (mean) | flint, chert, quartz and sandstone |
| Ham Hill (1983) | pit fills | 94 | oval | 32x48mm | 48g (mean) | " |
| Ham Hill (2002) | pit 108 | 528 | oval | 50mm (av) | 40g (mean) | flint or chert |
| Danebury | Phase 7 pit sample | 11,000 | | 40x53mm | 78g (mean) | varied lithologies: local Tertiary source |

**Table 14**: Comparison of sling stone pebbles recovered from Ham Hill excavation contexts and from Danebury.

It would seem that there is considerable potential here for further useful research, this being one aspect of resource utilization associated with hillfort settlements and defences which has never been fully investigated.

In conclusion, a fairly detailed study of the worked, burnt and quarried stone recovered from the fills of the enclosure ditches examined as part of this evaluation has proved the usefulness of stone analysis in situations where the recovery of other artefacts is minor or negligible. In such 'lithic' environments as 'hard-rock' hillfort locations the importance and resource utilization of stone may have had elevated status even towards the end of the prehistoric period.

Here at Ham Hill, there would appear to be considerable potential in the further study of the use and collection of pebble sling stones, including their eventual distribution over the hillfort area. This distribution may well provide some indication of their use in defence, and perhaps also leave a record (in terms of their non-intentional accumulation within ditches and on banks) of past disturbances.

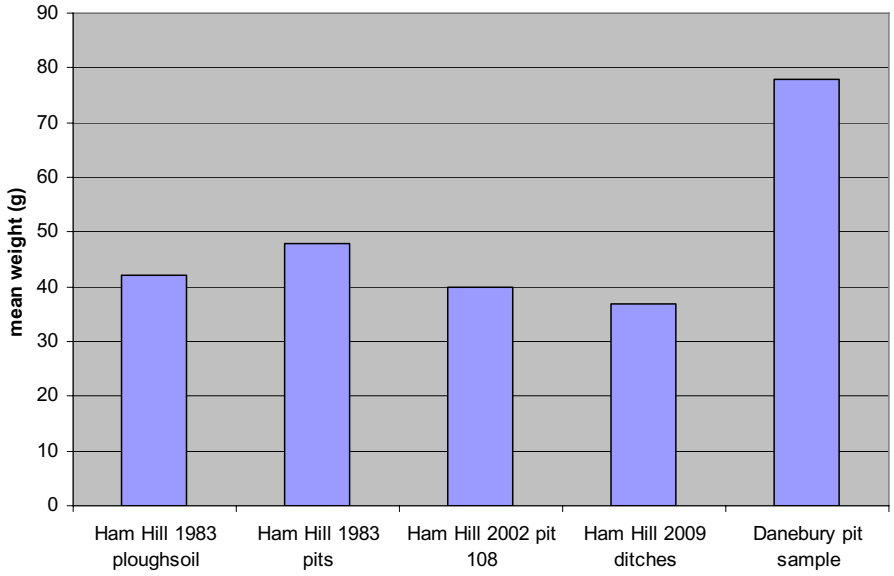


**Figure 12:** 'Slingshot' stones by weight from various phases of Ham Hill excavations.

## Environmental and Economic Data

***Faunal Remains*** Lorrain Higbee

A total of 168 fragments of animal bone were recovered. This material has been broadly dated to the Iron Age period. Sixty-five percent of fragments were recovered during the normal course of hand-excavation. Additional material was retrieved from bulk soil samples; these were wet-sieved using a 4mm mesh.

The assemblage was analysed following Davis (1992) and for each identified fragment a range of information was recorded including species, skeletal element, preservation condition, epiphyseal fusion, tooth eruption/wear, measurements, butchery, pathology and non-metric traits. Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible and small splinters to a general mammal category. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count.

The assemblage is poorly preserved and fragmented. Bones have a brittle texture and cortical surfaces are corroded and root etched. Teeth are generally better preserved due largely to the durability of tooth enamel. A few of these have, however, fragmented as a result of the disintegration of the underlying dentine and cement; these types of calcified tissue are less stable in unfavorable burial environments.

A few fragments from Enclosure Ditch F. 1009 have abraded edges; these might be residual having been reworked from earlier deposits or re-deposited after a period of surface exposure. Gnaw marks are rare and were recorded on only one cattle metatarsal fragment from Enclosure Ditch F. 1019.

A significant proportion of unidentified fragments from enclosure ditches F. 1025 and F. 1055 are small splinters of calcined bone. These fragments have been burnt at a high temperature; they are uniformly white in colour and have a powdery texture.

| Catalogue No. | Trench | Feature | Context | Quantity | Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | 10 | 1001 | 1004 | 9 | 1g |
| 9 | 10 | 1001 | 1005 | 3 | 2g |
| 21 | 6 | 1003 | 1025 | 1 | 1g |
| 17 | 3 | 1009 | 1022 | 1 | 2g |
| 70 | 3 | 1009 | 1025 | 39 | 31g |
| 23 | 3 | 1009 | 1027 | 1 | 102g |
| 28 | 3 | 1009 | 1032 | 16 | 14g |
| 30 | 3 | 1009 | 1036 | 1 | 14g |
| 38 | 7 | 1011 | 1054 | 51 | 52g |
| 79 | 7 | 1011 | 1055 | 7 | 1g |
| 40 | 7 | 1011 | 1058 | 7 | 8g |
| 81 | 7 | 1011 | 1058 | 2 | 1g |
| 76 | 8 | 1018 | 1045 | 3 | 1g |
| 32 | 4 | 1019 | 1047 | 9 | 35g |
| 88 | 7 | 1021 | 1061 | 4 | 3g |
| 54 | 8 | 1022 | 1065 | 11 | 3g |
| 60 | 8 | 1022 | 1068 | 2 | 1g |
| 66 | 6 | Subsoil | 1001 | 1 | 1g |
| ***Totals*** | | | | ***168*** | ***275g*** |

**Table 15**. Quantities of animal bone by feature

*Species and Skeletal Elements*

A small number (9%) of fragments could be identified to species and only livestock species (e.g. cattle, sheep/goat and pig) are represented. The assemblage is quantified in Table 16 and briefly described in the following sections:

*Trench 3, Enclosure Ditch F. 1009*: Animal bone was recovered from five separate fills; identified fragments include a cattle mandible, loose upper premolar and distal radius, and a sheep/goat loose upper premolar and tibia shaft.

*Trench 4, Enclosure Ditch F. 1019*: A small number of fragments were recovered from fill [1047]; identified remains include a proximal fragment of cattle metatarsal.

*Trench 6*: One unidentifiable fragment of bone was recovered from sub-soil layer [1001]; boundary gully F. 1003 ([1025]) produced a fragment of rib from a medium-sized mammal (i.e. sheep/goat/pig).

*Trench 7, Enclosure Ditch F. 1011*: Animal bone was recovered from four separate fills and the identified remains include fragments of sheep skull from fills [1054] and [1057]; the skull fragments from [1054] are from a horned breed of sheep.

*Trench 8* A small number of unidentifiable bone fragments were recovered from boundary gully F. 1018 and 'Ring-ditch' F. 1022 fill [1065]; one sheep/goat molar was identified from fill [1068] of the ring-ditch.

*Trench 10, Ditch F. 1001*: Animal bone was recovered from two separate fills [1004] and [1005]; isolated and fragmented sheep/goat molar teeth were identified from both.

| | Hand-recovered | Sieved | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| cattle | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| sheep/goat | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| pig | 1 | - | 1 |
| large mammal | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| medium mammal | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| mammal | 48 | 39 | 87 |
| *Total* | *82 (65%)* | *44 (35%)* | *126* |

**Table 16.** Number of specimens identified to species (or NISP).

The animal bone assemblage is small, fragmented and poorly preserved. Only a small proportion of fragments can be identified to species and very few of these are complete enough to provide detailed information (e.g. age and biometry). Most of the identified fragments belong to sheep/goat and these appear to have been a horned breed.

Previous excavations at the site have produced small, poorly preserved assemblages of animal bone (Meddens 1991; Hamilton-Dyer 1999; Knight 2006). Fragments of charred/calcined bone are fairly common from it and could be associated with the deliberate burning of waste (for discussion see Leivers *et al*. 2006: 58-60). In common with other Iron Age hillforts in the region (Hambleton 1999: 56), sheep bones dominate the Hamdon Hill assemblage. Other identified species from the earlier assemblages include cattle, pig, dog, horse, deer and raven. Special deposits of animal bone have also been noted from some pits, these include groups of horse skulls and the presence of ravens (Knight 2006: 52; Morris & Serjeantson in prep.).

