Rhee Lakeside South

Archaeological Excavations at Colne Fen, Earith

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Between May and October 2006, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological excavation at Rhee Lakeside South, Earith Quarry, Somersham (NGR 538600/277110). This work was conducted on behalf of Hanson PLC in advance of gravel extraction, and investigated an area 3.2ha in extent. The excavations revealed an extensive swathe of prehistoric occupation, most of which dated from the Bronze Age through to the Middle Iron Age.

Although a Neolithic presence was indicated in the landscape invariably by a scatter of pits, tree-throws and residual flint work, the site was dominated by the remains of Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The principle feature of the Early Bronze Age was a 'C'-shaped ring-ditch surrounding a central inhumation. The monument formed a nodal point in the landscape of the 2nd millennium BC, and became the focus of a cremation cemetery during the Middle Bronze Age. A total of 35 cremations were placed around the ring-ditch, almost all of which were located around its entrance. The arrangement of the cremations was structured by the form of the monument, but also by the axis of a Bronze Age boundary ditch which cut the upper silts of the ring-ditch. This boundary belonged to a network of ditches forming an extensive series of large interlinked paddocks spread across the area of excavation. The eastern and western halves of this fieldsystem had different alignments, but were bridged by two heavily ditched 'D'-shaped paddocks located at the centre of the site. These paddocks showed signs of being re-worked and enlarged, and were associated with another seven cremations; four of which clustered in the corner of the enclosure.

During the later Bronze Age the area surrounding the 'D'-shaped paddocks became a focus for settlement. A series of post-built roundhouses and four- and six-post structures were identified in this area, together with a number of large wells/watering-holes and a swathe of pits and postholes. By the end of the 2nd millennium BC, the field boundaries were no longer maintained, but were probably still visible as remnant earthworks. The location of structures suggest that the extant boundaries continued to condition the layout settlement, with roundhouses sited near access points through the paddock system and a large well positioned on the terminal of a silted ditch. Relatively few finds were recovered from the settlement; though a large dump of Late Bronze Age pottery and animal bone was recovered from a well, together with a fragment of a shale bracelet.

The pottery and radiocarbon dating evidence suggests there was hiatus in settlement between 800-500 BC. However, occupation at the very end of the early Iron Age/beginning of the Middle Iron Age was indicated by a cluster of pits containing quantities of settlement refuse. The pits provide important evidence of earlier Iron settlement prior to the arrival of Scored Ware-using communities in the 3rd century BC; a period poorly represented at other sites along Colne Fen.

Settlement features of the Middle Iron Age comprised three ditched compounds, an area of 'open' settlement dominated by a group of eight roundhouses, and a light scatter of pits and postholes. The settlement features cross-cut the Bronze Age field boundaries, indicating that this system of was redundant. The earliest enclosure in the

sequence was a small, heavily bounded 'C'-shaped compound, with multiple re-cut ditches. The enclosure had a long history of re-working, and was redefined as a rectilinear compound in its later stages. Most of the Iron Age artefacts were recovered from the complex of ditches and pits in this area, suggesting an intensity of activity not evident in the other enclosures. The two remaining compounds were of sub-square form, and were considerably larger than the 'C'-shaped enclosure. The limited stratigraphic evidence suggests that these 'pristine' enclosures were of later construction. Intriguingly, their occupation appears to have been short lived, judging by the low quantity of artefacts recovered from them, and the absence of boundary renewal. Similarly, most of the roundhouses external to the compounds were of single-phase construction, and had few associated pits and postholes. The roundhouse eaves-gullies yielded remarkably few finds, again suggestive of short-term occupancy.

The Iron Age settlement appears to have been abandoned before the 1st century AD, as there is no Late Iron Age wheel turned pottery from the site. Later activity was limited to a small number of Roman boundary ditches, and a series of post-Medieval field boundaries.

INTRODUCTION

Between May and October 2006, a team from Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook an archaeological excavation at Rhee Lakeside South, Earith Quarry, Somersham (NGR 538600/277110), on behalf of Hanson PLC. The area of investigation was located in the southern half of the Earth Quarry complex, which skirts the western edge of Colne Fen between the Cranbrook Drain and *The Holme* (fig. 1). The excavations were carried out over an east-west aligned 11.8ha strip of land on the southern edge of the peat-filled inlet known as Rhee Lake (directed by R. Patten & M. Brudenell). The site was located on the first and second terrace river gravels between 3.00-4.40m OD, and was bounded by the edge of the quarry complex to the east and west, the extant quarry pits at *The Holme* to the south, and Rhee Lake to the north.

The fieldwork reported in this volume forms part of decade-long programme of archaeological investigations conducted by the CAU across this landscape. For details concerning these previous phases of work, the reader is referred to the reports listed below, together with the four desk-based assessments which review the archaeological background to the area (Regan & Evans 1997; Garrow & Evans 2000; Webley & Evans 2003; 2004). The archaeological potential of Rhee Lakeside South was originally recognised through aerial photography, which showed a series of cropmarks visible between *The Holme* and Langdale Hale. Trenching in 2004 confirmed the existence of extensive prehistoric remains dating from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age, with more limited Romano-British activity (Patten 2004). The core components of site included Bronze Age field boundaries and settlement features, and a series of Iron Age compound enclosures.

Previous investigation at Colne Fen by the CAU

Investigations at The Camp Ground:

- Regan, R. 2001. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Colne Fen, Earith. The Camp Ground (Site VII).* CAU Report 430.
- Regan, R. 2004. *The Camp Ground Excavation.* CAU Report 654.

Invesigations at The West Water Sites:

- Regan, R. & Evans, C. 1998. *Excavations at Colne Fen, Earith: Site I*. CAU Report 273.
- Knight, M. & McFadyen, L. 1998. *Excavations at Colne Fen, Earith. Site II and Evaluation Fieldwork.* CAU Report 274.
- Regan, R. & Evans, C. 2000. *Excavations at Colne Fen, Earith: Sites III and IV*. CAU Report 398.

Investigations at Langdale Hale:

- Regan, R. 1999. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Colne Fen, Earith. Site VI.* CAU Report 308
- Regan, R. 2003. *An Archaeological Excavation at Colne Fen Earith – Langdale Hale, Sites V and VI.* CAU Report No. 537.

Invetigations at Rhee Lake:

- Regan, R. 2003. *Colne Fen, Earith: An Archaeological Watching Brief.* CAU Report 576
- Patten, R. 2004. *The Rhee Lakeside Investigations: An Archaeological Evaluation at Hanson Quarry, Colne Fen, Earith*. CAU Report 644

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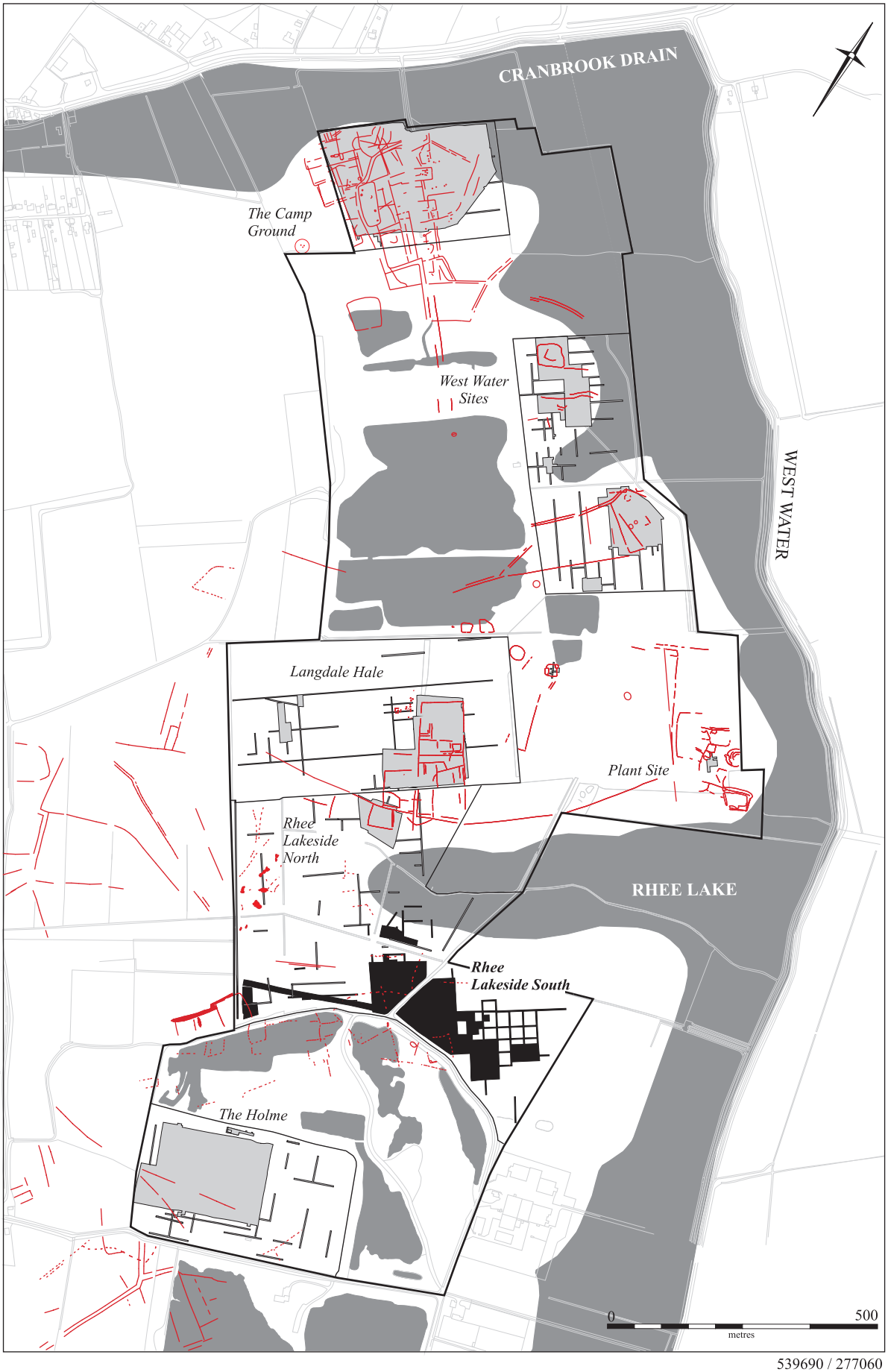

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Figure 1. Site Location

Investigations at *The Holme*:

- Regan, R. 2001. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Colne Fen, Earith* (Site VIII) CAU Report 436.
- Evans, C. and Patten, R. 2003 *Excavations at Colne Fen, Earith. The Holme Fieldsystem*. CAU Report 527

Excavation strategy

The area of investigation was not stripped as a single 'block', but was exposed as a series of open-areas and trenches distributed across the site (combined strip of 3.23ha). For convenience, these open-areas/'sites' have been labelled Areas A-H (fig. 2). As these areas were of different sizes and subject to different sampling strategies, the methodology for each is described in detail below. Generally, in the face of archaeology stretching the allocated resources, the decision was made - beyond the core of the main excavation zone (Areas C & D; see below) - to impose a 'box-grid' trench design. This involved, on the one hand, incorporating previously cut evaluation trenches to build a 'rational' trenching pattern. On the other hand, this was also a self-conscious device and intended to evoke the comparable 'box-design' that had previously been implemented at Barleycroft Farm.

All areas of the site were machine-stripped to the natural/sub-stratum using a 2m wide toothless-bucket. In Areas A, C, D and E, the machining was carefully supervised, and was supplemented by additional hand-cleaning (hoeing and troweling) of all structures, pit groups and complex/dense areas of archaeology (such at the ring-ditch, cremation cemetery and Compound B). Within these areas a *c.* 10% sample of all linear features was excavated by 1m wide slots (i.e. 1m excavated in every 10m), with particular emphasis on stratigraphic relationships and terminals/entrances. At least 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits, postholes) was excavated, whilst over 50% of all structural remains were dug. All cremations and inhumations were fully exposed and the remains removed. Where atypical or artefact rich deposits were identified, additional sampling was also employed. For the purposes of this report, this excavation strategy is described as the 'standard methodology' in order to differentiate it from that employed elsewhere on the site.

Areas B, F, G and parts of E were subject to a 'strip, map and record' strategy; the primary aim of which was to expose and plan the continuation of the Bronze Age boundary system exposed in Area C and D. Hand excavation was limited in this zone, but where it occurred, it targeted the main feature groups revealed (i.e. terminals of ditches, large pits or pit groups). In Areas F and G, the machining could only be monitored, and as a result, the ground surfaces were much rougher. Whilst this did not prevent the recording of ditches and large discrete features, it tended to obscure postholes and small pits, which are underrepresented at eastern end of the site. This has undoubtedly created a 'western bias' in the distribution of small features.

A CAU-modified version of the MoLAS recording system (Spence 1990) was employed throughout: excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a cut, a fill) were recorded as individual context, with interrelated stratigraphic events (e.g. a ditch cut and its associated fills) assigned feature numbers. Base plans were drawn at 1:50, and sections were rendered at 1:10 or 1:20 dependant on size and complexity. All exposed features were metal detected by an experienced operator using a Laser Rapier metal detector.

Figure 2. Excavation Areas

Area A

Area A was an 'L'-shaped exposure, covering 1.3ha and incorporating Trench 56. The area was located in the southwest corner of the site, and targeted the eastern edge of a large rectangular Iron Age enclosure, previously revealed during the excavation of a conveyor belt trench in 2003 (Regan 2003) and by Trench 17 in the 2004 evaluation (Patten 2004). This enclosure formed part of a ladder-like arrangement of adjoining compounds, visible as a cropmark to the west of the Earith Quarry Complex. Area A was sampled according to the 'standard' methodology outlined above.

Area B

Area B was located on the southern fringe of Rhee Lake. This zone was initially sampled by Trenches 32 and 34 during the evaluation (Patten 2004). In the 2006 fieldwork phase, three additional 2m wide trenches were cut in this zone (a western extension to the 2004 phase Trench 34, and two new trenches, 54 and 55), revealing a series of linear ditches relating to the Bronze Age fieldsystem in Area C. The western end of Trench 34 and the southern end of Trench 55 were subsequently opened-up to uncover the corner of this paddock. The area was then subject to a 'strip, map and record' excavation strategy, meaning that the archaeological features exposed were planned and then 'tested'; in this instance by a single slot through the intersection of ditches in Trench 34. In October 2006 the opportunity arose to extend the excavation in this zone. A larger area around the trenches was therefore exposed, incorporating two boxes at the ends of Trenches 34 and 55 and an eastward extension that followed the line of the earlier 2004 Trench 34. The newly stripped area - now covering 0.13ha - was then re-planned, and further slots were excavated through the key ditches and discrete features.

Area C

Area C was located on the eastern side of the haulage road, and covered 0.75ha. The excavation targeted the western 'core' of the prehistoric settlement complex and boundary system, as defined by Trenches 10, 11 and 12 in the evaluation (Patten 2004). Once stripped, the north side of Area C was extended to fully expose the eaves-gully of Structure 13. Another box was also cut to trace the continuation of the Bronze Age boundary running northwest-southeast across Area C. This box extended up to the western end of Trench 51 (thus incorporating the trench into Area C). Area C was sampled in the same manner as Area A.

Area D

Area D was located on the western side of the haulage road and covered 1.00ha. The excavation targeted the eastern 'core' of the prehistoric settlement complex and boundary system, as defined by Trenches 4, 7, 8, 9, 35 and 36 in the evaluation (Patten 2005). Area D was sampled in the same manner as Area A and C.

Area E

Area E was located between Areas D, F, and H, and covered 0.27ha. This zone was striped in a series of stages. The area was initially opened by a box-trench cut to reveal the extent of a post-Medieval pond clipped in Area D. During the course of trenching in Area H (see below), a series of cremations were uncovered in the northern half of Trench 38, just 20m to the southeast of the pond. The area surrounding the cremations was subsequently stripped and extended to join the box-trench around the pond, the northern end of Trench 38, and two further box-trenches cut on either side of Trench 39. This revealed a Bronze Age ring-ditch with a central inhumation and cremation cemetery; it is important to note that the ring-ditch had in fact been bisected by the western end of Trench 7 in the 2004 evaluation (Patten 2004). However, the pale upper silts of the ditch had not been recognised, and so its 'discovery' was new to this phase of the excavation. The area exposed at this stage was subject to the same sampling procedure as Area A, C and D. However, the post-Medieval pond was only sampled by a machine-cut slot. A second area to the south of the ring-ditch was also stripped, to trace the line of the

Figure 3. Oblique Aerial Photograph (looking southwest) of Rhee Lakeside South

droveway revealed in the southeast corner of Area D. This joined together the western side of Trench 38 and the southeast corner of Area D. This was a 'strip, map and record' exercise, with only the terminals of the linear features targeted for excavation. In the final stage, the rectangular 'island' of topsoil left between Areas D and E to the west of the ring-ditch was uncovered, as part of another strip, map and record sampling strategy. This revealed two pits and a cremation, all of which were fully excavated.

Area F

Area F abutted Area E, and covered 0.39ha. The zone was initially investigated by Trench 3 in the evaluation (Patten 2004). During the 2006 phase of excavation, the area was sampled by the southern end of Trenches 38 and 39, and the western ends of Trenches 37, 46 and 48. After these were cut, the opportunity arose to strip the area and record the eastern continuation of the field boundary ditches revealed in Area D. As with parts of Area E, this was a 'strip, map and record' exercise, with only limited excavation of ditch terminals and large discrete features.

Area G

Area G was located at the eastern end of the site and covered 0.17ha. The zone was initially investigated by Trench 5 in the evaluation (Patten 2004). During the 2006 phase of excavation, the area was sampled by the southern end of Trenches 41 and 42 and the eastern end of Trench 46. As with Area F, the opportunity arose to strip, map and record the archaeology in this zone, with the aim of further tracing the eastern continuation of the prehistoric field system. Aside from the sample-excavation of the ditches revealed in this zone, a cluster of small pits at the eastern end of the area was investigated.

Area H

Area H comprised network of 12 trenches excavated to the east of Area D (Trenches 37-48). The trenches were arranged in respect to those cut in the evaluation phase (Trenches 3-6; Patten 2004), so that in combination, they created a 'grid-iron' pattern of trenching. As described above, parts of most trenches were eventually incorporated into Areas E, F and G. However, this still left 530m of trenching, with a combined area of 0.11ha. All features revealed in the trenches were planned, and several of the main linears excavated.

Additional trenching

Between Areas A and D, eleven additional trenches were cut in order to trace the western continuation of the Bronze Age fieldsystem (Trenches 49-57, and Trenches 60-62; trench numbers 58 and 59 were unused). In total, 243.9m of trench were cut, with a box extension added to Trench 49 (this figure does not including the length of those trenches which became incorporated into Areas A-D). The combined area exposed was thus 0.05ha. All features revealed in the trenches were planned, and several of the potentially early linears were excavated. In addition, a 10m wide conveyer-belt trench was stripped between the southwest corner of Area D and the zone immediately north of Area A (0.22ha). The trench stripped under supervision, and was subject to a 'strip, map and record' sampling procedure.

In total, over 2050 contexts were recorded and over 550 features excavated. The artefacts and accompanying documentary records have been compiled into a stable, indexed archive. This is currently stored at the offices of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit under the project code ESE06. Within the text, the reference to a feature number is marked in bold (e.g. **F.67**). A full list of feature descriptions can be found at the rear of the report.

The following report is divided by phase, with the results of each phase discussed in turn, followed by a final discussion, with specialist reports, on the artefactual record, economy and environment.

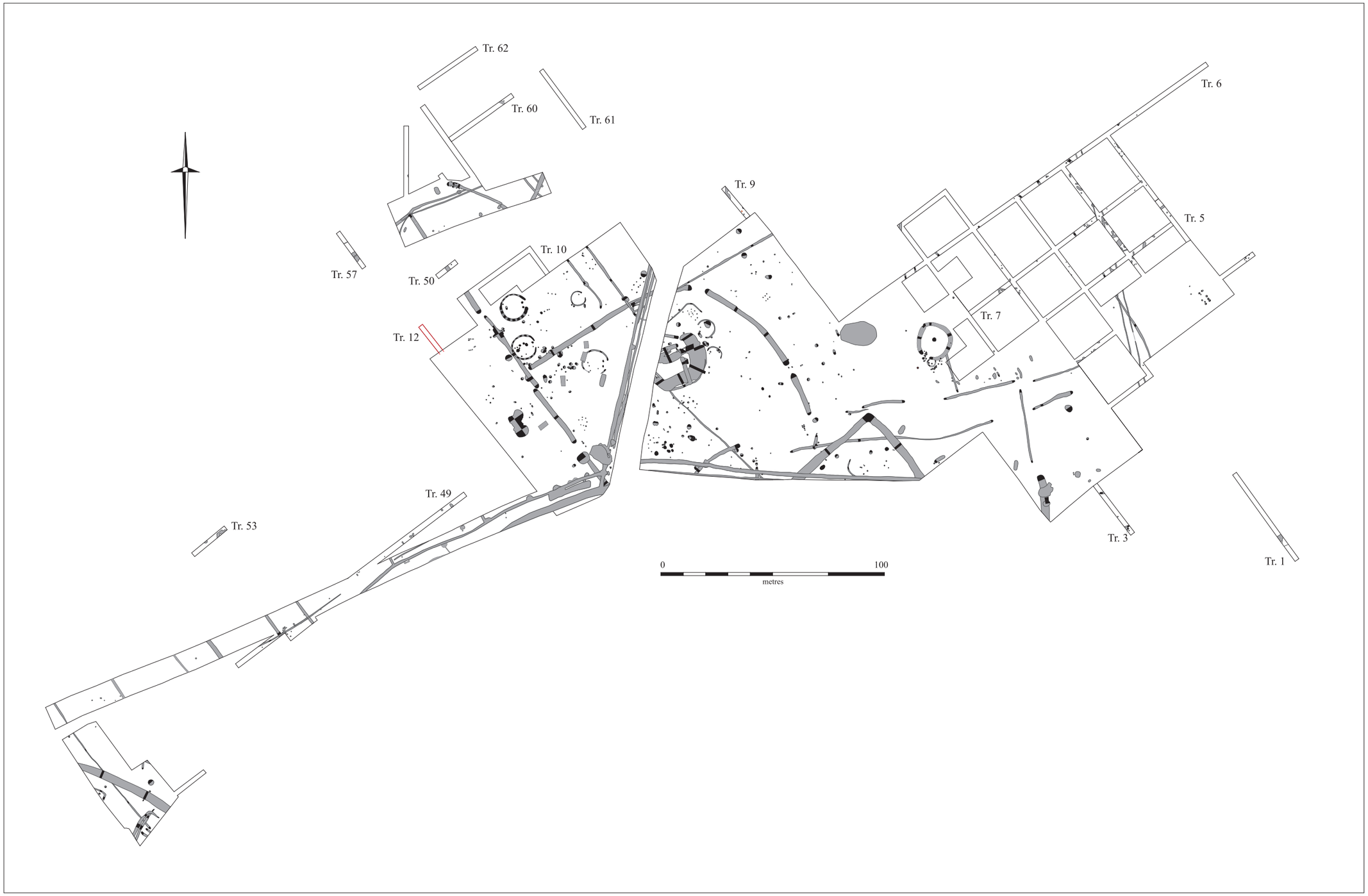


Figure 4. Excavated Features

RESULTS

The Neolithic

Evidence for Neolithic activity was confined to a series of tree-throws and possible pit contexts, and an extensive low-density scatter of worked flint found across the site. The bulk of the Neolithic finds were residual earlier and later Neolithic worked flints, recovered from Bronze Age and Iron Age features (see Beadsmoore, this volume). In addition, 113 sherds of Neolithic pottery (408g) were recovered from the site; 80% of which was found in a series of tree-throws and three pits located in Area C and D (fig. 5). On the basis of context/feature-type, and the absence of later material, these 'features' would appear to be attributable to the Early Neolithic.

Early Neolithic tree-throws and possible pits

Owing to the problems of residuality, the discussion of features datable to the Early Neolithic is limited to those which contained diagnostic pottery and datable work-flint assemblages. Six tree-throws yielded Early Neolithic pottery and flint work (**F.643**, **F.717**, **F.727**, **F.754**, **F.769** and **F.1151**). The oval silt-filled hollows were distributed across Area C and D, and displayed irregular shaped sides and undulating bases, ranging from 0.07m-0.48m in depth. The tree-throws yielded a combined total of 35 pieces of Neolithic pottery (70g), 12 worked flints and a single fragment of bone (1g).

The three possible Early Neolithic pits included **F.663**, **F.759** and **F.1110**. Pit **F. 663** was located to the south of Iron Age Structure 12 in Area C. The pit measured 1.57m long, 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep, and displayed steep sides and a flattish base. The pit contained a single fill of grey brown sandy silt which yielded two sherds of Early Neolithic pottery (27g) and a single worked flint. Pit **F.1110** was also located in Area C, 6m to the east of tree-throw **F.1151**. The posthole-sized pit was just 0.30m in diameter and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The pit was filled with dark brown silty sand, which contained 29 pieces of Early Neolithic pottery (202g) - the largest Neolithic pottery assemblage from a single feature. Residual Neolithic pottery was also found in several other features in the immediate vicinity, including the ring gullies of Structures 13 and 14 (totalling 27 sherds, 51g), posthole **F.1117** (one sherd, 10g) and pit **F.964** (two sherds, 12g). These features were all within 18m of **F.1110**, perhaps suggesting that this zone was once a focus for Neolithic activity. The final pit, **F.759**, was located towards the northeast corner of Area D. This was the largest of the three pits, measuring 3.01m long, 1.30m wide and 0.58m deep. The pit contained two fills of pale grey sandy silts with rare charcoal inclusions, the upper layer of which yielded eight sherds of Early Neolithic pottery (25g), 14 worked flints and pieces of burnt stone. Beyond the pits, other residual sherds of Neolithic pottery were recovered from posthole **F.1015**, cremation **F.853** and Bronze Age fieldsystem ditches **F.659**, **F.756**, **F849** and **F.952**.

Given the scale and intensity of the excavations, a finds total of less than 400 worked flints and 113 sherds of pottery indicates little more than the sporadic/low density usage of this landscape prior to the 2nd millennium BC. The overall impression is of a low level 'background' of Neolithic activity across the site. This is unlikely to represent settlement *per se*, but rather a series of temporary 'stays' within the area. Interestingly, the gross finds tallies broadly correspond to those from *The Holme* excavations, where a similar transient/'camping' usage has been suggested (Evans & Patten 2003).

Figure 5. Neolithic Features

The Bronze Age

The excavations at Rhee Lake South have created a 'window' into a Bronze Age landscape that extends well beyond the boundaries of the area investigated. Within this window, the key components 'captured' by the excavation included an Early Bronze Age 'C'-shaped ring-ditch with later 'tail-extension' and Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery; an extensive Middle Bronze Age fieldsystem associated with a second cremation cluster, and finally, a swathe of settlement features - including post-built roundhouses, four- and six-post structures and an array of pits, postholes, wells and watering-holes - dating from the to second half of the 2nd millennium BC and into the first half of the 1st millennium BC. Each of these elements is described in detail below, with an emphasis on how they developed in respect/response to earlier features in the landscape.

The ring-ditch monument and cremation cemetery (by Iona Robinson with contribution from Matt Brudenell)

The ring-ditch monument and cremation cemetery were initially revealed in Trench 38; a full osteological report on the human remains is in preparation (Dodwell, forthcoming). Following a preliminary investigation, which confirmed that one of the features (**F.652**) was indeed an urned cremation, a wider area was stripped to reveal the entirety of the monument and its surrounding cemetery. Careful cleaning of the area showed the monument to comprise of a large 'C'-shaped ditch encircling a central inhumation pit (fig. 6). The ditch had been reworked on its western side, changing the configuration of the enclosure together with its orientation. Surrounding the entrance to the monument were 35 cremations, one of which was encircled by a small mini ring-ditch. The cremations fell into three main groups, all of which are discussed in detail below.

The cremation cemetery was 100% sampled. The small posthole sized pits were half-sectioned and excavated in 5cm spits. Where urns survived, the pots and their contents were lifted and taken back whole to the Cambridge Archaeological Unit for more careful excavation. On site, the hot weather conditions made excavation problematic, as the cremation fills quickly baked-hard once exposed. Whilst it was possible to pick-out the larger pieces of bone during on-site excavation, the smaller fragments were difficult to separate from the hardened soil. To prevent losing the bone, the contents of the all the pits were kept as bulk samples and were subsequently wet-sieved back at the CAU.

The 'C'-shaped ring-ditch and central inhumation

The 'C'-shaped ditch **F.833** was 30.60m long, with a maximum diameter of 17.45m. The ditch arced around 240˚ and encircled inhumation pit **F.834**, which lay within the centre of the enclosure. The rounded terminals of the monument were 13.50m apart and were aligned west-northwest and northwest, leaving a wide southwest facing 'gap' or 'entrance' into the enclosure interior. A total of five slots were excavated through **F.833**, including both terminals and two slots towards the rear of the monument. The ditch displayed a reasonably uniform 'U'-shaped profile, with a marked break of slope between the sides and a flattish base. The dimensions of the ditch varied, being at its widest on the western side and narrowest at the southern terminal. Depth varied between 0.52m and 0.77m, with the ditch shallowest to the north. The number of fills identified within the ditch also varied along its length,

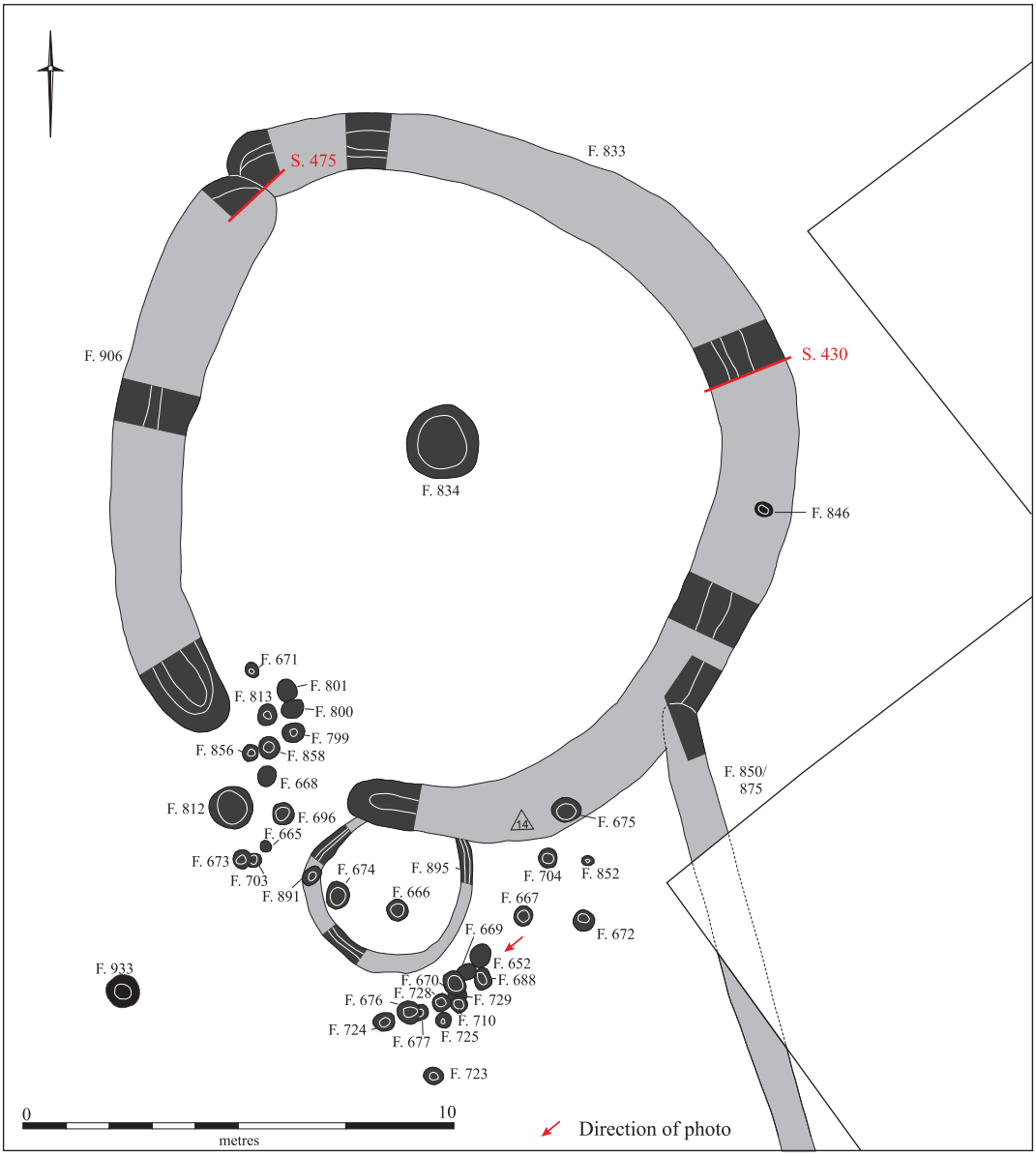
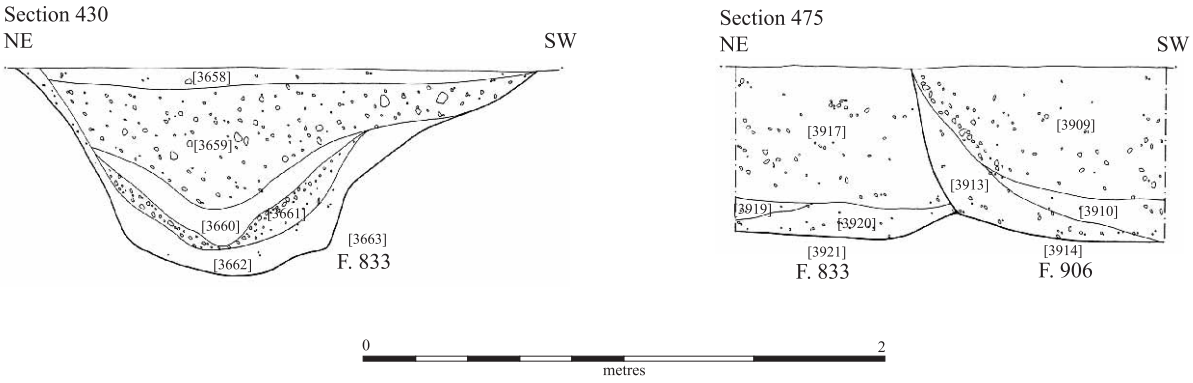


Figure 6. Ring-ditch Monument and Cremation Cemetery



7. Photo and Sections of Ring-ditch

but followed a general pattern of a basal fill of grey-brown weathered silty-sand with poorly sorted gravels, beneath a sequence of gravely, orange-brown sandy-silts and a capping deposit of yellow-grey silt. The gravely fills in the southern and western slots showed slight tip lines running in from the area internal to the ring-ditch; however, these were neither sufficiently pronounced nor consistent enough to suggest the presence of an inner up-cast bank. The only artefact recovered from the ditch was a single worked flint from the tertiary fill of the southern terminal. The ditch was also devoid of botanical remains, other than very low quantities of charcoal (three samples being floated from the basal fills).

The central inhumation pit, **F.834**, was slightly oval in plan, being 1.61 long, 1.30m wide and 0.57m deep, with steep near-vertical sides and a flat base, filled with compact pale orangey-brown sandy silt. The skeleton lay at the base of the pit orientated northwest-southeast, i.e. along the length of the pit, with the head positioned to the northwest. The skeleton was in a crouched position, on its right-side, with legs bent and drawn up to form a right-angle with the vertebral column. The left arm was tightly flexed so that the hand was next to the skull and the left forearm bones were on top of the less tightly flexed right arm. Bone preservation was extremely poorly; the vertebrae and ribs were missing as were most of the extremities. Only the right arm and femur survived in recognisable form, whilst the rest of the limbs were splintered and fragmentary. The skeleton belonged to an adult male, which based on the degree of molar ware, was approximately 25-35 years of age at death (Dodwell, forthcoming). A fragment of charcoal from the pit gave an AMS radiocarbon date of Cal. 3700-3630 BC and Cal. 3560-3540 BC (2 Sigma). Given how early this date is, one must assume that the charcoal was residual.

The ring-ditch extension

The northern terminal of 'C'-shaped ring-ditch was cut by a short curvilinear ditch segment, **F.906**. This ditch acted to extend the circuit of the enclosure, closing the gap between the terminals to just 3.40m, and giving the monument a pennanular form with a southwest facing 'entrance'/opening. The ditch segment, **F.906**, was 13.6m long, ranging between 1.44m-1.91m in width and 0.58-0.68m in depth. Slots excavated at both terminals and midway along the length of the ditch revealed that it had a 'U'-shaped profile throughout, with steeper sides and a slightly greater depth at either terminal. The sequence of fills within the ditch was similar to that from **F.833**, with primary orange-brown, gravely sandy-silts overlain by further gravely deposits and a capping layer of more greyish, gravely silt. Sections from **F.906** did not display clear tip lines emanating from either side of the ditch, providing no evidence for a mound or a bank associated with the extension. There were no finds from the ditch.

The mini-ring ditch

The mini ring-ditch, **F.895**, formed a small uneven circle, with a maximum external diameter of 4.02m. The ditch abutted the southern terminal of **F.833**, though it could not be seen to cut this feature. This may be because the **F.895** was truncated, or alternatively, indicate that the final uppermost fills of **F.833** were deposited concurrently with that of **F.895.** Therefore, a stratigraphic relationship between the two monuments could not be directly established. However, based on the association between the mini-ring ditch and the cremation cemetery (the ditch appearing to encircle cremations **F.666** and **F.674**), it is reasonable to suggest that **F.895** post-dates the construction of **F.833**. The ditch itself was very shallow and truncated, especially to the north and west. This truncation probably accounted for some of the variance in the ditch dimensions, which ranged from 0.24m-0.44m in width and 0.07m-0.20m in depth. The three slots excavated through the ditch revealed that that it was deepest and widest to the east, where truncation appeared to be least severe. The ditch had a 'U'-shaped profile with a concave base, and contained a single grey-brown sandy-silt fill throughout. Charcoal flecks were present in the fill of all three slots, with degraded pottery sherds in the north-eastern and south-western slots (a total of 11 sherds weighing 11g from both slots). Fragments of cremated bone (5g) were also recovered from the south-western slot. This combination of charcoal, cremated bone and degraded pottery (a mixture identical to that in the adjacent cremation pits) suggests that either surface material from the surrounding cremation pits had washed into the cut, or that 'uncollected' material from cremation pyres was similarly deposited by water - indicating that the pyres were located in the immediate vicinity.