Based on the material recovered from the evaluation and the results from previous excavations, it is anticipated that a small, poorly preserved and fragmented assemblage of animal bone will be recovered from further investigations at the site. This material should provide basic information on species proportions, refuse disposal and ritual activity, but is unlikely to provide adequate data for the reconstruction of slaughter patterns or the size and conformation of livestock species during the Iron Age.

***Archaeobotanical Samples*** Chris Stevens

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out analysis and reporting of the evaluation's archaeobotanical assemblage. Ten bulk samples were taken from features within the excavation and processed by Cambridge Archaeological Unit for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals.

The samples were mainly from ditch fills, comprising enclosure ditches F. 1009 ([1025]) in Trench 3; F. 1011 ([1058] & [1055]) in Trench 7 and F. 1001 ([1005]) in Trench 10, ditch F. 1000 ([1002]) in Trench 7 and 'Ring-ditch' F. 1022 ([1066] & [1068]). In addition, a sample from a pit F. 1024 ([1074]) in Trench 4 was examined, along with an inhumation burial/pit F. 1014 ([1072]) in this same trench and a further inhumation F. 1011 ([1058]) in Trench 7.

The samples were sorted under a low-powered stereo binocular microscope at Wessex Archaeology. Charred plant remains were extracted, identified and recorded in Table 17, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild species and the traditional nomenclature as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000: 28, Tables 3 and 65) for cereals. The flots were generally small with high amounts of roots. Given that some of the contexts came from relatively deep, well-sealed deposits, the high numbers of roots must be seen in some

instances as reflective of deep rooting, although in other cases the samples come from shallow deposits lying close to the active soil horizon. Whilst the rooting is likely to be responsible for the poor preservation of charred material, it is not believed in most cases that later intrusive elements have substantially entered the deposits.

Charred cereals grains, chaff and weed seeds were relatively rare within the samples and entirely absent from three of the deposits. These were inhumation burial/pits F. 1014 and F. 1021 and 'Ring-ditch' F. 1022 [1002] in Trench 8.

The richer samples came from ditches F. 1009, one of the higher fills [1005] from Enclosure Ditch F. 1011 and from pit F. 1024 that produced only a small amount of material. These samples yielded mainly unidentified cereal grains, but all three contained several glume bases and spikelet forks, as well as grains of hulled wheat.

In the cases where such material was identifiable, both emmer and spelt wheat could be seen to be present: emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) was represented in Enclosure Ditch F. 1011, while F. 1009 produced remains of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and probable emmer wheat. These cereals were also present in pit F. 1024 and ditch F. 1001, with single grains of hulled wheat present in Enclosure Ditch F. 1011 ([1058]) and ditch F. 1000 ([1002]).

A grain of possible free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* c.f. *aestivum s.l.*) was identified in pit F. 1024. This species is generally absent in Iron Age deposits, but given the shallow nature of this feature it is possible that the grain is intrusive; although the remainder of the cereals in this deposit are in keeping with an Iron Age date. No other crop remains were seen in the samples.

Barley (*Hordeum vulgare s.l.*) was seen in two of the deposits from enclosure ditches F. 1011 in Trench 7 and F. 1001 in Trench 10. The latter could be seen to be of hulled barley with the palaea and lemma both still firmly attached to the grain.

Seeds of wild species were particularly common in F. 1009 ([1025]) and F. 1011 ([1055]), comprising mainly of seeds of brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and to a lesser extent oats (*Avena* sp.). Other species present included mainly larger seeded species; black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), grass-pea (*Lathyrus* sp.) and rye-grass *Lolium* c.f. *perenne*). Smaller seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium album*) were also present in the sample from F. 1009 ([1025]).

Wood charcoal was very rare within the deposits and this general absence can certainly be attributed to the high numbers of roots in the samples. Wood charcoal by its inherent structure is highly susceptible to being broken down by general pedological processes and bio-turbation and this might explain the general absence of charcoal in the samples.

Graves and burial pits rarely contain charred cereals or domestic waste in general, as they may be situated away from settlement or are quickly backfilled with relatively sterile deposits. While deposits have been recovered from Ham Hill that have been extremely rich in cereal remains (Ede 1990; 1999; Stevens 2006), it might be noted that many features have been present on the site with little to no charred cereal remains (Wessex Archaeology 2003). For those features examined, the high numbers of roots suggest that post-depositional processes may be in part responsible for the poor preservation of the material as well as the low density of material seen within the samples. Chaff often preserves less well than cereal remains and the higher number of unidentified cereal grains compared to other material is testament to the poor preservation of cereal remains on the site.

The presence of both emmer and spelt compares well with the previous work conducted at Ham Hill (Ede 1990; 1999; Stevens 2006) and, although the evidence is slight, it is in keeping with the predominance of emmer seen in the previous studies conducted at this site. While barley was not well-represented, it has been recovered in reasonable quantity in the previous excavations at the site. These excavations have also provided good evidence for broad bean

(*Vicia faba*) and mustard (*Brassica nigra*), although these were confined to a small number of features.

The confirmation of the high presence of emmer at the site has already been commented on as of some interest, as it is generally absent from sites to the east, for example in the Thames Valley (Robinson & Wilson 1987), but is present to the west in South Devon (Clapham 1999). The dominance of seeds from larger seeded weed seeds, in particular those of brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and oats (*Avena* sp.), is also seen on the previous excavations and suggest that crops were brought to the site in a relatively clean state, probably as spikelets after threshing, winnowing and sieving had been conducted in the field (Stevens 2006).

**Table 17:** Sample Summary

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Trench** | **3** | **4** | **4** | **7** | **7** | **7** | **7** | **8** | **8** | **10** |
| | **Feature** | **F. 1009** | **F. 1024** | **F. 1014** | **F. 1021** | **F. 1011** | **F. 1011** | **F. 1000** | **F. 1022** | **F. 1022** | **F. 1001** |
| | **Feature** | enc. Ditch | pit | pit/ inhumation | inhumation | enc. Ditch | enc. Ditch | ditch | ring-ditch | ring-ditch | Enc. Ditch |
| | **Context** | 1025 | 1074 | 1072 | 1061 | 1058 | 1055 | 1002 | 1066 | 1068 | 1005 |
| | **Sample** | 1001 | 1017 | 1016 | 1006 | 1004 | 1005 | 1018 | 1012 | 1011 | 1000 |
| | **Flot size** | 20ml | 3ml | 5ml | 6ml | 10ml | 8ml | 3ml | 4ml | 4ml | 8ml |
| | **Roots** | 80% | 80% | 100% | 100% | 80% | 10% | 80% | 80% | 80% | 60% |
| | **volume** | 25ltr | 26ltr | 4ltr | 5ltr | 10ltr | 1ltr | 15ltr | 10ltr | 13ltr | 12ltr |
| *Hordeum vulgare* L. *s.l* (hulled grain) | barley | - | - | - | - | - | c.F. 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| *Triticum* c.f. *dicoccum* (Schübl) | emmer wheat | c.F. 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *T. dicoccum* (Schübl) (glume base) | emmer wheat | c.F. 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | c.F. 1 |
| *T. dicoccum* (Schübl) (spikelet fork) | emmer wheat | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| *Triticum spelta* L. (glume bases) | spelt wheat | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (grain) | emmer/spelt . | 5 | 1 | - | - | c.F. 1 | 7 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (glume bases) | emmer/spelt .t | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 1 |
| *Triticum dicoccum/spelta* (spikelet fork) | emmer/spelt . | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Triticum* c.f. *aestivum* L. *s.l* (grain) | bread wheat | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cereal indet. (grains) | cereal | 11 | 5 | - | - | - | 8 | - | - | - | - |
| *Corylus avellana* L. | hazelnut | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Atriplex* sp. L. | oraches | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| *Chenopodium* sp. L. | goosefoot | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Fallopia convolvulus* (L.) À. Löve | black bindweed | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| *Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa* | persicaria | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| *Rumex* sp. L. | dock | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| *Lathyrus* sp. L. | grass-pea | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Poaceae (internode) | grass stem | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Poaceae (node) | grass culm node | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| *Lolium perenne* L. | rye grass | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| *Avena* sp. L. (grain) | oat grain | 3 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| *Avena* L./*Bromus* L. sp. | Oat/brome | 15 | - | - | - | 2 | 25 | - | - | - | 1 |
| *Bromus* sp. L. | brome | 6 | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - |

## DISCUSSION

At a level of general observations, it should be noted that while many of the anomalies registering on the geophysical survey proved to be of natural origin, in the main, it would have to be said that there was a close correspondence between the major geophysical features plotted and the exposed archaeology (see fig. 13 for a 'rectified' plot). Further discussed below, it should also be stressed just how difficult it proved to be to identify any clear strata within the site's sub-soils. The combination of locally 'soft' geology and extensive colluvial action made the distinction of any distinct buried/palaeosols very difficult, and this could well pose problems for any future large-scale investigations within the area.