The cremation cemetery

A total of 35 cremation pits were uncovered around the southwest 'entrance' to the ring-ditch monument, the primary characteristic of which are summarised in Table 1. The pits displayed uniformity of form with steep sides meeting a concave base. Most pits had a diameter between 0.3m and 0.6m, although some of the shallowest, most truncated pits were smaller (**F.665**, **F.677**, **F.852**). There was one substantially larger pit, measuring 1.05m by 1.02m, located in the north-west cluster (**F.812**). The depths of the pits varied between 0.05m-0.45m, although the majority had a base at a depth between 0.20m-0.35m. The elevated position of the shallowest pits meant that they were more susceptible to plough damage and truncation, limiting the information which could be extracted from them. For example, no cremated bone was found in **F.852**, which was only 0.08m deep, although the high concentration of charcoal flecks within the remaining fill was of similar character to that in the other deeper pits which did contain cremated bone. Such highly truncated examples may indicate that there were further shallower cremation pits which had been completely destroyed prior to excavation.

The vast majority of cremations in the cemetery clustered around the 'entrance' to the ring-ditch monument (the southern terminals of **F.833** and **F.906**). Within this group, three spatially discrete clusters could be identified

Crem.	Group	Dimensions (L x W x D)	Est. Volume	Wt bone	No/Wt Pottery	Details
F.666	1	0.50x0.50x0.15	0.03m^3	175	34/71g	Upright urn, base & body present. C^{14} dated 1410-1200BC
F.674	1	0.60x0.50x0.30	0.07m^3	9	-	
F.891	1	0.46x0.31x0.19	0.02m^3	6	-	Cuts ditch F.895. C^{14}dated 1430-1200BC
F.665	2	0.40x0.36x0.19	0.02m^3	18	-	
F.668	2	0.40x0.35x0.20	0.02m^3	1	-	
F.671	2	0.60x0.66x0.27	0.08m^3	432	-	2 amber beads. C^{14} dated 1500-1250BC
F.673	2	0.47x0.50x0.22	0.04m^3	-	51/195g	Upright urn, base & body present. Cuts F.703.
F.696	2	0.47x0.43x0.33	0.05m^3	542	-	
F.703	2	0.35x0.26x0.05	<0.01m^3	-	-	Cut by F.673
F.799	2	0.52x0.44x0.27	0.05m^3	70	67/36g	Body fragments and crumbs
F.800	2	0.49x0.41x0.22	0.03m^3	166	-	
F.801	2	0.49x0.48x0.45	0.08m^3	130	-	
F.812	2	1.05x1.02x0.31	0.26m^3	4187	139/424g	2 upright urns, both base & body. Placed side-by-side.
F.813	2	0.46x0.41x0.41	0.06m^3	-	-	
F.856	2	0.37x0.33x0.25	0.02m^3	26	45/953g	Body fragments
F.858	2	0.50x0.47x0.31	0.06m^3	752	2/1g	Crumbs
F.652	3	0.51x0.47x0.12	0.02m^3	4	92/329g	Upright urn, base and body present
F.667	3	0.43x0.38x0.24	0.03m^3	25	-	
F.669	3	0.42x0.44x0.16	0.02m^3	4	115/327g	Upright urn, base and body present. Cuts F.652, F.670. Cut by F.686.
F.670	3	0.54x0.53x0.30	0.07m^3	19	18/4g	Pottery crumbs. Cut by F.710, F.669
F.672	3	0.47x0.50x0.22	0.04m^3	355	-	
F.675	3	0.55x0.50x0.22	0.05m^3	595	67/341g	Upright urn, base and body present. Cuts ditch F.833.
F.676	3	0.55x0.45x0.25	0.05m^3	58	28/377g	Burnt Urn found on its side. Complete profile present. Cuts F.677
F.677	3	0.34x0.18x0.13	0.01m^3	501	-	Cut by F.677
F.686	3	0.49x0.36x0.29	0.04m^3	1	-	Cut F.669
F.704	3	0.40x0.40x0.20	0.03m^3	5	108/689g	2 Urns. Burnt rim & body of a small inverted urn inside the

						base and body of a large upright urn.
F.710	3	0.39x0.45x0.22	0.03m^3	7	-	Cuts F.728, cut by F.729
F.723	3	0.40x0.40x0.27	0.03m^3	1180	-	
F.724	3	0.48x0.42x0.40	0.06m^3	893	1/13g	Rim refits with urn from F.676
F.725	3	0.38x0.37x0.30	0.03m^3	-	174/1484g	Upright urn, base and body present
F.728	3	0.44x0.35x0.21	0.03m^3	6	-	Cut by F.710
F.729	3	0.38x0.32x0.15	0.01m	420	150/280g	Upright urn, base, body & rim. Cuts F.710 and F.670
F.852	3	0.23x0.20x0.08	<0.01m^3	-	-	
F.846	isolat.	0.40x0.38x0.46	0.05m^3	7	-	Cuts ditch F.833
F.933	isolat.	0.65x0.65x0.21	0.07m^3	35	-	
<14>	?	-	-	-	41/345g	Found on F.833

Table 1: Primary characteristic of the cremations in the cemetery

Group 1) Cremations directly associated with the mini ring-ditch F.895

Three cremations were associated with the mini ring-ditch, including **F.666**, **F.674** and **F.891**; the former two being enclosed by the ditch circuit. Pit **F.666** was an urned cremation, located slightly off-centre to the southwest, whilst pit **F.674** was position on the western interior edge, just 0.20m from the ditch cut. Burnt material from **F.666** yielded an AMS radiocarbon date of Cal. 1410-1200 BC (2 Sigma). This falls within the expected mid-later 2nd millennium BC date range, and is consistent with the Middle Bronze Age date assigned to the Deverel-Rimbury cremation urns. **F.891**, an oval pit, was cut through western the section of **F.895**, indicating that it was late in the sequence of internments. It is arguable that **F.891** has a closer association with the northwest cluster of cremations, as it lies on the southern limit of this linear arrangement of pits.

Group 2) The northwest cluster of cremations

A cluster of thirteen cremations was located to the northwest of the mini ring-ditch (**F.665**, **F.668**, **F.671**, **F.673**, **F.696**, **F.703**, **F.799**, **F.800**, **F.801**, **F.812**, **F.813**, **F.856** and **F.858**). The group had a *c.* 4.5m long linear arrangement, running north-northeast south-southwest between the terminals of the **F.833** and **F.906**. Intriguingly, this axis mirrored that of field system ditch **F.850/875**, suggesting that the cemetery was structured by boundaries other than just that of the (earlier) ring-ditch monument. This could also be taken to imply that the construction of the field-system pre-dated the cremation cemetery, it being aligned in respect to this pre-existing boundary

Within the group, most cremations occurred as discrete features, separated by distances of 0.20m-0.50m. Pits **F.800** and **F.801** abutted but did not inter-cut, as did **F.856** and **F.857**. The only inter-cutting cremations were **F.673** and **F.703**, the former truncating the latter. There were two urned cremations in the cluster, including **F.812** (a large cremation pit containing two vessels placed side-by-side) and **F.673**. **F.856**, also containing fragments of pottery from the body of an urn, but there was no evidence that the whole vessel was deposited. Cremations **F.673**, **F.812** and **F.856** were all external to the large ring-ditch 'entrance' at the southern end of the cluster, nearest the mini-ring-ditch. This pattern might be considered representative either of spatial prominence or of a change in practice from urned to un-urned cremations, or *visa versa* as the cluster expanded along its linear axis. However, as the number of urned cremations was so few, neither theory can be argued convincingly, especially as there were also un-urned cremations at the southern end of the cluster (**F.665**, **F.668**, **F.696**, **F.703** and **F.858**). Nevertheless, it should be noted that the large, multiple vessel cremation, **F.812**, was surrounded by a 0.5m 'belt' of space, clear of other cremations, implying that it was 'marked' and respected by subsequent interments. By comparison with the uneven, close and adjoining distribution of the other pits in the group, this provides a more convincing argument for a degree of prominence attached to this cremation alone.

Burnt material from cremation **F.671** yielded an AMS date of Cal. 1500-1250 BC and Cal. 1240-1220 BC (2 Sigma). Intriguingly, this cremation also yielded fragments of two amber beads (see Webb, this volume), both found during the sorting process after wet-sieving (fig. 8). The beads were sub-circular

in form, 12mm in diameter, and had central perforations. The most complete bead was disc-shaped, and comprised of two conjoining halves. Only half of the second bead was present, and was of a bi-conical form. Despite their cracked and pitted surfaces, Webb has suggested that the beads were unlikely to have survived the process of cremation, and were most likely added to the interned deposit as grave goods.

Evidence for turf burning is suggested by the botanical remains found in **F.696**. Small tubers, monocot (grass) roots, basal culms of false oat-grass and fragments of grass stem were found in abundance in the sample from **F.696**, and indicate that a layer of topsoil was burnt with, or unintentionally by, the funerary pyre (see de Vareilles, this volume). Wild plants species occurred throughout the analysed cremation samples (from **F.666**, **F.671**, **F.696** and **F.891**), indicating an environment of grass-land, open scrub or waste land. The botanical remains may suggest that hawthorn and elder were added as fuel to the pyre.

Group 3) The southeast cluster of cremations

A second linear cluster of seventeen cremations was located to the south and east of the mini ring-ditch, running northeast-southwest over *c.* 7.5m (**F.652**, **F.667**, **F.669**, **F.670**, **F.672**, **F.675**, **F.676**, **F.677**, **F.686**, **F.704**, **F.729**, **F.710**, **F.723**, **F.724**, **F.725**, **F.728** and **F.852**). This group was more dispersed than the northwest group, with a close cluster of inter-cutting pits to the southwest and a scatter of discrete cremations to the northwest. Eleven of the cremations were located in a tight cluster at the southwest end of the alignment, just outside the southeast perimeter of the mini ring-ditch, and apparently echoing its arc in the slight curve within this cluster (**F.652**, **F.667**, **F.669**, **F.670**, **F.676**, **F.686**, **F.729**, **F.710**, **F.723**, **F.724**, **F.725** and **F.728**). The repeated insertion of cremation pits into this area revealed a set of cutting relationships. The latest pits in the sequence were **F.686** and **F.729**. Pit **F.686** cut **F.669**, which itself cut **F.652** and **F.670**. Pit **F.729** (fig. 8) also cut **F.670,** as well as **F.710**. Stratigraphically, the earliest creation in the group was **F.728**, which was cut by **F.710**. Cremation **F.724,** the most south-westerly pit in the cluster, had a depression in the northwest corner which may have been a stake-hole. If a marker was present in this cremation pit it might account for, or relate to, the particularly tight cluster of cremations running northeast from this feature.

Five of the cremations in the cluster contained urns (**F.652**, **F.669**, **F.725**, **F.729** and **F.676**) whilst another two yielded fragments of pottery (**F.724** and **F.670**). Cremation **F.724** contained a burnt rim fragment which refitted with the small burnt urn from the adjacent cremation **F.676** (found lying broken on the side within the pit). The refit between these pits implies that the cremations shared the same pyre (see Knight, this volume). Though this may also suggest the two cremations were contemporary, it does not necessarily follow, as the pyre may have been at a fixed-location, perhaps used for the burning of all bodies destined for the cemetery. In such a scenario it is easy to envisage how burnt fragments of pottery from a previous episode of pyre-use could become incorporated into a later cremation deposit. A similar interpretation may account for the presence of fragmented sherds in cremations **F.670** and **F.856**. Alternatively, it can be argued that the inclusion of such sherds represents the deliberate *selection* of 'token artefacts'. However, the fact these fragments were incorporated within the cremation matrix implies that their inclusion resulted from the haphazard recovery of pyre material rather than intentional curation.

There was a single discrete cremation to the southeast of the main Group 3 cluster (**F.723**) and further five discrete and spaced out cremations to the northeast (**F.667**, **F.672**, **F.675**, **F.704** and **F.852**). The most north-easterly pit of the group, **F.675**, was cut into the upper silts of the 'C'-shaped ring-ditch, **F.833**. Located less than a metre to the south of this pit, and also positioned on the upper silts of **F.833**, was the base of a probable cremation urn, found during machining (vessel <14>). This find may indicate another extremely truncated cremation, although it is also possible that this base had been dragged from elsewhere by the plough or machine. Cremation pit **F.846**, an isolated outlier 7.5m from the main group, also cut the upper fills of **F.833** on its eastern edge. It is interesting to note that although these cremations were inserted into the top fills of **F.833** - presumably late in the sequence of the cemetery interments - no cremations encroach upon the main space internal of the ring-ditch. Instead, the position of the cremation cemetery is very clearly limited to the southwest 'entranceway'

F. 729

Figure 8. Selected Cremations

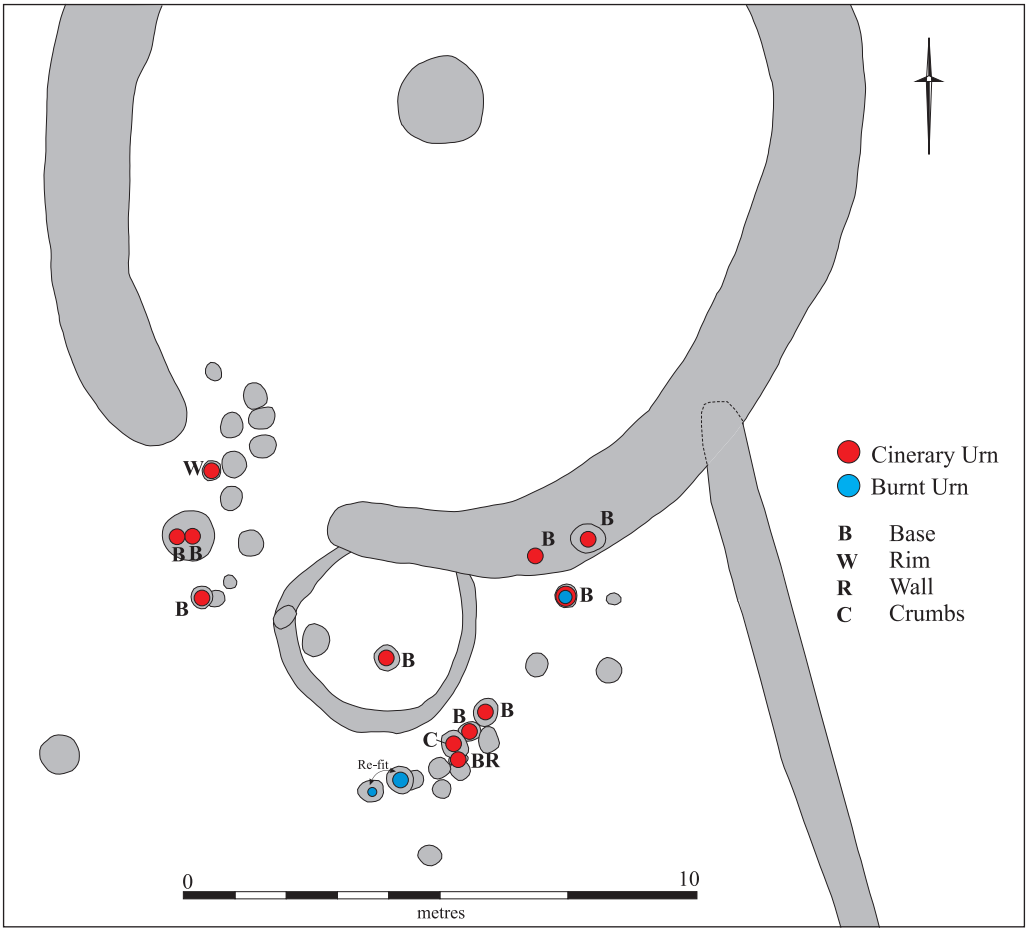


Figure 9. Distribution of Cremation urns

gap, the south and southeast external periphery and the south and east ditches. The remaining 'isolated' outlying cremation, **F.933**, was a plough damaged isolated cremation, 3.5m to the southwest of Group 3 cluster.

The identification of the north-western and south-eastern cremation clusters as groups meaningful in the past as well as a useful delineation in modern interpretation is supported by the absence of cremations from the area southwest and northeast of the mini ring-ditch. This indicates the repeated choice to position new cremations in relation to the existing groups. The occurrence of cremation clusters, linear and non-linear, within a larger cremation cemetery has been repeatedly noted, and an explanation based on familial, household or clan grouping has been proposed (Ellison in White 1982: 64). Such an explanation can be proposed for the two linear clusters in this example, although this interpretation cannot be proven.

Within all the pits a 'cremation fill' of very dark grey sandy- or clayey-silt containing fragments of cremated bone, charcoal flecks and/or lumps and, in some cases, sherds of degraded pot, could be identified. This fill was interpreted as a deposit of material recovered from a cremation pyre, although the small quantity of bone and charcoal, even in the largest pits, suggests that in each case, the contents of the pit represented only a sample of the material from the pyre. The fragments of cremated bone were very small, mostly <20mm. In some of the pits, the 'cremation fill' was accompanied by an orange or grey-brown gravely lower fill, perhaps representing the immediate slippage of material from the pits sides into the concave base or the deliberate redeposition of natural gravels prior to the main cremation deposit. Similarly, a lighter grey sandy-silt, often with small charcoal flecks, overlying the dark 'cremation fill' may be indicative of the deliberate backfilling or sealing of the pits.

Thirteen of the cremations contained fragments of urns, belonging to the Deverel-Rimbury tradition (14 if vessel <14> is as a cremation, fig. 9). These survived in very poor condition, the fabric being extremely friable. In several cases the fabric of the actual base of the urn was found to be incomplete or absent, and probably results from the differential dissolution of the pots' fabric. This might be explained by slab construction; the side slabs of the pot survived while the adjoined but separately manufactured basal slab completely dissolved (Allen *et al.* 1987: 216). Analysis of the pottery has demonstrated an interesting relationship between vessel sizes, secondary burning and deposition (see Knight, this volume). The two small urns from the assemblage had rim diameters of 10-15cm and were both burnt (**F.676**, **F.704**), whilst the remaining urns were considerably larger, with diameters of 20-30cm. The large urns were deposited in an upright position, and were recorded as containing the 'main' cremation matrix. However, the small burnt urns were deposited on the side (**F.676**) or were inverted (**F.704**), and were found *within* the cremation matrix. In other words, the small vessel accompanied the body onto the pyre as 'pyre-goods', hence their burning, whilst the larger urns were used as receptacles for pyre debris during deposition. Such details highlight subtle variation in funerary ritual, and draw attention to different processes by which burnt bodies and pottery came to be deposited around the monument.

Other variations can also been seen in the 'style' of the interments. The pits dug for cremations **F.704**, **F.725** and **F.856** were only just larger than the urns they contained, creating a 'tight fit', while the other urns were in larger pits, with a greater quantity of surrounding dark 'cremation fill'. In **F.704**, the 'main' urn was found, upon excavation of its contents, to contain a second smaller, inverted vessel which was burnt (fig. 8). This style of double-urned cremation, with a second inverted vessel inside, or 'capping' an upright urn, was not uncommon among Early Bronze Age burials of the Collared Urn tradition (thirteen examples are cited by Longworth 1984: 49); however, the practice was far less common in the Middle Bronze Age, the only known parallel being a bucket urn found to contain two smaller bucket urns, from the cemetery at Kimpton, Hampshire (Dacre and Ellison 1981: 168). Two urns were also recovered from **F.812**, the unusually large pit. Here they were separate; a large urn containing many cremated bone fragments was located in the centre, while a second smaller vessel with fewer bone fragments was placed off-centre to the northwest. The smaller, peripheral pot contained no higher frequency of cremated bone than the surrounding dark 'cremation fill' and may be an accessory vessel. The presence of a second vessel, combined with the large size of the pit confirms the impression that **F.812** was constructed to appear markedly different to the other pits around it. Few other Middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries contain comparable examples of a Deverel-Rimbury urn buried with an adjacent accessory vessel, although the large cemeteries at Latch Farm and Simons Ground produced several examples (Piggot 1938: 180; White 1982: 22).

Over half of the cremations contained no obvious evidence of pottery sherds. The complete disintegration of any pottery sherds within these pits is possible, but it seems likely that here, as in other Deverel-Rimbury cremation cemeteries, some of the cremations were deposited without any pottery sherds or vessels. The use of organic containers is a possibility, although none of these pits displayed bounded concentrations of cremated bone suggestive of their having been contained within a now-decomposed bag or box.

A survey of aerial photographs, completed in the early 1980s, revealed 1207 ring-ditches within Cambridgeshire, including 181 penannular ring-ditches (Taylor 1981: 110). The ring-ditch at Earith belongs within this extensively practiced tradition of ring-ditch construction. More specifically, it belongs to the scatter of Bronze Age barrows and ring-ditches on the Lower Ouse terraces and islands; a group which provides interesting parallels to the staged construction history of the Earith monument. Although not generally a common ring-ditch form, the 'C'-shaped ditch of the earliest phase of the Earith monument, corresponds with a number of examples from the Lower Ouse vicinity. A ring-ditch excavated at Over in 1996 formed an arc of 280˚ (Evans and Knight 1997: 46), creating a 'C' only slightly more complete than that at Earith. The first phase of Ring-Ditch 1 at Barleycroft (RD1), a ditch that arcs around 290˚, also has a very similar appearance to the initial 'C'-shaped monument at Earith.

Whilst the Over and Barleycroft 'C'-shaped ring-ditches represent the closest parallels to the Earith 'C'-ditch in form, there are other comparable 'C'-shaped ring-ditch features, including two in the immediate vicinity. A previous phase of excavation at the Camp Ground, Colne Fen revealed two 'C'-shaped ring-ditches (Camp Ground Ring-Ditches 3 and 4). The 'half-circle' shape of the Camp Ground ditches gives them a much more open form than the 240˚ arc of F.833 and they might be better described as crescent-shaped than 'C'-shaped. A very similar crescent-shaped form can be seen in the early phases of two adjacent ring-ditches at Butchers Rise, Barleycroft (Butchers Rise RD2 and RD3) (Evans and Knight 1998: 34). All are associated with Early/Middle Bronze Age burial activity, both inhumation and cremation. This evidence suggests that the incomplete circle (in these cases 180˚ or less) was a form of Early/Middle Bronze Age monument practiced in the Lower Ouse area. Although the 'C'-shaped ditch at Earith composes a much more complete circuit than the crescent ditches, it may belong within this Early/Middle Bronze Age 'part-circle' funerary monument tradition, rather than an earlier (non-funerary) 'hengiform' monument tradition.

In its extended, penannular form, the ring-ditch becomes a far less problematic monument to interpret. As mentioned, there are numerous parallels of Bronze Age penannular ring-ditches in Cambridgeshire alone. Less numerous, but still by no means uncommon, are examples of ring-ditches associated with Middle/Late Bronze Age cremation cemeteries. Butchers Rise RD3 again provides a local correlate, with a close correspondence in both the distribution and the number of cremations. At Earith 35 cremations were inserted into the ditch, causeway and area exterior to the ring-ditch; at Butchers Rise RD3 31 cremations were inserted into the south-eastern periphery of a double ring-ditch (Evans and Knight 1998: 28). It is interesting to note the south-eastern spread of the Butchers Rise cemetery. The Middle Bronze Age cremations inserted into the mound and ditch at Snow's Farm (HAD III), Haddenham, showed the same south-eastern distribution (Evans and Hodder 2006: 26). Although

the significance of the *south-eastern* orientation of ring-ditch causeways and associated cremation cemeteries has been stressed (White 1982: 42), it is perhaps more useful not to exclude the numerous other examples, such as Earith, with a south-western/southern orientation. Instead, the very general trend for the insertion of Middle Bronze Age cremations into the *southern* sector of the interior or the exterior of a barrow or ring-ditch should be noted as an ordering principle of these cemeteries; numerous examples from southern England include Simons Ground, Dorset (White 1982), Kinson, Dorset (Knocker 1958), Latch Farm, Hampshire (Piggot 1938), Colbury, Hampshire (Preston and Hawkes 1933), and Itford Hill, Sussex (Russell 1996). The Earith cemetery is at once an example of this general pattern and a particular case in which the cemetery is also ordered by a spatial dichotomy into two linear groups. Whatever the basis of the division, familial or otherwise, the attribution of each cremation to one group or the other suggests a community which at once identified itself as a complete group and sub-compartmentalised itself through a second, unknown, measure of identity.

The presence of the 'mini' ring-ditch in the cremation cemetery is an unusual feature. Its small diameter separates it immediately from the other much larger and more substantial ring-ditches in the area. In form, it appears to hold a close affinity to the numerous small circular enclosures which occur in Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Urnfield cemeteries in the Netherlands (e.g. Mierlo-Hout, Noord-Brabant; Roymans 1995). However, the Dutch Urnfield cemeteries date to the 1st millennium BC (Arnoldussen and Fontijn 2006) and therefore cannot be considered to be the origin of the mid to late 2nd millennium BC mini ring-ditch at Earith. The smallest of the ring ditches among the Deverel-Rimbury cremation cemetery at Ardleigh, Essex, provide a much more apposite analogue. Although surrounded by more substantial ring-ditches with diameters of 6-10m, the three Ardleigh Group 4 type ring-ditches have a diameter of $\leq$ 4m (Brown 1999: 164). Two $\leq$ 4m diameter ring-ditches were also among the larger ring-ditches of the Deverel-Rimbury cremation cemetery at Brightlingsea, Essex (*ibid.*: 175). In their size and ephemeral nature, these ring-ditches are a close match to the shallow form of the 4.02m mini ring-ditch at Earith. At Ardleigh, each Group 4 ring ditch contained a single central cremation. The rest of the cremations occurred in an area external to, but surrounded by ring-ditches. At Brightlingsea, the smallest ring-ditches contained a pair of cremations each, in off-centre positions. Again the rest of the cremations occurred in groups external to the larger ring-ditches. With its two off-centre cremations, the Earith mini ring-ditch bears the closest resemblance to the examples from Brightlingsea.

Brown (*ibid.*: 165) has suggested that the individual cremations at Ardleigh were covered by low mounds and that the Group 4 type ring-ditches simply represent examples in which a shallow ditch was also dug around the mound, adding slightly to its stature. In the light of this, the mini ring-ditch at Earith could be interpreted as a pair of cremations given prominence by the construction of a small mound and ditch around them. Considering the way in which the two linear cremation clusters respect the position of the mini ring-ditch, it is reasonable to suggest that the small monument may have acted as a 'node' around which the two separate groups were organised. This dynamic prompts the temptation to ascribe a 'founding' role to the two cremations within the ring-ditch; to view them as the graves of two individuals in relation to whom the rest of the community defines itself.

However, while there is a close correspondence in the form of the north-east Essex and Earith mini ring-ditches, their context is markedly different. The Ardleigh and Brightlingsea mini ring-ditches occur within much larger cemeteries of clustered ring-ditches associated with external Deverel-Rimbury cremations. This form of cemetery, with multiple small Middle Bronze Age ring-ditches, is peculiar to Essex. The Earith mini ring-ditch, on the other hand, is an isolated feature abutting a single, much larger, earlier ring-ditch. As such it is without parallel among Middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries of the region. For this reason, an interpretation of the mini ring-ditch as a miniature cremation mound, an outlier of the type seen in the Essex cemeteries, may be somewhat hasty. There is no evidence for the presence of a mound inside the ring and the off-centre cremations within it might indicate that the mini ring-ditch was not dug to encircle them, but was constructed first, as a small enclosure adjoining the southern edge of the penannular ring-ditch. In this case, the mini ring-ditch need not have originally been a mortuary monument, although the cremated bone and charcoal within its fill might suggest a role in funerary activity. It would follow that, by this interpretation, the linear cremation groups respected the enclosure, rather than a pair of 'primary' interments, and that the three cremations within and cutting the mini ring-ditch were late insertions belonging to a period when the small enclosure's ditch had become in-filled and the feature was no longer 'respected' by avoidance.

Overall, the interpretation of the mini ring-ditch remains uncertain, although the cremation-free 'belt' around the large cremation pit in the north-western cluster might also be considered to be suggestive of a marking mound over a prominent burial, lending support to the 'mound' rather than the 'enclosure' interpretation of the mini ring-ditch.

In summary, the interpretation of the Earith ring-ditch and cremation cemetery complex is not without its ambiguities. However, recognition of a developmental sequence - from 'C'-shaped ditch to penannular ring-ditch to external cremation cemetery - allows questions of interpretation to be put into context. The complex can be viewed as a monument with a *history* in which existing features were drawn into the construction of new foci. This restructuring was extended outwards into the landscape by a field boundary ditch which cut the ring-ditch, but did not encroach upon the internal space, of the monument. This deliberate abuttal of features can be considered akin to the way in which ring-ditches acted as nodal points around which field systems were ordered at Barleycroft (Evans and Knight 2000). The internal restructuring of a monumental space occurred simultaneously with the later Bronze Age restructuring of the wider landscape.

Fieldsystem Components

The Bronze Age fieldsystem consisted of an extensive series of interlinked ditched enclosures and a droveway, revealed across Areas A-H. The field enclosures varied in terms of their size, shape, and 'permeability', as did their constituent segmented ditches. For ease of reference, each paddock has been assigned a letter from A to I, with the droveway labelled J; the details of which are described below (fig.10). In order to facilitate discussion further, a distinction has also been drawn between the western and eastern halves of the system, based primarily on the alignment of the

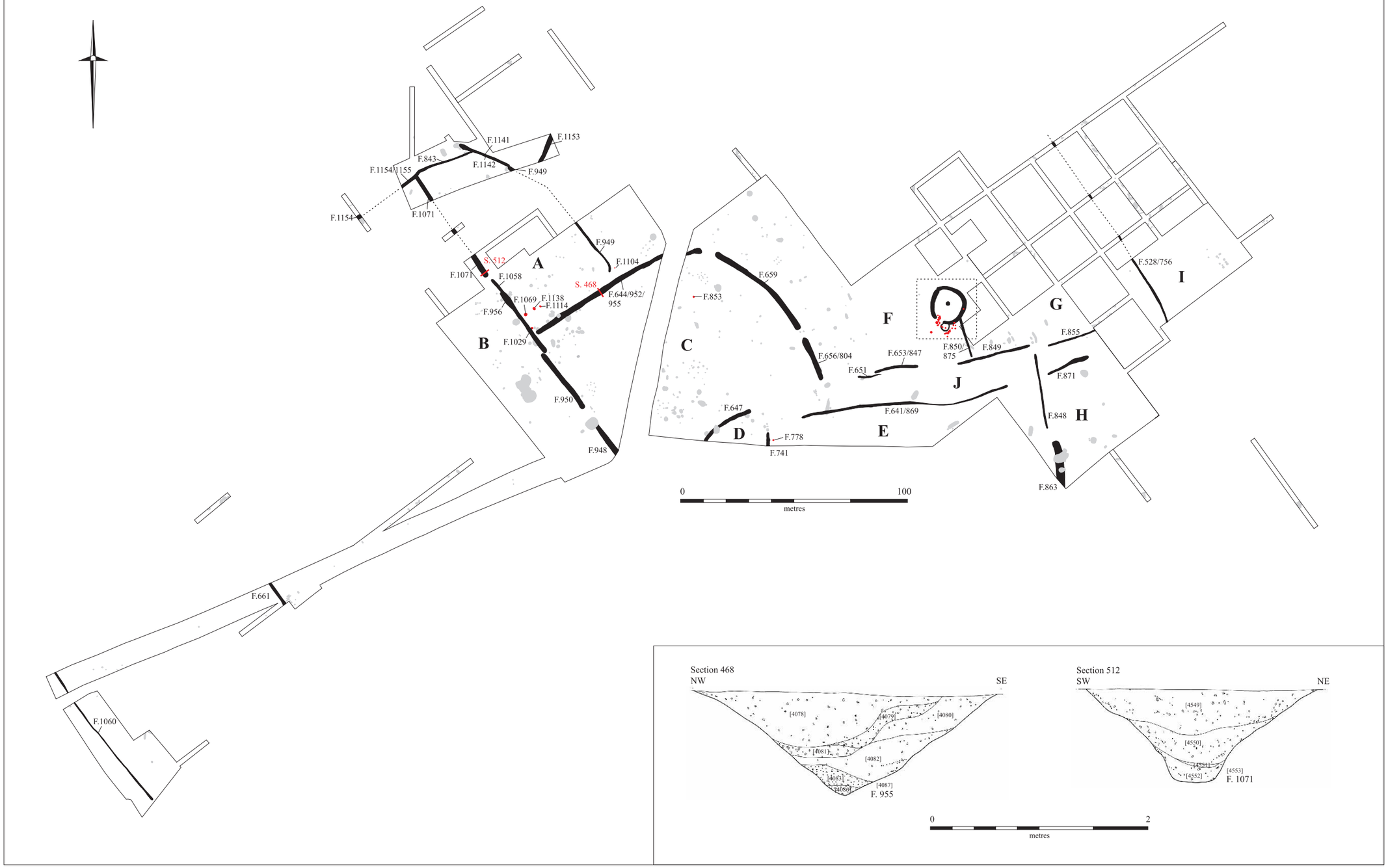


Figure 10. The Bronze Age Field-system and Cremations

enclosures/boundaries, but also on the size of and magnitude of the ditches. The eastern system comprised paddock E-I, and was characterised was by a series of relatively narrow, shallow ditches aligned north-northeast, south-southwest. These were orientated at right angles to the line of droveway J, which linked the two 'blocks' of fieldsystem. The western system comprised paddocks A-D, which were defined by more substantial ditches than those bounding the fields to the east. The western paddocks had a dominant northeast-southwest northwest-southeast axis, though the eastern perimeter ditches were curvilinear, giving rise to 'D'-shaped enclosures.

The eastern fieldsystem and droveway

The dominant feature of the eastern fieldsystem was droveway J, consisting of a series of parallel ditches orientated east-northeast west-southwest, turning east-west as it approached Paddock C in the western fieldsystem. The droveway was traceable for a total of 137m across Area D and F, and was between 8.5m and 15.4m wide, flanked by Paddocks F and G to the north, E and H to the South, and Paddock I to the east.

The northern boundary of the droveway comprised four lengths of ditch, which had a maximum width of 1.23m, with depths up of just 0.54m (**F.651**, **F.653/847**, **F.849** and **F.855**). The ditches all had simple fill sequences, with between one and five horizons; most having a lower deposit of weathered gravels capped with mid grey-brown silty sand. The westernmost ditch in the sequence was **F.651**, a 10.10m long linear feature which tapered to a point at its eastern end. The ditch had a maximum girth of 0.75m, and was up to 0.32m deep, with a single fill of grey-brown silty sand. The pointed eastern end of the ditch lay immediately south of **F.653/847**, which was also orientated east-west. This ditch was 19.60m long, between 0.97-1.23m wide and 0.35-0.54m deep, and was filled with weathered bands of sands and gravels, capped by mid grey-brown sandy silt. A 17.6m wide gap separated ditch **F.653/847** and ditch **F.849**; the gap acting as an entrance between the droveway and Paddock F to the north. Ditch **F.849** was 33m long, and had comparable dimensions to both **F.651** and **F.653/847**. However, this ditch was orientated east-northeast west-southwest, and yielded five sherds of Early Neolithic pottery (6g) and a single worked flint. The final linear bounding the northern side of the droveway was **F.855,** just over 20m of which was uncovered in Area F. The full length of the ditch is unknown, though it is clear that it did not extend into Area G, suggesting that the droveway terminated somewhere between these zones. Ditch **F.855** was the narrowest linear, being just 0.60m-0.75m wide and 0.28m deep. The gap between ditch **F.849** and **F.855** formed an 8.1m wide entrance into Paddock G to the north.

The southern boundary of the droveway was made up of ditches **F.641/F.869** and **F.871**. Ditch **F.641/869** was 93.30m long, and between 0.28m-1.31m wide. The ditch was aligned east-west, turning east-northeast west-southwest towards its eastern terminal (the ditch changing alignment opposite the entrance into Paddock F). The ditch was between 0.35m-0.51m deep, with a concave, 'U'-shaped to bowl-shaped profile, filled with grey-brown sandy silts and gravels. **F.871** was slightly irregular in plan, displaying a 'kink' towards its eastern end. The ditch was 19.70m long, between 0.70m-1.70m in width and 0.24m and 0.34m in depth; filled with the same mid greyish brown sandy silt as **F.641/869**. The gap between **F.641/869** and **F.871** was over 18.6m wide, and was bisected by **F.848**, a north-northeast south-southwest aligned ditch, which cut across the centre of the droveway and terminated just 4.3m short of ditch **F.849**. The ditch may have been deliberately positioned to restrict/control the 'flow' of movement along the droveway, causing a bottleneck at this juncture (assuming that hedges flanked the ditches - otherwise the boundaries themselves were too slight to restrict the movement of livestock). Alternatively, the ditch may have been constructed after the droveway had gone out of use, the line of the former routeway perhaps being incorporated into Paddocks E and H.

Paddock E, located to the south of the droveway, was bounded by **F.741** to the west, **F.641/869** to the north, and **F.848** and **F.863** to the east; making the enclosure *c.* 123m wide. There were three 'entrances' into the Paddock. Two of them were though the northern paddock corners, between **F.741** and **F.641/869** (16.2m wide) and **F.848** and **F.641/869** (14.2m wide); linking the enclosure to Paddocks C, D and the droveway, whilst the third provided access to Paddock H, and was located between

ditches **F.848** and **F.863** (6.5m wide). The individual boundaries of Paddock E have already been described in part, particularly **F.641/869**. A brief mention has also been made of ditch **F.848**, which was 33.5m long. This ditch ranged between 0.75m-0.90m in width and 0.35m-0.47m in depth, and was filled with mid brownish grey silty sands and light grey silts. To its south was **F.863**, a substantial ditch akin to the boundaries in the western system, and unlike all those bounding Paddocks E-I. Around 19m of ditch was uncovered, including the slightly in-turned northern terminal (cut by pit **F.862**). The ditch had roughly the same axis as **F.848**, but was 3.10m wide and 0.72m-1.02m deep, filled with between five and seven deposits. The basal fills comprised bands of mid-pale grey silty sands and gravels. These were overlain by reddish brown sandy silts, (yielding 49 fragments of bone; 212g)) capped with mid grey silty sand (yielding two pieces of burnt clay (21g)). A slump of gravel over the basal fills in the slot terminal, suggest the presence of an up-cast bank internal to Paddock E; a feature also present in some of the ditches from the western system. The only ditch remaining to be described in Paddock E is ditch **F.741**; the terminal of the western boundary exposed in Area D. **F.741** was aligned north-south, perpendicular to the western end of **F.641/869** (described above). The ditch was between 0.94m-1.44m wide, but just 0.15m deep; displaying gently sloping sides and a flat base, filled with mid-brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. The ditch yielded a single worked flint.