### *Earlier Prehistoric Activity*

Pre-Iron Age activity within the area of investigation was mostly attested to by the presence of worked flint recovered from the sub-soil, the potential 'buried soil' and, otherwise, from within the fills of later features. Largely of Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic date (see Billington, above), similarly dated unstratified flints were identified during previous excavations within the hillfort (e.g. Smith 1991; Adkins & Adkins 1992a & b; Harding 1999). Although a small quantity of the worked flint may possibly be of a later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, the features from which it was recovered were, in the most part, dated to the Iron Age.

The recovery of several large sherds of Beaker pottery in a shallow depression within the lower sub-soil or 'buried soil' deposit demonstrates the nearby presence of earlier prehistoric activities. While lacking any identifiable suite of contemporary cut features, the occurrence of Beaker vessels within isolated shallow sub-soil depressions is not unheard of in the region (Rob Iles pers. comm.). Sherds of similarly dated ceramic were identified within the sub-soil in Trenches 5 and 6 in the northeast of the evaluated area and, although no associated features were identified, their presence is suggestive of nearby activity; a pit containing twelve sherds of Beaker pottery, representing two separate vessels as well as a base recovered from topsoil/sub-soil deposits was identified during the adjacent 1994 excavation (McKinley 1995). The presence of such quantities of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ceramics within such a small area suggests a larger area of occupation on Hamdon Hill of this date than has been otherwise identified and may correspond to a trend within Somerset for occupation of this period on higher ground (Ellison 1982).

### *Later Prehistoric Activity*

The later prehistoric activity identified within the evaluated area was largely of Iron Age date; the ceramic assemblage, as limited as it is, suggests Middle and Late Iron Age deposition. The presence of storage pits, a pit-burial and interment within the fills of an enclosure ditch are all congruent with such a date.

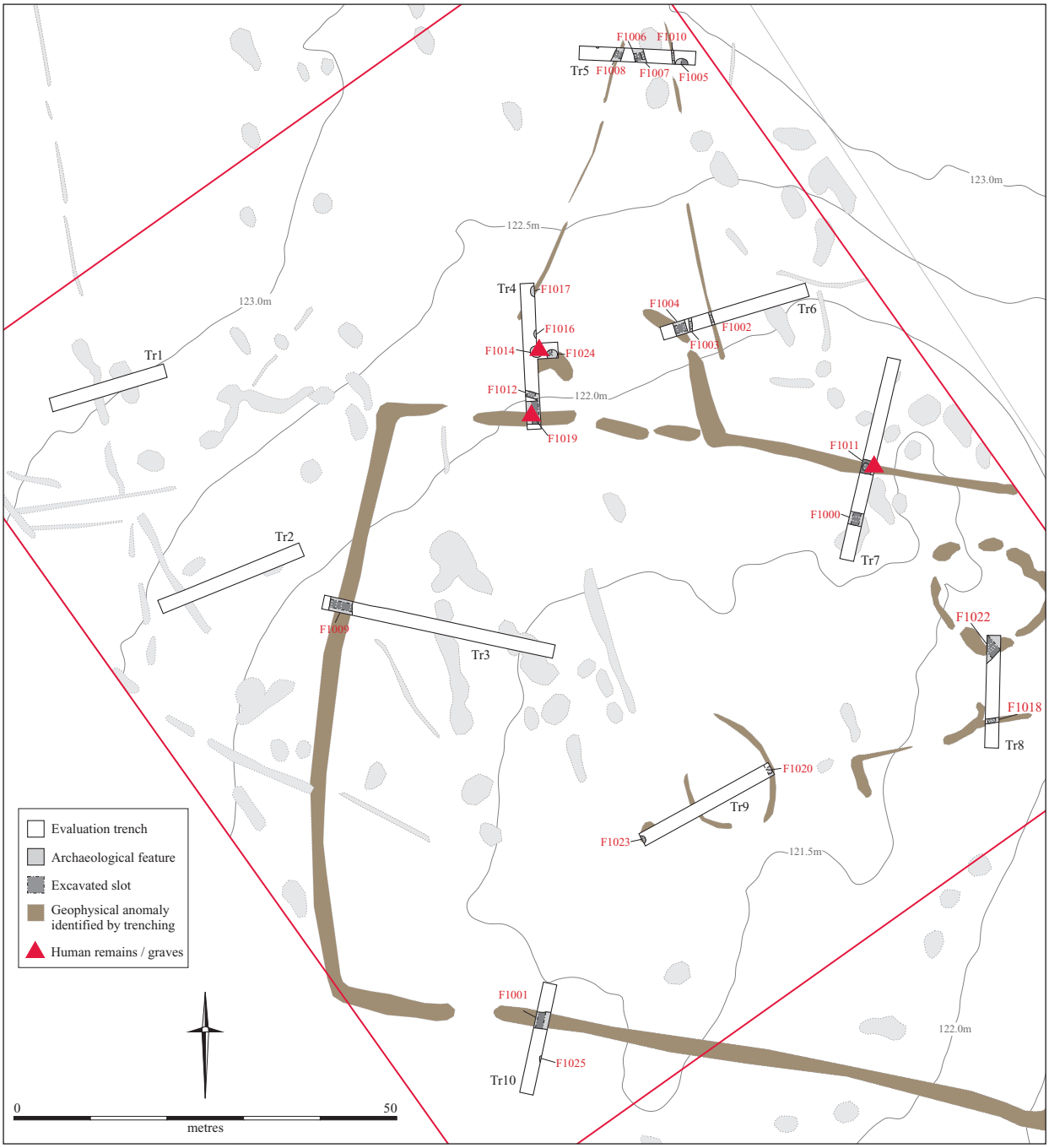


Figure 13. The Hilltop Enclosure (with the geophysical features ‘rectified’).

Before proceeding, the caveat should be inserted that the interpretation of the site's Iron Age archaeology is curtailed by the relatively limited quantities of finds that were recovered. While in the case of animal bone (and plant remains; see, respectively Higbee and Stevens, above) this seems largely attributable to poor conditions of preservation which will certainly impact on the contribution any further excavation in this area may make to the period's economic studies with only *c*. 75 Iron Age sherds recovered (see Brudenell, above), this must reflect upon the intensity of the immediate site-area's usage/occupation.

*The Enclosure*

The large northwest/southeast by northeast/southwest aligned rectilinear enclosure identified on the geophysical survey was identified within Trench 3 (as F. 1009), Trench 4 (as F. 1019), Trench 7 (as F. 1011) and within Trench 10 (as F. 1001); the geophysical results demonstrate several breaks within its perimeter and, as such, suggest that it was partially segmented. The deepest and most clearly defined section of the enclosure ditch was much deeper than the other three exposed ditch sections, located close to the centre of the northwestern side of the enclosure. F. 1009 showed indications of a deliberate re-cutting event following almost complete filling (fig. 9a). The deposits of stone and silts within the earlier ditch contained high quantities of loose rubble and it was difficult to see any residual bank collapse, although a slight preponderance towards the northwest may indicate, without any certainty, a bank to this side. The presence of an early ditch, not identified within the rest of the enclosure, is suggestive of a linear boundary, the location of which will be discussed below; a single sherd of S1 ceramic (Brudenell, above) identified from one of the later fills prior to re-cutting is suggestive of a Middle to later Iron Age date for both the first and second phase of the northwestern side of the enclosure ditch.

The cuts of the rectilinear enclosure ditch were fairly similar throughout (figs 5a & b and 7a & b), with three out of the four ditch slots being between 0.76m and 0.9m deep with comparable steeply sloping, wide 'V'-shaped profiles. In contrast, F. 1019 was deeper (1.05m) and is shown on the geophysical survey to be part of a segmented length of enclosure ditch, possibly associated with an entrance, which would probably have been better defined than the rest. The fills of F. 1019 and F. 1001, although largely homogenous, both suggested a primary slumping deposit originating from the innermost edge, indicative of the presence of an upcast bank of the sandy clay through which the enclosure ditch was dug. The presence of a collapsed inner bank was more clearly defined within those sections of enclosure ditch which cut through at least a proportion of 'hard' geology; the stone itself could be interpreted as part of a bank and could be identified within the excavated fills. The recut of F. 1009 contained a substantial deposit of stone, showing notable preference for the eastern (inner) edge; interestingly, in F. 1011 a deposit of stone was first placed over Burial F. 1021 and, following a period of silting, the bank itself collapsed or was pushed into the ditch.

The identification of a deliberately cut grave within the early fill of the northeastern side of the enclosure ditch has parallels at other Middle to Late Iron Age sites (Whimster 1981); for example, enclosure ditches at Gussage All Saints in Dorset contained seven inhumations (Wainwright 1979). The deliberate use of stones to cover burials, as is seen here, is more commonly associated with inhumations in Middle Iron Age 'grain storage' pits (see below; Cunliffe 2005).

The identification of disarticulated human remains within the stone fill of Burial F. 1021 may also reflect ritual significance, especially when it is considered that the majority of bones were potentially of the same individual (Dodwell, below). The presence of loose isolated human bones within Iron Age features, such as the small fragments of skull and tooth identified within the fills of enclosure ditch slot F. 1019, is not in itself unusual and is likely to reflect a more general mortuary practice of exposure prior to deposition (Cunliffe 2005). However, the concentration of one person's disarticulated remains within the fill of a fully articulated Iron Age burial is suggestive of a higher level of ritual importance within this particular length of enclosure ditch than within the other excavated slots.

Both the northwestern re-cut (F. 1009) and northeastern (F. 1011) sides of the enclosure ditch contained thin lenses of dark, charcoal-rich silts relatively high up within the fills; with the highest concentration of ceramics from later prehistoric features on the site ([1055] & [1025]), both overlaying the first identified stone fills within the enclosure ditch. Within F. 1011 it was overlying the rubble fill of Burial F. 1021 and, within F. 1009, it overlay the collapsed bank. It is quite possible that these lenses were related to a phase of deliberate decommissioning of the enclosure by returning bank material to the ditch, in a single action in the case of F.

1009 and by the careful filling of Burial F. 1021, followed by a continued 'collapse' of bank material, in F.1011. The deliberate backfilling of the enclosure ditch may also explain the homogenous fills from within the remaining slots, which originally cut through soft geology, with soft sandy-clay banks being either deliberately decommissioned or gradually slumping into the ditch. The presence of more 'domestic' material from the silty lenses overlying the abandonment of the enclosure ditch certainly suggests a change in function of the site. The greater level of 'domestic' activity seen to the east and southeast during previous phases of archaeological investigation (e.g. McKinley 1995; Leivers *et al*. 2006) could, indeed, be associated with the abandonment of the enclosure and change in land use within this particular part of the hillfort.

The small quantity of animal bone recovered from the enclosure ditches included cattle and sheep/goat (Higbee, above) and the general paucity of other categories of material culture make it likely that the rectilinear enclosure related to the housing and management of livestock, with the butchering and consumption of animals occurring elsewhere. It is also likely that the north-south aligned linear gullies and ditches identified within Trenches 5 and 6 in the northeast of the evaluated area are contemporary with the use of the enclosure; the geophysical survey showed the features continuing as a double ditch to the north beyond the current area of investigation before turning towards the northwest, potentially representing a multi-phased droveway.

*Internal Features*

The 'ring-ditch' (F. 1022), located within the northeastern corner of the rectilinear enclosure was demonstrated to be deeply cut and the subject of three major re-cutting events; the fill of the primary cut contained a rim of a Glastonbury Ware vessel of a probable 2$^{nd}$ or 1$^{st}$ century BC date (Brudenell, above). Although earlier sherds, including a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age fragment, were also recovered from the same feature, it is probable that the original use of this feature post-dated the creation and primary filling of the rectilinear enclosure. It is unclear if some level of contemporaneity existed between F. 1022 and the later life of the enclosure or whether the 'ring-ditch' stood alone following the enclosure's abandonment. No use could be attributed to the ditch with any certainty, which was shown on the geophysical survey to have a diameter of approximately 15m and appeared to be segmented or, at least, interrupted/'disjointed' around its circumference. Though the general paucity of material culture and charcoal from it does not recommend a domestic function (i.e. a very large house eavesgully), the presence of a burnt quern stone fragment hints of nearby occupation activity. Equally, the one slot excavated across its 'ring' does not appear to have lain adjacent to an entrance terminal and, hence, high levels of deposition need not necessarily be expected. Although tentatively interpreted as a stock enclosure, the unclear nature of the geophysical survey does not allow a definitive extent of the feature to be defined, whilst the depth of the ditch and its recuts being much greater than the nearby rectilinear enclosure suggest that F.1022 may, in fact have held some notable significance.

*External Features*

The presence of several pits, possibly representing part of a cluster identified within Trench 4, exterior to the northern corner of the enclosure, as well as an isolated pit (F. 1025) within Trench 10, also exterior to the enclosure, are similar to those identified within the previous excavations to the west and southwest. In fact, the size, depth and depositional composition of the only excavated pit (F. 1024) can tenuously be attributed as corresponding with McKinley's (1995) Type 2. During previous phases of excavation of the southern end of the hill such pits were seen to similarly contain very little occupation-related material culture and were located close to later features which were more indicative of a phase of occupation (*ibid*; Leivers *et al*. 2006). All such pits were dated to the Middle Iron Age (4$^{th}$-3$^{rd}$ centuries). Their primary use has yet to be fully determined. Although the common interpretation is that the majority would have been for the storage of grain (Leivers *et al*. 2006), it is conceivable that the pits identified within Trenches 4 and 10 were contemporary with the use of the enclosure and predate any occupational phases *per se*; without firmly datable material culture and a lack of direct stratigraphic relationships, certainty is not possible.

The crouched inhumation from pit F. 1014 within the cluster of Middle Iron Age pits can be seen as being analogous within many Middle and Late Iron Age sites within the south and east of England, with special deposits of whole or parts of human or animal carcasses, as well as other significant objects, being placed on or near the base of the features. Such pits are often dispersed throughout settlements (Cunliffe 2005) or are sometimes limited to the peripheries of occupied areas (Bradley 2005). Indeed, deposits of significant quantities of animal bone have previously been identified within Hamdon Hill Type 2 pits with similar diameters, if not depths, to F. 1014, with deposits of horse skulls being prominent (Leivers *et al*. 2006). This practice has been

identified throughout southwestern and southeastern England and has been extensively discussed as forming another part of a complex framework of ritual deposition (Hill 1995; Cunliffe 1993 and 2000). The shallowness of pit F. 1014, as compared to the adjacent excavated 'grain' pit F. 1024, conversely raised the possibility that it was dug for the direct purpose of burial rather than for storage. The presence of isolated examples, as well as groups of burials has been noted throughout the southwest of England, for example, at Hod Hill (Richmond 1968) and Maiden Castle (Sharples 1991), both Dorset hillforts where graves cuts - resembling grain storage pits in all but depth - were identified amid groups of deeper pits.

*Unphased/Undated*

Several features identified during the evaluation could not be dated or placed into the rudimentary phasing of the site through material culture, morphology or association. The probable circular bank F. 1020 identified within Trench 9, although devoid of material culture, is the only feature with a clearly defined relationship with the lower sub-soil/'buried soil' deposit that seemed to seal it. As the date of this soil horizon could not be ascertained (see above) it could not be used to date the bank and, therefore, it is not known if it is directly contemporary with the rectilinear enclosure.

The northwest to southeast-aligned ditch within Trench 7 (F. 1000) contained no material culture and only had a single homogenous fill. The alignment of F. 1000 corresponded well with the northern side of two adjacent rectilinear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey and suggested to be 'natural' from these results (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 2001); however, when seen in conjunction with a potential 30 x 30m rectilinear enclosure within Area B of the survey (southwest of the current area of investigation), these could represent fieldsystems of undetermined date (*ibid.*).

A shallow gully, F. 1012 was identified crossing Trench 4 adjacent to Enclosure Ditch F. 1019, yielded a single probably residual flint (Billington, below). The homogenous fills of the gully and enclosure ditch made a stratigraphic relationship impossible to determine. A similar undated ditch/gully with a single homogenous fill, and aligned perpendicular to F. 1012, was identified in the 1994 excavations (McKinley 1995), which may suggest an extended fieldsystem with a west-northwest to east-southeast-aligned trend. This interpretation is further supported by a series of potentially co-axial features identified during the geophysical investigation (figs 3 & 13).

A single northeast to southwest-aligned gully (F. 1018) crossing Trench 8 within the east of the rectilinear enclosure was also un-datable, with just a single fragment of bone recovered from its fill. The alignment of F. 1018 corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly within the enclosure but which was not on the same alignment. Morphologically, F. 1018 was similar to the north-south boundary/droveway gullies identified within Trenches 5 and 6, which, although perpendicular to them, may be associated with an extended fieldsystem pre- or post-dating the enclosure.