Paddock H was delineated by ditches **F.848** and **F.863** to the west, and **F.871** to the north. The southern boundary possibly being the large ditch in Trench 1, revealed during an earlier phase of work (Pattern 2004). If so, this would make the enclosure *c.* 93m long, with 'entrances' into the droveway through the northwest corner of the paddock (4.0m wide) and through the area east of ditch **F.871**. Paddocks F and G were located on the northern side of the droveway. The term 'paddock' is loosely applied to F. This is unlikely to represent an enclosure *per se*, but rather denotes and irregularly shaped 'zone' betwixt the western and eastern fieldsystems. The area was 'bounded' by **F.656/804** and **F.659** (described with the western field system below) to the west, and **F.651** and **F.653**/**847** to the south. The eastern boundary was defined by ditch **F.850/875**, and *possibly* **F.536** and/or **F.543 -** both revealed during the previous phase of work (Patten 2004). Of the two, **F.543** is perhaps the most likely candidate, as the ditch continued into the western corner of Trench 44. However, the only comprehensible section of the eastern boundary was **F.850**/**875**; a 17.9m long linear ditch aligned north-northwest south-southeast (making the paddock at least *c.* 66m wide). The ditch was between 0.61-0.95m wide and 0.26-0.40m deep, and contained two fills of grey sandy silt within its concave cut. The southern terminal was located just 1.03m shy of **F.849**, whilst the northern terminal abutted the ring-ditch monument on its south-eastern side, cutting the upper fills of **F.833** on its outer edge. This relationship confirmed that the fieldsystem post-dated the construction of the monument. Intriguingly, the alignment of **F.850**/**875** parallels an axis drawn between the terminals of the 'C'-shaped ring-ditch. This may suggest that the orientation of the monument conditioned that of the fieldsystem; the boundary ditches referencing an axis already established in the Early Bronze Age. The continued importance of this alignment is suggested by the configuration of cremations around the terminal of **F.906**, which had a linear arrangement mirroring the north-northeast south-southwest axis of field ditch **F.850/875**.

Paddock G was defined by ditches **F.849** and **F.855** to the south, **F.850/875** to the west and **F.528/756** to the east; making the enclosure at least *c.* 85m wide with 'entrances' into the droveway at its eastern end, and through the Paddock H at the centre of the southern boundary line. Ditch **F.528/756** was a longest single boundary revealed in the excavation, being traceable across Area G and through the grid-iron network of trenches to its north (Paddock I being located to the east of this boundary). In total, the ditch was over 94m long, displaying a steep 'V'-shaped to concave profile, varying from 0.55m-0.98m in width and 0.23m-0.48m in depth (from which a single piece of Early Neolithic pottery was recovered (1g) and a worked flint). However, this ditch did not share the same alignment as the others boundaries in the eastern system, and was instead orientated northwest-southeast; an alignment characterising the western system (see below). Only the southern end of **F.528/756** was orientated north-northwest south-southeast, suggesting that the ditch curved onto the alignment of the eastern system towards the southeast corner of Area G.

The western fieldsystem

The western fieldsystem was exposed across Areas A-D, and consisted of a series of robust segmented ditches forming Paddocks A-E, aligned northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast. Paddock A was a relatively narrow rectangular compound, *c.* 84m long and between *c.* 28m-43m wide; enclosing an area

of *c*. 0.33ha. The enclosure was bounded by at least seven ditches; **F.1071**, **F.956** and **F.1058** to the west, **F.843** to the north, **F.1141**, **F.1142** and **F.949** to the east and **F.664/952/955** to the south.

Stratigraphically, the earliest ditch along the western boundary was **F.1058**. Around 7.70m of this linear remained undisturbed, including the 1.01m wide northern terminal. This had steep sides and a narrow concave base, 0.52m deep. The ditch had two fills of gravel-rich sandy-silts yielding two worked flints. **F.1058** was re-cut to the south by a more substantial ditch **F.956**. This also truncated three 'pre-field ditch' pits **F.959**, **F.1064** and **F.1065**. Ditch **F.956** was *c*. 33.30m in length and between 1.30m-2.50m wide, with slightly swollen terminals. The ditch profile was 'V'-shaped with steep, occasionally steeped sides and a narrow concave base between 0.70m-0.88m deep. A total of five slots were excavated though the ditch, showing it to have between two and nine different fills. In its most simplified form, the fill sequence comprised basal deposits of weathered pale orangey-grey silty sands with frequent (sometimes slumped) gravels, overlain by various layers of mid orangey-brown to greyish-brown silty sands, with banded gravel horizons deriving from both edges of the ditch. These were then capped by mid orangey-grey sandy silts. This threefold fill sequence not only characterised **F.956**, but most ditches in the western field system (in order to avoid repetition, only those sequences which differ to this are now described). Based on these divisions, the lower fills of **F.956** yielded three fragments of bone (51g) and one worked flint; the middle fills 10 pieces of Bronze Age pottery (13g) and one worked flint, and the upper fills three pieces of pottery (4g) and five worked flints.

To the north of **F.956** was ditch **F.1071**, the two terminals of which were separated by a 9.2m wide gap or 'entrance way'. Ditch **F.1071** was of similar character to **F.956**, with widths exceeding 2.00m, and a depth of 0.85m. The ditch was traceable for *c*. 54m through Area C and Trench 50, before terminating towards the western end of Area B. The northern terminal of the ditch directly abutted **F.843**, the northern boundary of Paddock A. In general, the fieldsystem ditches in Area B were of a different character to those in Area C. Not only were the ditches shallower, but they contained dark grey alluvial silts, probably deriving from the seasonal flooding of Rhee Lake (lying immediately north). Therefore, **F.843** did not just define the northern perimeter of Paddock B, but most likely marked the boundary between the drier land to the south and the wet northern fringes of Rhee Lake. Overall, the northern boundary ditch was 28.8m long, and between *c*. 0.60-0.90m wide, narrowing towards its western end where it truncated oval pit **F.1152**.

The relationship between the terminal of the **F.843** and the eastern boundary of Paddock A was unclear, although superficially, ditches **F.1141/F.1142** appeared to cut it. These inter-cutting linears were *c*. 24m long, with shallow concave profiles under 0.15m deep and 0.80m wide (**F.1142** being a re-cut of **F.1141**). The ditches extended *c*. 6m beyond the northern boundary of Paddock A, and were flanked by a linear arrangement of postholes and small pits/postholes, aligned on the same axis as the ditches and spaced between 0.25m-1.00m apart (**F.1144**, **F.1145**, **F.1146**, **F.1147** and **F.1149**). These probably formed a fence line extending along the edge of the terminal. The northernmost pit in this short alignment (**F.1149**) cut a large oval pit **F.1148**, as did the terminal of **F.1141**/**F.1142** and posthole **F.1150**. Pit **F.1148** was 2.10m long, 1.80m wide and 0.67m deep, with steep-moderate sides and a concave base. The pits contained a total of seven fills, with evidence of having been re-cut. Most fills consisted of alluvial silts suggesting that the area was subject to flooding, even prior to the construction of the field boundaries. A short length of gully also skirted the western edge of **F.1142** for *c*. 4.50m. Gully **F.1143** was 0.34m wide, and had the same depth and profile as **F.1142** - though no direct relationship could be established between them.

The second ditch defining the eastern boundary of Paddock A was **F.949**. A 27.20m section of the ditch was revealed in Area C, showing it to have a northwest-southeast alignment, parallel to **F.956**. The ditch was between 0.77m-1.10m wide and 0.25m-0.44m deep, and had a curved 'in-turned' terminal 2.7m west of the urned cremation **F.1104**. The terminal stopped 4.0m short of the southern boundary **F.664/952/955**, creating a second entrance into the paddock through the southeast corner. Finds from the ditch included three sherds of Late Bronze Age PDR pottery (73g) and two fragments of bone (1g), all recovered the upper silts of the ditch in the slot by the edge of Area C. These are unlikely to date to the construction of the ditch, but suggest that the feature was still open towards the end of the 2nd millennium BC. Ditch **F.949** probably extended into Area B, and is likely to be the terminal directly abutting **F.1141/F.1142**. If so, the ditch would have curved to the west, compromising its northwest-southeast axis, and giving the enclosure an overall D-shape.

The southern boundary of the Paddock A was defined by **F.664/952/955**; an 83.10m long ditch aligned northeast-southwest. The western end of the ditch lay 0.9m to the east of **F.956**, whilst the eastern end extended some 40m past boundary **F.949** into Area D, where it displayed a curving and slightly swollen terminal. Along its course, the ditch cut pits **F.951** and **F.1132**, and was cut by pit **F.954**; none of which could be securely dated. In profile the ditch was more or less 'V'-shaped, varying between 1.65-2.45m in width and 0.65m-0.95m in depth, with between three and seven fills. All five of the slots excavated through the ditch yielded finds, albeit in low quantities. From the upper fills were recovered two sherds (16g) of Bronze Age pottery, four worked flints, and 49 fragments of bone (137g). The middle fills yielded a single sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery (1g), six worked flints and 18 fragments of bone (19g), whilst the only eight fragments of bone (212g) were recovered from the lower fills. The finds were distributed evenly across the slots, though all the bone was recovered from the eastern sections.

Paddock B, located to the west of Paddock A and C, was only partially revealed; though it appeared to extend across Areas B and C. The eastern side of the boundary was defined by **F.1071**, **F.1058**, **F.956**, **F.950** and **F.948**, whilst the northern boundary was delineated by **F.844** and **F1154/1155**. The ditches defining the northern half of the eastern boundary (**F.1071**, **F.1058** and **F.956**) have already been discussed as part of Paddock A, though the others require elaboration. Ditch **F.950** was 30.40m long, between 2.13m- 2.25m wide and 0.98m-1.09m in depth, with a 'V'-shaped profile. The ditch was located slightly west of **F.956**; the terminals lying parallel to one another, just 0.35m apart. This 'off-set' relationship is intriguing, and may suggest that the ditches were constructed at different times. It seems logical to suppose that the 8.9m wide gap between the northern terminal of **F.950** and the western terminal of **F.664/952/955** once formed an access point between Paddocks B and C, which was subsequently closed by the construction of **F.956** (suggesting that pit **F.959** was *not* a pre-fieldsystem feature, but rather a pit located in the northwest corner of Paddock C). As already mentioned, **F.956** was a stratigraphically late ditch, cutting **F.1058**. The relationship between ditches therefore suggests the construction of **F.956** sealed the corner entrance into Paddock B, and created a new access point though Paddock A to the north, via the southern terminal of **F.1071** (which in turn would also imply that **F.1071** was the re-cut of a smaller earlier ditch like **F.1058**). Returning to **F.950**, the ditch had between six and eight fills, with gravel tips suggestive of an up-cast bank internal to Paddock C. Finds from the ditch were restricted to worked flint, 10 deriving from the upper fill of southern terminal and a single flint from the middle layers of the central ditch slot.

The final ditch bounding the eastern side of Paddock B was **F.948**, around 13.80m of which was exposed in Area C. The ditch was 2.49m wide and 0.73m deep, with moderately steep sides, a concave base and six fills. The upper fill of the ditch yielded two worked flints and four pieces of burnt clay (9g), whilst the middle/lower horizons yielded 22 fragments of bone (78g) and a third worked flint. A 'gap' at least 5.4m wide separated **F.948** from **F.950** to the north; the exact size of this causeway being indeterminable, as Late Bronze Age well **F.957** cut the northern end of the ditch. Access between the paddocks may have been restricted by a fence, possibly indicated by the line of three postholes on the inner edge of Paddock C (**F.1015**, **F.1016** and **F.1017**). The postholes were aligned parallel to the boundary, with diameters ranging between 0.40m-0.59m and depths of 0.09m-0.19m (posthole F.1017 yielding a single sherd of Late Bronze Age PDR pottery; 4g). The western boundary of the Paddock B was not positively identified, though it may be **F.661** in Trench 49 (making the compound *c.* 156m wide). This ditch was 0.75m wide and 0.42m deep, filled with three layers of silty-sand. However, the ditch did not extend into Trench 14 or Trench 53 to the north.

The northern boundary of Paddock B was initially defined by **F.1154/1155.** This ditch was traceable for *c*. 30m across Area B and Trench 50, and was 1.50m wide and 0.42m deep; filled with two layers of mid grey and orange sandy silts. A slot cut at the junction between **F.1071** and **F.1154/1155** showed the ditches to be contiguous. The eastern end of **F.1154/1155** had been cleaned-out/re-cut by ditch segment **F.844**. The ditch was 5.50m long, 1.4m wide and 0.32m deep; filled with brown to orangey-grey sandy silts. This re-cut appeared to intrude upon **F.843**, the northern boundary of Paddock A.

Paddock C straddled Area C and D, and was a large 'D'-shaped compound *c*. 77m long and *c*. 96m wide, enclosing an area of *c*. 0.72ha. The area was bounded by **F.948**, **F.950** and **F.956** to the west, **F.664/952/955** to the north, **F.659** and **F.656** to the east, and **F.647** to the south (the western and northern boundaries having already been described as part of Paddocks A and B). The longest ditch segment in the eastern boundary was curvilinear ditch **F.659**, measuring 51.30m long and located to the southeast of **F.664/952/955**. These two ditches were clearly contemporary, and were aligned to meet

each other; the terminals of **F.664/952/955** being slightly tuned-in to form a 6.1m wide 'entrance' into northeast corner of the enclosure. **F.659** had a splayed 'V'-shaped profile, ranging between 2.25m-2.58m in width and 0.78m-0.90m in depth, with between six and 11 different fills. The upper fills of the ditch contained three sherds of Bronze Age pottery (12g), 52 fragments of bone (85g) and five worked flints. The middle fills yielded the most finds, including 12 pieces of Bronze Age pottery (71g), 27 fragments of bone (254g) and three worked flints, whilst the lower fills yielded just two worked flints. The finds were distributed across the four slots excavated, though most were retrieved from the two interior sections.

Ditch **F.656** was located 4.4m to the south of **F.659**, creating the second access point through eastern boundary of the paddock, with postholes **F.883** and **F.884** possible forming a gateway. Interestingly, this 'entrance' was almost directly opposite that in the western boundary between **F.950** and **F.948**. Equally, the 'entrance' in the northeast corner of the paddock mirrored that in the northwest between **F.950** and **F.664/952/955** (prior to its blocking by **F.956**). This suggests that movement through the compounds was conducted along a board east-west axis, continuing the line dictated by the boundaries of droveway J. Certainly, Paddock C could be entered directly through the western end of the droveway, which appeared to terminate at this point (the gap between the southern terminal of **F.656** and the southern boundary of the droveway ditch **F.641/869** being 13.8m); with postholes **F.792-792** possible forming another gateway. The sense that the western and eastern halves of the fieldsystem 'joined' at this point is implied by the location of the southern terminal of **F. 956**, which lay 'flush' with the northern droveway ditches **F.651** and **F653/847**, thus respecting their layout. Ditch **F.656** was itself 20.22m long and between 1.87m-2.40m wide and 0.51m-0.62m deep. The ditch had bowl-shaped profile with moderately steep sided and a concave base, with a simple threefold fill sequence. The upper fill of the ditch contained a single fragment of Middle Bronze Age pottery (1g) and four flints. Six fragments of bone (7g) were recovered from the middle fills, whilst a single worked flint was recovered from the basal fill.

The southern boundary of Paddock C was defined by curvilinear ditch **F.647** and droveway ditch **F.641/869** (described as part of the eastern fieldsystem). The two ditches were widely spaced (some 22.6m apart), allowing access between Paddocks C, D and E. Around 24.40m of ditch **F.647** was exposed in Area D; the western half of the ditch being aligned south-southwest north-northeast, turning southwest-northeast towards its eastern end (the ditch cutting circular pit **F.646**). The ditch had a 'V'-shaped profile, 1.50m-1.74m in width and 0.57m-0.65m in depth, with between three and five different fills. The upper layers of the ditch yielded four fragments of bone (4g) and two worked flints. From the middle fills were recovered 13 fragments of bone (367g) and four flints, with a further two pieces of bone (67g) deriving from the basal fills. The remaining enclosure in the western fieldsystem was Paddock D, defined by **F.647** to the west and **F.741** to the east: the entrance into the enclosure being 11.8m wide. As the compound was only partially exposed in Area D, little can be said about its size or shape.

Other Bronze Age boundaries

Two other ditches of probable Bronze Age date were identified in the excavations. The first was ditch **F.1060**, located in Area A. The ditch was aligned northwest-southeast, mimicking the axis of boundaries in the western fieldsystem in Areas B, C and D, in particular the eastern boundary line of Paddock A and C.

F.1060 was a narrow, shallow ditch, traceable for *c.* 69m before terminating towards the southern end of Area A. The ditch had steep sided and a 'V'-shaped base, and was between 0.45-0.90m wide and 0.23-0.34m deep, filled with greyish-brown sandy silt. The second ditch was located in the eastern end of Area B (**F.1153**). This ditch was *c*. 2m wide and was aligned at right angles to **F.1141/F.1142**. No evidence of the ditch was found in Area C to the south or Trench 61 to the northeast (cut to identify the extent of this feature). The limits of the ditch therefore remain unknown, although it fits awkwardly into the pattern of paddocks in the western fieldsystem, suggesting that it may be unrelated.

The axis of the eastern system may have been determined by the orientation of the 'C'-shaped ring ditch; the north-northeast south-southwest field boundaries

mimicking the alignment of the monument terminals. Yet, whilst this may have been the original reference for this orientation, the monument did not act as the main nodal point in the fieldsystem, and was instead only loosely integrated into the network of boundaries surrounding it. Rather, the main structuring feature appears to have been droveway J; paddocks E-H being constructed off its northern and southern boundaries. This route way may be better described as a track, rather than a dove, owing to its short length and permeable boundaries. The multiple access points out of J and into the surrounding paddocks suggest that this route way had a localised function, serving the site's immediate inhabitants and their stock. This contrasts to the longer and more bounded 'great' drove found at Colne Fen (Evans & Patten 2003), and those associated with the Fengate fieldsystem (Pryor 1978, 1984, 2001) which seemed to serve both fen-edge communities and those in the hinterland. However, the concept behind theses route ways was the same - in the context of Colne Fen and Rhee Lake - to provide a route for animals to reach eastwards pastures through a network of paddocks. At Rhee Lakeside South, these open pastures may have lain to the east of ditch **F.528/756**, in the area labelled Paddock I. This may explain why droveway J did not continue through into Area G, and account for the exceptionally long length of **F.528/756** (which curved 'off alignment' to the north).

As well as acting as the principle 'corridor' through the eastern paddocks, droveway J bridged the two different halves of the fieldsystem; the axis twisting in Paddock C. Quite why the orientation changed is difficult of comprehend. It is possible that the western system was aligned perpendicular to Rhee Lake, with Paddock A skirting its 'wet' edge. Alternatively, other earlier features in the landscape may have dictated the arrangement of boundaries; in a similar fashion to the 'C'-shaped monument (it is interesting to note the cropmark-complex immediately south of the site, linear ditches appear to skirt a second possible ring-ditch). In reality, there are likely to be a complex series of relationships between field boundaries, natural features (The Rhee Lake, the fen-edge) and earlier cultural markers in the landscape (i.e. barrows, ring-ditches or pits groups). The differential response to these features may have given rise local variations in the axis of boundaries. In certain circumstances this may have taken boundaries off an 'idealised' axis, leading to 'compromised' orientations. It is arguable that such a 'comprise of orientation' is witnessed at Rhee Lakeside South, where the eastern boundaries of Paddocks A and C curved off-alignment (the main axis of which is defined by the western boundary of these Paddocks) so as to integrate the enclosures with droveway and eastern system. The resulting 'D'-shaped compounds thus straddle the two halves of the fieldsystem.

Beyond orientation, one obvious contrast between the eastern and western systems is the scale or 'grandeur' of the ditches, and overall 'conviction' of their compounds. The paddocks in the eastern system were characterised by relatively slight ditches with frequent interruptions or 'entrances' though their boundaries, whist their western counterparts were much more heavily ditched. In many respects, the eastern system is relatively uncomplicated; the ditches were co-axial, of single phase construction, and arranged in sub-rectangular paddocks off a central droveway – a 'classic' configuration of Bronze Age field boundaries, albeit on a small scale. The only complication is suggested by ditch **F.848** which partially cut the line of the drove way. As discussed above, this may indicate a desire to restrict the movement of livestock through the droveway, or alternatively, imply a more protected and complex sequence of paddock construction in relation to the track.

Whatever the precise details, it is clear that boundary re-working was far more extensive in the western system, particularly along the ditches of Paddock A, and along boundary line between Paddocks B and C. This appears to have been the principle boundary of the western system, marking the eastern limit of series of ditches orientated on this axis (such as **F.1060** and **F.661**). Here the sense of phasing is much stronger, if only partially understood. Although the evidence remains limited, the stratigraphic relationship between ditch **F.956** and **F.1058** suggests that the construction of the larger boundaries was secondary to their initial laying-out. Clearly this re-working was more than just boundary re-definition, and seems to represent an embellishment of pre-existing compounds. Evidence for re-working is also suggested by the 'stepped' arrangement of **F.956** and **F.950**. Intriguingly, a similar sequence of compound elaboration was encountered at Colne Fen (Evans & Patten 2003). At this site, the northern boundary of the central enclosure (B) was re-cut by an extremely large ditch, the profile of which had only partially silted by the Late Bronze Age. The ceramics from Rhee Lake imply a slightly earlier sequence of enlargement; the Middle Bronze Age pottery from the mid to upper fills of the boundaries indicating infilling during the later second millennium BC, with the ditch perhaps being a remnant earthworks by the turn of the 1st millennium BC. Nevertheless, the process appears to the same.

The enlargement of western system ditches may also have coincided with a restriction in the size of the entrances. Despite there remaining numerous points of access through Paddocks A-D (particularly through the corners), the distances between the terminals was significantly smaller than those between entrances in the eastern system. This suggests a greater concern for monitoring/controlling access to and from these heavily bounded compounds - an interpretation reinforced by the closure of the northwest corner entrance into Paddock C by ditch **F.956**. The full extent of the systems elaboration is difficult to determine, though it was most likely a local phenomena. Ditches **F.1060** and **F.661** to the western of Paddock A-D had dimensions comparable to the boundaries in the eastern system. This implies that slight boundaries characterised the bulk of the surrounding fieldsystem, with certain paddocks being re-worked and elaborated at various points at in the late 2nd millennium BC.

It may be significant that it was the boundaries of paddocks with 'compromised' alignments, which were enlarged. As already mentioned, these straddled the eastern and western system, and could have been a 'nodal' point – perhaps for settlement – within this area of the landscape. Certainly, the zone around Paddock C seems to have been a focus of later 2nd millennium and earlier 1st millennium BC occupation (Middle Bronze Age through to the Early Iron Age). However, it unwise to assume a simplistic relationship between the settlement and the fieldsystem, especially as so few artefacts were recovered from the boundary ditches (Table 2). Although the evidence is limited, the stratification of dated ceramics suggests that the main phase of ditch silting occurred prior to the Late Bronze Age; the period in which settlement remains become more visible.

Ditch	Field-system	Finds from small ditches (simple fill sequence)	Finds from large ditches (multiple fill sequence)		
			Lower	Middle	Upper
849	Eastern	PT: Neolithic 5/6g FL: 1			
528/756	Eastern	PT: Neolithic 1/1g FL: 1			
863	Eastern		-	BN:49/212g	BC:2/21g
741	Eastern	FL: 1			
647	Western		BN: 2/67	BN: 13/367g FL: 4	BN: 4/4g FL: 2
656	Western		FL: 1	BN: 6/7g	PT: Early-Middle BA 1/1g FL:4
659	Western		FL: 2	PT: Neolithic & Early-Middle BA 12/71g BN: 27/254 FL: 3	PT: Early-Middle BA 3/12g BN: 52/85g FL: 5
664/952 /955	Western		BN: 8/212g	PT: Early-Middle BA 1/1g BN: 18/19g FL: 6	PT: Neolithic & Early-Middle BA 2/16g BN: 49/137g FL: 4
950	Western			FL: 1	FL: 10
948	Western			BN: 22/78g FL: 1	BC: 4/9g FL: 2
956	Western		BN: 3/51g FL: 1	PT: Early-Middle BA 10/13g FL:1	PT: Early-Middle BA 3/4g FL: 5
1058	Western	FL: 2			
949	Western	PT: Late BA 3/76g			
TOTAL		PT: 9/83g BN: - BC: - FL: 5	PT: - BN: 13/330 BC: - FL: 4	PT: 23/85g BN: 135/937g BC: - FL:16	PT: 9/35g BN: 105/220g BC: 3/30g FL: 30

Table 2: Distribution of finds in the fieldsystem ditches. PT = pottery, BN = bone, BC = burnt clay, FL = worked flint. Ditches from the fieldsystem not listed contained no finds.

To what extent these field boundaries were still visible by this stage is difficult to determine. Being of more robust construction, Paddocks A-D may have survived as recognisable remnant earthworks much longer than other surrounding fieldsystem enclosures, particularly those to the east. Once direct maintenance of the field-ditches ceased (i.e. they were no longer cleaned-out/re-cut), the slight boundaries of the eastern system may have become 'invisible' relatively quickly, unless marked by other means (hedgerow or fences). By contrast, Paddocks A-D were likely to have had a longer 'post-maintenance' presence in landscape, allowing them to continue to inform and structure the nature of subsequent occupation. The longevity, (or persistent relevance) of these boundaries can be inferred by the location of Late Bronze Age wells and later 2nd millennium BC structures within this zone (see below).

Cremations and other Human Remains in Paddocks A, C, E and F

In addition to the cremation cemetery found around the 'C'-shaped monument, a further seven cremations were identified in Paddocks A and C, together with two pits yielding human bone from Paddocks E and F. Four of these cremations (**F.1029**,

F.1069, **F.1114** and **F.1138**) clustered in the southwest corner of Paddock A and appear to have bee aligned off the ditched boundaries. The remaining three cremations were isolated, as were the two pits containing human bone. The details of the cremations/bone deposits are given in Table 3.

Feature	Paddock	Type	Dimensions (L x W x D)	Est. Volume	Wt bone	No/Wt Pottery	Details
1029	A	Cremation	0.90x0.66x0.17	0.05m^3	133	1/6g	
1069	A	Cremation	1.32x1.19x0.41	0.51m^3	590	-	
1114	A	Cremation	0.85x0.60x0.45	0.18m^3	1248	-	
1138	A	Cremation	0.85x0.58x0.74	0.29m^3	1233	-	
1104	A	Cremation	0.28x0.26x0.12	0.01m^3	243	12/31g	Upright urn. Base only.
600	C	Cremation	0.28x0.30x0.19	0.01m^3	10	-	
853	C	Cremation	0.57x0.57x0.30	0.08m^3	20	-	
778	E	Bone deposit	0.60x0.50x0.30	0.07m^3	63	1/2g	Partial articulation?
814	F	Bone deposit	1.30x1.40x0.60	0.86m^3	10	5/6g	LBA pottery

Table 3: Primary characteristic of the cremations/human bone deposits in Paddocks A, C and E

The 'L'-shaped cremation cluster in Paddock A

Four cremations were arranged in an 'L'-shaped cluster towards the southwest corner of Paddock A in Area C (**F.1029**, **F.1069**, **F.1114** and **F1138**). Cremation **F.1029** abutted the inner edge of boundary ditch **F.956**, just 1.6m north of ditch **F.664/952/955**. The pit was oval in shape, with a bowl-shaped profile 0.17m deep. The creation deposit lay in the upper fill of the pit, with a lower lens of orangey-yellow gravels at the base. A single fragment of Middle Bronze Age pottery (6g) was recovered from the cremation. The other three cremations in the cluster had a linear arrangement, and were orientated northeast-southwest, set at distances of 2.8m-4.6m apart. The axis of this line ran parallel to ditch **F.664/952/955**, suggesting that the cremations were aligned in respect to this boundary. Overall, these three cremations were of completely different character to those elsewhere on the site. The thee pits were significantly larger than those in the cremation cemetery in Area E, and had diameters ranging from 0.58m-1.32m and depths between 0.41m-0.74m (only cremation pit **F.812** held a comparable volume of soil/pyre debris). In addition, the pits also displayed a comparatively complex sequence of fills involving the deposition of sterile soils either above or below the main cremation deposit. **F.1069** - the largest cremation pit from the site - contained nine distinct horizons. The basal fill comprised of a dump of sterile dark-yellow sands. This was overlain by black lenses of charcoal and pyre material, and bands of reddish-pink heat-affected sands and burnt gravels. A similar un-burnt basal horizon was found in **F.1114**. This was covered by three layers of dark brown-black and reddish brown sandy silts, containing burnt bone and charcoal. The sequence of deposits in **F.1138** was the reserve of **F.1069** and **F.1114**. The charcoal and ash-rich cremation deposit was found at the base of this deep pit, as opposed to the top. This was then sealed by a thick layer of sterile pale grey sandy silts and gravels. None of the three cremations contained any fragments of pottery.

A further distinction can also be drawn between the botanical remains from cremations in the 'L'-shaped cluster and those in Area E. De Vareilles (this volume) notes that the cremations from the corner of Paddock A contained more edible plant remains than that from the 'C'-shaped monument, with seven cereal grains and mint recovered from **F.1114**, a single cereal grain and hazel-nut shell from **F.1069**, and a single cereal grain from **F.1029**. None of these cremation contained evidence for turf burning, which was indicated in samples in Area E (particularly from **F.696**). The significance of these differences is difficult to interpret, but could related to the ways that the pyres were constructed, the intensity of the burning, and/or differences in the quantity of pyre material deposited.

Isolated cremations and human bone deposits in Paddocks A, C, E and F

The isolated cremation pit **F.1104** was located 2.7m east of the in-turned terminal of boundary ditch **F.949** (Paddock A). The pit was just 0.28m in diameter and 0.12m deep, and was cut to contain an urn - of which only the base survived (12 fragments, 31g). Cremation **F.853** was located towards the northeast corner of Paddock C, opposite Bronze Age roundhouse Structure 4. The cremation was 0.57m in diameter and 0.30m deep, and contained a single fragment of residual Neolithic pottery (2g). The remain cremation **F.600** was found within the post-ring of Structure 7, and could be a Late Bronze Age internment associated with this building.

The human bone deposit in **F.778** was position next to a Bronze Age filed boundary, this time in Paddock E. The pit was located 1.2m of the east of ditch **F.741**, and was partially truncated by a post-Medieval boundary. The pit was 0.60m in diameter and 0.30m deep, filled with mid brown-grey silty sand (for details of the remains see Dodwell forthcoming). The other pit containing human remains was **F.814**, located in Paddock F. Only 10g of bone were recovered from the pit, along with a small assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery. The pit was circular. 1.30-1.40m in diameter and 0.60m deep, filled with mid-dark grey sandy silts with occasional charcoal flecks.

Whilst the terminals of the 'C'-shaped monument and mini ring-ditch may have structured the arrangement of cremations in Area E, it appears that the Paddock A field boundaries conditioned the location of internments in Area C. The close relationship between ditches and cremations is most clearly evident in the positioning of the 'L'-shaped cremation cluster towards the southwest corner of the Bronze Age compound. These were aligned parallel to **F.956** and **F.664/952/955**, indicating that the internments post-dated the construction of the fieldsystem. A similar argument can be made for the human bone deposit in **F.778**. The temporal relationship between isolated cremation **F.1104** and field ditch **F.949** is more ambiguous. Though it is possible that the ditch pre-dates the cremation, the terminal of **F.949** appears to abruptly turn away from the cremation, as if to avoid truncating the internment. This not only implies that the ditch is later (an interpretation also suggested by the finds of Late Bronze Age PDR pottery in its upper fills), but may indicate that the cremation was marked on the surface by some means, such as by a post or small mound.

At a more general level, the link between cremations and field boundaries has been documented at other sites in the region, and is now a well recognised feature of the mid-late 2nd millennium BC landscape. Comparative examples of cemeteries aligned on the axis of field ditches include Brookland Farm, Broom, Bedfordshire (Cooper & Edmonds forthcoming), Eye, Peterborough (Patten 2004b), and Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire (Dodwell *pers. comm*).

Bronze Age and Earlier Iron Age Settlement Features

An extensive swathe of pits and postholes was found across the fieldsystem, primarily concentrated in Area C and D (fig. 11. Within this scatter, a series of post-built roundhouses can be identified (Structures 4 and 7), together with four and six-post granary structures (Structures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6), pit clusters (A-C), and an array of larger wells/watering holes; all described in detail below. Other tight clusters of posthole may also indicate further buildings, though these were of varying conviction (Structures 8, 9 and 10). Unfortunately, very few of these features yielded dateable artefacts, making ascription to a particular phase problematic. The pottery recovered

Figure 11. Bronze Age and Earlier Iron Age Settlement Features

suggests that most dates from the latter half of the 2nd millennium BC through to the early first millennium BC, and possibly beyond. This coincides with the Middle and Late Bronze Age, with the possibility that some activity is of late Early Iron Age date.

Post-built roundhouses

Five post-built roundhouses were identified across Areas C and D (Structures 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10; fig 12). Each structure was defined by a small ring of postholes measuring 3.50-7.00m in diameter. The buildings themselves are likely to have been much larger than this, with wall lines located several metres from the inner ring of roof-supporting posts (the diameter of the post-rings should not therefore be read as the diameter of the original buildings). Structure 4 was located towards the northeast corner of Paddock C, *c*. 8m from the entrance between ditches **F.664/952/955** and **F.659**. On first appearances the building seems to be located in the corner of a rectilinear compound, formed by narrow ditch **F.806**. However, this relationship is fortuitous; the ditch being of Middle Iron Age date (see below). The structure consisted of six shallow postholes arranged in a semi-circular 'C'-shaped ring, *c*. 5m in diameter (**F.878**, **F.935**, **F.936**, **F.938**, **F.939** and **F.946**). Originally, this ring may have been completed by three or four more postholes in the south-east; these having been truncated. The postholes surviving were sub-circular in shape, between 0.28m-0.40m in diameter and 0.10m-0.44m in depth, and spaced between 1.30-1.75m apart (centre to centre). Each was filled with a single deposit of mid-dark grey sandy silt. The two deepest postholes were **F.938** and **F.878** (at least 0.12m deep than the others), the latter of which yielded a fragment of a cylindrical loomweight (116g). These postholes possibly formed the entrance to the structure, giving the building a southeast orientation. Within the building were a group of six small postholes/stake-holes (**F.940**, **F.941**, **F.942**, **F.943**, **F.944** and **F.945**), four of which were arranged to form a rectangle *c*. 1.80m by *c*. 1.20m (**F.941**, **F.942**, **F.944** and **F.945**). The postholes were circular between 0.12m-0.34m in diameter and 0.10m-0.29m in depth.

Structure 7 was the most 'complete' post-built roundhouse revealed in the excavation. The building was located in the southwest corner of Area D, and had an eastward orientation. The rear of the building comprised a semi-circular ring of seven postholes (**F.608**, **F.609**, **F.610**, **F.625**, **F.626**, and **F.932**), with two entrance postholes to the east (**F.607** and **F.636**); making the building between 6.50m-7.00m in diameter. The postholes were sub-circular in shape, between 0.29m-0.64m in diameter and 0.12m-0.26m in depth. Those towards the rear of the building were spaced between 1.75m-2.40m apart, whilst the entrance posts were positioned 1.20m apart. As with Structure 4, these were the deepest two postholes in the building, being between 0.23m-0.26m in depth; **F.607** yielding a single sherd of Late Bronze Age PDR pottery (3g), whilst a piece of burnt clay (3g) and a work flint were recovered from **F.636**. The only other finds from the structure's exterior were four worked flint found in posthole **F.932**. A sample analysed form from this feature found it to contain a single cereal grain (from either wheat of barley). All the postholes were filled with a single deposit of mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, except for **F.636**, which also contained a lower 'post-packing fill' of gravel rich sandy silt. The structure's interior features included two postholes and a cremation located within the northern half of the building (cremation **F.600**, and postholes **F.603** and **F.604**). The postholes were between 0.30m-0.64m in diameter, and 0.09m-0.18m in depth, filled with dark to mid grey sandy silts. The capping fill of **F.603** appeared to contain a burnt deposit with dense areas of charcoal, fragments of burnt stone and burnt clay. A single sherd of Late Bronze Age PDR pottery (13g) and five fragments of bone (1g) were recovered from this horizon. This burnt deposit also capped posthole F.604, which contained two fragments of bone (1g). Posthole **F.604** also contained finds, including 64 pieces of crushed bone (8g).

Structures 8, 9 and 10 were all located in Area C. None of these buildings had the conviction of Structures 4 or 7, though the arrangement of the postholes implies that they were of similar size and shape. Structure 8 was located in Paddock B, around 9m from the entrance between ditches **F.1071** and **F.956**. The structure consisted of 11 shallow postholes, (**F. 1032-F.1042**), forming two arcs with a projected diameter of approximately 5m. The postholes measured between 0.19m and 0.40m in diameter and between 0.07m and 0.16m in depth, with primarily mid grey to sandy silt fills. Six sherds of possible Late Bronze Age pottery (6g) were recovered from **F.1039**, whist **F.1036** yielded a single worked flint. Structure 9 was located towards the northwest corner of Paddock C, and was *c.* 5-6m in diameter. Although the building was truncated to the south by a sub-rectangular post-Medieval pit, a 'C'-shaped ring of five postholes remained intact (**F.990**, **F.999**, **F.1000**, **F.1001** and **F.1002**), the

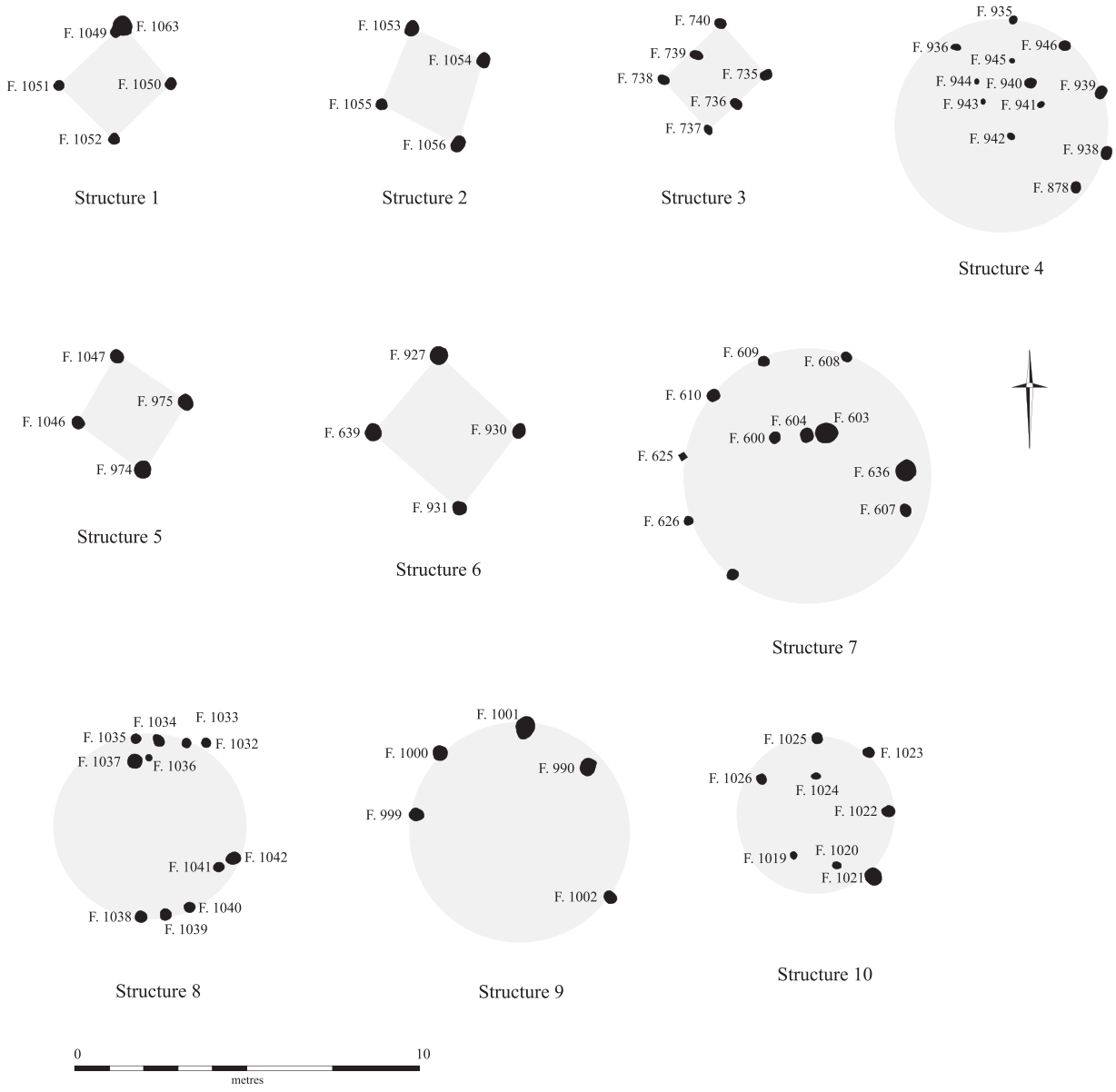
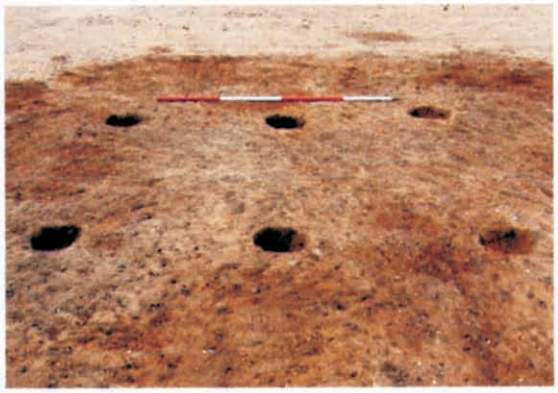


Figure 12. Bronze-Age Post Built Structures

Structure 7



Structure 3

Structure 4

Structure 2

Figure 13. Post-built Structures

postholes spaced between 1.90m-3.80m apart. The postholes were 0.35m-0.50m in diameter and 0.17m-0.42m in depth, and were primarily filled with a single deposit of mid grey sandy silt. F.1001 was 0.17m deeper than the other postholes in the group and retained evidence of a post-pipe filled with dark grey silty sand, frequent burnt stones, charcoal and seven pieces of burnt flint.