*A Broader Perspective*

The digital topographic survey of the area of evaluation (fig. 2) as well as the surrounding land to the immediate north and east allowed the previous geophysical results and the excavated sections of the exposed features to be placed more firmly within a landscape framework. Aligned northeast, and continuing from the south of the rectilinear enclosure

towards a highest point to the northeast and to a lesser extent around the northern side of the enclosure before leaving the area of investigation to the west, a prominent ridge formed a natural 'horseshoe' basin which contained the majority of the archaeology. To the south and southeast of the area of evaluation the ridge begins to slope downwards and is cut by the hillfort defences. Exposed fractured bedrock identified within the western ends of both Trenches 1 and 2, the eastern end of Trench 6 and the entirety of Trench 7, all showed a pronounced slope towards the centre of the depression and demonstrated a geological change between 'hard' geology comprising of fragmented Hamstone and 'soft' geology of Yeovil sands (see Timberlake, above).

Whilst the thickness of the topsoil varies only slightly throughout the entire evaluated area, the depth of the sub-soil and lower sub-soil/potentially 'buried soil' deposit certainly conforms with, and potentially enhances, the topographic trend identified with the upper contour survey. The shallowest deposits of both colluvium and 'buried soil' were within the eastern end of Trenches 5 and 6, the northeastern end of Trench 7 and the western ends of Trenches 1 and 2. The deepest deposits of both were identified within Trench 9, suggesting that a more pronounced dip existed prior to the accumulation of first the lower sub-soil/'buried soil' and, then, the colluvium. The concentration of material culture within both of these deposits within Trench 9 may, indeed, relate to an increased quantity of archaeology within the area (not otherwise identified within the evaluation trenches), but more probably relates to the downhill 'drift' of both sub-soil and 'buried soil' across the site as a whole. The presence of such a thick deposit of sub-soil can be explained by the known rapid disintegration of the soft Hamstone bedrock (see French, above) and the likelihood of it being easily and rapidly transported by water and the steepness of the surrounding topography (see Allen, above). A mass of geophysical anomalies identified along the crown of the ridge to the immediate southeast, and to a lesser extent to the north of the site, are commonly thought to represent remnants of Medieval quarrying. No surface trace of this could, however, be identified and it is likely that this disturbance created enough loose bedrock and softer geology that such a high degree of erosion and deposition could take place. The highly eroded nature of 'buried soil' and its unclear relationships with dated features within the evaluation made it impossible to determine a date for its deposition/exposure, but it seems highly likely that if it is indeed not prehistoric then a Medieval date prior to the relatively rapid build-up of sub-soil could be suggested.

The location of some, if not all of the encountered archaeological features seems, to a greater or lesser extent, to have been influenced by the natural contours of the southwest part of the hillfort; prior to the accumulation of the sub-soil these would have been much more pronounced. The rectilinear enclosure, for example, is located along the mid-ground of the raised ridge on its southwest, southeast and northeast sides and it does not seem to be coincidental that the only ditch within the enclosure to show an earlier phase (F. 1009, Trench 3), was located crossing the lowest and flattest section of the topography. With a possible bank to the west, this ditch seemingly formed the western side of a natural enclosure or bowl. Whether this is contemporary with any of the features identified within the lowest point of the evaluated area, such as the potential 'ring' identified within Trench 9, is unknown. The location of this Iron Age enclosure is unusual as it appears to enclose the lowest land within this particular area of hillfort, which is wet and contains a potentially contemporary circular banked feature at its centre. The presence of identified human burials both within the fills of the ditch itself and within a 'pit' adjacent to it could suggest a more ritualized significance for the enclosure.

Although no contour surveys of previous phases of archaeological work have been generated, it is possible that the areas of higher occupation to the southwest and west of the current area of investigation may have been located on a 'mini-plateau', with the enclosure and associated ritual or agricultural practices restricted to the periphery of the settlement within the more undulating hinterland.

The absolute lowest point of the current contour survey corresponded exactly with the position of the irregularly cut posthole or pit (F. 1023). At the time of excavation it was unknown whether this actually represented an archaeological feature or was in fact the nadir of a natural depression in the geology. The potential curvilinear bank, F. 1022, located close to the centre of the depression, may also have been deliberately placed; micro-morphological studies of the bank showed higher levels of the effects of groundwater (see French, above) and permanent wetness was observed within this area during the excavation. The need to store and access groundwater would have been of prime concern to the occupants of a hillfort and it is probable that such a naturally damp location would be an ideal location for a 'dew-pond', especially if one considers the location (if contemporary) within an enclosure potentially used for livestock.

The 2009 evaluation within the proposed extension of Ham Hill Quarry revealed a generally late prehistoric landscape with strong indications of an earlier presence. A low quantity of material culture made the dating of most features tenuous at best and the general low density of the features made direct stratigraphic relationships between them impossible. What was evident was that several distinct phases of activity were present; the importance of the natural topography to the location of the features was also noted. The broad phases of activity were: early prehistoric, represented by a dispersal of Late Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, along with later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceramics within the sub-soil and fills of later features; pre-rectilinear enclosure, represented by a deep linear ditch crossing a natural 'bottleneck' in the topography; a phase associated with the construction and use of the rectilinear enclosure, with an internal bank and possibly segmented entrances, containing a banked earthwork and possibly associated posthole/pit located at the deepest point in the natural 'bowl' that formed the majority of the site; an abandonment phase of the rectilinear enclosure represented by a burial within the partially silted ditch and the deliberate backfilling using the bank. Thereafter, a broad phase of post-rectilinear enclosure activity was represented by gully/droveway boundaries and a cluster of 'storage' pits and a pit-burial. No Romano-British and later archaeology was exposed, although a possibly buried soil of an unknown, but possibly Medieval, date was identified.

## CONCLUSIONS

The 2009 evaluation successfully succeeded in achieving the project's aims (to differing degrees) as agreed upon prior to commencement of the project:

*The Sequence - Presence/ Absence and Chronological Range*

The earliest material culture identified within the evaluated area was the moderate quantity of Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flintwork identified within the top- and sub-soil deposits. Although not corresponding with a corresponding suite of features, it reflected the early prehistoric presence at Hamdon Hill identified in nearly all previous modern studies (e.g.

Lievers *et al.* 2006). A late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age presence was attested to by the identification of a clustering of ceramics within the mid-point of Trench 3; although no definitive feature-association could be identified, it is likely that some archaeology of this date lies nearby.

Although largely undated, either relatively or by material culture, the generally north-south aligned narrow, linear gullies and shallow linear ditches within Trenches 5 and 6 (F.1002-04, F.1006-08 and F.1010) and east-west aligned gully and ditch within Trenches 7 and 8 (F.1000 and F.1018) may potentially be associated with a fieldsystem of an earlier origin than the Iron Age enclosure. A Middle to Late Bronze Age origin cannot be discounted, it could though equally be possible that the features are in fact contemporary with the Iron Age components of the evaluated area; a general paucity of material culture being noted within all the Iron Age features, more so within the outlining pits.

The Iron Age date of the rectilinear enclosure was ascertained and the possibility of any substantive Romano-British presence within the evaluated area of the hillfort was significantly reduced. The form, if not the true function of the enclosure itself was identified, with a strong likelihood of an internal bank from the fill sequences of three of its four sides, and a suggestion that the northwestern side existed as a thus far undated ('stand-alone') ditch prior to the enclosure as a whole. A burial within the fills of the northwest side of the enclosure ditch and the location of the enclosure itself demarcating the lowest point within the landscape (with a potentially associated circular-banked dewpond-*cum*-'monument') must have been deliberate. The importance of such an enclosed space, whether for stock or more ritualized purposes is clear, although what this may have actually entailed was not detailed.

A cluster of pits, with four identified within Trench 4 of a typical Iron Age form, which contained a human inhumation, was identified close to what is probably an entranceway can be associated with the enclosure. These correspond well with the findings of previous excavations (McKinley 1995, 1998, 1999; Leivers *et al*. 2006), with the paucity of material from the two excavated pits (F.1014 and F.1024) corresponding with the near-complete absence of material culture from the adjacent length of enclosure ditch (F.1019).

The presence of a potential Iron Age pit cluster within an area which was shown by the geophysical survey (GSB 1996) to contain an irregular, large anomaly is interesting when it is considered how similar anomalies within Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were shown to be the result of variable geology. This could suggest that other irregular geophysical anomalies are, in fact, also groups of pits, but they could equally attest to geological factors.

*Economic and Environmental Indicators*

The low quantity of material culture, specifically datable ceramics and identifiable bone recovered from the largely Iron Age features within the site further demonstrates the contrast between Hamdon Hill and other more densely populated sites in the region. The quantities of material were potentially comparable with earlier phases of open-area excavation to the west and southwest of the current site. The geophysical surveys have been suggestive of a sparse occupation (*ibid.*) and the low quantity recovered of material culture usually associated with domestic settlement (ceramics, burnt clay and daub), the majority of ceramics that were recovered were highly abraded could be consistent with secondary deposition is further indicative of low levels of Iron Age occupation, at least in the proximity of the rectilinear

enclosure. The low quantity of animal bone is also supportive of this paucity, although preservation levels have, in accordance with previous excavations, been shown to be low (Stevens, above). The bone recovered has been demonstrated to be largely horned sheep, again in concordance with adjacent excavations on Hamdon Hill, the assemblages of which have been previously interpreted as being indicative of breeding, meat consumption and, probably, wool production (Leivers *et al*. 2006).

Environmental indicators identified from the enclosure ditch (F.1009 and F.1011) and pit (F.1024) show that hulled wheat was present, as well as hulled barley from the enclosure ditch (F.1001 and F.1011). Emmer was identified within enclosure ditch F.1011, and both emmer and spelt were retrieved from enclosure ditch F.1009, both of which have been identified within previous excavations and have been shown to be indicative of processing prior to storage which may or may not point to the actual cultivation of such crops nearby or, otherwise, to their importation specifically for the purpose of storage.

The presence of post-harvest processed crops, such as emmer, wheat and barley, combined with the probability of sheep husbandry, raises the question of just how much, if any, of the Hamdon Hill-top was set aside for crop and how much was for pasture.

*Research Potential* (with Christopher Evans)

Located within the eastern part of Somerset, Ham Hill, along with similar hillforts found within this landscape (Hod Hill, Hambledon Hill, South Cadbury; Richmond 1968, Cunliffe 2005) and enclosure sites identified by Quantock Archaeological Survey (Webster 2004, 4), there is a greater sense that this area was more closely allied with the settlement pattern and economies of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire than with those in the Severn Estuary and Southwest. It, thus, remains the case that despite some developer-funded excavations within the region, the lack of synthetic analyses of excavation results continues to prevent an overall characterisation of Iron Age settlement and the role that 'centres' such as Ham Hill fulfilled in the local and wider political and economic landscape (*cf.* Cunliffe 1982, 55; Fitzpatrick *et al*. 1999, 219). The root of the problem remains, nevertheless, that there have been relatively few excavations of 'open' Iron Age settlements within the area, and 'the picture' is still dominated by the period's great 'Lake Villages' - Glastonbury and Meare - and whose evidence it is difficult to reconcile with that from upland hillforts. Of course, as regards issues on 'inter-connection-ness', this makes the recovery of a Glastonbury-type vessel from the current investigations all the more intriguing.

As to the general character of the immediate site's Iron Age usage, the evaluation can be said to have presented both intriguing and frustrating results concerning this great hillfort, but which maybe relevant for any future investigations. On the one hand, akin to those found in previous excavations, pit cluster-groups were recovered, but in the 2009 area they seem to have had a lower density of material. On the other hand, the work confirmed the existence of its network of linear enclosures/sub-divisions as indicated by the geophysical surveys. While these may seem suggestive of intense and 'quasi-formal' occupation, in the case of this immediate area (as opposed to the earlier excavations to the southwest) relatively little evidence of occupation *per se* was forthcoming. Instead, what seems remarkable given the limited scale of the current programme, was the frequency of human remains/interments. Seemingly clustering along the northern side of the main enclosure (fig. 13), this, in fact, raises the prospect that there may have been an interrelationship between the two and that the

function of, at least, this immediate enclosure may not have been strictly domestic. It maybe that the enclosure had distinctly ritual/mortuary function or, alternatively, that it was stock-related with mortuary activity occurring along its margins.

A crucial issue arising is whether the enclosure and this activity were integral/central to the usage of, and directly contemporary with, the hillfort itself or its occurrence therein was, essentially, 'incidental' (i.e. a later phase of Iron Age activity basically unrelated to the hillfort proper). The latter is thought to be unlikely, but it will be a difficult matter to demonstrate. Accordingly, it is held that, in any further investigation programme it will be imperative that a wide range of palaeo-environmental techniques are applied (e.g. pollen, soil-micromorphology, phosphate and magnetic susceptibility analyses) in order to determine the character of site's Iron Age land-use, particularly the extent of pasture *vs*. settlement within the hillfort's interior. In this regard it is important to recognise that although the current fieldwork was not persuasive of any kind of 'grid-like' sub-divisions of the hillfort's interior, in contrast to the results of earlier fieldwork to the south (with its far denser evidence of settlement), it would nevertheless indicate *zoneation* of the enclosure.

Finally, we should be aware of the site's historiographic context. Not only does this include St. George Gray's earlier, 20th century investigations within the hillfort's northwestern spur (and which provides a direct fieldwork genealogical-linkage with the Glastonbury excavations of that period proper), but that it also featured in David Clarke's renowned 'Glastonbury Model' (1972, figs 8 & 9). Seeing it as the 'highest-order' centre within the Glastonbury area (and as approaching *oppidum*-type status), he attributed it as a specialist production, trade and redistribution centre; thus far, however, its excavation results would fall rather short of this 'ideal'.

***Acknowledgements***

The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Dr Michael Lawrence, Managing Director of the Ham Hill Stone Company Ltd, and we are most grateful for his co-operation and hospitality throughout. The work was monitored by Bob Croft of Somerset County Council and Rob Iles from English Heritage, and we are also grateful for the advice of Vanessa Stracker of the latter organization; acting on behalf of the client. Niall Sharples was the project's academic advisor and proved an inspiring colleague.

The CAU excavation team comprised Lawrence Billington, Alistair Wright, Marcus Brittain and Andrew Whelan. On-site surveying was conducted by Jane Matthews; its finds and samples were processed and catalogued by Jason Hawkes, with the reports graphics produced by Bryan Crossan. Robin Standring and Christopher Evans were the Project Managers.

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# APPENDICES

## 1) Feature and Deposit Descriptions

**F. 1000 Trench 7**; Ditch - Aligned E-W. Cut [1003] irregular, steeply sloping (near vertical in places) sides, maximum depth 1.9m leading to wide, generally flat base, maximum depth 0.65m. Fill [1002], mid reddish brown moderate to firmly compacted sandy silty clay, becoming lighter towards base. Rare medium-sized (max 0.1m) flattened Hamstones with infrequent charcoal inclusions. High levels bio-turbation. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1001 Trench 10**; Enclosure Ditch - Aligned WNW-ESE. Cut [1006] moderate to steeply sloping, generally straight sides, maximum width 2.3m, leading to wide, 'U' shaped base, maximum depth 0.76m. Basal fill [1005] light yellow-brown, moderately compacted silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking, infrequent pottery and bone inclusions. Upper fill [1004], mid grey-brown moderate to firmly compacted silty sandy-clay with occasional charcoal flecking, infrequent angular and sub-angular gravel and infrequent pottery, bone and burned stone inclusions.

**F. 1002 Trench 6**; Gully - Aligned N-S. Cut [1011], narrow linear, steeply sloping slightly concave sides, maximum width 0.63m, leading to narrow concaved base, maximum depth 0.32m. Fill [1012], light to mid yellow-grey moderately compacted silty sandy-clay, infrequent small angular and sub-angular gravel and very infrequent eroded ceramic inclusions. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1003 Trench 6**; Gully - Aligned N-S. Cut [1009], narrow linear, steeply sloping, very slightly concave sides, maximum 0.38m in width, leading to wide, slightly concaved base, maximum 0.36m in depth. Fill [1010] mid to light yellow-grey, moderately compacted silty sandy-clay. Occasional small angular and sub angular gravels, very occasional charcoal flecking and small, abraded ceramic inclusions. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1004 Trench 6**; Ditch/Gully - Aligned NNW-SSE. Cut [1007] wide, shallow linear with steeply sloping, slightly concaved sides, maximum width 1.48m, leading to generally flat, irregular base, maximum depth 0.36m. Fill [1008], mid to light yellow-grey, moderately compacted silty sandy-clay. Occasional small angular and sub angular gravel, very occasional charcoal flecking, ceramic and 'slingshot bolt' inclusions. Upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1005 Trench 5;** ?Pit?. Cut [1014] circular, steeply sloping concaved sides, 1.85m diameter, leading to concaved base maximum depth 0.46m. Fill [1013] mid yellow-brown, loose to moderately compacted sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecking. High level of bio-turbation. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1006 Trench 5**: Gully - Aligned NNW-SSE. Cut [1018] narrow linear, steeply sloping moderately concaved sides maximum width 0.95m leading to concaved base maximum depth 0.27m. Fill [1017] mid to dark orange-brown, moderately compacted silty, sandy-clay, high bio-turbation. Truncated by Gully F. 1007.