Structure 10 was located towards the southern end of Area C in Paddock C. As with Structures 4 and 8, the building was sited near a point of access between paddocks - in this example, just 7.5m northeast of the terminals of **F.950** and **F.948**. The structure was defined by a small ring of six postholes, 3.5m in diameter (**F.1019**, **F.1020**, **F.1022**, **F.1023**, **F.1025** and **F.1026**). The postholes were spaced at distances of 1.25m-2.35m apart and measured between 0.23m-0.36m in diameter and 0.10m-0.18m in depth; each filled with pale-dark grey sandy silts; (**F.1025** yielding a single sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery (1g) and a worked flint). Posthole **F.1024** was internal to the ring, and was 0.26m in diameter and 0.08m deep. Other postholes which may have been associated with the structure include **F.1018** and **F.1021**, the latter yielding a single worked flint.

Four and six-post rectangular structures

Five rectangular post-built structures were identified across Areas C and D: four sub-square structures of 'classic' four-post configuration (Structures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6; figs. 12 & 13) and one six-post rectangular structure (Structure 3). The buildings were of regular form and were broadly aligned northeast-southwest northwest-southeast. By analogy, the structures are presumed to be raised granaries, although there is little direct evidence to support this interpretation. Samples from the postholes of Structures 1, 3, 5 and 6 were analysed for botanical remains, but none were found to contain cereal grains or processing waste; only residual charcoal with a single wild plant seed from **F.927**, Structure 6, was found.

Structures 1 and 2 were located in the northeast corner of Area C. Structure 1 consisted of postholes **F.1049**, **F.1050**, **F.1051** and **F.1052**, measuring between 0.22m-0.40m in diameter and 0.17m-0.27m in depth. All were filled with single deposits of pale grey silty sand, except **F.1049** which was caped with dark grey sandy silt. Posthole **F.1049** cut and earlier posthole for small pit **F.1063**. The structure was orientated northwest-southeast northeast-southwest, and measured approximately 2.15m by 2.30m. Structure 2 was located immediately south of Structure 1 and comprised postholes **F.1053**, **F.1054**, **F.1055** and **F.1056**. The postholes had similar dimensions and fills to those of Structure 1, with diameters ranging between 0.29m-0.48m and depths of 0.15m-0.17m. The structure was on the same alignment (though orientated a little further to the west), measuring 2.35m by 2.35m. Structure 5 measured 2.30m by 2.60m and was located in Paddock B, 21.5m south of Structure 8. The structure was orientated on the same alignment at Structures 1, 3 and 6, and was defined by four deep postholes, **F.974**, **F.975**, **F.1046**, **F.1047**, measuring between 0.34m-0.44m in diameter and 0.41m-0.48m in depth. The postholes were filled with single deposits of brown to light grey silty sand. 33 fragments of bone (147g) were recovered from **F.974** and **F.975**, whilst **F.1047** yielded two worked flints.

Structures 3 and 6 were located in Area D. Structure 3 was found in Paddock F, around 10.5m east of the outer edge of ditch **F.659**. The structure was of rectangular form defined by shallow postholes (**F.735**, **F.736**, **F.737**, **F.738**, **F.739** and **F.740**), measuring 0.24m-0.31m in diameter and 0.11m-0.18m in depth, each filled with light greyish brown sandy silt. As with Structures 1, 5 and 6, the building was orientated northwest-southeast, with the long axis directed northeast-southwest - the structure measuring approximately 1.90m by 2.00m. The final four post-building was Structure 6, located in Paddock C around 15.7m northeast of Structure 7. The building measured 2.80m by 3.40m, and was defined by four deep postholes (**F.927**, **F.929**, **F.930** and **F.931**) between 0.34m-0.48m in diameter and 0.53m-0.65m in depth. Post-pipes were preserved in there of the four postholes (**F.929**, **F.930** and **F.931**). These were 0.25m-30mm wide and 0.50m-0.60m deep. The post-pipes were filled with dark greyish brown silty sand, and were surrounded by a packing fill of orangey brown sandy gravels. Posthole **F.926**, may be a replacement of **F.927**, though this features was considerably shallower, with a depth of just 0.11m. It is arguable that postholes **F.920**, **F.921**, **F.923** and **F.925** also form a four-post structure immediately north of Structure 6. However, this arrangement of postholes was slightly irregular, and there was little uniformity in the size of the features or their fills.

Wells and watering-holes

Five pits were classified as wells/watering-holes, owing to their large size and depth (**F.872**, **F.876**, **F.957**, **F.1062** and pit complex **F.983-F.989**) With the exception of **F.1062,** the features can be confidently assigned to the Late Bronze Age, based on the ceramic evidence and radiocarbon dating.

Well **F.872** was a large sub-circular pit, 3.10-3.30m in diameter and 1.60m deep (fig. 14). The well was located inside the eaves-gully of Structure 17, though its relationship to this feature is fortuitous (it being of Middle Iron Age date). The pit displayed steep sides and a concave base, filled with 29 distinct deposits. The basal fills comprised numerous slumped and weathered layers of orangey-brown 'dirty' gravels, interspersed with lenses of soft sandy silts; all of which may have accumulated quickly once the feature had gone out of use. The middle fills of the pit consisted of bands of sandy gravels, overlain by light greenish grey sandy silt. This was then covered a thick horizon of soft mid bluish-grey to greenish-grey 'cessy' silts, capped by a band of black charcoal rich silt. The pit was then capped by a layer of dark orange and mid grey sandy silts with moderately frequent charcoal flecks. A charred seed recovered from the charcoal band [3760] was AMS radiocarbon dated to Cal. 1130-920 BC (2 Sigma), confirming that the pit was filled during the earlier stages of the Late Bronze Age

A large quantity of Late Bronze Age pottery and animal bone was recovered from the upper fill of the well, suggesting the feature was used as a rubbish pit after primary silting. In total, 164 sherds of pottery (4151g) from a minimum of 29 different vessels were recovered from the pit, together with 745 fragments of bone (4361g), 16 worked flints and a fragment of a shale bracelet (see Webb, this volume). The faunal assemblage was dominated by sheep, including the bones of both neonates; sheep aged 1-2 years, and older animals of 4-6 years. The age profile is suggestive of a breeding flock; the presence of both meat bearing and non-meat bearing bones demonstrating that animals were being raised and slaughtered on site. Evidence for arable was found in the botanical, the sample from [3760] yielding a single grain of hulled barley together with two possible einkorn wheat grains; a variety which is rare on British Bronze Age sites (see discussion by de Vareilles, this volume). Most of the pottery sherds recovered from the well were relatively large and were presumably deposited soon after breakage. The occurrence of refitting sherds between contexts [3752], [3754] and [3760] suggests that deposition was rapid; the pit probably being capped by a series of dumps made in quick succession.

Well **F.876** was located in the northern half of Paddock H in Area F. The pit was sub-circular, 3.09m-3.54m in diameter and 1.30m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The pit contained a total of 20 fills, with lower layers of slumped and weathered orangey-yellow gravels, and hard iron-panned bands of light brown to mid orangey sandy silts. Finds from these lower levels comprised 17 fragments of bone (125g). The middle and upper fills of the pit included a thick layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravels increasing in density towards the base of the horizon. This was overlain by a compact mid grey sandy silt with small, frequent, but well-sorted gravels. Most finds from the well derived from the upper layers, including eight sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (84g), 60 fragments of bone (521g) and a single worked flint.

The largest well uncovered was **F.957**. This well was located in the south of Area C, and cut through Middle Bronze Age field ditch **F. 948**. The relationship between the pit and ditch is important in understanding site sequence, first and foremost because it confirms that the Late Bronze Age occupation *post-dated* the construction and primary infilling of the fieldsystem. However, the precise location of **F.957** may also be significant, it cutting the terminal of the ditch, but not blocking the entrance between Paddocks B and C. Whilst is it possible that this relationship is fortuitous - as with that between well **F.872** and Structure 17 - it is plausible that the well was cut in respect to this thoroughfare. This would imply that the routeway still functioned, and that the line of the Middle Bronze Age boundaries either remained visible as remnant earthworks, or alternatively, were marked by fences or hedgerows which have left no archaeological trace. Given the absence of Late Bronze Age pottery in the field ditch fills (the exception being three sherds in ditch **F.958**, which could, however, be intrusive), the latter seems more likely, especially as seeds recovered from the well indicate that elder, dogwood and hawthorn grew in the vicinity; spices commonly associated with scrub or hedgerows (see discussion de Vareilles, this volume).

The well itself was oval in shape and measured 5.45m by 3.75m, displaying steep near-vertical sides and a flat base 1.92m in depth. The pit had a complex sequence of fills, with 22 different horizons identified. The sides of the cut were filled with slumps of orangey-brown sands and gravel, surrounding

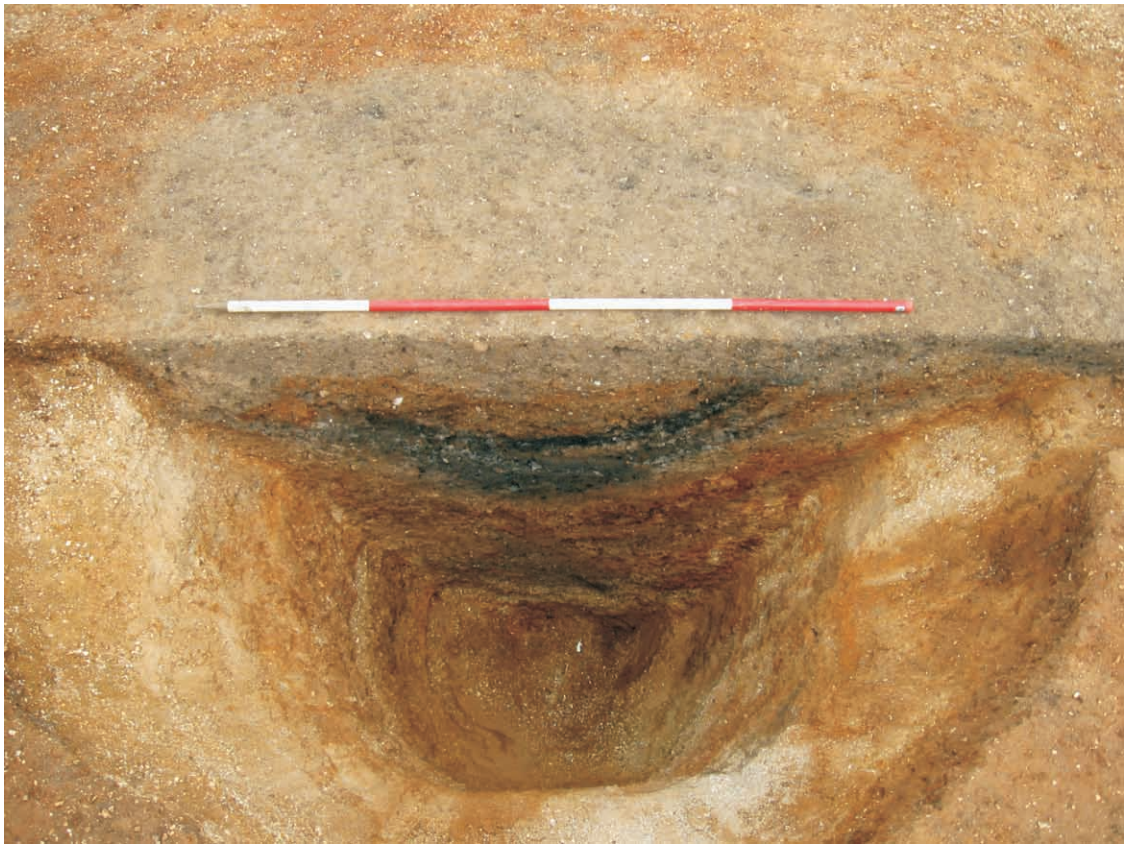


Figure 14. Well F. 872

an inner 'cone' of light to dark grey sandy silts, interspersed with bands of gravels. This was capped with a thick band of light grey silty sand with moderately common gravels. Small fragments (51g) of desiccated wood were recovered from a dark lens at the base of the well, indicating that lower half of the pit was once waterlogged. Waterlogged seeds were also recovered from these lower silts, which yielded an AMS radiocarbon date of Cal. 1020-840 BC (2 Sigma calibration - see discussion of dating), placing the feature firmly in the Late Bronze Age. In general, relatively few finds were recovered from the well, and charred plant remains were rare. Despite its size, only ten sherds of residual Middle Bronze Age pottery (280g), 51 fragments of bone (121g) and 20 worked flints were found in the pit, there being no contemporary Late Bronze Age pottery.

Pit **F.1062**, a much smaller well, was located to north of Structure 1 towards the northeast corner of Area C. The pit was circular, 2.45m in diameter and 1.24m deep, with a 'U'-shaped profile, near-vertical sides and a concave base. The basal fills of the pit were waterlogged and contained small fragments of wood amongst the dark brown to mid grey sandy silts. As with **F.957**, the sides of the cut had slumped, leaving wedge-shaped bands of 'dirty' orangey-brown sands and gravels sealing the lower deposits. These were interspersed with layers of grey sandy silts, which probably accumulated between episodes of intermittent weathering. Finally, the pit was capped with a thick deposit of mottled mid greyish brown sandy silt. The pit yielded a small number of finds, amounting to 18 fragments of bone (217g) and four worked flints, distributed throughout the fills of the pit.

The watering-hole 'complex', encompassing pits **F.983-F.989**, was located in Paddock B towards the western side of Area C. The complex is defined as a watering hole and not a well, as the northern sides of the pit gradually decline. In contrast to the steep-sided wells, this would have allowed livestock to descend into the hollow to gain direct access to the water. The watering hole was *c*. 12m long and between 4.20m-7.40m wide. The northern half of the features was defined by a series of irregular shaped inter-cutting pits or hollows **F.984**-**F.989**, which together formed a wide, relatively shallow depression. These individual 'features' were between 1.68m-4.40m long 0.37m-3.60m wide and 0.35m-0.78m deep; filled with assorted bands of mid grey through to orange-brown sandy silts, with localised patches of marl and sandy gravels. Combined, the pits yielded a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery (5g), 25 fragments of bone (213g) and six worked flints. The distinction between different 'cuts' was difficult to identify. Rather than being individual pits *per se*, these 'features' are likely to be the result of livestock churning wet ground as they moved in and out of the depression – the purpose of which was to provided access to the larger water-holding pit at the southern end of the complex **F.983**. The pit was oval in shape, approximately 7.10m long, 5.00m wide and 1.02m deep. The pit had a bowl-shaped profile, with gently sloping sides and a wide undulating base. Up to 16 different fills were identified, including various bands of mid orangey-brown through to light grey sandy silts, lenses of mid brown silty clays, and a capping layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt. Finds from the pit were not numerous but included eight sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (59g), 38 fragments of bone (399g) and seven worked flints.

Pit Groups

Pit Group A encompassed a group of 12 pits surrounding Structure 7 in the southwest corner of Area D (fig. 15). The 'core' of the cluster was formed by pits **F.601**, **F.602**, **F.605**, **F.606**, **F.615**, **F.635** and **F.637**, spaced between 0.30m-3.20m apart, and located immediately outside the entrance to the building. This group was encircled by an outer 'halo' of five dispersed pits, all within *c*. 13m of the structure (**F.612**, **F.613**, **F.621**, **F.648** and **F.649**). Although these outer pits appear spatially unrelated to the inner 'core' cluster, the two groups were linked by refitting pottery sherds, as well as yielding non-refitting fragments from the same vessel. It is temping to link Pit Group A with Structure 7 given their association. However, as the core of the pits group lay across the entrance to the building, and **F.605** cut the line of the post-ring, it seems unlikely that the features were contemporary.

With the exception of **F.621**, all the pits in Group A were of cylindrical form, being either oval or circular in plan with steep sides and flat bases (pit **F.621** displaying a bowl-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and a concave base). The pit dimensions were more variable, with widths ranging from 0.83m-3.02m and depths between 0.22m-0.75m. The larger pits were characterised by multiple banded fills, most of which were between 0.10m-0.30m thick. These primarily consisted of mid to dark grey sandy silts with moderate to common charcoal inclusions, separated by layers of dark orangey red gravels with the occasional charcoal-rich lens. The basal deposits in some pits comprised slumped

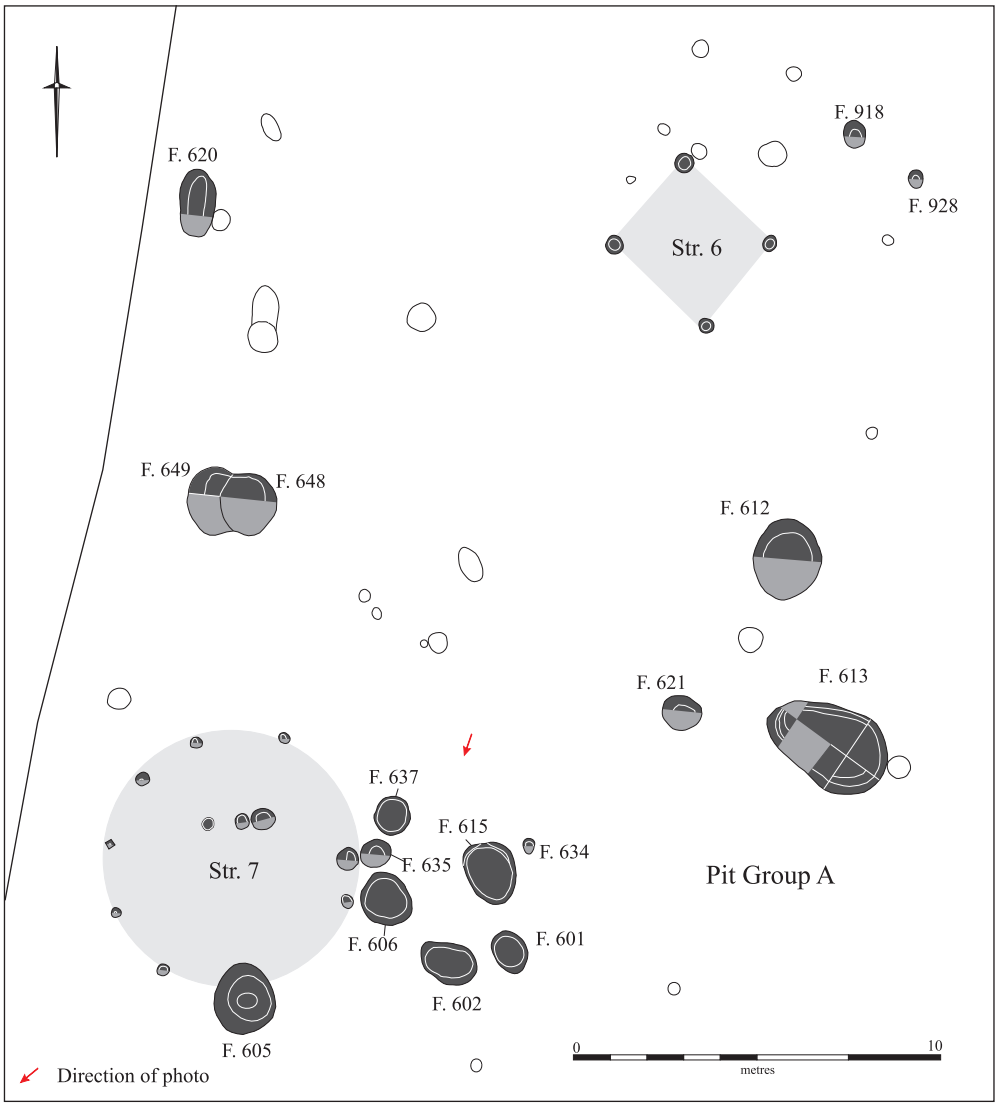


Figure 15. Pit Group A

gravels, indicting that the pits were initially left open to weather and silt. However, given that most retained steep sides and relatively sharp edges, the majority were probably backfilled relatively soon after they went out of use. In the case of pits **F.606** and **F.615** the infilling appears to have been rapid; the irregular shape of the fills suggesting that deposits were thrown into the pits in quick succession. Most of the smaller pits, such as **F.621**, **F.635** and **F.637** contained only a single fill, again suggesting they were filled rather than being left open to weather and silt gradually.

Pit	dimensions (m)	Estimated volume ($m^{3)}$	% excavated	Pottery No./Wt	Bone No./Wt	Burnt clay No/Wt.	Flint
F.601	1.19x1.10x 0.40	0.41	100	5/95)	4/31	-	-
F.602	1.70x1.15x0.50	0.77	100	150/1870	21/156	2/11	3
F.605	1.92x1.69x0.75	1.91	100	31/599	49/438	-	4
F.606	1.44x1.40x0.58	0.92	100	26/380	7/57	-	3
F.612	2.16x1.84x0.52	1.62	50	11/54	8/6	-	3
F.613	3.02x2.11x0.68	3.40	80	145/2224	153/1497	4/21	7
F.615	1.71x1.40x0.37	0.70	100	67/771	48/96	-	3
F.621	1.07x0.93x0.30	0.23	50	-	-	-	-
F.635	0.84x0.83x0.22	0.12	50	1/39	-	-	-
F.637	1.14x0.86x0.51	0.39	100	16/18	23/93	4/19	-
F.648	1.50x1.20x0.60	0.85	50	8/77	-	-	-
F.649	1.50x0.80x0.58	0.55	50	10/47	1/1	-	1
TOTAL		11.87	-	470/6333	314/2375	10/51	24

Table 4: Finds from Pit Group A

A substantial number of artefacts were recovered from the Group A pits, including 470 sherds of pottery (6333g), 314 fragments of bone (2375g), 10 pieces of burnt clay (51), 24 worked flints and a single fragment of quern stone (Table 4). Burnt barley and wheat processing waste were also present in a sample form pit **F.606**. By far the largest artefact assemblage was recovered from **F.613**. Pit **F.613** was the largest in cluster measuring 3.02m in length, 2.11m in width and 0.68m in depth. The pit contained four fills, and yielded a considerable number of finds; some of which were deposited in a formalised manner. The most explicit depositional act involved the placing of a complete small slack-shouldered jar upside-down on the base of the pit at its southern end. The pot then was covered by a layer of dark brown sandy silt *c*. 0.10m-0.18m thick, which was presumably laid carefully on the base of the pit, so as not to break or dislodge the inverted vessel. This dark silt was rich in artefacts and yielded 91 sherds (1433g) of pottery - including a second broken but near complete vessel - 151 fragments of animal bone (1494g) and three worked flints. Around one fifth of the sherds in this horizon refitted, representing fragments of at least 13 different vessels. The artefact-rich deposit was sealed by a band of sterile mid brown-grey gravels, which despite sieving yielded just two crumbs of pottery. The pit was finally capped by a thick upper horizon of mid grey silts sand finds, which incorporated 53 sherds of pottery (including fragments of two more different vessels, 341g), two fragments of bone (3g), four pieces of burnt clay (21g) and a further four worked flints. Intriguingly, sherds from the basal fill were found to refit with in the upper horizon, implying that the material entered the pit in quick succession, possibly as part of a prescribed sequence.

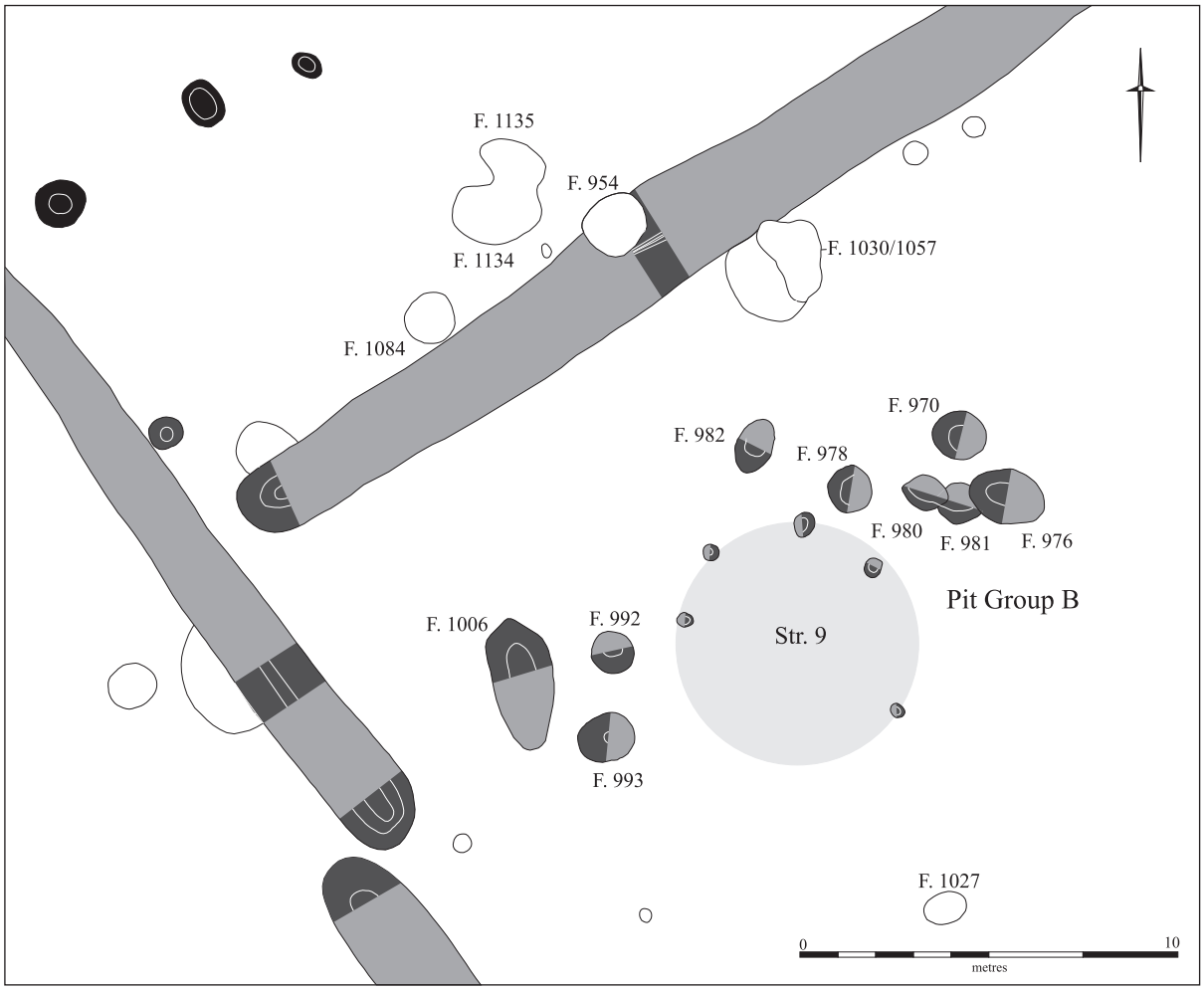
With the exception of the complete pot in **F.613**, there was no evidence that other finds had been carefully placed, and/or deliberately selected for inclusion in the pits. Instead, all classes of artefact were found intermingled within a matrix of dark silty-sands. Whilst the backfilling the pits with artefact-rich soils may have been a significant event in itself - these 'artefact-infused' fills being limited to Pit Group A and the capping of well **F.872** - it is argued here that the level of 'intentionality' lay with not be the selection of objects, but with the choice of soils. Understanding the processes responsible for the generation and deposition of these artefact-rich soils is by no means straightforward. Analysis of the pottery has suggested that material derived from pre-pit contexts such as surface rubbish heaps, where ceramics with varying post-breakage histories became mixed with other forms of detritus (including the animal bone, burnt clay, worked flints and charred botanical remains) *prior* to deposition; a 'pre-pit source' for the artefacts being suggested by the refitting sherd between **F.602** and **F.615** (some 6m apart), and by non-adjoining fragments from the same vessel found in pits **F.602**, **F.606**, **F.613** and **F.615** (maximum distance 15m apart). Incidentally, these connections could also be taken as evidence that the pits were filled simultaneously.

The dating of Pit Group A was somewhat surprising. Typologically, the ceramics from the pits appeared similar to the Late Bronze Age PDR pottery recovered from *The Holme* Site (Evans & Patten 2003). Although a few of the vessel had characteristics more typical of 'classic' Early Iron Age vessels, the low frequency of decoration and clear affinities to *The Holme* material suggested a date closer to the opening stages of the 1st millennium BC, possibly around the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition. Given the potential importance of this assemblage, two AMS radiocarbon dates were obtained from carbonised seeds from **F.602** and **F.613**. The resulting dates were consistent, but much later than anticipated. Pit **F.602** yielded a date of Cal. 400 to 350 BC and Cal. 300 to 210 BC (2 Sigma), whilst that from **F.613** yielded a date of Cal. 400 to 340 BC and Cal. 330-200 BC (2 Sigma). Combined, these suggest that pit deposition occurred sometime between the 5th-3rd century BC, in other words at the very end of the Early Iron Age rather than at the beginning. This later dating is extremely significant. As well as highlighting the problems of trying to distinguish between/separate 'plain' Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery assemblages on the basis of the current typo-chronological schemes (Brudenell forthcoming), the dates have provide firm evidence for occupation at the site after the Late Bronze Age and before the 'arrival' of Scored Ware using communities in the Middle/Later Iron Age. To date, there has been relatively little evidence for Early Iron Age occupation between *c*. 800-450/300BC at Colne Fen. These dates therefore help bridge the 'apparent gap' in the sites settlement sequence.

In contrast to Pit Group A, the pits in Group B yielded very few finds. The group consisted of nine pits located in the northeast corner of Paddock B in Area C (fig. 16). The 'core' of the group was defined by pits **F.970**, **F.976**, **F.978**, **F.980**, **F.981** and **F.982**, spaced up to 1.70m apart. Three of the pits inter-cut, with **F.981** cutting through pits **F.976** and **F.980**. The pits were all oval in shape and measured between 1.19m-1.40m in length, 0.50m-1.11m in width and 0.25m-0.55m in depth. Most displayed bowl-shaped profiles with moderately steep sides and concave bases, filled with between one and three layers of sterile silty sands and gravels; the only find being a worked flint from **F.976**. The remaining three pits in the group were located to the west of Structure 9 (**F.992**, **F.993** and **F.1106**). Pit **F.1006** was the largest in the group at 3.5m long and 1.4m wide, but had the same profile and fill sequence as the others. **F.992** and **F.993** had comparable dimensions to the pits in the core group, though **F.992** was slight deeper at 0.62m, and yielded four sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery (31g).

The limits of Pit Group B are difficult to define, partly because so few of the features are datable. It is tempting to interpret the collection of pits to the north and south of Group B as belonging to the same zone of pitting (i.e. pits **F.954**, **F.973**, **F.1027**, **F.1030**, **F.1057**, **F.1084**, **F.1134** and **F.1135**). With the exception of **F.954**, this wider spread of pits had similar characteristics to the Group B features, yielding between them just one fragment of bone (1g) and a single worked flint. **F.954** was more characteristic of the Group A pits, having vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 1.65m in diameter and 0.68m deep. This pit cut Middle Bronze Age ditch **F.664/952/955** and was filled with homogenous dark grey to black sandy silt which contained a single fragment of bone (16g). In the absence of pottery it is difficult to date the pits in this zone. Whilst **F.992** can be assigned to the Middle Bronze Age on the basis of the sherds recovered, it is conceivable that the majority of pits belong to the Middle Iron Age, lying as they do between Structures 14 and 15. Although Group B features *appear* to surround Bronze Age Structure 9, this may be a coincidental association. Two pits in same zone (**F.969** and **F.1072**) yielded Middle Iron Age pottery, and **F.954** cannot be earlier than the Late Bronze Age. Ultimately, it is impossible to unpick the chronology of these features, only to recognise that some may be contemporary with Structure 9 and the Bronze Age fieldsystem.

Pit group C was located in the Southeast corner of Area G, and comprised on eight small pits (**F.859**, **F.861**, **F.864-F.868** and **F.874**; fig. 16). The pits were possibly part of a wider swathe of settlement features in this area, as hinted at by the scatter of posthole in their vicinity (such as **F.860**). The pits were circular and oval in shape, with 'U'-shaped or bowl-shaped profiles measuring between 0.40m-0.98m in length, 0.40m-0.90m in width, and 0.10m-0.36m in depth. With the exception of **F.859**, all the pits contained a single fill of pale-dark grey sandy silts with moderately frequent gravels, and occasional charcoal flecks. Whilst this type of fill also capped F.859, the pit had a lower basal deposit of reddish-brown weathered gravels. Together the pits yielded 33 sherds of pottery and seven worked flints. The Pottery from **F.867** and **F.868** was dated to the Middle Bronze Age on the basis of the fabric (**F.867** two sherds (6g), **F.868** 11 sherds (8g)), whilst that from **F.859** and **F.866** was more typical of Late Bronze Age PDR ceramics (**F.859** 15 sherds (72g), **F.866** 5 sherds (48g)). The presence of both



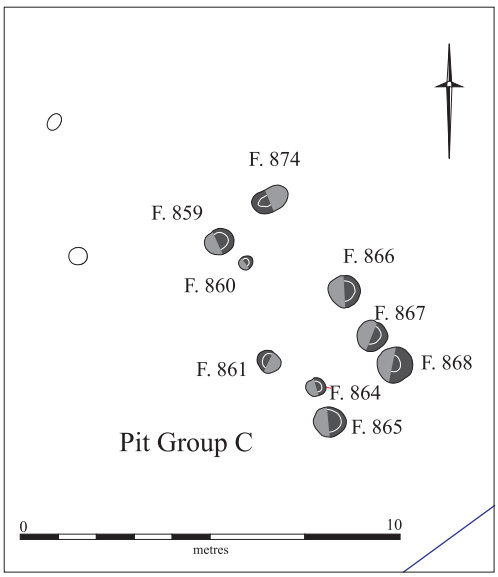


Figure 16. Pit Groups B and C

Middle and Late Bronze Age ceramics may suggests that the pits were filled during the Middle-Late Bronze Age transition, at a time of overlap in ceramic traditions.

Other pits and postholes datable to the Bronze Age

Table 5 lists all other features assignable to the Bronze Age on the basis of the pottery. These features were found scattered across Areas C and D, and attest to the broad swathe of activity during this period.

Feature	Type	Dimensions (m)	Suggested date	Pottery No./Wt	Bone No./Wt	Burnt clay No./Wt	Flint
F.620	Pit	1.95x0.77x0.14	MBA	1/4g	-	-	-
F.634	Posthole	0.37x0.36x0.25	LBA	4/53g			
F.650	Pit	1.93x1.86x0.62	LBA	2/23g	-	-	-
F.655	Pit	5.30x1.35x0.35	LBA	2/9g			
F734	Pit	2.25x1.95x0.77	BA general	7/3g	4/6g	-	10
F.742	Pit	1.25x0.65x0.30	LBA	1/15g	-	-	1
F.746	Pit?	--x0.30x0.18	MBA	8/4g	-	-	-
F.750	Pit	2.56x2.30x0.83	LBA	14/163g	71/1037g	-	5
F.757	Pit	0.52x0.50x0.22	MBA	2/5g	-	-	27
F.762	Posthole	0.47x0.46x0.18	EBA	3/9g	-	-	-
F.773	Pit	1.35x1.17x0.29	LBA	1/8g	-	-	-
F.783	Pit	2.60x1.66x1.40	MBA	3/10g	-	-	-
F.785	Posthole	0.30x0.30x0.20	LBA	3/53g	-	-	-
F.870	Pit	0.50x50x0.10	BA general	1/1g	-	-	1
F.892	Posthole	0.45x0.37x0.15	LBA	1/6g	-	-	-
F.915	Pit	1.30x1.10x0.15	BA general	20/32g	-	-	1
F.916	Pit	1.00x1.10x0.18	MBA	1/4g	-	7/56g	-
F.918	Posthole	0.64x0.49x0.18m	LBA	10/82g	34/113g	-	-
F.928	Posthole	0.46x0.36x0.21	LBA	2/14g	-	-	-
F.996	Posthole	0.27x0.26x0.18	MBA	1/1g	-	-	-
F.1028	Pit	0.57x0.55x0.18	LBA	1/10g	-	-	-
[4357]	Hollow	-	EBA	8/28g			

Table 5: List of Bronze Age features not discussed in the text. The features are dated on the basis of the pottery

The combined evidence from stratigraphic associations, ceramic phasing and radiocarbon dating has suggested that activity in and around the Bronze Age paddocks spanned much of the later 2nd and earlier 1st millennium BC. In many respects, this occupation was 'typical' of that encountered on most later Bronze Age settlements sites in the region: the settlement comprising of a widespread scatter of pits, postholes, post-built structures, and the occasional large well. Most of these features - including all of the buildings, the majority of the wells/watering-holes and two of the pit groups - were located within the area of western fieldsystem, and more specifically, in the zone of Paddock C. Unfortunately, as so few features could be directly dated, distinguishing those which were contemporary with the infilling of the field ditches from those which post-dated this system was problematic. Whilst the wells, watering-holes and features belong to Pit Group A were undoubtedly late in this sequence, the relationship between ditches, structures and the vast majority of un-phased features was ambiguous.

The paucity of Late Bronze Age pottery from the fieldsystem fills implies that the boundaries were no longer maintained by the end of the second millennium BC. Although these boundaries were now extant, the remnant earthworks seemed to have continued to condition the layout of certain settlement features. For example, Late Bronze Age well **F.959** was located on the terminal of the ditch **F.949,** respecting the former entrance into Paddock C, whilst most of the post-built roundhouses were constructed near to access points through the enclosures, suggesting that these earlier route ways continued to be important.

Given the extent of the Bronze Age settlement swathe, it is surprising how few finds were recovered. With the exception of the large occupation dump in well **F.872** and late material from Pit Group A, there were no artefact-rich feature clusters or obvious occupation 'cores'. Whilst low artefacts totals were also a feature of the Bronze Age settlement at *The Holme* (Evans & Patten 2003), it is arguable that this settlement had a more obvious nucleus, centred on the paired roundhouses located within a heavily ditched compound. At Rhee Lake South, the settlement appears less 'coherent', there being little spatial association between the five post-built roundhouses, the post-built rectangular buildings or the pits groups. This may suggest that occupation was piecemeal, or episodic, with groups shifting around the area of Paddock C over the course of the later Bronze Age.

Although the ceramic evidence suggests there was a Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age presence at Rhee Lakeside South, it seems unlikely that there was a continuous sequence of occupation. In particular, there was no pottery or radiocarbon dates indicating occupation in the earlier half of the Early Iron Age, *c*. 800-500 BC. Excavations across Colne Fen have revealed very little evidence for settlement during this period, suggesting a major hiatus in the settlement sequence between the end of the Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age. To date, the only significant evidence for an Early Iron Age presence comes from a dump of pottery in a well at *The Holme*, which was radiocarbon dated to Cal. 800-410 BC (2 Sigma) (Evans & Pattern 2003). This was not associated with any other contemporary features, suggesting that it did no reflect settlement *per se*. The dating of Pit Group A to the end of the Early Iron Age/beginning on the Middle Iron Age is therefore significant. Not only does it provide further evidence of a 'presence' in this landscape *prior* to the settlement/'arrival' of the Middle Iron Age Scored Ware using communities around *c*. 300BC, but the range and quantity of finds from the pits testifies to more permanent settlement. The extent of this settlement is difficult to determine, though it is possible that undated pits and postholes in this zone may be associated.

The Middle/Later Iron Age

Between the 3rd and 1st century BC two centres of Iron Age settlement developed along Rhee Lakeside South (fig. 17). The first was centred on Areas C and D, and contained elements of both an open and enclosed settlement. Within this zone, two ditched enclosures of contrasting character were revealed (Compounds A and B), together with a group of eight eaves-gully defined roundhouses (Structures 12-19), a solitary four-post building (Structure 11) and a light scatter of pits and postholes. The other focus for settlement was located in Area A, and was only partially revealed; here the corner of a second sub-rectangular enclosure was exposed (Compound C). A detailed description of the three enclosures is given below, together with a discussion of the open settlement swathe in Area C.

Compound A

Compound A was located on the western edge of Area A, and composed a seemingly chaotic arrangement of overlapping ditches. At a general level, the plan suggested that the compound underwent two major phases of construction, the second corresponding to a shift in the basic form of the enclosure (fig.18). The first phase comprised the construction of a series of curvilinear ditches which formed a 'C'-shaped compound, with an entrance to the north-west. This basic shape of the compound appears to have been re-worked on at least four occasions, if not more. The second phase was announced by the construction of a rectilinear or trapezoidal compound, which cross-cut the top of the former 'C'-shaped ditches. Many of the features which appear 'internal' of the 'C'-shaped compound were probably associated with this phase, although in most cases, this cannot be proved stratigraphically.

Ultimately, picking apart the precise sequence was extremely problematic, as there are very few obvious connections between the various slots excavated. For the purposes of this report, features descriptions, sections and photographs have been scrutinised, and where appropriate, features have been grouped/re-grouped in order to present a more coherent constructional sequence. In some instances, it has been possible to trace the line of single ditches between slots on the basis of their dimensions, stratigraphic sequence and fill characteristics. In two examples it was also possible to indicate that features were contemporary on the basis of refitting sherds. However, at certain points the intensity of re-working implies that areas of the enclosure were near continually (re)worked or under (re)construction. These intense, localised areas of re-cutting - where sequence is almost totally incomprehensible - reflect a different tempo of working to that which was responsible for the more complete or formal acts of redefinition where the whole ditched circuit was renewed. Complete re-cutting was most likely a periodic process, whereas certain locales were probably cleared and redefined on a more *ad hoc* basis, where and when necessity required.

Compound A Phase 1: The 'C'-shaped enclosure

A total of five slots were excavated through the circuit of the 'C'-shaped enclosure (labelled A-E; fig. 18). Stratigraphically, the earliest ditches in the enclosure sequence were **F.693** in Slot A, **F.680/681** and **F.862** in Slot B, **F.687** and **F.688** in Slot C, and **F.714** and **F.715** in Slot E (Table 6). In Slot C, the

Figure 17. Middle / Later Iron Age Features

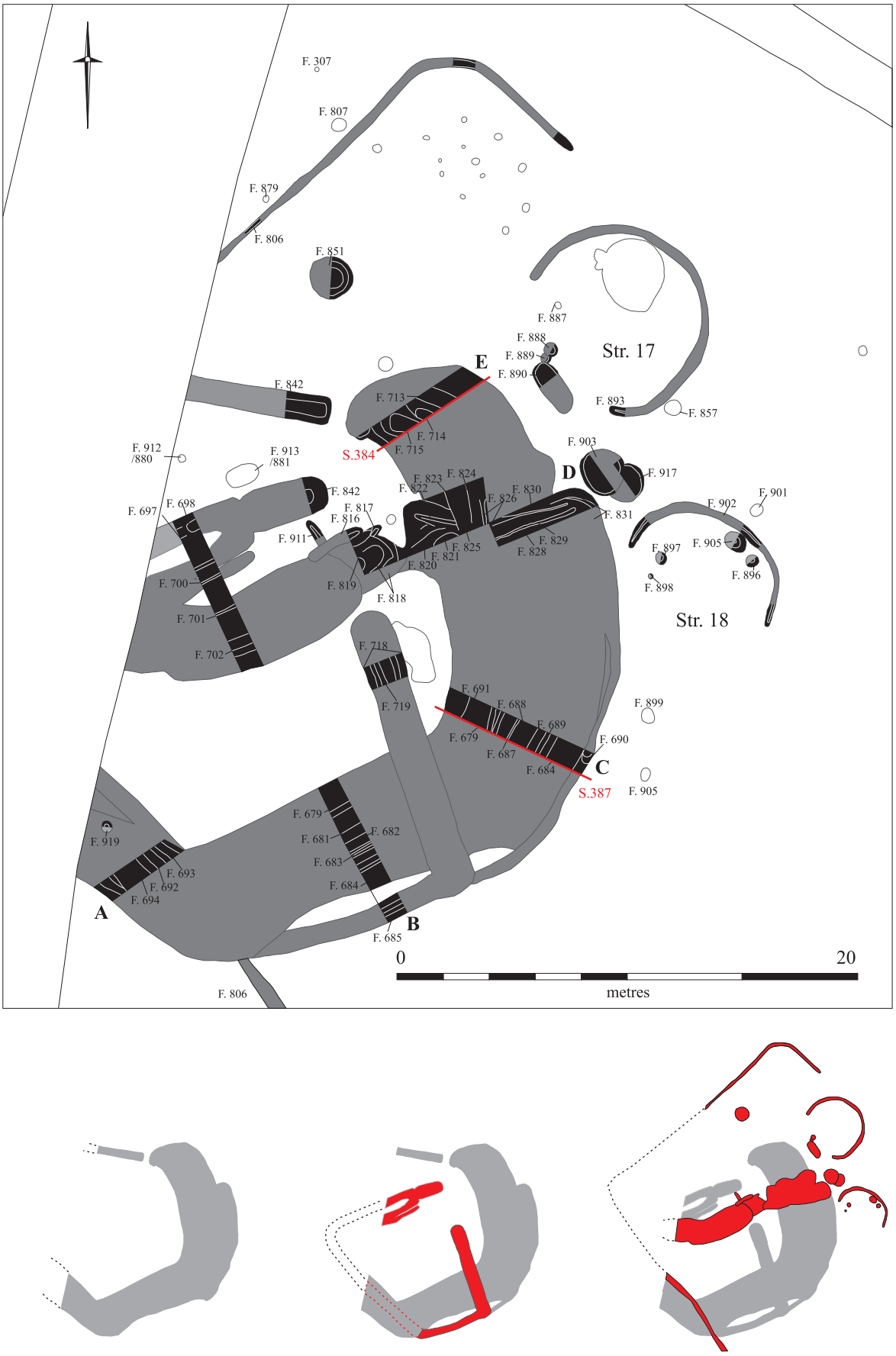


Figure 18. Compound A. (With Developmental Sequence)

early ditches **F.687** and **F.688** were almost completely scoured-out by later re-cutting (fig. 19). Only the concave bases of the cuts and primary gravel fills remained, though originally, the ditches would have been between 0.63m and 0.54m deep. This depth matches that of **F.680/681** and **F.682** in Slot B, suggesting they *may* be part of the same continuous circuit (i.e. **F.680/F681/F.687** and **F.682/F.688**). These early ditches in Slot B had splayed 'U'-shaped profiles, with widths exceeding 0.80m. The ditches had banded fills of mid-dark grey silty sands mottled with gravels, interspersed with layers of light yellowy grey silty sand. Ditch **F.680/681** was the earliest in the Slot C sequence, being cut on the outer edge by **F.682**. This ditch was itself cut by **F.683**, a near vertical sided 'U'-shaped ditch, filled with gravel rich silty-sands. The shape of this ditch is paralleled by **F.693** in Slot A, suggesting they belong to the same feature (i.e. **F.683/693**). At 0.80m, **F.693** was 0.11m deeper than **F.683**, but displayed a similar steep-sided profile with trough-like base, though here, the ditch was filled with three layers of silty-sandy gravels. The absence of feature comparable to **F.683/F.693** in Slot C is probably the result of truncation by later ditches.

	Slot A	Slot B	Slot C	Slot D	Slot E
Early	- - F.693 →	F680/681 → F.682 → F.683	F.687 F.687	F.824 →	F.715 F.714
Late	F.692/694 → - F.695 -	F.697 → - → -	F.697/691 F.689 F.684 F.690	- -	F.713/712 F.711

Table 6: Relationship between ditches in Compound A Phase 1. For each Slot (A-E) the features are arranged in stratigraphic order, from top (earliest) to bottom (latest). Arrows indicate features which are likely to be the part of the same ditch circuit. The boundary between Slots A-C and D-E is marked in bold to emphasise the difficulty in establishing links between the two internal sequences.

Establishing a relationship between the early ditches in the southern half of the enclosure (Slots A-C), and that in the northern end (Slots D and E) is problematic. This is because the intensive series of re-cuts in Slot D obliterated virtually all traces of earlier ditching, making it extremely difficult to draw connections between the slots. However, it is clear that the two early ditches in Slot E (**F.714, F.715**) were much more robust than those in Slots A-C. The earliest ditch in the sequence was **F.715**, located on the inner edge of the enclosure. The ditch had a wide 'V'-shaped profile, and was 1.22m deep and over 2m wide. The ditch was filled with light grey-brown silts; with a slump of redeposited gravel at is base. The gravel derived from the enclosure-side edge of the ditch, suggesting the presence of an internal bank. It is tentatively suggested that ditch **F.715** corresponds to **F.824** in Slot D (i.e. **F.715/824**). Stratigraphically this ditch was one of the earliest features in the Slot D sequence, being 1.03m deep, and displaying the same type of basal fills and lower profile as **F.715**. Returning to Slot E, ditch **F.715** was cut on its outer edge by **F.714**. The re-cut ditch had a very similar profile to **F.715**, displaying a near identical fill sequence; a basal fill of slumped gravels, overlain by grey-brown to orange gravely silts. Ditch **F.714** was just 0.06m shallower than it predecessor, and had very wide cut, over 3m in length. The undulating profile of the ditch, particularly in its upper half, suggested the feature had been repeatedly cleaned out. A bar of 'dirty' gravels between ditches **F.713** and **F.714** has also been identified as a potentially early ditch in the Slot A sequence (**F.720**). However, the shape of this feature is impossible to reconstruct, as it was cut on either side by **F.713** and **F.714**. Whilst it is possible that this was this one of the earliest ditches in the enclosure - being broadly contemporary with **F.715** – it seems more likely that this was a patch of iron-panned gravels.

Ditches which were late in the in the enclosure sequence included **F.692/694** and **F.695** in Slot A, **F.679** and **F.684** in Slot B, **F. 679/691**, **F.689**, **F.684** and **F.690** in Slot C, and **F.713** in Slot E (Table 6). In Slot A, ditch **F.692/694** displayed a wide concave cut, over 2.40m in width and 0.75m in depth, with three fills of grey-brown silty sands and gravel; a sample from which yielded tiny fragments of charcoal and one cereal grain (see de Vareilles, this volume). The external edge of the ditch was truncated by **F.695**; the last ditch in the Slot A sequence. This feature was of 'V'-shaped profile, filled with pale grey silty sand, identical to the capping of **F.692/694**. The two latest ditches in Slot B (**F.679** and **F.684**) were of similar form and profile to **F.692/694** and **F.695**. Like **F.692/694**, ditch **F.679** had a

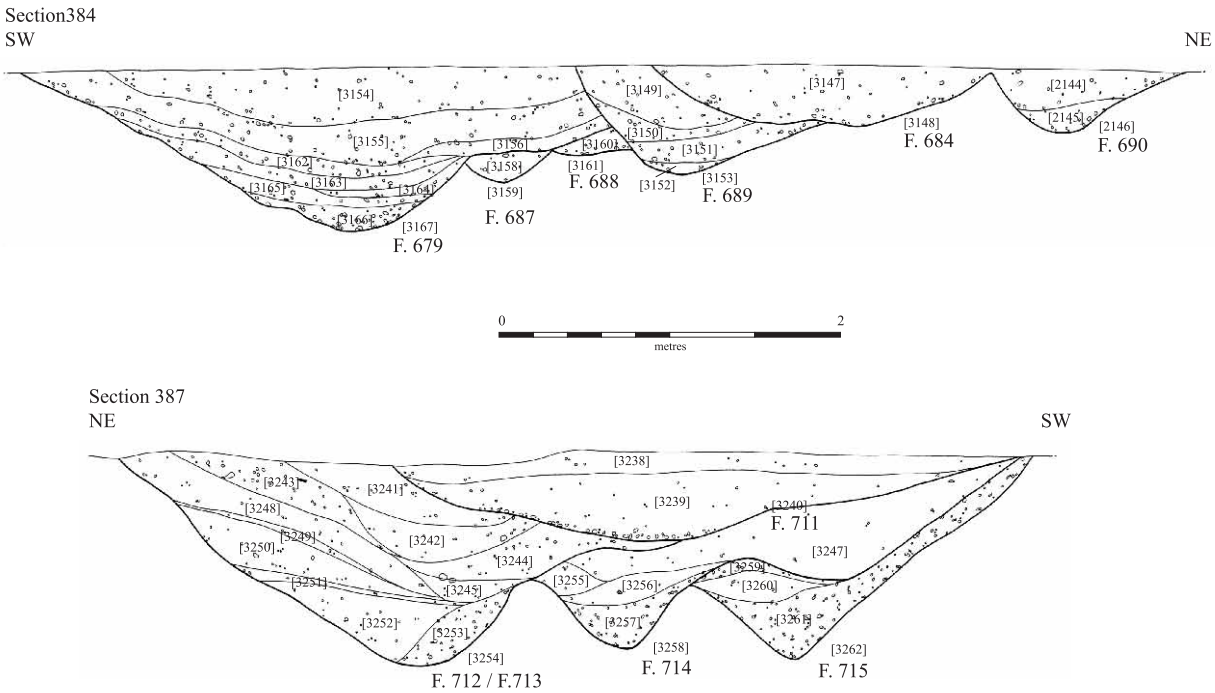


Figure 19. Compound A Photo and Sections

widely splayed cut, 3.20m in width and 0.68m in depth. The parallels between the profiles suggest that the two belong to the same ditch line (i.e. **F.692/694/679**). Ditch **F.679** could also be traced into Slot C, where it formed the first of four 'late' re-cuts (the ditch referred to as **F.679/691** in Slot C). Once again, the ditch displayed a wide profile with gently sloping sides, though in this slot, it contained a complex fill sequence of banded silts and gravels. In summary, features **F.692/694/679/691** probably belong to the same ditch line, and could be traced for *c*. 19m between Slots A-C.

In Slot B no stratigraphic relationship could be established between **F.679** and **F.684**. However, ditch **F.684** was located immediately adjacent to the external edge of **F.679**, mimicking the relationship between **F.692/694** and **F.695** in Slot A. Based on this sequences in Slot A, and the connections between **F.692/694** and **F.697**, it is plausible that **F.684** and **F.695** are the same ditch. Not only were there parallels in their positioning with the slots (both cut on the external edge of **F.692/694/679**), but there were similarities in their fill and dimensions. Whilst the **F.684** was slightly wider, the two features differed in depth by only 0.02m, and both contained single fills of homogenous grey-brown silty sands. These ditches are therefore likely to belong to the same circuit. Ditch **F.684** was also traceable into Slot C, where it was present as a wide bowl-shaped cut filled with mid grey-brown silty sand and gravel. Once again, this ditch was late in the slot sequence, though it didn't immediately succeed **F.679/691**. Instead, this ditch was cut on its external edge by **F.689**, which could represent an earlier phases of **F.684** (**F.684** cutting **F.689**). Ditch **F.689** was over 1.50m wide and 0.65m deep, with slightly convex sides and a round base. The ditch had four fills consisting of browny-orange mottled sandy silts with moderate amounts of gravel.

The remaining ditch in the Slot C sequence was **F.690**. The ditch was1.16m wide and 0.37m deep, with concave sides and a narrow rounded base, filled with firm orange-brown sandy silts and redeposited gravels. In plan, the ditch could be traced around the eastern side of the enclosure for *c.* 19m. The ditch presumably terminated in vicinity of Slot D, giving rise to the to the bulb like-terminal immediately opposite external-pit **F.933**. The ditch was not recorded in Slot D slot, though it was probably truncated by later reworking. In Slot C the ditch abutted **F.684**, but did not directly cut it. However, given the pattern of renewing the enclosure along its external edge (particularly with the later ditch phases in Slots A-C), it is reasonable to interpret this as the final stage of re-cutting, both in the Slot C sequence and in Compound B Phase 1. This is supported by the fact that the southern arm of the Phase 2 enclosure followed the line of **F.690**, suggesting that this feature was still open/ visible when the layout of the enclosure was adjusted (see below).

In Slot E, the ditches late in the enclosure sequence comprised **F.713/712** and **F.711**. As with the early phases, these ditches were significantly larger than their counter parts in Slots A-C. Ditch **F.713/712** was over 3.25m wide 1.18m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch contained a complex fill sequence with 11 different layers; most consisting of silver-grey gravely sands, yellow-orange iron-panned gravels, and loose brown silts. The basal fill of consisted of a slump of gravels from the enclosure interior, matching that of **F.715** and **F.714**. Following the earlier arguments, this implies that an internal bank was maintained between the various sub-phases. The final ditch in the Slot E sequence (**F.711)** cut **F.713/712** on its internal edge. Ditch **F.711** had a very wide bowl-shape profile, 3.75m in width and 0.52m in depth. The ditch was filled with grey silty gravels capped with dark brown-black silt. Neither **F.713/712** nor **F.711** was traceable through Slot D, suggesting that they had been removed by the intense pitting in this zone.

It is difficult to understand how ditch **F.841** fitted within the compound sequence. The dimensions of the ditch were similar to those belonging to the Phase 2 enclosure (see below); the ditch having a steep-sided 'U'-shaped profile 1.10m wide and 0.80m deep. However, the east-west alignment of the ditch was at odds with the basic axis of the rectilinear compound, and instead seems to respect the Phase 1 enclosure terminals, being located just 0.70m to their west.

Compound A Phase 2: The rectilinear enclosure

The defining feature of the Phase 2 enclosure was 'L'-shaped ditch **F.685/718/719**, located along the southern edge of the Compound. The ditched form the southern and eastern arm of the Phase 2 enclosure, cutting the upper silts of the 'C'-shaped compound between Slots B and C. The southern arm of the ditch was defined by **F.685**; a steep-sided 'V'-shaped ditch 1.27m wide and 0.97m deep.

The ditch was aligned west-southwest, east-northeast, and ran along the line of late Phase 1 ditch **F.690**. The relationship between the western end of **F.685** and the Phase 1 enclosure was not properly defined, though it presumably cut the upper ditch silts or terminated in the southwest corner of former compound (near the point where **F.806** meets Compound B). The eastern arm of the 'L'-shaped ditch was originally defined by a narrow steep-sided ditch **F.719**. This was subsequently cut by **F.718**, which contained a banded sequence of greyish brown silty-sands and gravels. The ditch displayed a wide, stepped-profile 1.80m in width and 0.48m depth, which ended in a well rounded terminal.

The northern arm of the Phase 2 enclosure was delineated by ditches **F.697**, **F.699** and **F.700**. The three ditches ran parallel to each other on an east-northeast-west-southwest alignment. All had moderately steep sides and rounded bases, with dimensions ranging between 0.60-0.88m in width and 0.28-0.52m in depth. The most northerly ditch (**F.697**) cut an elongated-oval pit **F.698**. This pit was 0.80m wide, 0.28m deep and 2.7m long, and had a steep-sided 'U'-shaped profile filled with brown-grey silty sands. In plan ditch **F.697** did not appear to extend belong the eastern of pit **F.698**, and probably terminated at roughly the same point as **F.699** and **F.700**. On it eastern end, **F.698** adjoined pit **F.842**; a large oval pit over 3.8m long, 1.70m wide and 0.70m deep (the relationship between the pits was not established). The pit had a wide bowl-shaped profile with steep-sides and a concave base, the lower of which comprised a thin band of weathered gravels, capped by a homogeneous deposit of dark brown sandy silt. It is arguable that the location and alignment of **F.842** indicates that it was as an extension/ re-cut to the enclosure circuit. Given that the eastern end of the pit terminal laid at right angles to ditches **F.718** and **F.719**, it is possible that the pit was cut to formalise the rectangular shape of the Phase 2 enclosure and/or redefine the compounds east-facing entrance (c.5m wide).

Located the south of ditches **F.687**, **F.699** and **F.701** were ditch segments/elongated pits **F.701** and **F.702**. The two features lay side by side and were aligned on the same axis as the ditches to the north. **F.701** was most likely a ditch, and had near identical dimensions to **F.699**. The feature was 0.88m wide and 0.56m deep, displaying a steep-sided 'U'-shaped profile with three banded fills of mid brown-grey to orangey-brown silty sands and gravels, some of which were iron panned. The extent of this feature was not determined, though the plan suggests that it continued to run west, parallel with **F.700**. **F.702** was probably a large elongated oval pit, *c.* 9m long, related to the sequence of pitting in Slot D (see blow). The single slot excavated through the pit showed it to have a splayed bowl-shaped profile, 2.15m wide and 0.82m deep, filled with five bands of grey-brown and orangey-brown silty sands. The relationship between the pit and the Phase 2 enclosure make little 'sense' in terms of spatial logic. Being location where it is, the pit blocks the east-facing entrance into the compound and considerable reduces the size of the enclosed space. Given this 'illogical' setting, it is arguable that **F.702** was dug after the Phase 2 enclosure was abandoned. Although there is little evidence to support this claim, **F.702** does cut pit **F.818** (and possible **F.911**) on its eastern end - a pit which itself may have been dug to block/narrow the entrance into the Phase 2 enclosure. Stratigraphically, **F.702** is therefore relatively late in the sequence, with only gully **F.816** being demonstrably later.

The zone of pitting

An intense area of pitting was located along the eastern arm of the 'C'-shaped enclosure, centred on Slot D. The inter-cutting features were aligned east-northeast west-southwest, forming a 'corridor' of pitting which cross-cut the enclosure complex. The pitting was characterised by a series of substantial, elongated hollows, which were cut and re-worked at various points in the compound construction sequence. In total, 15 pits were identified (**F.817-823**, **F.825-F.832**), incorporating over 50 different fills. Given the limited exposure, the dimensions of the pits were impossible to reconstruct, though the largest were just over a metre in depth. Some of the pits may have been ditches associated with the enclosure circuit, though as none could be directly linked with ditches in Slots A-C or Slot E, there are considered to be part of the pit complex. It is also possible that pits **F.903** and **F.917** belong to the group, but are described elsewhere.

Stratigraphically the earliest pits in the complex were **F.820-F.822** and **F.825-F.831**. Only the base of these deeper pits survived truncation, primarily from pit **F.823**. The early pits tended to be irregular in shape, filled with weathered bands of dirty gravels. Pit **F.823** was *c.* 5m wide and 0.75m deep, filled with 17 different layers of gravels, darks silts and lenses of charcoal; the latter of which yielded plant remains and processing waste (See de Vareilles, this volume). The pit contained numerous artefacts throughout the fills, including 28 pieces of Middle Iron Age pottery (320g), 76 fragments of bone

(473g), 72 pieces of burnt clay (424g) and three worked flints. One fragment of bone from the pit had been trimmed at either end and pierced by two sub-circular perforations. One side of the cattle-sized rim had a crude spiral pattern between the perforations, incised by knife, and the other has two broadly similar patterns (see Riddler, this volume). Within the compound sequence, pit **F.823** cut ditch **F.715/824**, thus post-dating the earliest stages of the Phase 1 enclosure.

Overlying **F.823** was the wide, shallow pit **F.832**. This elongated hollow extended right across Slot D, capping the compound ditches and cutting pits **F.827** (which may have been a re-cut of **F.715/824**), **F.823** and inner edge of **F.820**. The pit was *c*. 9m long, but just 0.30m deep, displaying a wide, slightly undulating base. The lower half of the pit was filled with a sterile layer of orangey yellow sandy gravels - possibly levelled bank material from the enclosure. This was then capped by dark grey silty gravel which contained a substantial number of artefacts, including 79 pieces of Middle Iron Age pottery (517g), 161 fragments of bone (702g), 16 pieces of burnt clay (151g), 10 flints and a fragment of quern stone. This material may have been dumped at the end of the occupation in Compound A, possibly as an act of 'tidying-up' on abandonment.

Abutting **F.832** on its western side was pit **F.818**. The pit was over 3m long, 2.5m wide and 1.05m deep, filled with bands of grey silty sands and gravels. The capping fill comprised dark grey brown silt, from which 26 fragment of Iron Age pottery were recovered (296g) along with a piece of burnt clay (24g) and a second worked cattle rib similar to that from **F.823**. The rib was cut diagonally to a taper on one edge, and was crudely snapped and trimmed on the other side. As with the example for **F.823**, two sub-circular perforations pieces the bone (see Riddler, this volume). **F.818** cut two earlier pits (**F.817** and **F.819**), and was itself truncated by pit **F.702** to the west and gully **F.816** to the north (which itself cut pit/gully **F.911**).

To a certain extent the phasing outlined above represents a 'rationalisation' of the enclosure sequence. However, against a background of highly detailed slot-sequences and inferred relationships, there is undoubtedly two major phases of compound construction.

The Phase 1 enclosure was defined by a 'C'-shaped ditch circuit with probable internal bank. This early compound was characterised by a series of multiple re-cut ditches that became increasing robustly towards the northeast facing entrance. The terminals of this enclosure were over three times deeper than the smallest ditches at the rear of the compound, and contained complex fill sequences. In both the 'early' and 'late' stages of the Phase 1 ditching, the vast majority of finds were recovered from the compound entrance (Slot E). These 'enlarged' terminals were more infrequently re-cut, and had just four episodes of redefinition, as opposed to the seven evident towards the back of the compound. At each stage of renewal, the enclosure appears to have been redefined along the outer edge of the former ditch, leading to the gradual expansion of the circuit. The 'intensity' of re-building implies long-term commitment to the compound; an interpretation also by the overall quantities of material deposited in the ditches and pit complex.

In terms of morphology, the Phase I compound is reminiscent of the small heavily-bounded enclosures commonly found across Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and parts of Leicestershire. These enclosures are characterised by robust, multiple re-cut ditches, encircling small and often empty, sub-rectangular interiors. Such compounds can be classified as 'small enclosures', similar to David Knight's Group 3 (1984: 169). Examples in Cambridgeshire are currently rare, although the Haddenham IV enclosure represents a strong local parallel (Evans & Hodder 2006). Enclosures similar to Compound A Phase 1 have often been interpreted as stock-corals, owing to their small size and frequent lack of internal features (Jackson 1975: 66; Knight 1992:

83; Beamish 1998: 39, though see Evans & Hodder for an alternative view). However, these enclosures normally encircle a space similar to the size of a roundhouse, and could well have been domestic compounds. Whatever their precise function, the range or finds recovered from the ditches suggests that the enclosures were the focus for a variety of activities, and not just stock management.

Phase	Features	Pottery	Scored	% Scored	Bone	Burnt Clay	Flint
Enclosure Phase I 'early'	F.680-683, F.687, F.693, F.714-715, F.824.	9 (230g)	-	-	18 (361g)	1 (140g)	-
Enclosure Phase I 'late'	F.684, F.689, F.690-692, F.694-695, F.697, F.711-713.	96 (2298g)	12 (705g)	13.5	152 (1859g)	3 (140g)	10
Enclosure Phase I *sub total*	Including features above and F. 841.	*105 (2659g)*	*12 (705g)*	*11.4*	*178 (2493g)*	*4 (280g)*	*10*
Phase 2	F.685, F.697-701, F.718-719, F.842.	31 (558g)	13 (322g)	41.9	58 (446g)	2 (33g)	-
Zone of pitting	F.702, F.818-823, F.825-F.832.	187 (2246)	13 (707)	7.1	466 (2208g)	93 (624g)	21
Compound A total	All	323 (5332g)	38 (1734g)	11.8	702 (5147g)	99 (937g)	31

Table 7: Number and weight of artefacts from Compound A

The morphology of Compound A was significantly altered when the rectilinear ditch was constructed over then top of the Phase 1 'C'-shaped enclosure. This imposition signalled the beginning of the Phase 2 sequence, which saw the entrance to the compound shift from the northeast to east. In comparison to the Phase 1 compound, the ditches of the Phase 2 enclosure were much slighter, and were re-cut on only three occasions. The area encircled was probably slightly smaller, though it is difficult to gauge how far the compound extended under the haulage road. Despite the radical alteration to the enclosure form, the southern arm of the Phase 2 enclosure was partially cut along the line of the latest Phase 1 ditch. This implies a degree of continuity with the previous phase, and may suggest an unbroken sequence of occupation.

The shape of the Phase 2 enclosure recalls that of Compounds B and C (see below), albeit on a much reduced scale. The relationship between the Compound B and Compound A Phase 2 was ambiguous. On the basis of their Scored Ware dominated pottery assemblages, both enclosures were broadly contemporary. Yet, as the ditch extending from Compound B (**F.806**) appears to cut the upper fills of Compound A, it is possible that the enclosure had silted by the time Compound B was constructed.

At a general level the occupation of Compound A can be placed between *c*. 350 BC-1 AD, based on the dating of the ceramics. More refined dating of the phased sequence is problematic. Because of the intensity of perimeter re-cutting, the earliest ditches in the compound contained very little undisturbed pottery (Table 7). Although the later Phase 1 ditches and pit-complex yielded a much greater quantity of finds, it can be assumed that these deposits contained a high percentage of residual material from the previous phases of occupation. As a result, establishing meaningful patterns in the distribution of artefacts, or providing tightly dated phase-sequences is near

impossible. However, one interesting trend is the apparent increase in Scored Ware ceramics between Phases 1 and 2 (Table 7).

Scored Wares are one of the defining features of Middle/Later Iron Age pottery assemblages in this area, and are prevalent at all of the Iron Age sites at Colne Fen dating from *c.* 300 BC to *c*. 50 AD (Webley forthcoming). In 'typical' Middle Iron Age assemblages, the percentage of Scoring conventionally falls between 20-30% (Hill & Braddock 2006), dropping dramatically in regions outside of the main 'Scored Ware zone' (Elsdon 1992). In Compound A, Scored Wares were entirely absent from the earliest ditches in the enclosure, and occurred in only small quantities in the later Phase 1 re-cuts (13.5% of the assemblages). In these features, the Scored Wares were primarily recovered from the upper ditch silts and capping fills, indicating that they were deposited late in the Phase 1 sequence. In contrast, the frequency of Scoring was significant higher in Phase 2 (41.9% of the assemblage); with Scored pottery being deposited throughout the ditch fills. Although the figures for the Phase 2 assemblage may be exaggerated by the relatively small size of the pottery group, the frequencies are nonetheless more 'typical' of that found in most Middle Iron Age pottery assemblages.

The significance of this trend is difficult to interpret, partly because the incidence of Scoring remains low in the pit-zone assemblage - yet as these features removed almost all traces of the Phase 1 ditching, the pits potentially contained a vast quantity of residual pottery. One interpretation is that stratification of Scored pottery is linked to chronology. In this scenario, the low frequency of Scoring in Phase 1 would imply that the enclosure dated to the opening stages of the Middle Iron, pre-dating the widespread adoption/'dominant' use of Scored Wares, which probably began sometime during the 3rd or 2nd century BC. This would place the earliest occupation of the compound in the late 4th or early 3rd century BC, which is conceivable considering the evidence for prolonged activity in the enclosure, and the likelihood that Compound B post-dated Compound A. The higher incidence of Scoring in Phase 2 would therefore indicate a date from the 3rd century onwards.

An alternative (but not mutually exclusive) explanation is that the sudden rise in the proportion of Scored Wares in Phase 2 was inextricably linked to the construction of the rectilinear enclosure. This new and radically different form of enclosure, with its clear Score Ware associations, may have heralded a dramatic shift in occupation – namely the 'arrival' of Scored Ware using communities into this area. Obviously, any such interpretation would require further qualification, in order to avoid the simplistic link between pottery-type, enclosure morphology, and the movement of peoples. However, it is interesting that 'formalised' sub-square compounds appear to be a 'type-fossil' of Middle Iron Age Scored Ware using communities at Colne and also along the fen-edge to the northwest, whilst small, 'organic', multiple re-cut compounds (similar to Compound A Phase 1) are a common feature of Middle Iron Age settlements in 'inland' areas to the west and southwest. For example, in Bedfordshire - an area beyond the main 'Scored Ware zone' – small heavily-ditched enclosures are commonly associated with plain sandy ware ceramics, and have assemblage containing a very low percentage of Scored Wares (obtained by trading?). Could it be that communities from around this area were involved in long distance transhumance cycles, leading to the seasonal occupation of enclosures along the fen-margins, such as the Compound A Phase 1? Did this seasonal occupation end when

the area was permanently settled by Scored Ware using communities, whose identities were linked with other groups along the fen-margin and parts of the East Midlands? At this stage there can only be speculation. However, clarification may be offered by the thin section analysis of selected pottery sherds, which may demonstrate that communities were bringing in pottery from 'inland' settlements.

Compound B and Associated Features

Compound B was a large rectilinear enclosure located along the southern edge of Area D (fig. 20). Just under half the compound was revealed in the excavation, exposing 63m of the perimeter ditch **F.614**, and 722.9m^2 of the interior - which contained Structure 19, three pits (**F.654**, **F.747**, **F.791**) and five postholes (**F.779**, **F.780**, **F.781**, **F.748**, **F.749**).

Compound B enclosure ditch

Compound B was aligned northeast-southwest, and was enclosed by the single-phase perimeter ditch **F.614**. A total of three slots were excavated through the ditch; two 1m slots were positioned centrally along the eastern and western arms of the ditch-line, whilst a larger 4m slot was excavated through the northeast corner. The profile of the ditch varied between the different sides of the enclosure, though the dimensions were remarkably consistent, ranging between 3.40-360m in width and 1.05-1.10m in depth. The eastern side of the enclosure had moderately steep sides and a flat base, between 0.80-1.15m wide. In contrast, the western side of the enclosure was 'V'-shaped, with a sharply pointed base. Intriguingly, the different profiles of the ditch were still evident in the opposing faces of the corner slot, suggesting that each ditch maintained its shape along the entire length of the enclosure side. This may imply that each side of the enclosure was dug as a separate 'project'; the ditches only being joined once the designated corner point was reached.

There was no evidence that ditch **F.614** had been re-cut. Instead, the slots contained straightforward sequences of between four and eight fills, most of which were stratified in symmetrical concave bands. The primary ditch fills consisted of either pale grey or reddish brown sandy-silts with common to frequent small gravels. These were overlain by various mid grey to mid grey-brown silty-sands with occasional gravels and rare charcoal inclusions. Nothing in the sequence hinted at the presence of a bank, either on the internal or external edge. In total, 50 sherds (558g) of Middle Iron Age pottery (558g), 167 (3200g) fragments of bone, six pieces of burnt clay (22g) and four (45g) pieces of slag were recovered from the ditch slots, along with four (presumably residual) worked flints. The finds were distributed through the fill sequence, most deriving from the larger corner-slot.

Compound B interior features: Structure 19 and the pits and posthole scatter

As with all the features in the compound interior, Structure 19 was truncated, notably along its north-eastern side. The building was partially encircled by eaves-gully **F.726**, which if complete, would have had a diameter of *c.* 11m. The gully was located towards the northeast corner of the compound and between 0.38m-0.43m in width and 0.10m in depth, filled with mid grey sandy silt. The building had a southeast facing entrance defined by postholes **F.732** and **F.733**, set 2.25m apart (centre to centre). These measured between 0.30m-0.50m in width and between 0.21m-0.23m in depth, and had fills of mid to dark grey sandy silt. Four small postholes were located towards the centre of the structure (**F.708**, **F.709**, **F.730** and **F.731**). These were between 0.20m and 0.30m in diameter and between 0.11m and 0.21m in depth. The only artefact recovered from the building was a single (4g) sherd of pottery from **F.733**.