**F. 1007 Trench 5**; Gully - Aligned NNW-SSE. Cut [1016] narrow linear, steeply sloping slightly concaved sides, maximum width 0.47, leading to generally flat, slightly concaved base, maximum depth 0.18m. Fill [1015] mid orange-brown, silty sandy-clay with very infrequent charcoal flecking and high levels of bio-turbation. Truncates Gully F. 1006. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1008 Trench 5**; Ditch/Gully - Aligned NNE-SSW. Cut [1020] linear, steeply sloping, slightly concaved sides, maximum width 0.85m, leading to gradually concaved base, maximum depth 0.26m. Basal fill [1021] light yellow-brown, moderately compacted sandy silt, very infrequent charcoal flecking. Single flint. Fill [1019] mid orange-brown, loosely compacted sandy silt. High levels bio-turbation. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1009**; **Trench 3**; Ditch - Alignment N-S. Primary cut [1044], steeply sloping, generally straight sides maximum 3.3m in width, leading to narrow 'U'-shaped base a maximum of 1.35m in depth. Basal fill [1036] mid brown-yellow moderate to firmly compacted sand with moderate quantities of flattened Hamstone inclusions. Fill [1035] mid brown-orange, moderate to firmly compacted sandy clay with infrequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Fill [1034] mid orange-brown, moderate to firmly compacted sandy clay with frequent

angular, flattened Hamstone inclusions. Fill [1033] mid orange-brown moderate to firmly compacted sandy clay with infrequent small sub-rounded stones. Fill [1032] mid to light orange-brown moderately compacted silty sand with frequent quantities flattened Hamstone inclusions. Fill [1031] light brown-yellow moderate to firmly compacted silty sand with infrequent small rounded stone inclusions. Fill [1030] mid brown-orange moderate to loosely compacted silty sandy-clay with moderately high quantities flattened Hamstone inclusions. Fill [1029] mid brown-orange moderate to loosely compacted silty, sandy-clay with infrequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Recut [1028]; moderately steeply sloping, generally straight sides maximum 2m in width, leading to narrow 'U' shaped base a maximum 0.9m in depth. Basal fill [1027] mid brown-orange moderate to firmly compacted sandy clay with very high concentration flattened Hamstones and infrequent small rounded and sub rounded stones. Fill [1026] mid brown-grey loosely compacted sandy clay with high quantities flattened Hamstone. Fill [1021] mid to dark brown grey, moderate to firmly compacted sandy clay with infrequent small angular and sub-angular gravels. Fill [1025] dark brown-grey, moderately compacted silty clay infrequent small angular and sub angular gravel inclusions; contained high concentration charcoal with frequent ceramic and bone. Unclear upper contextual boundary with Fill [1023], mid brown-grey moderate to firmly compacted sandy clay with infrequent sub-rounded and rounded gravels. Upper fill [1022] mid brown-orange, moderate to firmly compacted silty-sand containing very infrequent small rounded and sub-rounded gravel inclusions. Unclear contextual boundary between [1022] and 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1011 Trench 7**; Ditch - Aligned E-W. Cut [1060] linear, steeply sloping, generally straight sides a maximum of 1.8m width, maximum excavated depth 0.9m. Lowest excavated fill [1058]/[1056], mid orangey firmly compacted brown silty clay, occasional small angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions, cut by Burial F. 1021. Fill [1057] *see F. 1021*. Fill [1055], thin lens dark grey brown, loose compacted silty clay, frequent charcoal and occasional ceramic inclusions. Fill [1054] moderate, flattened angular fragments limestone within a orange-brown moderately compacted silty clay matrix. Fill [1052] mid orange-brown firmly compacted sandy silty clay, occasional small angular and sub angular gravel inclusions, very occasional charcoal flecking. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1012 Trench 4;** Ditch/Gully - Alignment WNW-ESE. Cut [1041] narrow linear 0.85m in width. Moderately steep concaved sides leading to a concaved base a maximum of 0.3m in depth. Fill [1040] mid orange-brown, loosely compacted sandy silt with infrequent charcoal mottling, a single flint and large unburned stone. Unclear upper contextual boundary with [1039]. Unclear relationship with ditch F. 1019.

**F. 1014 Trench 4**; Pit/Burial - Cut [1073], circular, diameter 1.55m. Steeply sloping almost vertical sides leading to flat base, maximum depth 0.22m. Burial [1064] crouched young adult male on back with head to N-W and legs drawn up to E, arms crossed on upper chest. Fill [1072] mid to light red-brown, moderately compacted silty clay with occasional ceramic inclusions. Unclear contextual boundary with [1039].

**F. 1016 Trench 4**; Pit (Unexcavated) - Circular. Diameter 1.4m. Upper fill light orange-brown sandy-clay. Unclear contextual boundary with [1039].

**F. 1017 Trench 4**; Pit (Unexcavated) - Circular, diameter 1.55m. Upper fill light to mid grey sandy-silt. Unclear contextual boundary with [1039].

**F. 1018 Trench 8**; Gully - Linear E-W. Cut [1046] steeply, slightly concaved sides, maximum width 0.6m to narrow, concaved base max depth 0.22m. Fill [1045] mid orange brown, moderate to firly compacted sandy, silty clay with infrequent charcoal mottling.

**F. 1019 Trench 4**; Enclosure Ditch - Alignment E-W. Cut [1049] wide linear, 3.1m in width. Steeply sloping, generally straight sides leading to wide moderately convex base, maximum 1.05m depth. Basal fill [1048], light yellow-brown, moderate to loosely compacted sandy silty clay, single sherd ceramic. Upper fill [1047] mid orange-brown, moderately compacted sandy clay, inclusions of single bone (human?), single flint and possible sling shot bolt. Largely affected by bio-turbation. Unclear contextual boundary with [1039]. Unclear relationship with ditch/gully F. 1012.

**F. 1020 Trench 9**; Bank/Earthwork - Aligned NNW-SSE. Bank Core [1051] mid to light yellow-brown, moderate to firmly compacted friable sandy clay. Occasional thin orange-brown mottled lenses. Convex. Maximum width 2.4m, maximum height 0.45m. Upper bank deposit [1050] mid to dark grey, firmly compacted silty clay with irregular mottled patches of dark grey-brown compacted silty clay. Convex; maximum width 3.1m, maximum thickness 0.28m, overlays [1051]. Sealed by 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1021 Trench 7**; Burial - Grave cut [1063] (not fully excavated) truncates [1058] and stone of ditch F1011. Sub-rectangular in plan, length 1.05m aligned N-S. Burial [1061] crouched ?young adult male?, on back with head to south, legs flexed to west and hands clasped under chin. Fill [1062] mid to dark orangey-brown firmly compacted silty clay. Fill [1057] moderate, flattened angular fragments limestone within a mid orange-brown moderately compacted silty clay matrix. Deposited from south.

**F. 1022 Trench 8**; 'Ring-ditch' - Primary cut [1069], steeply sloping, generally straight sides, maximum width 1.85m, leading to narrow 'V'-shaped base, maximum depth 0.98m. Fill [1068] mid grey-brown, moderate to firmly compacted sandy, silty clay, moderate charcoal flecking and occasional small angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions. Primary recut [1078], terminal, rounded in plan, steeply sloping, generally straight sides maximum width 2m, leading to wide 'V'-shaped base maximum depth 1.25m. Basal fill [1079] mid to light grey-brown moderate to firmly compacted sandy, silty clay with occasional yellow sandy-clay mottling. Main fill [1080] mid orange-brown, moderate to firmly compacted sandy, silty clay with very infrequent charcoal flecking and occasional small angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions. Second recut [1067], moderately steeply sloping, generally straight sides, maximum width 2.7m leading to wide 'V'-shaped base, maximum depth 1.1m. Basal fill [1066] mid grey brown, moderate to firmly compacted silty, sandy-clay with occasional charcoal flecking, infrequent small angular and sub-angular gravel inclusions. Main fill [1065], mid orange-brown moderate to firmly compacted silty, sandy-clay with very infrequent charcoal mottling, infrequent small angular and sub-angular gravel and occasional small flat Hamstone fragments.

**F. 1023 Trench 9;** ?Pit - Cut [1071] irregular, sub-sounded with moderately steeply slopping irregular sides, excavated width 1.06m to an irregular base maximum depth 0.38m. Fill [1070] mid to dark orange-brown, moderate to firmly compacted sandy, silty clay. Unclear upper contextual boundary with 'buried soil' [1039].