A further nine features were located within Compound B, none of which could be securely dated to the Middle Iron Age. Four pits (**F.654**, **F.747**, **F.791** and **F.835**) were located immediately north of

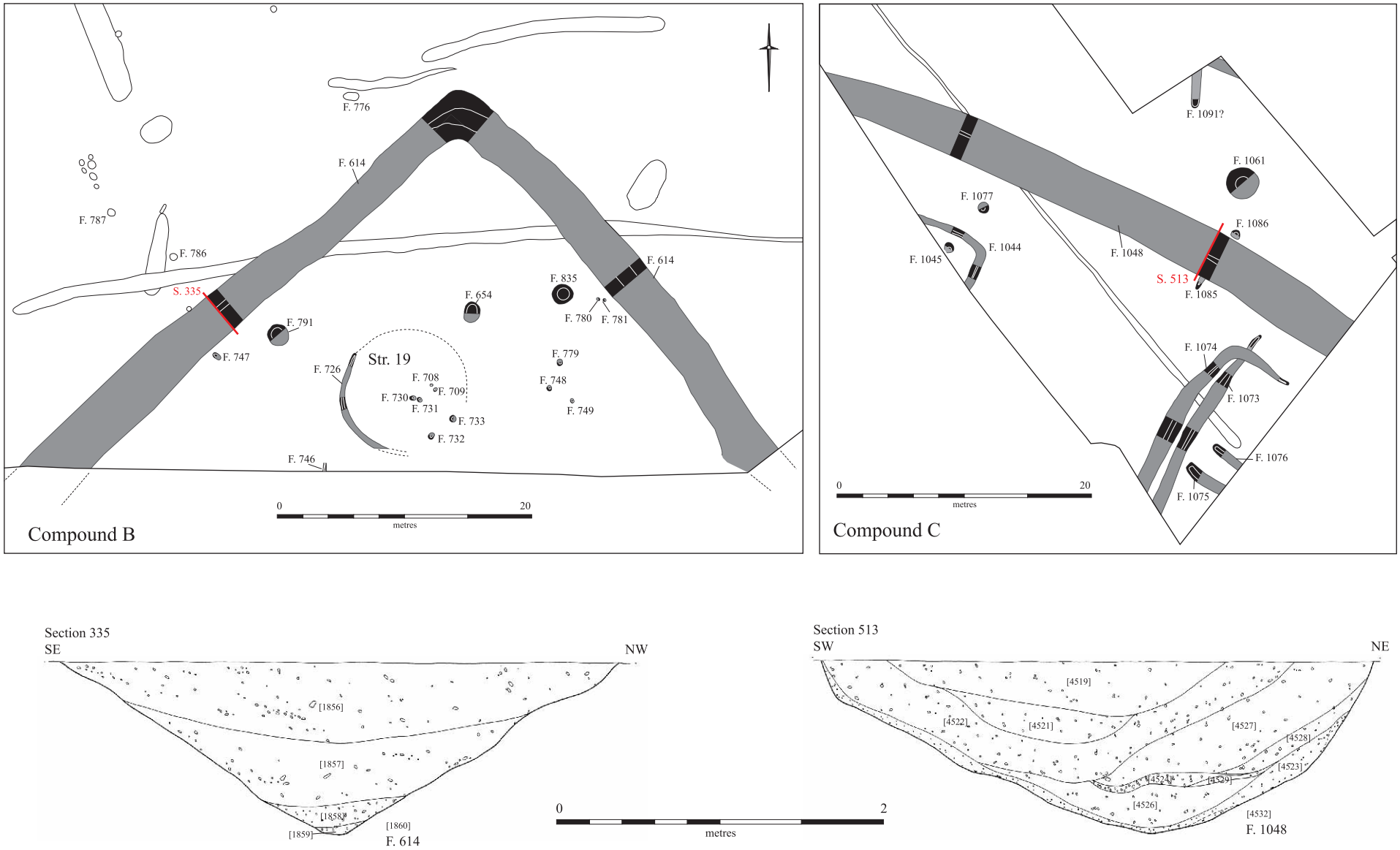


Figure 20. Compounds B and C

Structure 19, and had diameters ranging between 0.30-1.65m. At under 0.50m in depth, the pits were relatively shallow, with between one and three sandy-silt fills. Pit **F.835** was a shallow circular pit, between 1.58-1.65m in diameter, and just 0.14m deep. The pit contained the tightly flexed skeleton of a child aged around five years old. The skeleton lay at the western end of the pit, and was orientated northwest-southeast, with the skull facing northeast. The body was lying on its left side, with the hands drawn close to the face. Unfortunately, the bone was very poorly preserved, with only fragments of the limb bones, skull and ribs surviving. An Iron Age date is given to the inhumation on account of a single sherd of pottery (7g) recovered from the surface of the feature. However, it is conceivable that the body was buried in the Early Bronze Age, as crouched inhumations are common in this period. The only other find recovered from the pits was a single flint from **F.791**.

Little can be said about the scatter of five postholes (**F.748**, **F.749**, **F.779**, **F.780** and **F.788**). The group of postholes to the east of Structure 19 (**F.748**, **F.749** and **F.779)** may have formed part of a truncated four-post building. The postholes were positioned 2m apart (centre to centre), and had diameters between 0.28-0.40m. Given that deepest posthole was just 0.14m in depth, it is conceivable that the fourth 'missing' posthole had been completely truncated.

The External Enclosure: boundary gully F.806, Structures 17- 18 and external settlement features

On the exterior of Compound B was a narrow, linear gully **F.806**. The gully ran for over 118m, and formed a rectilinear boundary/enclosure which encircled most of Compound A. The gully had steep shallow sides and a flat base, with a depth of just 0.09m, and widths ranging between 0.24m-0.39m. A single fill of dark grey silty sand was found throughout the gully, which yielded just one (22g) sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery a single piece of bone (1g) from the three slots excavated. In plan, the boundary was constructed on the same alignment as Compound B, suggesting the two were contemporary. Although the southern end of the gully was not revealed in the excavation, it would appear that **F.806** was heading towards the southwest corner of Compound B. At the other end of the boundary, no direct relationship could be established between **F.806** and Compound A. Being of shallow construction, the line of the **F.806** was impossible to distinguish from the upper silts of the enclosure. However, it is suggested that the gully probably post-dates the compound, particularly its Phase 1 ditches.

Structures 17 and 18 were located at the terminal of **F.806**. The fact that the rear of Structure 17 was 'flush' with the axis of the boundary, suggests that the buildings were constructed in respect to the enclosure. Both structures were defined by 'C'-shaped eaves-gullies, which were open to the southwest. Structure 17 was defined by gully **F.893**, *c.* 7.5m in diameter, with an internal area of *c.* 44m^2. As three slots had already been excavated through the gully during the evaluation phase (Patten 2004 - gully given the feature number **F.518**), only the southern terminal was sampled. This was 0.32m wide and 0.25m deep; filled with mid grey sandy silt. These dimensions were compable to the other slots excavated in the previous phase. No finds were recovered from the terminal, and only three fragments of bone (33g) were found in the earlier investigations. Equally, no plant remains were recovered from the sample taken from the gully (see de Vareilles, this volume), perhaps suggesting that this was not a domestic structure. Some of the small pits/postholes around the opening of the eaves-gully maybe associated with the building. These included **F.887**, **F.888** and **F.889**; the latter two of which inter-cut, and may have been dug to take entrance posts. The earlier of these features was **F.889**, over 0.50m in diameter and 0.18m deep. This was cut by **F.888**, which was of similar size, and yielded a single sherd (20g) of Iron Age pottery.

Structure 18 was located just 4m to the south of Structure 18. The building was defined by **F.902**; an arcing eaves-gully, 0.31m-0.35m in width and up to 0.19m in depth, filled with grey silty-sand. Three slots were excavated through the gully, including both terminals and a slot at the rear of the structure; none of which yielded finds. The building had a diameter of approximately 6.5m and enclosed and area of *c.* 32.5m^2. Four pits/ postholes were enclosed by the eaves-gully (**F.896**, **F.897**, **F.898** and **F.905**). Postholes **F.896**, **F.897** and **F.898** were between 0.22-0.55m in diameter and 0.13-0.23m in depth; each containing a single fill of light grey silty sand with no finds. Pit **F.905** abutted the interior edge of the eaves-gully. The pit was oval in plan, 0.95m wide and 0.37m deep with two mid grey fills; the upper of which yielded a single fragments of bone (1g). Given the position of this feature, it is unlikely to be contemporary with the building.

Three pits which are of definite Iron Age date include **F.851**, **F.890** and **F.903**; all located within the vicinity of Structures 17 and 18. However, it is unclear whether the pits are contemporary with the buildings, boundary **F.806** and Compound B, or whether they were associated with the various phases of activity in and around Compound A. Whatever their precise affiliation, it is interesting to note that these were the only pits datable to the Iron Age in Area D. The largest pit was **F.851**, which was circular in plan with steep, slightly under-cutting sides and a flat base. The pit was 1.84m in diameter and 0.94m deep, filled with a single horizon of dark organic, 'cess-like' silts, containing small patches of burnt clay, flecks of charcoal and occasional burnt stones. The pit yielded a large artefact assemblage, typical of that found on most Iron Age sites. This included 24 (427g) 'freshly broken' sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, 51 (310g) fragments of bone and four worked flints. Charred plant remains were also recovered from the pit, including cereal grains, chaff and wild plant seeds (see de Vareilles, this volume).

Pit **F.890** was located at the entrance of Structure 17, and cut pit/posthole **F.889**. The pit was oval in plan, being approximately 3.5m long, 1.05m wide, 0.42m deep, with vertical sides and an a flat base. The three pits fills consist of dark grey silty sands with fine gravel and charcoal inclusions, with some redeposited orange gravel. A small quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fill (six sherds, 147g), together with 11 fragments of human bone (333g) from the left pelvis of an adult male. The remaining pit - **F.903** - was situated between Structures 17 and 18. The pit was circular, 2.10m in diameter and 0.56m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Eight separate fills were identified, consisting of a range of grey to orange silty sands with occasional gravel and rare charcoal. Four sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (100g) were recovered from the upper layers, along with two pieces of articulated animal bone (seven crushed fragments, 470g), and a single worked flint.

With its sub-square form, sharp right-angled corners and wide single phase ditch, the morphology of Compound B stands in stark contrast to the 'organic' form of Compound A. Sub-square enclosures of this nature appear to be a 'fossil-type' of Middle Iron Age communities along Colne Fen, and more broadly, across the 'Scored Ware zone' of the East Midlands (Cunliffe 1974; Evans & Hodder 2006). The obvious comparison is with Compound C, which shared the same orientation. This enclosure was slightly larger, being one of three conjoined compounds arranged in a linear 'ladder-like' configuration. In the immediate environs, enclosures of similar form have been excavated at Earith Sites I and IV, and also at Rhee Lakeside North (Appleby *et al*. 2007), all of which have Scored Ware associations.

Despite its size, the enclosure ditch saw little artefact deposition, with fewer than 300 finds recovered from the 6m of circuit excavated (some 4% of the *c*. 160m long perimeter ditch). Estimates of the total artefact population are therefore extremely low. For example, based on the quantities of pottery retrieved, it can be estimated that the entire enclosure contained fewer than *c*. 1300 sherds; a figure only four time larger that the total recovered from the slots in Compound A. Equally, only a single sherd was recovered from the features within the compound. These included the roundhouse and a small scatter of shallow sterile pits and postholes; none of which could be definitively assigned to the period. Given the location of Structure 19, it is possible that a second roundhouse was present in the southwest corner of the compound, akin to the arrangement of structures at Haddenham V (Evans & Hodder 2006) or Earith Site I (Regan & Evans 1998). The eaves-gully - like the ditch - was of single phase construction, with no obvious indication of roundhouse succession. Taken together, the evidence suggests that the occupation was short-lived. The paucity of finds, coupled with the absence of ditch and eaves-gully renewal point towards short-term occupancy, especially when compared with the evidence form Compound A.

The rectilinear boundary formed by gully **F.806** is an unusual feature, but one which appears to be linked to Compound B, based on its alignment and Scored Ware association. The ditch seems to post-date the Compound A enclosure complex, suggesting that Compound B was constructed relatively late in the Iron Age sequence (though still before the adoption of Late Iron Age wheel-turned forms in the late 1st century BC). The two eaves gullies located at the terminal of **F.806** are also extraordinary, not only due to their shape, but because their orientation is opposite to that of every other Iron Age structure on the site (being southwest). The purpose of these buildings is unclear, though they may not be dwellings. At with Compound B, there were very few pits and postholes which could be linked with this lightly bounded enclosure, again suggesting that settlement was short-lived.

Compound C and Associated Features

Compound C was a second large rectilinear enclosure, located in Area A just 320m southwest of Compound B (fig. 20). The crop marks show the compound to be part of a series of three conjoining sub-square enclosures, arranged in a 'ladder-like' formation. Only the eastern boundary of the enclosure complex was revealed in Area A, exposing *c*. 45m of the perimeter ditch **F.1048**, and 438.5m^2 of the interior. Five ditches were found within compound (**F.1073**, **F.1074**, **F.1075**, **F.1076**), together with two pits (**F.1045**, **F.1077**).

Compound C enclosure ditch

Enclosure ditch **F.1048** was aligned northwest-southeast, and was excavated in two 1m slots. The ditch was between 1.40m-1.80m wide and 1.07m-1.25m deep, and had moderate-steep sides and a concave base. The fills sequence was complex, and over 13 fills were identified in each slot. The asymmetry of the fills suggests that the ditch was partially cleaned out on one or more occasions. However, no definitive evidence for comprehensive re-cutting was identified (i.e. there was no change in the profile of the original ditch profile), and thus no further cut numbers were assigned.

The basal fills of the ditch were characterised by bands of pale yellowy-orange to reddish-brown weathered sands and gravels, interspersed by layers of brown-grey silty sand. These were overlain by a series of 'dirty' grey, gravel-rich silts, separated by finer lenses of orangey-brown to grey-brown sands and silts. The direction of the gravel tip-line suggested that most of these central fills derived from the weathering and slumping of the external ditch-edge. Finally, the capping fills comprised a range of light orangey-grey and mid-light brown sandy silts. Considering the size of the ditch, relatively few finds were recovered. Only seven sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (106g) were found, together with 34 fragments of bone (918g) and three worked flints.

Compound C interior features

Five ditches and two pits were found within Compound C. The ditches were aligned in respect to the enclosure boundary, and were orientated on, or at right angle to, **F.1048**. Linear ditch **F.1073** was aligned northeast-southwest, perpendicular to the line of **F.1048**. Around 16m of the ditch was exposed in the excavation, including its tapered eastern terminal which stopped just 1.20m shy of the enclosure boundary. The ditch displayed moderately steep-sides and a concave base, measuring between 0.35m-1.0m in width and 0.30m-0.38m in depth. A total of three slots were excavated through the ditch, which yielded two sherds (34g) of Middle Iron Age pottery and 20 fragments of bone (131g) from its mid brown to orange-grey sandy silt fills. Ditch **F.1073** was cut towards its terminal end by **F.1074** - an 'L'-shaped ditch that ran parallel to **F.1073** for *c*. 13m, before turning to the southeast and terminating. The ditch was of similar size and shape to F.1073, but was slightly shallower, having a maximum depth

of 0.28m. The fills were also compable, as were the finds assemblages – the slots yielding only two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (22g) and 16 (52g) pieces of bone. The 3.40m gap between the terminal of **F.1074** and enclosure ditch **F.1048** may have been filled by an internal bank; **F.1074** turning to avoid the feature. However, no bank-derived gravel deposits were found in the slots though **F.1048**, suggesting that the gap may simply have been an entrance way between the different 'compartments' within the compound.

To the south of **F.1073** were two ditch terminals, **F.1075** and **F.1076**; both aligned parallel to enclosure ditch **F.1048**. The relationship between these terminals and ditches **F.1073** and **F.1074** suggests that they are contemporary, forming a small internal enclosure or 'compartment' within the Compound B. The profiles, dimensions and fills of the ditches were broadly similar to those of **F.1073** and **F.1074**, as were the finds assemblages. Ditch **F.1075** yielded a single sherd of residual Post-Deverel Rimbury pottery and 15 pieces of bone (99g), whilst three fragments of bone (7g) were recovered from **F.1076.** Ditch **F.1044** may have defined another internal division; the ditch displaying a right-angled corner similar to **F.1074**. Once again, this feature was aligned parallel to **F.1048**, located 4.90m from its internal edge. Two slots were excavated though this gully-like ditch, showing it to have moderate-steep sides and a concave base, between 0.65m-0.70m in width and 0.18-0.32m in depth, The ditch was filled with dark grey silty sands, from which a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery (4g) and one piece of bone (10g) was recovered. The remaining features within Compound C were two shallow circular pits, **F.1045** and **F1.077**, and a small oval pit/gully **F.1085**. Pits **F.1045** and **F.1077** had bowl-shaped profiles less than 1m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with brown-grey silts. No finds were recovered from **F.1077**, but **F.1045** contained 137 fragments (299g) of disarticulated human bone (Dowell, forthcoming). Oval pit/gully **F.1085** was 0.37m wide and just 0.14m deep, filled with brown-grey sandy silt. The pit was cut by enclosure ditch **F.1048**, and may be of Bronze Age date. The feature contained 13 fragments of bone (4g) and two burnt flints.

Area A features external to Compound C

In the area external to Compound C, four discrete features were identified (not including tree throw **F.1091**). **F.1061** was a large circular Iron Age pit, 2.5m in diameter and 0.85m deep, with near-vertical side and a flat base. The pit had 14 fills, most consisting of weathered bands of sands and gravels. Two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (7g) and 42 fragments of bone (265g) were recovered from the pit. None of the remaining features could be dated. **F.1079** and **F.1086** were shallow sub-circular pits with depths less than 0.15m. The pits had single sterile fills of grey-brown silty sands. **F.1078** was an isolated posthole located in the northeast corner of Area A. The posthole was *c*. 40cm wide and 0.35m deep, containing dark brown-grey silt.

Much of the discussion relating to Compound B is also relevant to Compound C. The main differences were that Compound C was significantly larger, and formed one of three conjoined enclosures arranged in a ladder-like configuration; the section excavated in Area A belonged to the largest compound at the eastern end of the ladder. Its relationship to the conjoining compounds is unclear, though they could represent a sequence of enclosure 'extensions', tacked on to one of the sub-square units (the basic enclosure 'building-block'). Such additions may be an expression of generational affinity, or reflect the status of the occupying household. Whatever the scenario, the sequence of enclosure is clearly more complex that that of Compound B, with its 'pristine' single-unit form. Even within the limited area excavated, there are indications that the Compound C interior was sub-divided into small compartments by ditches aligned off, and probably secondary to, the main enclosure boundary. Such divisions of space were absent in Compound B, which may reflect its short-lived occupancy. Yet despite these differences, the overall character of the enclosures is remarkably similar; sharing the same form and alimented, both have Score-Ware associations and both saw low levels of artefact deposition. In this respect there is

more linking these enclosures than separating them, especially when one contrasts them to Compound A.

The Open Settlement Swathe in Area C

Within Area C Iron Age settlement comprised of five roundhouses (Structures 12-16) together with a single four-post structure (Structure 11), the details of which are described below (fig. 21). The structures were surrounded by a loose scatter of small pits and postholes, very few of which could be dated. Structural preservation was typical of plough-damaged Iron Age sites. None of the building's floor surfaces or wall-lines survived, and few internal features such as postholes or pits remained intact. Where these were present, all were small and shallow, except for the robust entrance postholes in Structures 13 and 16. The eaves-gullies were differentially preserved. Complete pennanular circuits survived for Structures 12-14, but the remaining gullies were partially truncated. Sections of the southern and western side of Structure 16 had been completely destroyed, whilst the whole eastern half of Structure 15 was removed by Post-Medieval ditching.

In response to the differential preservation of the eaves-gullies, Structure 12-14 were more intensively sampled; the primary aim being the recovery of artefact assemblages. For Structures 13 and 14, the gullies were divided into 1m segments and alternate slots excavated (a 50% sample). The slots around the eaves-gully terminals were then extended by removing the 1m bulk. This exposed a 3m long section of the gully at either side entrance way, the majority of finds being located in this zone. A slot on the western side of Structure 13 was also extended to reveal the western terminal of its second phase of construction. Sampling was less intensive for Structure 12. 2m wide slots were dug around the terminals of the building, together with a single 1m at the western 'rear' of the eaves-gully.

The roundhouses and four-post structure: Structure 11-16

Five roundhouses were revealed in Area C, together with a single four-post structure. Structures 12-16 were eaves-gully defined roundhouses ranging between 5.9-10.9m in diameter. Structure 12 was the smallest of the roundhouse, and was defined by a narrow, single-phase pennanular eaves-gully **F.1066**, measuring 5.9m in diameter with a 2.65m wide northeast facing entrance (enclosing an area *c*. 28m^2). The gully was between 0.24m-0.30m in width and 0.10m-0.17m in depth, and was filled with mid to dark grey sandy silt. Three slots were excavated through the gully, including two 2m slots at the terminals, and a single 1m slot at the rear of the gully. All the finds were recovered from the entrance of the structure, including four sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery from the northern terminal (47g), and 11 sherds (55g), one piece of bone (18g) and two worked flints from the southern terminal. Two circular postholes (**F.1067** and **F.1068**) were found within the building, and are likely to be contemporary with the structure. The postholes measured between 0.27m-0.5m in width and between 0.13m-0.22m in depth, both containing dark brown-grey sandy silts and mid orange-brown silty sand fills. Posthole **F.1068** was located within the northern terminal of the gully was possibly a small entrance posthole, 0.50m in diameter and 0.33m deep.

Structure 13 was located *c.* 20m to the east of Structure 12, and was the largest eaves-defined roundhouse at the site (excavated in 18 1m slots; fig. 22). In its primary construction phase, the building was encircled by pennanular eaves-gully **F.1130**, measuring 10.7m in diameter, with a 3m wide east-northeast facing entrance (enclosing an area of *c*. 88m$^{2)}$. The eaves-gully varied between 0.28m-0.71m in width and 0.10m-0.28m in depth, and was filled with up to three horizons of mid grey sandy silts. Although over 50% of the gully circuit was excavated, only six sherds of Middle Iron Age

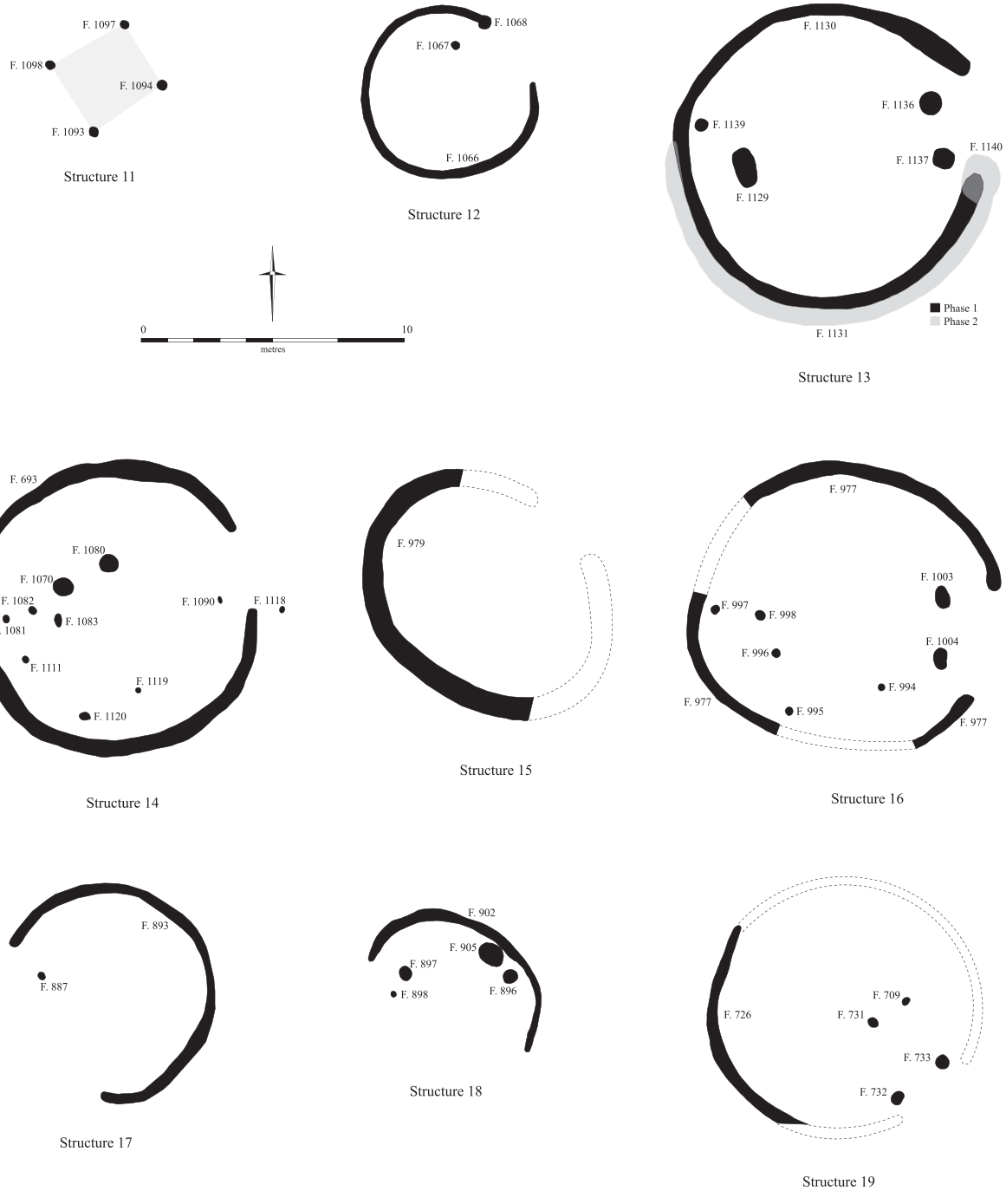


Figure 21. Iron Age Structures

pottery (54g), 57 fragments of bone (117g) and five worked flints were recovered. Equally, few plant remains were recovered despite the fact that three different samples were studies (See de Vareilles, this volume). With the exception of two bone fragments, all of the artefacts came from the northern half of the gully; two-thirds of which were recovered from the three terminal slots. Set around 1.5m behind these terminals were two large circular entrance postholes **F.1136** and **F.1137**. The postholes were between 0.78m-0.84m in diameter, and had shallow bowl-shaped profiles 0.17m-0.18m deep; each filled with mid greyish brown silt silts (**F.1136** yielding two sherds of pottery (4g) and three fragments of bone (2g), **F.1137** yielding two fragments of bone (1g). The only features internal to the building were pit **F.1129** and posthole **F.1139,** both located at the rear of the structure. **F.1129** was a burnt oval heath pit with two charcoal and ash-rich deposits bearing eight fragments of burnt pottery (47g), 18 fragment of bone (16g) and a single worked flint. Posthole **F.1139** was 0.40m in diameter but only 0.06m deep, filled with mid grey sandy silt. It was presumably part of the building, though no finds were recovered from it.

The southern side of eaves-gully **F.1130** was re-cut by **F.1131**; a 'C'-shaped gully *c*. 19.7m long and open to the north. The line of the gully skirted the outer edge of the **F.1130**, implying direct succession. The ditch was between 0.45m-0.68m wide and 0.28m-0.43m deep, and had a distinctive 'U'-shaped profile with steep sided and a relatively narrow concave base. The gully was filled with light to mid grey sandy silts overlying a lower deposit of orange-brown and dark grey sandy silts and gravels. The eastern terminal had been cleaned-out/re-cut by **F.1133**. This re-cut could only be defined in part, but was around *c*. 2.20m long, 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. As with **F.1130**, gully **F.1131** and **F.1133** saw little artefact deposition, yielded just three sherds of pottery (82g), 42 fragments of bone (659g) and four work flints, 26 fragments of the bone (34g) deriving from **F.1133**). The artefacts were distributed across the slots with no sense of clustering near the entrance. The southern terminal of Structure 13 was cut by oval pit **F.1140**, removing the deposits from both **F.1131** and **F.1133.** The pit was *c*. 1.80m long, 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Nine different fills were identified in the pit. The lower fills comprised a series of 'dirty' orangey-grey gravel slumps, yielding a single fragment of bone (168g). These were capped with two dark silts sand deposits, the lower of which contained frequent charcoal. A number of finds were recovered from these fills including five sherds of pottery (125g), 57 fragments of bone (217g), three worked flints and three pieces of fuel-ash slag (61g). Two re-joining pot sherds belonged to the base and lower wall of a globular La Tène decorated bowl, displaying an incised pendant loop and punched-dot motif. The vessel is likely to date to the 2nd-1st century BC, which complements the dating of the Scored Wares from the structure. Of equal interest is the fragment of a lightly polished cattle-sized rim with two circular perforations (See Riddler, this volume). The bone was 83mm long and 25mm wide, with perforations 4mm in diameter. The artefact is similar to the examples from pit **F.823** and **F.818** in Compound A, perhaps suggesting some link with this enclosure.

Structure 14 was located just 7m to the south of Structure 13, and cut Bronze Age field ditch **F.956** (fig. 22). The building was defined by a single phase pennanular eaves-gully **F.963**, measuring 9.9m in diameter, with a 2.97m wide east-northeast facing entrance (enclosing and area of *c*. 80m^2 and excavated in 17 1m slots). The gully had a relatively wide 'V'-shaped profile varying between 0.46m-0.77m in width and 0.15m-0.33m in depth. The fill consisted principally of mid grey sandy silt, with moderate to frequent gravel inclusions. As with Structure 13, the gully yielded a relatively small artefact assemblage, comprising 26 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (208g), 36 fragments of bone (170g), 19 pieces of burnt clay (80g), and seven worked flints; 90% of the finds being recovered from the six slots around the buildings entrance. Plant remains were equally rare, though grains of hulled barley, emmer or spelt grains, chaff and a range of arable weeds were present in samples from the gully terminals (see de Vareilles, this volume). Features internal to the structure included two bowl-shaped clay-lined pits (**F.1070** and **F.1080**) and seven small postholes (**F.1081**-**F.1083**, **F.1090**, **F.1111** and **F.1120)**. Pit **F.1070** and **F.1080** were located towards the centre of the structure on the northern side, and were possibly cooking pits. The pits measured between 0.73-1.04m in length, 0.67-0.85m in width and 0.21-0.23m in depth. **F.1070** had a lower clay-lining, and was filled with four deposits of mid-dark grey sandy silts; the upper fills of which yielded a single sherd of pottery (33g) and 10 fragments of bone (34g). **F.1080** was packed with two clay fills overlying bands of sandy silts. The finds from the pit included fragments of oyster shell and 21 pieces of burnt clay (45g). The posthole measured between 0.22-0.52m in diameter and 0.10-0.30m in depth, each filled with grey sandy silts. Three of the posthole formed an arc at the rear of the structure (**F.1081**, **F.1111** and **F.1120)**. These were located between 0.65-0.90m from the eaves-gully edge, and may indicate the position of the wall line, as might the location of **F.1090**.

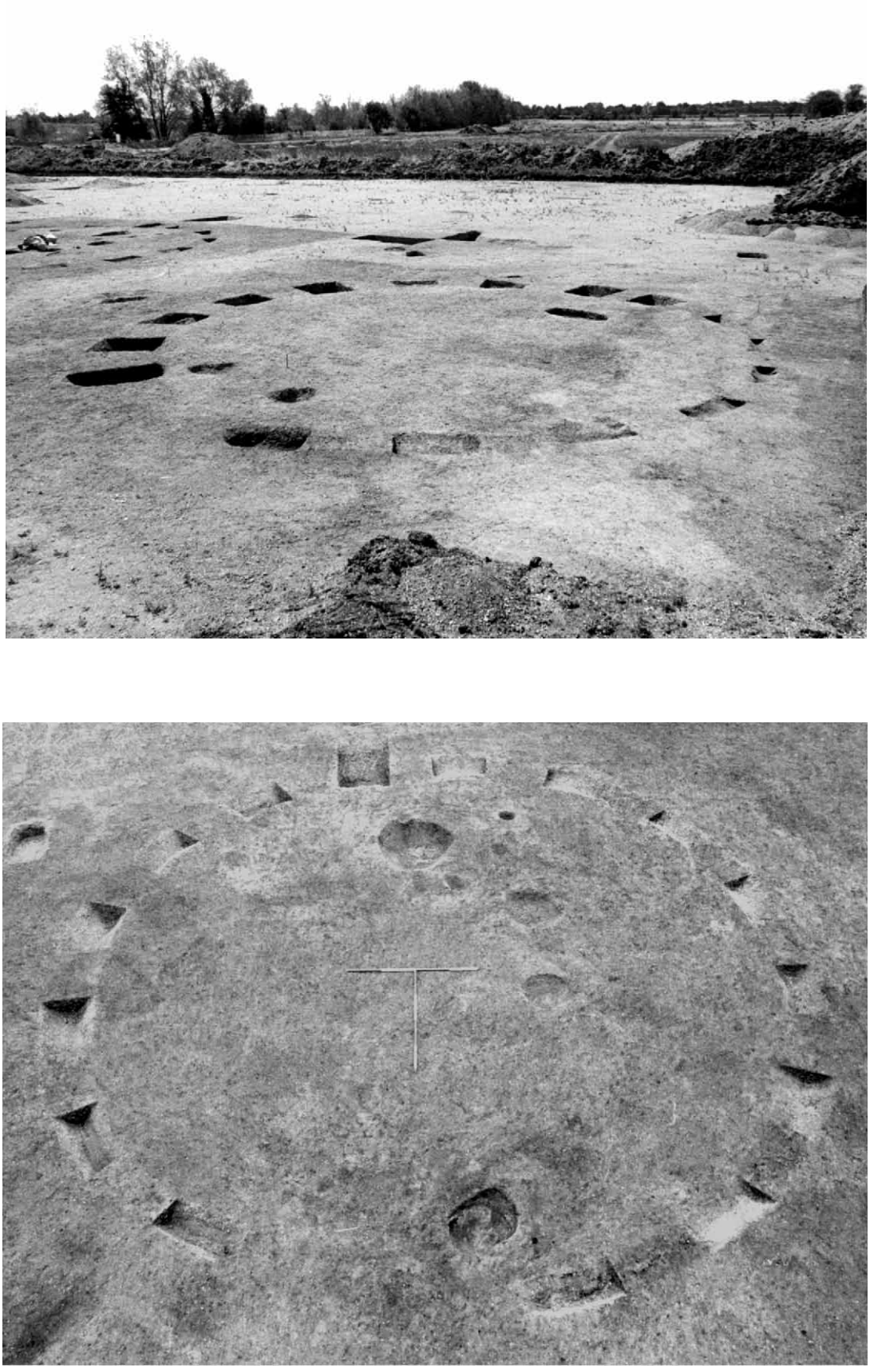


Figure 22. Photos of Structures 13 and 14

In comparison to the other Iron Age roundhouses, Structure 15 and 16 were very poorly preserved. The eastern half of Structure 15 was completely truncated by the series of post-Medieval ditches skirting the haulage road. Only a *c*. 9.3m length of gully at the rear of the building survived, though this was enough to estimate its original diameter - *c*. 6.5m. In its primary phase of construction, Structure 15 was encircled by gully **F.991**; a 'U'-shaped gully, 0.30m wide and between 0.12- 0.24m deep, filled with mid grey silty sand and gravels. The gully was cut on its outer edge by **F.979**, which also cut the top of the Bronze Age ditch **F.664/952/955**. The gully measured between 0.55-0.71m wide and 0.25-0.34m deep, in one section displaying a steep sided 'V'-shaped profile. The fill comprised of mid-dark grey silty sands, yielded two sherds of pottery (17g) and seven flints.

Structure 16 consisted of a shallow single phase eaves-gully **F.977**, measuring *c*. 10.6m in diameter with a 4.1m wide east-facing entrance (enclosing an area of *c*. 88m$^{2)}$. The gully was cut by a quarry test pit towards its rear, and was truncated along its south side, leaving a 21.5m length of undisturbed ditch (excavated by five 1m slots). The gully was between 0.40m-0.60m in width and between 0.05m-0.22m in depth, filled with mid grey brown silt. The only finds recovered from the gully were a single fragment of bone (10g) and a worked flint. Set around 1.5m behind the terminals of **F.977** were entrance postholes **F.1103** and **F.1003**. The postholes were both oval in plan, ranging between 0.75m-0.76m in length, 0.47m-0.52m in width and 0.36-0.39m in depth; each containing two fills of grey-brown silts (the posthole positioned 1.5m apart). Five further postholes were identified in the building interior, all located in the southern half (**F.994-F.998**). The posthole was under 0.35m in diameter with depths between 0.08m-0.18m. The fill comprised mid-dark grey sandy silts.

The only four-post structure assigned to the Middle Iron Age was Structure 11, located 11m northeast of Structure 12 (aligned northeast-southwest northwest-southeast). The building comprised postholes **F.1094, F.1095, F.1097** and **F.1098**, measuring 2.6m by 2.7m with an internal area of *c*. 8m^2. The postholes measured between 0.29-0.33m in diameter and 0.15-0.19m in depth, each filled with a single deposit of mid grey sandy silt. **F.1094** yielded seven sherds (53) of Middle Iron Age Scored Ware pottery, all belonging to the same vessel, whilst **F.1097** contained a worked flint.

Other pits and posthole datable to the Iron Age

Very few of the pits and postholes surrounding Structure 11-16 could be dated. In all just five features were assigned to phase on the basis of the pottery (Table 8). With the exception of **F.953**, all the features were small and shallow each filled with single deposits of dark brown to dark grey sandy silts. **F.953** was a large oval pit cutting Bronze Age ditch **F.949**. The pit contained three banded fills of mid-dark grey sandy silts.

Feature	Type	Dimensions (m)	Pottery	Bone	Burnt clay	Flint
953	Pit	2.55x1.65x0.62	1 (53g)	3 (2g)	1 (4g)	-
969	Pit	1.60x0.71x0.57	3 (14g)	7 (2g)	-	1
1072	Pit	1.20x1.00x0.10	1 (10g)	-	-	-
1106	Posthole	0.37x0.34x0.08	1 (7g)	-	-	-
1108	Pit	0.89x0.84x0.12	3 (12g)	5 (26g)	3 (32g)	-

Table 8: List of pits and postholes datable to the Middle Iron Age in Area C.

Compared to the arrangement of structures at sites such as Fengate, Hurst Lane or Watson's Lane (where the intensity/and or duration of activity resulted in a palimpsest of overlapping eaves-gullies), the layout of buildings at the Rhee Lakeside South is more readily comprehensible or 'pristine', at least on first appearances. However, the absence of complex building sequences and the wide spacing of structures presents its own set of challenges, namely deciding which buildings were contemporary and how/or if they were interrelated.

In terms of the overall arrangement of Structures 12-16, it is clear that the buildings were located in a relatively narrow linear, east-west aligned corridor, giving the appearance of being laid out in two parallel rows. This sense of a 'formal' arrangement is probably fortuitous, though it is possible that the buildings were aligned on hedgerows or fence-lines which have left no archaeological trace. Whilst is it temping to interpret the Bronze Age field-system ditch **F.985** as the western boundary of this settlement swathe, the fact that the eaves-gully of Structure 14 cuts the ditch's capping silts, indicates that this boundary was long extinct. The same relationship was witnessed between Structure 15 and Bronze Age ditch **F.664/952/955**, suggesting that none of the once substantial ditched boundaries of the 2nd millennium continued to condition the structure of settlement in the Middle Iron Age.

The most obvious way to differentiate the structures is by the size of the eaves-gullies. Whilst Structures 13, 14 and 16 have eaves-gully diameters between 10-11m, those of Structures 12 and 15 are considerably smaller, both being around 6m. An eaves-diameter of 10-11m is quite common in the region, and Structures 13, 14 and 16 fall towards the upper range of range of most 'middle-scale' buildings (*c.* 7-11m). On the other hand, structures with eaves-diameters of 6m or less belong to a class of 'small-scale' buildings, and fall within the lower size range most round structures. These small buildings are unlikely to have had a residential function, and are probably ancillary structures - possibly with a specific function linked to one or more of the other larger buildings. However, it is by no means obvious to which buildings these were connected. In the case of Structure 12, the building is quite isolated, and lies almost equidistant between Structures 13, 14 and 16, separated by some 20m. Equally, it is conceivable that Structure 15 has no connection to this group, and was instead related to Compound B and its satellite structures.

Based on their closely proximity, the buildings most likely to be paired were Structures 13 and 14, set just 6m apart. These buildings probably formed a single household unit, perhaps providing residence for an extended family group. In other instances it has been possible to draw functional distinctions between paired Iron Age buildings, such as at Wardy Hill (Evans 2003) or Haddenham V (Evans & Hodder 2006). However, in this case there is relatively little difference between artefact assemblages from these buildings (Table 9), with both structures yielding remarkably few finds considering the size of the excavated sample.

Even if spatial proximity is enough to demonstrate that Structure 13 and 14 formed a paired 'modular unit', it is difficult to interpret how the other buildings were related. For example, is it possible that all five buildings were contemporary and that Structures 12 and 16 were a second 'paired' household group. Alternatively, Structures 12 and 16 may have replaced 13 and 14, or visa versa. In reality, there are a number of plausible combinations, but unfortunately, there is little evidence on which to make value judgements. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to assume that the buildings represent between one and three contemporary or successive household groups/'modular units', focused on Structures 13, 14 and 16, with Structures 12 and 15 being ancillary buildings.

One of the most distinctive features of the Iron Age settlement is the lack of evidence for structure re-working. Out of the nine eaves-gully defined buildings, only two showed evidence of re-cutting (Structure 13 and 15). In some instances, gully re-cuts can completely remove traces of a former construction phase, although this often results in wide or irregularly shaped eaves-gully profiles, and more commonly, swollen or bulbous terminals. This is clearly not the case with the Rhee Lakeside South buildings, most of which display relatively regular/ 'pristine' gully forms indicative of a single phase of construction. This lack 'long-term investment' in particular buildings/plots is intriguing, and is one of the defining characteristics of this settlement. The issue to address, therefore, is whether or not this lack of building renewal equates to a short-lived occupation.

To answer this question, it must first be established how long the buildings could have been occupied for. Given a building life-expectancy of between 30-50 years, most single-phase structures would have lasted a generation; the 'life' of the building perhaps being linked, both physically and metaphorically with that of its occupants (Bruck 1999). Assuming that Structures 12-16 encompassed between one and three households, occupation of the western settlement swathe may have lasted between 50-150 years (using the upper values for building life), depending on whether the households were contemporary or successive. These figures need not imply that occupation was continuous in this area of the site, only that the *combined* duration of building-use may fall somewhere within this time-bracket.

Structure	Diameter	Gully length	% excavated	Pottery	Bone	Burnt clay	Flint
12	5.9m	c.17.2m	c.29%	15 (102g)	1 (18g)	-	2
13a	10.7m	c.32.2m	c.59%	6 (54g)	57 (117g)	-	5
13b	10.9m	c.19.7m	c.55%	3 (82g)	42 (659g)	-	4
14	9.9m	c.30.7m	c.55%	26 (208g)	36 (170g)	19 (80g)	7
15a	?	?	?	-	-	-	-
15b	c.6.5m	c.9.3m	c.32%*	2 (17g)	-	-	7
16	c.10.6	c.21.5	c.23%*	-	1 (10g)	-	1

Table 9: Finds from the roundhouse eaves gullies in Area C. * Denotes the % of the exposed gully excavated, not the % of the original circumference.

An argument for short-lived occupation is supported by the scarcity of finds from the structures themselves. In terms of the gross quantity of material, it has already been noted how few artefact were recovered from the eaves-gullies, not just in this zone, but across the whole site. To judge the significance of these 'raw' figures, the data has been made comparable by factoring in the different sample sizes for each structure. This was achieved by calculating artefact populations for each eaves-gully, based on the percentage of the circuit excavated. Both the 'raw' counts and estimated artefact totals presented in Table 9 demonstrate just how few finds were recovered from the

eaves-gullies. Even compared to the un-adjusted totals from other excavated Iron Age structures along Colne Fen, these figures are surprisingly low. This suggests that the duration and intensity of occupation was significantly different to that from the surrounding sites.

In addition, none of the structures were directly associated with a dense scatter of pits and postholes. Though the majority of feature in this area could have been contemporary with the roundhouses (perhaps including some of the pits in Pit Group B), the absence of pottery prevented most from being assigned to phase. This in itself is informative, as one would expect quantities of ceramic refuse to be generated and deposited in period of prolonged occupancy. The overall impression, therefore, is not one of intense long-term Iron Age occupation in this zone. If the settlement had lasted around 100-150 years, a much greater density of features would be expected; most of which should contain dark occupation deposits, together with substantial artefact assemblages. These are notably absent, and by contrast, the quantity of material implies that occupation was extremely short-lived.

Taking all the evidence together, it is logical to conclude that Iron Age occupation in Area C was short-lived. Not only were most buildings of single phase construction, but their artefact assemblages were remarkably small. In addition, only a thin scatter small pits and postholes surrounded the buildings, none of which contained artefact-rich deposits. Attempts to bracket the period of settlement are extremely difficult, though one suspects that the occupation lasted for no longer than a few generations, and perhaps significantly less.

Roman

Evidence of Roman activity at Rhee Lakeside South was limited to a series of long narrow boundary ditches extending across Areas C-D and G-H, and two pits in Area C (fig. 23). The features yielded a total of six pottery sherds, dating from throughout the Roman period (See Anderson, this volume).

The corner of a Roman boundary ditch was located across Areas B-D (**F.662/958**). The ditch was traceable for 150.2m and was aligned northwest-southeast, turning northeast-southwest (an axis identical to the ditches in the Bronze Age fieldsystem). The boundary cut Bronze Age fieldsystem ditches **F.1153** and **F.664/952/955**, and also truncated the eaves-gully of Structure 15. Four 1m slots were excavated through the ditch, which was of bowl-shaped profile measuring between 0.48m-0.90m in width and 0.23-0.30m in depth. The fill was characterised by dark grey sandy silts, although alluvium capped the feature in Area A. Five sandy greyware sherds (50g) were recovered from **F.662/958**, dating to the mid 1st-3rd century AD (in addition to a single worked flint). In Area A a parallel ditch was located 3.2m to the east of **F.662/958**. This ditch was of identical size to **F.662/958**, and was presumable contemporary. Neither ditch was traceable into Trench 60 to the north, suggesting that the boundaries extended up to, but not into, the area of Rhee Lake. The other Romano-British ditch located in Area A was **F.845**. This ditch was around 0.60m wide and ran at right angles to **F.663/958**, skirting the line of Bronze Age ditch **F.843** before curving to the southwest and cutting ditch **F.1071**. The ditch filled with dark grey alluvial silts, and may have defined the edge of 'fen-edge' of Rhee Lake. In Areas G and H, two parallel ditches were found to cut Bronze Age boundary **F.528/756** (the easternmost labelled **F.537**). The ditches were aligned north-northwest south-southeast, and were traceable for *c*. 109m. Although no datable finds were recovered from the linears, they were of similar character to **F.662/958** and **F.845**, and are therefore assigned to this phase. The ditches were between 0.35m-0.65m in width, and were spaced between 2.5-2.7m apart.

Figure 23. Romano-British Features

In Area C ditch **F.663/958** was cut by pits **F.965** and **F.966**. The pit measured between 1.25m-2.63m in length, 0.95m-2.20m in width and 0.30m-0.55m in depth; each filed with mixed bands of pale grey silts and redeposited sandy marls, capped with grey alluvial silts. **F.965** - the larger of the two pits - cut **F.966**, and yielded a single fragment of 2nd-4th century AD pottery (17g) and five crumbs of bone (1g).

Post-Medieval

A series of Post-Medieval boundary ditches were found across Areas C and D, and throughout the conveyor belt trench (fig. 24). The ditches - presumably dug for drainage - skirted the edge of present-day trackways on the north side of *The Holme* and the on the western side of the haulage road. None of the ditches were excavated, but were characterised by soft, dark humic fills. In the conveyor belt trench, six of the ditches aligned on a northwest-southeast axis, identical to that of the Bronze Age fieldsystem (the early ditches being distinguished by their pale grey fills). The ditches were spaced between 40-45m apart, and are probably field boundaries/plot divisions. Five rectangular quarry 'test-pits' were also present in the centre of Area C. The pits were of regular form, ranging between 3.0-5.5m in length and 1.6-1.9m in width. The only other post-Medieval feature encountered in the excavations was a large pond straddling Areas D and E. The pond was sampled by a single machine-cut slot.

Figure 24. Post-Medieval Features

ARTEFACT STUDIES

Flint - *Emma Beadsmoore*

A total of 630 (<3775g) flints were recovered from the site, 389 (<2433g) of which are worked and unburnt, whilst 20 (<229g) are worked and burnt and 221 (<1113g) are just burnt.

Evidence for Late Mesolithic/Neolithic activity at the site is provided by the products of systematic flake production/core reduction strategies, comprising predominantly flint working waste and just a few tools. The majority of the material could only be dated broadly to the Neolithic and was recovered in a range of later features at the site; residual flint that was inadvertently incorporated into the later features when they were established. However, a number of flints can be dated more specifically to the Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic and the later Neolithic. The Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic material is the product of flake production/core reduction strategies focused largely on the manufacture of narrow flakes and blades; platforms were maintained and prepared, and cores were rejuvenated when necessary to sustain the use life of the core. The cores were discarded when they were thoroughly worked down, had probably been rejuvenated a number of times and were finally exhausted. Blanks selected for retouch were generally blades and narrow flakes, several are serrated.

Almost half of the Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic material was recovered from later features; from the Middle Bronze Age field system, Late Bronze Age wells, a Middle Iron Age enclosure, Middle Iron Age eaves gullies and a pit within a roundhouse, and from several undated pits, one of which was cut by the Middle Bronze Age field system. Two leaf shaped arrowheads are amongst the earlier Neolithic material.

However, not all of the earlier Neolithic material was residual, two technologically and chronologically coherent small assemblages of material were recovered from two pits, F.759 and F.964. Both assemblages include waste flakes and blades and one or two utilised flakes; material that potentially represents the discard of used tools alongside the manufacturing waste of replacement tools. The technological coherence and quantity of the material from the comparatively small pits suggests that the earlier Neolithic assemblages were likely to be broadly contemporary with the features. Earlier Neolithic pottery was also recovered from the pits. Five tree throws F.663, F.727, F.754, F.769 and F.1151 yielded between one and four flints that share some of the technological characteristics of the earlier Neolithic pit assemblages; the tree throw flints were potentially broadly contemporary with the features they were recovered from.

A group of flints, whilst still the products of systematic flake production/core reduction strategies, display an emphasis on the manufacture of broad, thin flakes struck from discoidal cores; a type of flake production/core reduction that was practised during the Neolithic, but more prevalent in the later Neolithic. These broad, thin, systematically manufactured flakes and exhausted discoidal cores were residual in later features; recovered from the Middle Bronze Age field system, a Late Bronze Age well, a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit and from a Middle Iron Age four-

post structure. However, not all of the material was residual in later features; a coherent assemblage of flint working waste was recovered from pit F.757. The material comprises the products of a restricted group of manufacturing sequences, with potentially one nodule producing the majority of the flints, suggesting that they were broadly contemporary with the pit. The flakes were the products either of bifacial tool manufacture or discoidal core reduction; discoidal core by products are more likely to be later Neolithic, whilst biface manufacturing waste could be earlier or later Neolithic.

The flint from the site also provides evidence for Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity. Three Beaker/Early Bronze Age thumbnail scrapers, two potentially Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sub-circular scrapers, a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age knife, waste flakes and cores were recovered from the Middle Bronze Age field system, a Late Bronze Age well, a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit, a Middle Iron Age enclosure and an undated pit. One possible Early Bronze Age pit F.734 yielded flint that is potentially contemporary, although not clearly chronologically diagnostic.

The remaining flint includes material that, in contrast to the Neolithic flint, was expediently manufactured, the product of unsystematic flake production/core reduction strategies, focused simply on producing flakes regardless of their form or the use life of the cores; the expedient exploitation of flint that was prevalent from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. At the site, these expediently produced flints were recovered from the Middle Bronze Age field system, the Late Bronze Age wells and a Late Bronze Age structure, and were likely to be broadly contemporary with the features. An occasional, expediently manufactured flint was recovered from Middle Iron Age features, providing very limited potential evidence for Iron Age flint use.

Burnt flint was recovered from cremations at the site; F.1114 yielded 123 unworked burnt chunks, whilst 40 were recovered from F.1087. The presence of comparatively large quantities of burnt flint in the deposits suggests that it may have been part of the pyre material, which was then cleared into the features. The remaining flint recovered from the site is chronologically non-diagnostic.

The site yielded flint dating from the Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic through to the Bronze Age and potentially the Iron Age. Two earlier Neolithic assemblages were recovered from and were contemporary with two pits, whilst several tree-throws also yielded potentially contemporary material. A possible Late Neolithic pit yielded a non-residual, technologically coherent assemblage of flint, whilst a potentially Early Bronze Age pit yielded material that is loosely compatible with contemporary assemblages. Bronze Age flint working waste and flake blanks were recovered from the Middle Bronze Age field system and Late Bronze Age wells, whilst limited potential evidence for Iron Age flint use was identified in a few Iron Age features. Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic, Late Neolithic, Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age material was also residual in many of the later features at the site.

Earlier Prehistoric pottery - *Mark Knight*

The Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblage comprised 1313 fragments of pottery which weighed 6806g (MSW of 5.2g). The sherds came from 53 different features and one small finds spot. The bulk of the material (86.8% by number) belonged to a group of truncated urns associated with a substantial Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery. A small amount of diagnostic Neolithic and Early Bronze Age forms were also present making up 8.6% and 4.6% of the total number of sherds respectively. Overall the condition of the material was poor, although occasionally large pieces survived and these included refitting fragments from two small urns as well as large parts of either the lower or upper profiles of vessels from the cemetery. Most of the cemetery sherds had a 'dissolved' appearance and many were little more than pitted surface fragments adhered to dried lumps of soil.

Period	Number	Weight	MSW
Early Neolithic	113 (8.6%)	408g (6%)	3.6g
Early Bronze Age	61 (4.6%)	131g (1.9%)	2.1g
Middle Bronze Age	1139 (86.8%)	6267g (92.1%)	5.5g
Totals	*1313*	*6806g*	

Table 10: Assemblage Breakdown

A total of nine different fabrics were identified and these could be separated into three main types depending on the principal opening material: Shell (either present or as indicated by voids), Grog or Flint. In general these three types of inclusion could be related to period: Flint to early Neolithic, Grog to Early Bronze Age and Shell to Middle Bronze Age.

The truncated character of the cemetery meant that there was a propensity of base angle pieces; a bias illustrating that the majority of the urns had been buried upright (although there were some exceptions). Decoration was rare and limited to either base and rim fragments from Early Bronze Age contexts or to some of the surviving upper sections of the cremation urns. The Neolithic material was plain and, as should be expected, without base angles.

Fabric Series

Fabric 1 – Soft 'corky' with abundant small thin linear VOIDS
Fabric 2 – Medium 'corky' frequent small linear VOIDS and possible small-medium GROG
Fabric 3 – Medium hard (compact) with frequent small VOIDS
Fabric 4 – Very hard SAND-rich fabric with moderate SANDSTONE and QUARTZ inclusions
Fabric 5 – Hard with small-medium GROG
Fabric 6 – Medium with abundant small crushed SHELL
Fabric 7 – Hard with frequent to abundant small-medium burnt FLINT
Fabric 8 – Hard with common small flint and occasional GROG
Fabric 9 – Medium hard (soapy) with frequent small black GROG.

Neolithic

Diagnostic Early Neolithic pieces included both simple and out-turned rims from features F.759, F.952, F.963 and F.1117. The majority of the 113 sherds were small and belonged almost exclusively to plain, thin-walled rounded vessels made of a hard, flint-rich fabric. A few non-flint 'corky' wares were also

F.1142 cut [4845], fill [4844]

F.1143 Ditch, short curving linear feature, excavated in two sections, measuring *c*. 4.5m long, 0.34m wide and 0.14m deep containing a single fill of dark grey silty sand.

F.1143 cut [4848], fills [4846-4847]

F.1144 Pit, measured 1.0m in diameter, 0.36m deep, with an undercut northern side, steep southern edge and concave base. Fills consisted of brownish grey sandy silt, with slumped natural towards the base.

F.1144 cut [4840], fills [4838-4839]

F.1145 Posthole unexcavated. Measured 0.25-0.33m in diameter.

F.1146 Posthole, measured 0.25-0.30m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Posthole displayed vertical sides and flat base. Fill comprised mid grey sandy silt.

F.1146 4850], fills [4849]

F.1147 Posthole unexcavated. Measured 0.40m in diameter. Cut by ditch F.1142.

F.1148 Pit, measured 2.10m in length, 1.80m in width and 0.67m in depth. Pit displayed steep to moderate sides and concave base. Containing seven fills comprising mainly of grey silty sand with alluvial silt lenses and a dark grey organic basal silt. Cut by posthole F.1149 and F.1150

F.1148 cut [4832], fills [4829-4831]; cut [4837], fills [4833-4836]

F.1149 Posthole unexcavated. Measured 0.56m in diameter. Cut pit F.1148

F.1150 Posthole unexcavated. Measured 0.34-0.44m in diameter. Cut pit F.1148

F.1151 Tree-throw. Assigned context [4224]

F. 1152 Pit, oval. Unexcavated. Measured 1.95m in length and 1.65m in width. Cut by ditch F.843

F.1153 Ditch, aligned NE-SW. Unexcavated. Measured 2.m in width.

F.1154/1155 Ditch, aligned NE-SW., measured over 30m in length, 1.50m in width and 0.42m in depth. The ditch displayed steep sides and concave base, filled with two layers of mid grey and orange sandy silts. Contiguous with F.1071

See F.1071 [3652] for descriptions.

Structure descriptions

Rectangular post-built structures

Structure 1

Structure 1 was square-shaped and consisted of four postholes, F.1049-52, measuring between 0.28 and 0.31m in diameter and between 0.17m and 0.27m in depth. The structure was approximately 2.15m x 2.30m, with an internal area of *c*. 4.0m^2. The fills consisted of mid to dark grey sandy silt.

F.1049 cut [4401], fills [4399-4400]; F.1050 [cut 4403], fill [4402]; F.1051 cut [4405], fill [4404]; F.1052 cut [4407], fill [4406].

Structure 2

Located immediately south of Structure 1, Structure 2 was square-shaped and consisted of four postholes, F.1053-55, measuring between 0.34 and 0.40m in diameter and between 0.15m and 0.17m in depth. The structure was approximately 2.35m x 2.35m, with an internal area of *c*. 4.7m^2. The fills consisted primarily of pale to mid grey sandy silt.

present amongst the more obvious Neolithic pieces and although these shared a similar fabric to some of the MBA urns (Fabric 1) they too appeared to belong to simple hemispherical bowl forms. Fragments from F.659 were undoubtedly residual as they shared the same context as a much larger sherd of an Early Bronze Age Food Vessel. By rim count alone a minimum estimation of four vessels has been made.

Early Bronze Age

Early Bronze Age forms were rare as were identifiable EBA fabrics. F.659 contained a large burnt rim fragment from a vase-type Food Vessel decorated with a horizontal line of raised finger-tip impressions below a slightly raised cordon. A narrow diameter base and lower body sherd made with a grog based fabric from [4357] was decorated with fingernail impressions around its foot. The splayed angle of its body suggested that the middle of the vessel was of a much greater diameter than the base indicating a possible bi-conical form (perhaps Collared Urn). A decorated neck fragment from F.956 had a single row of small comma-shaped stabs and may also have come from a Collared Urn. Finally, an incised sherd from F.762 had the same pale buff/pink exterior as the other possible grog dominated EBA pieces.

Middle Bronze Age or Deverel-Rimbury Wares

The cemetery produced 1063 pieces of Deverel-Rimbury pottery with a total weight of 5742g and represented 93.3% of the total number of Middle Bronze Age sherds found on the site (or 91.6% by weight). Of the 36 cremation pits, 14 contained the partial remains of Deverel-Rimbury type urns and two of these contained 'paired' urns making the total number of vessels 16. The majority survived as base and body pieces only and this has been interpreted as an attribute indicative of both the severity of post-depositional truncation as well as clear demonstration that the vessels had been buried in an upright position. Exceptions included a small, near-complete urn (F.676) which was found lying on its side close to the base of the cremation pit, and the upper parts of equally diminutive urn (F.704a) which was found partially inverted inside the base of a much larger upright urn (F.704b). The lower portions of two upright urns were located side by side within F.812 whereas only crumbs were present within F.670 and body fragments in F856. The fragments were predominantly made of a 'corky' fabric (Fabric types 1, 2, and 3) characterised by small to medium sized platelet-shaped voids, although a singular urn (F.652) was made of a much harder fabric made distinctive by its sand and grit opening materials.

As stated above, the level of truncation removed the upper portions of most of the vessels, coincidently the very parts of Deverel-Rimbury urns most frequently decorated or embellished. Decoration did survive, however, on the near complete 'miniature' urn from F.676 in the form of a single horizontal row of small 'V'-shaped impressions situated just below the rim. At first sight, the impressions looked like small paired-fingernail impressions although it seems that they were actually made with the distal end of a bird or small mammal bone. Its rim form was characteristically flattened and comparable with the surviving rim fragments from the other small urn in F.704. The only other rim fragment was also of the flattened variety, and this came from a large diameter vessel located within F.729. Overall, and including the two small vessels, the cemetery was made up of a group of slab-sided barrel/bucket-shaped forms with proportionately large diameter bases (as compared with of urn types such as Collared Urns or Food Vessels etc.).

Although truncated and fragmentary, diameters were recorded for 14 of the 16 vessels and these comprised two main groups: Small Urns with diameters of between 10-15cm and Large Urns with diameters of 20-30cm. The division between large and small was further emphasised by the fact that both of the small vessels (F.676 and F.704a) were burnt, inverted and located within the cremation matrix (calcined bone/pyre material), whereas the majority of the larger vessels were un-burnt, upright and recorded as containing the 'main' cremation matrix.

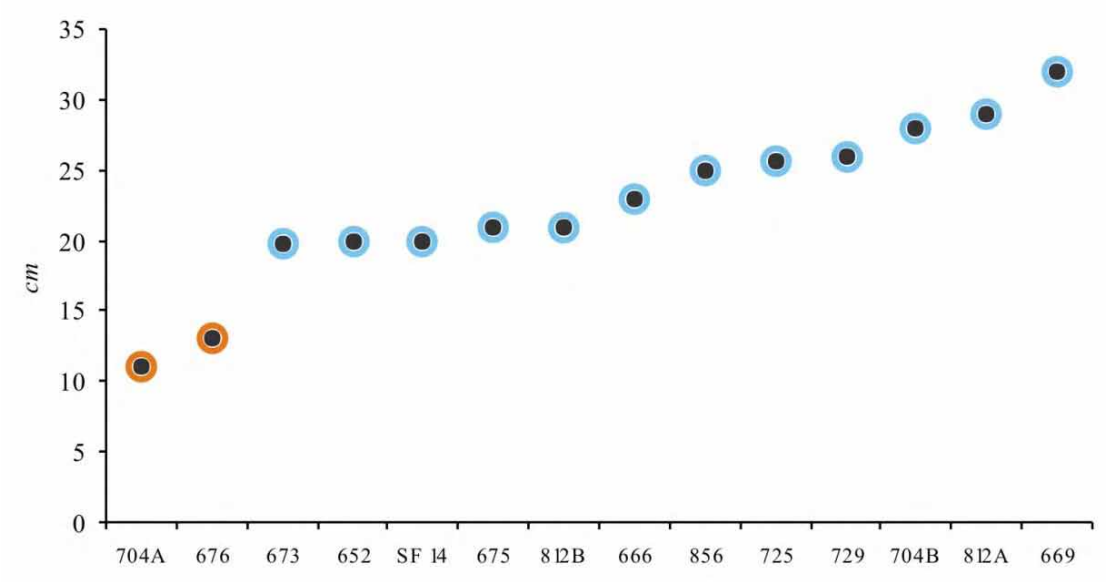


Chart 1: Diameter range of vessels (burnt vessels red; un-burnt vessels blue).

This pattern was best illustrated in cremation pit F.704 which contained a large un-burnt urn (F.704b), which in turn held a small, burnt urn (F.704a) along with the calcined bone and pyre material. On this site the small versus large urn distinction would appear to represent the difference between vessels which accompanied the body onto the pyre as 'pyre-goods' (hence their burnt appearance) and cinerary vessels which were used to collect the body after it had been burnt.

Perhaps the most important link between the smaller vessels and the original pyre context came via a single burnt rim fragment found in cremation pit F.724 which refitted with the remains of the burnt urn located in the adjacent cremation pit F.676. It would appear that such a refit could only have occurred if the two cremations had shared the same pyre. Such a definition does not mean that the two cremations were necessarily contemporary as the actual pyre may have been a persistent and therefore focal feature common to all of the cremations within this cemetery.

A few non-cemetery related Deverel-Rimbury wares were also identified and these included body fragments from an isolated cremation in F.1104 and rim (flattened type) and large body slabs from pit F.957. The remaining contexts F.620, F.656, F.664, F.746, F.783, F.823, F.867, F.868, F.895, F.916, F.992, F.996, F.1025 and F.1029 contained mostly small fragments or crumbs. The aforementioned similarity between the Neolithic 'corky' wares and the recognised MBA fabrics (identified via diagnostic feature sherds i.e. base fragments etc. and by context i.e. cemetery) means that some of the plain sherds from these contexts may actually be Neolithic although the absence of accompanying and exclusively Neolithic fabric sherds would appear to preclude this possibility.

The number of urned cremations represents close to 40% of the total number of cremations and as a percentage compares well with other fully excavated Deverel-Rimbury cemeteries in the East Midlands region (see Table 11 and Chart 2). As yet, it would seem that no one has been able to establish a direct link between urns and a particular age group or sex, although analysis of the capacity of urns from the partially excavated cemeteries at Coneygre Farm, Nottinghamshire, and Pasture Lodge, Lincolnshire, has been used to demonstrate a relationship between body size and urns size as children were found in small urns whilst adults were found in larger urns (Allen *et al.* 1987).

Cemetery Site	No. of Cremations	No. in Urns	% in urns
Rhee Lakeside South, Earith	36	14	38.8
Butcher's Rise, Needingworth (Evans & Knight 1998)	31	12	38.7
King's Hill, Broom (Mortimer 1999)	42	14	33.3
Eye Kettleby, Melton Molbray (Finn 1998)	80	30	37.5

Table 11: Cemetery breakdown.

At Butcher's Rise, Needingworth (Evans & Knight 1998) there was good evidence to suggest that the urns had had a 'use-life' prior to being utilised as containers for ashes. Whilst further afield at Itford Hill in Sussex, sherds from the same vessel had been found both in a cemetery and settlement context (Ellison 1972), again indicating a pre-cemetery history for these urns. The utilisation of Deverel-Rimbury urns as cinerary vessels had a twofold effect: 1) the removal of pots from settlement contexts (hence the disparity between sherds found in cemetery and non-cemetery contexts); and 2) the fossilization of complete and near complete forms (i.e. lack of fragmentation and degradation through extended use and disposal).

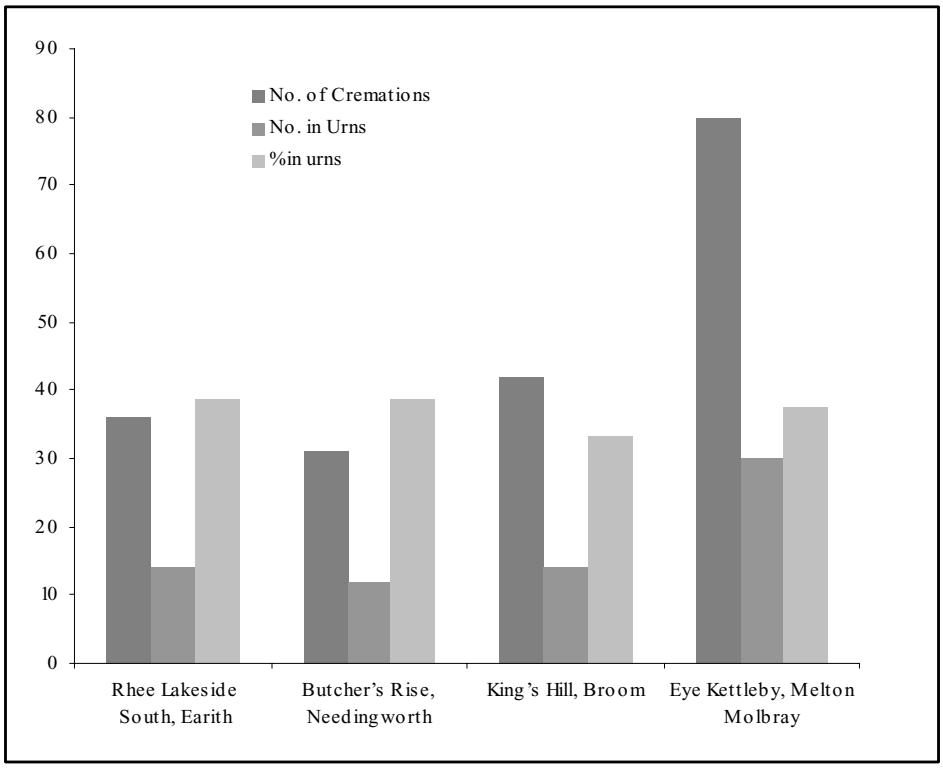


Chart 2: Percentage of urned-cremations within four major MBA cremation cemeteries

The Later Prehistoric Pottery - *Matthew Brudenell*

Late Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age pottery

The excavation yielded 742 sherds (11538g) of Late Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age pottery. The material was recovered from 39 different features, and was in good condition with a high overall mean sherd weight of 15.5g. The assemblage was dominated by small to medium sized sherds with 93% of material falling within this category (46.4% small, 46.6% medium, 7.0% large). All sherds weighing under 1g were excluded from the analysis.

Fabrics and forms

Fabric 1-Hard with occasional to frequent small-medium VOIDS and FLINT and moderate-common GROG
Fabric 2-Medium hard small-large VOIDS and some surviving SHELL
Fabric 3-Hard with frequent small-large angular FLINT and occasional-common GROG
Fabric 4-Compact with common SAND
Fabric 5-Compact with occasional small-medium VOIDS and rare-moderate FLINT
Fabric 6-Medium-hard with abundant small-medium SHELL
Fabric 7-Very hard with common FLINT and occasional SHELL
Fabric 8-Hard with common SAND and rare SHELL
Fabric 9-Hard abundant SAND and occasional GROG
Fabric 10-Moderate compact with common small linear VOIDS and rare SAND
Fabric 11-Compact with common small-medium GROG
Fabric 12-Medium hard with frequent small-large FLINT
Fabric 13-Medium hard with frequent small, medium and large GROG and rare-moderate FLINT
Fabric 14-Very hard with abundant SAND and moderate medium FLINT
Fabric 15-Compact with abundant mixed GROG and rare SAND
Fabric 16- Medium hard with common linear voids from burnt-out VEGETAL matter and rare SAND
Fabric 17-Medium hard with moderate-common small-medium VOIDS, moderate small-medium GROG and rare-moderate SAND

Fabric	No. sherds	Weight (g)	% assemblage by weight	No. burnished	Weight (g)	% of fabric burnished
1	22	555	4.8	-	-	-
2	156	1333	11.6	4	9	0.7
3	61	1337	11.6	-	-	-
4	13	121	1.0	1	5	4.1
5	10	201	1.7	1	26	12.9
6	53	694	6.0	1	12	1.7
7	2	34	0.3	-	-	-
8	19	204	1.8	2	55	27
9	3	34	0.3	-	-	-
10	97	1078	9.3	34	544	50.5
11	2	30	0.3	-	-	-
12	142	3175	27.5	6	157	4.9
13	3	84	0.7	-	-	-
14	13	229	2.0	2	76	33.2
15	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	40	411	3.6	-	-	-
17	104	1951	16.9	-	-	-
?	2	67	0.6	-	-	-
TOTAL	742	11538		51	884	

Table 12: Fabric breakdown

The sherds in the assemblage were in good condition, though the calcareous inclusion had been leached out. The shape of the remaining voids suggests most sherds were tempered with shell, probably deriving from local Ampthill and Kimmeridge Clay beds. In general, a wide range of clay mixtures were used to make the ceramics. No one fabric group dominated the assemblage, though fabrics 2, 3, 12 and 17 were the most prolific, suggesting that grog and burnt-flint were the preferred inclusions. Interestingly, shell and burnt-flint are common inclusions in the Late Bronze Age pottery from Cambridgeshire (shelly wares being characteristic of fen-edge sites), whilst grog-fabrics normally form only a minor component of assemblages. The relatively high number of grog tempered sherds from both Rhee Lakeside South and *The Holme* is therefore notable, suggesting a local preference for this temper.

Based on the total number of different rims and bases, the assemblage represents a minimum of 87 vessels, with a rim EVE of 3.9 (62 different rims, 29 different bases-four of which are connected because they form complete profiles). In total, 32 vessels were sufficiently intact to allow ascription to form, included 111 sherds (2612g), representing 16% of the assemblage by sherd count or 23% by weight. Coarseware jars (Class I) dominated, notably straight-sided and convex-walled jars, and jars with high rounded shoulders. Fineware vessels were limited to a small number of jars (Class II) and open bowls (Class IV), whilst cups were absent.

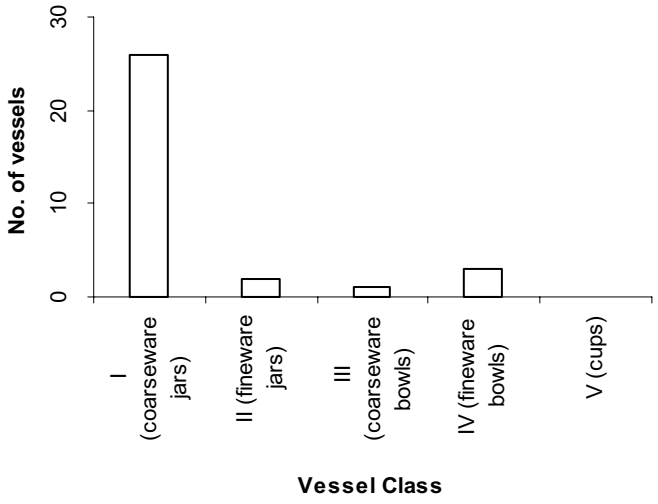


Chart 3: Form assigned vessels expressed as Barrett's (1980) five vessel classes.

Simple straight-sided or convex-walled jars with no neck and everted, internally-bevelled, in-turned or hooked rims (Forms 10, 10a and 13) - Typologically, straight-sided or convex-walled vessels tend to be feature of early Post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) ceramic assemblages, probably dating around the 11th-10th century BC. The shape of these vessels - particularly Forms 10a and 13 - recall the bucket/barrel shaped urns of the Middle Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury tradition. At Rhee Lakeside South, just under half (47%) of all form assigned vessels fall into this group, though intriguingly, the vessels were recovered from just four different features. All the Form 10a vessels were retrieved from well/pit F.872, as were four of the five Form 13 vessels, and a single Form 10 vessel. The remaining Form 13 vessel was recovered from pit F.918 along with a second Form 10 vessel (with pit F.750 and F.606 yielding the final two Form 10 vessels). The vessels were made in Fabrics 3, 12, with a single Form 10 vessel in Fabric 13. Very few of the rims of theses vessels could be measured, though most appear to derive from relatively large wide-mouthed jars. Only the four of the smaller vessels were measurable, with diameters ranging from 13-24cm.

Fabric/ Form		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	TOTAL
Cups	**1**																		
Bowls	**2**																		
	3																		
	4																		
	5																		
	6				1				1										*2*
	7									1									*1*
	8																		
	9																	1	*1*
Jars	**10**			1									2	1					*4*
	10a			3									3						*6*
	11		1				1											1	*3*
	12		1			1					1						1	1	*5*
	13			1									4						*5*
	14																		
	15																	2	*2*
	16																	3	*3*
TOTAL			*2*	*5*	*1*	*1*	*1*		*1*	*1*	*1*		*9*	*1*			*1*	*8*	**32**

Table 13: Frequency of LBA/EIA forms and their relationship to fabrics.

High round-shouldered jars with near up-right, concave, or inward sloping necks (Forms 11 and 12) - High round-shouldered jars are found throughout the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. At Rhee Lakeside South they account for a quarter of all form assigned vessels, and were found exclusively in the cluster of pits surrounding Structure 7 (F.602, F.606, F.613, F.615 and F.637). The vessels were made from a range of fabrics, including Fabrics 2, 5, 6, 10, 16 and 17. Interestingly, none of these were fabrics used for Form 10, 10a or 13 vessels. Half of the vessels had measurable rims, with diameters ranging from 17-29cm.

Slack shoulder and bi-conical/bipartite jars (Forms 15 and 16) - Forms 15 and 16 have a similar currency to Forms 11 and 12. Five examples were recovered from Rhee Lakeside South, all from the cluster of pit surrounding Structure 7 (F.602, F.613 and F.615). The vessels included a complete jar from F.613, which was 10.5cm high with a rim diameter of 11cm and base diameter of 7cm. All slack-shouldered and bi-conical/bipartite vessels were found exclusively in Fabric 17. Only three rims were measurable, all from vessels with small rim diameters ranging from 11-15cm.

Bowls (Forms 6, 7 and 9) - Only four bowls were present in the assemblage; two in Form 6, with single examples in Form 7 and 9. All derived from the cluster of pits around Structure 7 (F.602, F.613 and F.648). Round bodied bowls of Form 9 are a common feature of Plainware PDR assemblages (1100-800 BC), but continue to be made throughout the Early Iron Age in Eastern England. The Form 6 bowl from F.648 also displayed a rounded body, but possessed a flaring rim. It is debatable whether the Form 7 vessel from F.613 should be classified as a deep bowl or squat jar. The vessel was broken into 13 pieces, with only part of the rim missing. It displayed a sinuous S-shaped profile with rounded-shoulder and hollowed-neck with slightly everted-rim. The vessel stood at 13cm high, with a rim diameter of 14cm (30% complete), and a base diameter of 8cm. Bowls were found in Fabrics 4, 8, 9 and 17, and all had measurable rims ranging from 14-17cm in diameter.