**F. 1024 Trench 4**; Pit - Cut [1076] circular, diameter 1.5m. Steep, near vertical sides leading to flat base, maximum depth 0.39m. Basal fill [1075] light orange-brown, moderate to firmly compacted silty sandy-clay with infrequent charcoal flecking. Fill [1074] mid to dark grey-brown, moderately compacted, silty clay, moderate to infrequent charcoal and occasional small rounded and sub-rounded gravel inclusions.

**Deposits**

**[1000] All trenches;** Topsoil - Mid to light brown-grey, moderate to loosely compacted silty clay. Infrequent stone inclusions, occasional isolated charcoal flecking and very high levels of bio-turbation. Unclear lower contextual horizon with [1001]. Maximum depth 0.3m.

**[1001] All trenches;** Sub-soil/Colluvium - Mid to light yellow-brown, moderately compacted sandy silt. Infrequent charcoal flecking, occasional ceramic and flint inclusions. Very high levels bio-turbation. Unclear upper contextual boundary with [1000] and lower boundary with [1039].

**[1039] All trenches;** Sub-soil/Buried Soil - Mid grey, firmly compacted silty clay-sand. Infrequent to moderate charcoal flecking, occasional ceramic and bone inclusions. High levels of plough disturbance and bio-turbation. Unclear upper contextual boundary with [1001]

**[1077**] **Trench 3**; Deposit - Mid to dark brown, moderate to firmly compacted silty sandy clay, fills a natural hollow beside raised bedrock. Unclear contextual relationship between colluvium [1001], 'buried soil' [1039] and [1077]; Possibly less bioturbated deposit of [1039]. Contained fragments of Beaker pottery.

2) **Archaeological Finds and Environmental Samples by Feature/Context.**

| Feature | Trench | Context | Material | Quantity | Weight | Sample Number | Sample Size |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1000 | 7 | 1002 | Flint | 3 | 5g | | |
| **1000** | **7** | **1002** | | | | **1018** | **20Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1004 | Burned Clay | 1 | 6g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1004 | Bone | 9 | 1g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1004 | Flint | 1 | 10g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1004 | Pot | 10 | 29g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1004 | Sling-stone | 1 | 51g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1004 | Burned Stone | 2 | 896g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1005 | Burned Flint | 1 | 1g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1005 | Bone | 3 | 2g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1005 | Pot | 6 | 9g | | |
| 1001 | 10 | 1005 | Sling-Stone | 1 | 24g | | |
| **1001** | **10** | **1005** | | | | **1000** | **10Ltr** |
| **1001** | **10** | **1005** | | | | **1019** | **20Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1002 | | 1012 | Pot | 2 | 2g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1003 | 6 | 1010 | Burned Clay | 2 | 1g | | |
| 1003 | 6 | 1010 | Pot | 2 | 2g | | |
| 1003 | 6 | 1025 | Bone | 1 | 1g | | |
| 1003 | 6 | 1025 | Pot | 16 | 61g | | |
| 1003 | 6 | 1025 | Burned Stone | 2 | 580g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1004 | 6 | 1008 | Burned Clay | 2 | 1g | | |
| 1004 | 6 | 1008 | Sling-stone | 1 | 13g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1008 | 5 | 1021 | Flint | 1 | 11g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1022 | Bone | 1 | 2g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1022 | Flint | 2 | 19g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1022 | Pot | 1 | 1g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1022 | Burned Stone | 1 | 8g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1025 | Burned Clay | 1 | 1g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1025 | Bone | 39 | 31g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1025 | Pot | 15 | 29g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1025 | Burned Stone | 377 | 5242g | | |
| **1009** | **3** | **1025** | | | | **1001** | **20Ltr** |
| 1009 | 3 | 1027 | Bone | 1 | 102g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1027 | Sling-stone | 2 | 70g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1027 | Burned Stone | 1 | 21g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1032 | Bone | 16 | 14g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1032 | Pot | 3 | 3g | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1009 | 3 | 1032 | Burned Stone | 5 | 1820g | | |
| 1009 | 3 | 1036 | Bone | 1 | 14g | | |
| **1009** | **3** | **1036** | | | | **1002** | **20Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1053 | Pot | 14 | 31g | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1054 | Bone | 51 | 52g | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1055 | Bone | 7 | 1g | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1055 | Burned Stone | 44 | 301g | | |
| **1011** | **7** | **1055** | | | | **1005** | **15Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1057 | Human Bone | 76 | 241g | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1058 | Bone | 9 | 9g | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1058 | Slag | 2 | 9g | | |
| 1011 | 7 | 1058 | Burned Stone | 110 | 811g | | |
| **1011** | **7** | **1058** | | | | **1004** | **20Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1012 | 4 | 1040 | Flint | 1 | 9g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1014 | 4 | 1072 | Flint | 1 | 7g | | |
| 1014 | 4 | 1072 | Pot | 3 | 7g | | |
| **1014** | **4** | **1072** | | | | **1016** | **10Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1018 | 8 | 1045 | Bone | 3 | 1g | | |
| **1018** | **8** | **1045** | | | | **1003** | **20Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1019 | 4 | 1047 | Human Bone | 7 | 1g | | |
| 1019 | 4 | 1047 | Bone | 9 | 35g | | |
| 1019 | 4 | 1047 | Sling-Stone | 3 | 148g | | |
| 1019 | 4 | 1047 | Flint | 1 | 1g | | |
| 1019 | 4 | 1047 | Burned Stone | 5 | 22g | | |
| 1019 | 4 | 1047 | Pot | 1 | 3g | | |
| **1019** | **4** | **1047** | | | | **1013** | **20Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1021 | 7 | 1061 | Bone | 4 | 3g | | |
| 1021 | 7 | 1061 | Burned Stone | 81 | 2023g | | |
| **1021** | **7** | **1061** | | | | **1006** | **20ltr** |
| 1021 | 7 | 1062 | Flint | 1 | 26g | | |
| 1021 | 7 | 1062 | FE Nail | 1 | 2g | | |
| 1021 | 7 | 1062 | Pot | 1 | 4g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1022 | 8 | 1065 | Bone | 11 | 3g | | |
| 1022 | 8 | 1065 | Flint | 5 | 7g | | |
| 1022 | 8 | 1066 | Flint | 1 | 1g | | |
| **1022** | **8** | **1066** | | | | **1012** | **20Ltr** |
| 1022 | 8 | 1068 | Bone | 2 | 1g | | |
| 1022 | 8 | 1068 | Flint | 2 | 2g | | |
| 1022 | 8 | 1068 | Pot | 15 | 44g | | |
| 1022 | 8 | 1068 | Burned Stone | 11 | 260g | | |
| **1022** | **8** | **1068** | | | | **1011** | **20Ltr** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1024** | **4** | **1074** | | | | **1017** | **40Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1062 | 8 | 1068 | Pot | 2 | 13g | | |
| 1062 | 8 | 1066 | Slag | 1 | 28g | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Subsoil | 6 | 1001 | Bone | 1 | 1g | | |
| Subsoil | 9 | 1001 | Flint | 1 | 1g | | |
| Subsoil | 3 | 1001 | Pot | 20 | 73g | | |
| Subsoil | 9 | 1001 | Pot | 1 | 2g | | |
| Subsoil | 7 | 1001 | Flint | 1 | 4g | | |
| Subsoil | 8 | 1001 | Flint | 2 | 1g | | |
| Subsoil | 5 | 1001 | Pot | 1 | 11g | | |
| Subsoil | 6 | 1001 | Pot | 2 | 26g | | |
| **Subsoil** | **6** | **1001** | | | | **1014** | **30Ltr** |
| **Subsoil** | **9** | **1001** | | | | **1020** | **30Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| Lower Subsoil | 6 | 1039 | Burned Flint | 1 | 2g | | |
| **Lower Subsoil** | **6** | **1039** | | | | **1015** | **30Ltr** |
| Lower Subsoil | 9 | 1039 | Flint | 2 | 1g | | |
| Lower Subsoil | 9 | 1039 | Pot | 7 | 7g | | |
| **Lower Subsoil** | **9** | **1039** | | | | **1021** | **30Ltr** |
| | | | | | | | |
| Deposit? | 3 | 1077 | Pot | 11 | 76g | | |

**Table 18.** Finds and Environmental Samples by Feature/Context

**Appendix 3 - Photographic record of Trenches 3 to 10.**

Trench 3

Trench 4

Trench 5

Trench 6

Trench 7

Trench 8

Trench 9


Trench 10