Surface treatment and decoration

Very few sherds in the assemblage showed signs of surface treatment. Only 57 sherds (965g) were classified as burnished, and even these are more appropriately termed ‘carefully smoothed’. This represents 7.7% of the assemblage by sherd count or 8.5%

by weight. However, just under half of this material (13 sherds, 413g) derived from the Form 7 bowl from F.613. In general, burnished/smoothed sherds had a MSW above average (MSW 16.9g), with 24% of sherds falling into the large size category (43.1% small, 33.3% medium). The significance of this is difficult to interpret. Whilst the percentage of small sherds is consistent with the assemblage average (see above), the greater proportion of larger sherds probably reflects the skewing of the data by the deposition of the near complete Form 7 vessel.

Decoration was rare in the assemblage, with only 40 sherds (807g) decorated (5.6%) from a maximum of 22 different vessels (Table). 13% of the vessel rims were decorated, either by finger-tip or finger-nail impressions or by diagonal slashing (8 from 62).

Type of decoration	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MNV
Rim-top finger-nail	6	199	2
Rim-top finger-tip	7	162	3
Rim-top slashed	1	12	1
Interior rim-edge finger-tip	4	57	1
Rim-top finger-tip & shoulder finger tip	3	79	1
Perforated neck	6	71	5
Neck cordon	1	24	1
Finger-tip on shoulder	9	175	5
Finger-tip	3	28	3
TOTAL	**40**	**807**	**22**

Table 14: Type and frequency of decoration

Distribution and deposition

Around 96% of the LBA pottery derived from pits and well features, with only small from post-holes, ditches, other contexts.

	Pits	Wells/pits	Post-holes	Ditches	Other
No. sherds	520	181	23	5	13
Weight (g)	6760	4299	228	109	142
MSW	13.0	23.8	9.9	21.8	10.9
% (by weight)	58.6	37.3	2.0	0.9	1.2

Table 15: Pottery characteristics from major feature groups.

Seventeen pits yielded pottery (F.650, F.655, F.742, F.759, F.773, F.1028 and the 11 listed in Table 16), and four wells (F.872, F.876, F.893 and F.986). Over half of the pottery was recovered from a series of 11 pits in Pit Group A. Four of these pits (F.602, F.605, F.612 and F.615) yielded over 500g of pottery, with substantial dumps of material deriving from F.602 and F.613. Charred seed remains from these pits gave AMS radiocarbon dates between 400-200 BC (2 Sigma), suggesting that the pottery was deposited during at the very end of the Early Iron Age/ beginning of the Middle Iron Age. These large deposits contained sherds from numerous different vessels in varying states of fragmentation. The individual pit assemblages were composed of small and medium sized sherds mixed amongst the occasional larger piece (never more than 10%). Deposits of this nature are fairly typical, and sherds with diverse post-breakage histories appear to characterise LBA/EIA pit-based pottery assemblages from across the region, with strong parallels at Longstanton, Cambridge and Broom, Bedfordshire (Brudenell 2005, 2006, forthcoming; Brudenell and Cooper forthcoming). These pottery groups probably derive from pre-pit contexts such as surface rubbish heaps, where the mixing of ceramic material could occur prior to deposition. The argument for a common pre-pit source for the pottery is suggested by a refitting sherd between F.602 and F.615 (some 6m apart), and by non-

adjoining fragments from a distinctive vessel across pits F.602, F.606, F.613 and F.615 (maximum distance 15m apart).

Refitting sherds were found within the larger pit-based deposits, especially in F.613, where 23% of sherds rejoined. This pit also contained a complete Form 16 coarseware jar and a crushed but near complete deep Form 7 fineware bowl (see above). Theses appear to have been carefully placed in the pit, with other fragmented ceramic debris dumped around them. Complete or near complete later prehistoric pots are rarely found, and the placement of two such vessels in F.613 probably represents an act of formal deposition. The involvement of other 'generalized' ceramic refuse in this event is of interest, and highlights the ways that even 'mundane' refuse could be drawn upon and used in act of formal deposition.

Feature	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MNV	No. refits	MSW	% Small (<4cm)	% Medium (<8cm)	% Large (>8cm)
601	5	95	1	-	19	20	80	-
602	154	1940	13	18	12.6	50	44	6
605	31	599	4	4	19.3	29	65	6
606	26	380	4	3	14.6	31	65	4
612	11	54	-	-	4.9	91	9	-
613	145	2224	16	33	15.3	50	41	10
615	67	771	10	3	11.5	57	42	1
635	1	39	-	-	39.0	-	100	-
637	16	180	2	-	11.25	63	31	6
648	8	77	1	4	9.6	50	50	-
649	10	47	1	-	4.7	80	20	-

Table 16: Quantification of pottery from pits in Pit Group A

Almost all the pottery from the wells derived from the capping fills of F.872. These yielded 164 sherds of pottery (4151g) with a MSW of 25.3g. The assemblage forms an important group of early PDR ceramics, comprising fragments from a minimum of 29 different vessels with a associated AMS radiocarbon date of 1130-920 BC (2 Sigma). Where forms could be established, these consisted of straight-sided and convex-walled jars with slightly-everted, upright, in-turned or hooked rims (Forms 10, 10a and 13). Three of the 19 different rims displayed finger-tip, finger-nail and slashed decoration, whilst a further four had perforations along the neck. A large part of the assemblage was composed of freshly broken pottery, the majority of sherds being of medium size (59%), with 13% falling into the large size category. 15% of the sherds also refitted.

Only eight postholes on the site yielded pottery (F.603, F.607, F.643, F.797, F.892, F.918, F.928 and F.1017). The postholes contained between one and four sherds, except F.918 which yielded 10 fragments (82g), including sherds from two different vessels. Only two of the postholes were related to structures; F.603 and F.607 forming part of Structure 7. A small amount of pottery derived from the upper fills of ditches F.949, F.1059 and F.1075. The remaining sherds were recovered during cleaning around Structure 7, though a single residual sherd was recovered from Structure 14 and an intrusive sherd recovered from the surface of cremation pit F.1138.

To date, this is by far the largest group of Late Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age ceramics recovered from the Colne Fen excavations. The assemblage includes two regionally significant groups of pottery, both of which have radiocarbon dates. The first group comprises the dump of typologically 'early' Late Bronze Age ceramics from the capping of well F.872; whilst the second is formed by the collection of late Early Iron Age/ early Middle Iron Age pottery from Pit Group A. When combined with pottery from *The Holme* excavations, particularly the Early Iron Age assemblage from well F.455 (radiocarbon dated 800-410 BC; 2 Sigma), these investigations have provided a much needed sequence of individually dated ceramics groups covering the whole of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age.

The 'early' pottery from F.872 included a narrow range of coarsely gritted straight-sided and convex-walled jars with either everted, direct, internally-bevelled or in-turned/hooked-rims (Forms 10, 10a and 13, mainly in Fabrics 3 and 12). A small number of vessel had rim-top decoration and perforated necks. The shapes of these vessels recall the bucket and barrel urns of the Middle Bronze Age, and are considered transitional between ceramics of the Deverel Rimbury and Post-Deverel Rimbury tradition. This would suggest a date bracket at the very end of the 2nd millennium/beginning on the 1st millennium BC, perhaps sometime during the 11th or 10th century BC; a range also suggested by the AMS radiocarbon date. At present there are few comparative published assemblages from the region. However, 'early'/transitional PDR forms have been recovered from sites such as Billingborough, Lincolnshire (Cleal 2001), Mam Tor, Derbyshire (Barrett 1979) and Watton Road, Norfolk (Percival 2000). Further a field, larger assemblages have been recovered from Green Park (Morris 2004) and Aldermaston Wharf (Bradley *et al.* 1980).

The pottery from pits in Pit Group A comprised a much broader range of vessel forms, including a variety of shouldered jars and bowls. This reflects the increasing diversification of the ceramic repertoire during first half of the 1st millennium BC, which sees the emergence of new functionally-related 'categories' of vessels (Barrett's 1980 vessel classes I-IV). The changes in form were coupled with a reduction in the use of coarsely gritted flint and grog tempered fabrics and an increasing emphasis on shell and grog (Fabrics 2, 10 and 17). Typologically, the ceramics from the pits appeared similar to the Late Bronze Age pottery recovered from *The Holme* (Evans & Patten 2003), making the 'late' radiocarbon dates somewhat surprising. On the other hand, the dating helps to demonstrate the conservative nature of the regions ceramics traditions, in addition to highlighting the problems of distinguishing between 'plain' Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery assemblages on the basis of current typo-chronological schemes (Brudenell forthcoming).

Given the two AMS radiocarbon dates from F.602 and F.613, there can be little doubt that the Pit Group A assemblage spans the 5th-3rd century BC; a period straddling the end of the Early Iron Age/ beginning of the Middle Iron Age. Pottery of this period is poorly represented from the Colne excavations, possibly due to the difficulties in identification outlined above. There are therefore few good local parallels for the assemblage, although the material is broadly similar to some of the plain pottery from Bradley Fen, Peterborough Prison, and some of the putatively late material in the Wyman Abbott Collection from Fenagte.

Middle Iron Age pottery

A total of 522 sherds (8164g) of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from 56 features. The condition of the material was average-good, with a relatively high mean sherd weight of 15.6g. However, as with other Colne Fen sites, the pottery has suffered from iron panning and the leaching out of calcareous inclusions. The assemblage was dominated by small to medium sized sherds with 94% of the material falling within this category (56.3% small, 37.2% medium and 6.6% large)

Fabrics and forms

Fabric 1- Common medium-coarse poorly sorted plate-like SHELL.
Fabric 2- Common-abundant coarse-very coarse poorly sorted plate-like SHELL. Med. Hard
Fabric 3- Sparse SAND, rare-sparse un-burnt FLINT and sparse SHELL
Fabric 4-Moderate SAND and moderate medium SHELL
Fabric 5- Moderate-common medium-coarse voids from SHELL, soapy feel
Fabric 6- Moderate-common SAND, moderate medium voids from SHELL, rare medium GROG
Fabric 7- Moderate-common finely crushed SHELL and moderate SAND
Fabric 8- Sparse fine SAND and moderate VEGETAL matter
Fabric 9- Sparse-moderate coarse-very coarse (thick) SHELL, sparse SAND and VOIDS, very rare FLINT
Fabric 10- Sparse-moderate medium calcareous inclusions, probably LIMESTONE
Fabric 11- Sparse-moderate medium SHELL
Fabric12- Moderate finely crushed SHELL, moderate medium VOIDS and sparse SAND.
Fabric 13- Moderate SAND, no other obvious inclusions
Fabric 14- Small sherds with flint and grog inclusion. Probably residual.

Fabric	No./Wt (g)	% assemblage by weight	No/Wt (g) Scored	No/Wt (g) burnished	% of fabric Scored	% of fabric burnished
1	65/766	9.4	14/147	6/50	19.2	6.5
2	55/2389	29.3	25/1651	1/10	69.1	0.4
3	13/207	2.5	3/86	1/6	41.5	2.9
4	33/445	5.5	4/47	9/237	10.6	52.1
5	8/52	0.6	1/5	-	9.6	-
6	106/1215	14.9	13/180	8/220	14.8	18.1
7	47/893	10.9	4/134	9/207	15.0	23.2
8	31/433	5.3	4/39	3/45	9.0	10.4
9	20/423	5.2	-	-	-	-
10	29/545	6.7	14/420	-	77.1	-
11	45/361	4.4	7/52	-	14.4	-
12	34/250	3.1	2/8	-	3.2	-
13	26/130	1.6	1/4	-	3.1	-
14	10/55	0.7	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	522/8164	100.1	92/2773	37/775		

Table 17: Fabrics and their relationship to Scoring and burnishing

The assemblage was dominated by shell and sand tempered fabrics, typical of those found in other Middle/Later Iron Age assemblages from Colne Fen. By weight, 43.7% of sherds had shell inclusions, 40.6% contained a mixture of shell and sand, and 8.4% contained sand, whilst the remaining 7.4% had a mixture of other dominant inclusions. The high proportion of shelly wares is likely to reflect use of the local Ampthill and Kimmeridge Clays, with sandy wares possibly deriving from alluvial fenland clays (Hill & Horne 2003, 170-1). Based on the total number of different rims and bases, the assemblage represents a minimum of 68 vessels (55 rims, 13 bases). Of the rims, 39 could be assigned to form, comprising 101 sherds (2577g). This represents 19% of the assemblage by sherd count or 32% by weight, with a MSW of 25.5g.

Form	No. of vessels	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	EVE	No. of vessels burnished	No. vessels scored	No. with rim decoration
A	16	57	1517	1.67	-	4	5
B/C	3	6	83	0.30	-	-	1
D	1	3	120	0.33	-	-	-
E	1	2	242	0.12	-	1	1
F/G	1	4	92	<0.1	-		-
K	7	19	352	0.61	1	3	2
L	6	6	77	0.09	1	1	-
M	1	1	20	0.07	-	1	1
P	3	3	74	0.28	-	-	1
Totals	39	101	2577	3.47	2	10	11

Table 18: Frequency of form assigned vessels (Categories using the typology of Hill & Horne 2003)

Slack-shouldered vessels (Types A, E, D) - Slack-shouldered vessel with either ovoid or ellipsoid bodies dominated the assemblage, accounting for 41% of assignable forms (61.1 EVE%). The prevalence of this form is common in Middle Iron Age assemblages from Eastern England. Rim diameters of 12 of the vessels could be measured, ranging from 11-33cm. Only five vessels had mouth diameters larger 13cm, with just one over 23cm. Around a third of the vessels were scored, whilst a third had rim-top decoration. None of the vessels were burnished.

Constricted-necked vessels (Types B and C) - Constricted-necked vessels, who rim diameter was significantly smaller than the maximum girth, accounted for 8% of the assemblage (8.6 EVE%). This figure is similar to that obtained at Wardy Hill (Hill and Horne 2003: 176), and Greetham (Brudenell 2006). Two rims were measurable, and were 12cm and 14cm in diameter. None of the vessels were burnished or scored, whilst only one had rim-top decoration.

Round-shouldered open vessels (Types F and G) - Vessels of sinuous, S-shaped form were rare with only a single example occurring (2.8% of assignable forms. The rim of this vessel was not measurable, and represents under 0.01 of an EVE.

Open, globular, necklace vessels (Types L and M) - Open neckless vessels with either rounded, globular or ovoid bodied account for 18% of form assigned vessels (4.6 EVE%). Only two rims were measurable; one 11cm in diameter, the other 17cm. Two of the vessels were scored, one of which also had slashing on the rim-top. A single vessel was also burnished.

Straight-sided or barreled tubs (Types K and P) - Straight sided or barrel shaped vessel constituted the second largest group of ceramics after the slack-shouldered forms. They account for a quarter of vessels assignable to form (25.6 EVE%). A third of the vessels were scored and a third had rim top decoration; frequencies identical to the slack-shouldered vessel category. Seven of the vessels had measurable rims, with mouth diameters ranging from 7-16cm. Three of these vessel had diameters of 16cm, whilst the rest were between 7-13cm

Surface treatment and decoration

In total, 37 sherds (775g) in the assemblage were burnished, accounting for 7.1% of the assemblage or 9.5% by weight. This broadly matches figures from Haddenham V (Hill & Braddock 2006), Wardy Hill (Hill & Horne 2003, 178) and Colne Fen Site I (Webley forthcoming). Measurable burnished rim sherds were rare, with only three examples. These had diameters ranging from 13-17cm. Over 50% of burnished sherds were of medium size (31.6% small, 13.2% large). This figure is perhaps greater than expected, given the general dominance of small sherds in the assemblage. However, it may be explained by the fact that small abraded sherds had lost their smoothed surface or that the burnishing was more difficult to identify.

92 sherds (2773g) in the assemblage were scored, equating to 17.6% by sherd count or 34.0% by weight. The disparity between the two percentages highlights the fact that scored sherds were sufficiently larger, thicker and heavier than the plain wares. Scored sherds had a MSW twice that of the Site average (31.2g), with 15% of sherds being classified as large. In other words, half of all the largest category sherds in the assemblage were scored. Scoring was generally found on the shelly fabrics, particular on sherds in Fabric 2, 3 and 10.

Fourteen of the 53 different rims in the assemblage displayed rim-top decoration (26.4%), comparing well to figures from Haddenham V (Hill & Braddock 2006), but notably high than that from the adjacent Colne Fen sites (which at their highest on Site 1 equate to between 15-20%, depending on whether unclassified rims or wheel turned rims are included - Webley forthcoming). Five of the decorated rims were also scored, whilst a total of seven were measurable, ranging from 12-33cm in diameter.

Distribution and deposition

The vast majority of pottery was recovered from ditches. Other features yielded relatively small groups of ceramics, the low figures from the eaves-gullies being somewhat surprising.

	Ditches	Eaves-gullies	Pits	Postholes
No. sherds	194	54	254	11
Weight (g)	3736	549	3607	86
MSW	19.3	10.2	14.2	7.8
% (by weight)	46.8	6.9	45.2	1.1

Table 19: Pottery characteristics from major feature groups. Figures do not include residual material.

The majority of the pottery was recovered from ditches, in particular those associated with Compound A (Table). Around a half to two-thirds of sherds from the enclosures were of small size. Compound C had a slightly higher percentage of medium sized sherds that Compound A and B, but these figures are probably skewed due to the much smaller sample size.

	Feature no.	No. sherds	Weight (g)	MSW	No./ weight Scored	% small	% medium	% large
Compound A	614, 806	51	580	11.4	14/204	64.7	27.5	7.8
Compound B	689, 691, 694, 697-700, 702, 711-715, 718, 818-819, 821, 823, 826-827, 829, 831-2, 841-8422, 911	329	5678	17.3	39/1969	56.5	36.5	7.0
Compound C	1044, 1048, 1074, 1073	12	166	13.8	3/60	41.6	58.3	-
Structure 11	979	2	17	8.5	-	50.0	50.0	-
Structure 12	1066	15	102	6.8	8/86	66.6	33.3	-
Structure 13	1129, 1130-1131, 1133, 1136, 1140	26	398	15.3	7/71	42.3	50.0	7.7
Structure 14	963, 1070	27	241	8.9	1/3	70.4	25.9	3.7
Structure 19	733	1	4	4.0	-	100	-	-

Table 20: Detailed breakdown of pottery groups from the compound enclosures and structures

Only four of the eight eaves-gullies excavated contained ceramics, and these yielded very little pottery. Even where the gullies were intensively sampled - as with Structure 13 and 14 - the total quantity of pottery was extremely low. This has prevented the identification of possible functional differences between the structures in terms of their ceramic composition. In general, the majority of sherds from the eaves-gullies were small, most with a MSW well below those from the compound enclosures. Structure 13 was the only anomaly, containing more medium sized sherds and displaying the highest MSW (the only one to exceed 10g). In all cases, it was the area around the structure's entrance which yielded the most pottery, a pattern common to roundhouses from across Southern Britain. Overall, the paucity of pottery from the eaves-gullies indicates that both the structures and the areas immediately surrounding them were kept relatively clean. For the most part, the incorporation of ceramic material was probably incidental, with small sherds occasionally being washed into gullies or swept there.

The pits outside of Compound A also yielded very small quantities of pottery; with only one of the 12 features producing more than 10 sherds (pits yielding pottery included F.835, F.851, F.890, F.903, F.953, F.969, F.1061, F.1070, F.1072, F.1108, F.1129, and F.1140). The general characteristics of individual pottery groups varied considerably between pits, with the weight of deposits ranging from 7-427g, and MSWs ranging from 5.9-24.5g. However, on average the MSW and sherd sizes were much higher than from other types of context, with only 41.4% of sherds falling into the smallest size range (50.0% medium, 8.6% large). This suggest that when ceramic material was deposited in the pits (which was probably infrequently), the deposits commonly comprised a small number of sherds which were larger and possibly more 'freshly' broken than those deriving from the compounds, eaves gullies and postholes.

The pit deposits from F.851 and F.1140 are worthy of further discussion. Pit F.1140 yielded just five sherds of pottery (125g). However, two re-joining sherds belonged to the base and lower wall of a burnished globular La Tène decorated bowl, displaying an incised pendant loop and punched-dot motif. Given the infrequency of these sherds on Middle/Later Iron Age sites, together with their stylistic links to metalwork, it has been suggested that La Tène decorated vessels had specific uses and may have been highly valued (Hill & Horne 2003: 80). Certainly, theses vessels would have stood out against the 'everyday' slack-shouldered jars which dominate Middle/Later Iron Age assemblages. The fact that these decorated sherds were deposited in a pit also containing a perforated rib, may suggest that these 'rare/ unusual' objects were singled out for distinctive treatment when broken. Given the pits relationship to the eaves-gully terminal of Structure 13, it is possible that these objects formed part of a closure deposit, made when the roundhouse was abandoned/ went out of use.

The other assemblage to stand out was that from pit F.851, context [3679]. This yielded the largest group of pottery from a pit outside of Compound A, with 24 sherds (427g) with a MSW of 17.8g. Although the sherds were in varying states of fragmentation, 58% of were medium sized; 8% large, and only 33% small; the deposits containing fragments of at least four different vessels, including two Type A jars, and fragments of a Type L and M vessel. Together, the deposit represents a relatively large dump of freshly broken pottery from a range of different vessels. The character of this pottery group was different to all the other contemporary groups recovered from the site. Not only was the pottery dump large, but it contained a high proportion of medium-large sherds from a range of vessels. Whether or not this resulted from a formal act of deposition is difficult to ascertain, though it certainly represents a different *kind* of pottery dump/depositional event, and may have been made outside of practices which typified day-to-day refuse management. This is not to say that other smaller groups of pottery were never deposited in a formalised manner, but that our ability to recognise such events is severely restricted because they infrequently standout against the backdrop of equally small pottery groups which arose through 'mundane' practice.

The smallest group of pottery derived from the postholes (F.723, F.888, F.1094, F.1100, F.1136). Only F.1094 contained more than two sherds (seven sherds, 53g); the feature belonged to four-post Structure 11. The posthole contained refitting fragments of a Type A Scored ware vessel with finger-nail impressions along the rim-top. The sherds may have been used as post-packing. With the exception of this features, almost all the remaining sherds were small size.

On typological grounds the Rhee Lakeside South assemblage belongs to the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition, and is dated from the mid 4th/3rd to 1st century BC, corresponding to the Middle Iron Age. The Colne Fen sites, including Rhee Lakeside South, lie on the south-eastern limit of the main distribution of Scored Ware using communities, which extend across a region covering the East Midlands, particularly the Nene, Welland and middle Trent Valleys (Elsdon 1992). The levels of scoring are slightly higher or lower than other Colne Fen sites, depending on whether calculations use weight or sherd count. In this instance, it is suggested that sherd count may be more reliable (17.6%), which places the total below the 20-30% bracket which now appears to characterise Middle Iron Age assemblages in this area (see Webley, forthcoming). The significance of this low figure is difficult to discern. Webley (forthcoming) has recently demonstrated that the proportion of Scored Wares declines in the later stages of the Iron Age, after wheel-turned ceramic were introduced. However, as these ceramics are absent from the site, it is suggested that the low figure may also be a feature of the *early* use of Scored wares in the area. Although the evidence is slight, the confinement of Scored wares to the later stages of the Compound A enclosure sequence may imply the presence of a pre-Scored Ware phase at the site, possible in the 4th century BC. Ultimately this is difficult to determine, especially as the quantities of pottery recovered from the early Compound A phases are small, not to mention the possibility that differences could relate to function rather than chronology.

One of the most significant features of the Middle Iron Age pottery assemblage from Rhee Lakeside South is the lack of any wheel-made ceramics. Other Iron Age sites along Colne Fen have produced varying proportions of hand and wheel-made wares which have helped reconstruct changes to the ceramic repertoire from the late 1st century BC up until the Roman Conquest (Webley, forthcoming). The material from Rhee Lakeside South is certainly earlier than the pottery from the Camp Ground and the Plant Site, though may be contemporary with the earlier phases of activity at Sites I and IV. Moreover, the absence of wheel-made wares at Rhee Lakeside South suggest that the settlement went out of use prior to the introduction of this potting technology, which on current evidence, become of increasing importance during the in the early 1st century AD. Based on these trends, the assemblage is best dated from the mid 4th/3rd to 1st century BC.

Roman Pottery - *Katie Anderson*

Six sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 67g, were recovered from the excavations. Five sandy greyware sherds (50g) from the same vessel, were recovered from [4074], F.958. Three of the sherds also had interior sooting. The final sherd came from [4156], F.965, which was also a non-diagnostic sandy greyware sherd. Since no vessel forms could be identified, these sherds can only be broadly dates mid 1st-3rd AD and 2nd-4th century AD respectively.

Burnt clay - *Grahame Appleby*

A total of 285 pieces of burnt or fired clay were recovered from 30 features (Table 21), weighing 2434g (range: 1g – 194g; ave. 8.8g). Fabric varied from soft, light,

friable orange clay with rare small flint inclusions to dark red to grey hard fabric, some with occasional large flint/very small angular stone inclusions and displaying similar characteristics to burnt clay fragments recovered from Langdale Hale. The majority of the pieces of burnt clay are undiagnostic, although a small number display flat surfaces, finger impressions and evidence of having been 'rammed' into place, possibly indicative of use for daub or sealing/lining. Loomweight fragments are identifiable within the assemblage, including triangular and cylindrical weights. Described below several of these and other larger undiagnostic fragments are highly fired or have undergone secondary firing (e.g. the single piece from pit/well F. 872). A possible kiln or fire-bar is tentatively identified and a single piece of vitrified clay, are both also described.

Feature	Number	Weight (g)	Feature	Number	Weight (g)
602	2	11	832	16	151
603	9	140	835	3	19
613	4	21	863	2	21
614	6	22	872	2	333
636	1	3	878	1	112
637	4	19	911	4	53
640	5	2	916	7	56
693	35	25	918	32	212
697	1	10	948	4	9
699	1	23	953	1	4
711	2	128	963	21	220
714	1	140	973	13	17
773	6	14	1080	21	45
818	3	29	1108	3	32
823	72	424	1109	1	119
827	2	20	Total	285	2434

Table 21: Burnt clay

<285> [3238] Highly (secondary?) fired and hard triangular kiln- or fire-bar fragment with rounded corners, concave external surfaces and remnant rectangular 'foot-ring' 8mm thick. Dimensions: 68mm x 43mm, weight 51g. Recovered from ditch F. 711.

<303> [3247] Fragment from a crudely made highly fired triangular loomweight with two partially surviving external surfaces, the larger with one clear finger impression 16mm long and *c*. 9mm deep; no evident nail impression. Dimensions: 80mm x 62mm, weight 140g. Recovered from ditch F. 714.

<410> Small irregular, light vitrified fragment with white sand grains adhering to the outer surface with a clear boundary to a reddish/purple fabric, the latter with small air spaces/cavities towards the other surface indicative of high temperatures. A remnant internal rounded surface, coloured brightly orange, is present, although this may not be original. Weight 23g. Recovered from the terminal of ditch F.818, this may be a fragment from a hearth of furnace.

<441> [3606] Fragment from a small triangular loomweight with one partially surviving surface and perforation. Dimensions: 62mm x 35mm, perforation diameter 12mm, weight 35g. Recovered with 15 other pieces of burnt clay, including one further loomweight fragment and daub, from ditch F.832.

<488> Large irregular triangular-shaped fragment from a probable sub-rounded cylindrical loomweight with partially surviving flat 'basal' and lateral surfaces and sub-oval rounded perforation. The fragment may have undergone secondary firing with the cream/buff fabric displaying a distinct red and grey discolouration on the surface towards its centre. Dimensions: estimated external diameter 160mm, weight 194g. Recovered from pit/well F.872.

<514> [3805] Fragment of the central portion of a cylindrical loomweight with possible finger impressions surviving on the surface and part of an off-set central (?) perforation. Manufactured from a cream/buff fabric the clay differs from that used in the manufacture of the triangular loomweights.

Dimensions: length 73mm, estimated external diameter *c*. 60mm, perforation diameter 11mm, weight 112g. Recovered from posthole F.878, Structure 4.

<763> Triangular loomweight fragment. Surviving surface displays possible finger impressions. The fragment is roughly made with a partially surviving perforation (*c*. one third). Dimensions: 79mm x 45mm, weight 119g. Recovered from pit F.1109.

<800> [4744] Triangular loomweight fragment with three surviving faces and surviving perforation. Dimensions: 70mm x 43mm, perforation diameter 14mm, weight 137g. Recovered from F.963, Structure 14.

[3949] Small fragment from a probable highly (secondary?) fired triangular loomweight with two partially surviving surfaces and one rounded corner. Similar in appearance and fabric to the other 31 pieces of burnt clay recovered with this fragment, it is possible they are all from the same object. Dimensions: 60mm x 37mm, weight 35g. Recovered from a small pit or posthole, F.918, it was found in association with sherds of LBA pottery.

The assemblage recovered from Rhee Lakeside South is unremarkable in itself with the loomweights providing direct evidence of textile manufacturing. Found less frequently than triangular loomweights, cylindrical loomweights have been recovered from Middle to Late Bronze Age and Iron Age sites in Britain (Cunliffe 1978, 288).

Worked Stone - *Grahame Appleby*

Three pieces of worked stone, weighing 1375g, were recovered during excavation. Two fragments are from a beehive and rotary quern, fashioned from Millstone grit. A small fragment of burnt quartzitic sandstone (<030>; weight 93g) was also recovered from pit F.605. Possessing two flat surfaces and slightly tapering in thickness, it is uncertain that this fragment is worked and is thus excluded from the following detailed descriptions.

<308> [3252] Fragment from the topstone of a rotary beehive quern with a partially surviving flat smooth grinding surface. The outer 10mm of the grinding surface is smoother than the remaining surface and a slight trace of uneven wear is present where this change in texture occurs (this wear pattern does not appear indicative of chasing/grooving). The outer surface is rough and uneven and is very slightly convex. There is no trace of a surviving hopper or handle insert. Dimensions: estimated outer rim diameter 210mm, estimated height *c*. 70mm; weight 590g. Recovered from ditch F.713.

<443> [3606] Fragment of rotary quern; it is unclear if this is a lower stone from a beehive or a flat-topped quern (see Watts 2002: 34-35). The fragment posses a slightly tapering external lateral surface and has been finished to a high standard. The grinding surface is flat with the outer 20mm worn smooth and displaying a distinct bevelling. There are no surviving traces of a rynd or spindle hole. Dimensions: estimated diameter 240mm, maximum surviving thickness 77mm, weight 675g. Recovered from ditch F.832.

<299> [3242-3243] Stone vessel(?) fragment with possibly 50% of the base surviving. The base is flat and appears to be rectangular in shape with rounded corners. The internal surface is concave and bowl-shaped. There is no evidence to suggest a use or function for this fragment; a crucible would be an obvious candidate, but there are no traces of heating or residue to support this inference. Dimensions: estimated base length *c*. 60mm, estimated base width 50mm, weigh 110g. Recovered from ditch F.712.

The recovery of two rotary quern fragments from the site, and in relative close proximity, is not unexpected. It has not been possible to determine if these are paired stones, but they are fashioned from the same stone source. The fragment from F. 713 conforms to the known typology for Middle to Late Iron Age beehive querns, possibly

a generic 'Hunsbury' or even 'Yorkshire' type (*ibid.*: 31-33). However, either of these attributions can only be provisional due to the incomplete profile of the fragment. There also exists the possibility that the lower stone originates from a flat-topped rotary quern. If the latter attribution is correct, this would suggest a later Iron Age date for this fragment.

Worked bone - *Ian Riddler*

Three segments of cattle-sized rib have been roughly cut to shape and pierced by two perforations, set in a line. With two of the ribs the perforations are quite crude and were cut with a blade, whilst the third example (<788>) is neater and was probably drilled. The perforations are set between 27 and 39 mm apart, measured from their centres.

<409> F.818, [3534] Section of cattle-sized animal rib, cut diagonally with a blade to a taper on one edge and crudely snapped and trimmed on the other. Pierced by two sub-circular perforations. Spacing between centres: 27.5mm, Perforation Diameter 5.5mm

<417> F.823, [3556] Section of cattle-sized animal rib, roughly trimmed at either end and pierced by two sub-circular perforations (L. 87mm, W. 36mm). One side has a crude spiral pattern between the perforations, incised by knife, and the other has two broadly similar patterns. Spacing between centres: 31.5mm, Perforation Diameter 7 and 7.5mm.

<788> F.1140, [4733] Segment of cattle-sized animal rib, now in two pieces, fractured across a circular perforation at one end, with a second perforation at the middle (L. 83mm; W. 25mm). Lightly polished, otherwise unmodified. Spacing between centres: 39mm, Perforation Diameter 4mm.

A small number of similar objects of Iron Age date have come from East Anglia and further afield. A fragmentary segment of cattle-sized rib from Haddenham has fractured longitudinally across a drilled hole and may derive from an implement of this type (Evans and Hodder 2006: 210 and fig 5.93.10). Complete examples are known from Fen Ditton, Danebury and Meare Lake Village (Sellwood 1984: 395 and fig 7.39.3.210; Gray and Cotton 1966: 315 and pl LV.B41; Fen Ditton example unpublished). All of these objects are made from sections of cattle-sized rib bone and they include two perforations. The ends are straight or lightly rounded whilst the long sides vary in shape. They are simple, utilitarian objects that could have been manufactured quickly and easily with the aid of a knife blade. The preference for cattle-sized rib bones is interesting when the majority of worked bone implements of Iron Age date were made from ovicaprid bones, usually those of sheep. Moreover, sheep were often the main domesticate with the faunal assemblages from these sites, as at Haddenham, for example (Evans and Hodder 2006: 211).

Sellwood noted the presence of a single example of this object type from Danebury and regarded it as a possible modelling tool or burnisher (Sellwood 1984: 395). There is also a resemblance with bone wrist guards, as with the examples from the Wissey Embayment and Lakenheath (Healy 1996, fig 108.B22; Clarke 1939: 36 and fig 7.5; Briscoe 1949: 109 and pl 17b) although these are smaller implements produced with considerably more care and skill. Objects described as bone buttons also have two perforations but, as with the wrist guards, they are carefully made, with the perforations grouped together at the centre (Seager Smith 2000: 228 and fig 93.54-5). As an alternative to Sellwood's interpretation, these implements may have been

threaded with cord or leather and used to separate two strands, keeping them apart at a set distance, possibly as part of a netting arrangement.

One of the Earith examples <417> has been embellished with crudely-incised patterns on each side, the designs set between the two perforations. The patterns represent spirals but their significance, in terms of the object and its function, is unclear.

Worked amber and shale – *Dave Webb*

Two amber beads and a fragment of a shale bracelet recovered from the excavations at Rhee Lakeside South. The amber beads were recovered from a cremation with an associated AMS radiocarbon date of Cal 1500-1250 BC and Cal 1240-1220 BC (2 Sigma). The shale bracelet was recovered from the upper fill of a large pit with an associated radiocarbon date of Cal. 1130-92 BC (2 Sigma). The beads are in poor condition with some visible cracks and surface pitting. The shale bracelet is also in poor condition being fragmentary and cracked. The descriptive terminology and grouping used for the amber beads are those outlined by Beck and Shennan (Beck & Shennan1991).

<875> SF. 84, F.671, [2096] Half fragment of an asymmetrical truncated bi-conical amber bead. The bead is ovoid in plan view with a central circular perforation. The longitudinal section is an irregular hexagonal with a sharp end at one side and a rounded end at the other. In plan view the maximum diameter is 12mm, the central perforation is 2mm in diameter. The longitudinal section is 7mm in depth. The bead weighs less than 1gr. The amber is dark orange brown in colour and semi translucent. The surface of the bead is pitted and cracked. The overall shape and ratio of 5:10 for the depth of the longitudinal cross section to the diameter in plan view of the bead would fit it in to Beck's group 9b thin truncated biconical beads or Group 4 beads with drop-shaped cross-section. Although not a perfect match for either grouping the bead appears closest in form to the group 9b.

<876> SF 84, F.671, [2096] A largely complete disc shaped amber bead consisting of two conjoining halves. The bead is sub circular in plan view with a central circular perforation. The longitudinal section is rectangular with rounded ends and a slight curve on one side. In plan view the maximum diameter is 12mm with a minimum of 10mm, the central perforation is 2.3mm in diameter. The longitudinal section is 3mm in depth. The bead weighs less than 1gr. The amber is dark orange brown in colour and semi translucent. The surface of the bead is pitted and cracked. The overall shape and ratio of 2.5:10 for the depth of the longitudinal cross section to the diameter in plan view of the bead would fit it in to Becks group 1b flat and thin disk beads. The slight curvature of the one side also matches the longitudinal cross section of some examples of lentoid Group 5 beads; however, the attribution to group 1b seems most satisfactory

<517> F.872, [3840] Fragment (approximately 20%) of a plain annular shale bracelet with an oval cross section. The bracelet is in poor condition and cracked. Dimensions; diameter (internal) 70mm; (external) 75 mm; depth 6mm width 10mm weight 4gr.

The majority of amber artefacts recovered from prehistoric contexts are of Baltic amber (Beck & Shennan 1991). It is most likely that the two beads are of a similar origin although infrared spectrospy would be required to confirm this. Whether the beads were imported as finished artefacts or as raw material and manufactured in Britain is not clear. Although Baltic amber is known to wash up on the east coast of Britain, Beck (1991) suggests that most artefacts were imported.
Some of the more elaborate amber beads can be seen to have distinct regional distributions, but most of the simpler forms - such as the two beads from Rhee Lakeside South – have parallels throughout Europe. Beck and Shennan (1991)

suggests that in the manufacture of amber beads, the final was shape was little modified from that of the raw material, so as to maximize use of a scarce resource. The combination of irregularity in manufacture and the simplicity of many of the forms means that it is difficult to distinguish most of the simpler native examples from those which were imported.

The distribution of early Bronze Age amber is largely concentrated in the Wessex region although a small number of examples have been recovered from further a field, including Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Orkney and Flintshire. Geographically, the closest examples are from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex (Table 22).

The type 9b bead from Colchester is similar to <875>, although larger and somewhat more symmetrical. The bead was recovered during the removal of a hedge bank attached to an "Acton Park" Palstave and was attributed to the Middle Bronze Age. The type 9b beads from Sustead are also similar in form, but are once again larger and more symmetrical. The beads were from a probable necklace recovered during construction of a path, and are attributed to the Late Bronze Age. However, the closest parallel to <876> is the type 1b beads from Rochford. The beads were associated with an Early-Middle Bronze Age cremation urn burial. However, the context of the beads is uncertain due to ambiguities in the nature of the entry in the museum accession book. Similar beads to <875> and <876> have also been recovered from further a field and would merit attention, though this is outside the scope of this preliminary report.

Site	County	Period	Artefact	Bead Type (Quantity)	Context
Little Cressingham	Norfolk	EBA/ MBA	Necklace	1a (28), 5 (3), 7c (2), 15 (7),	Inhumation
Burwell Fen	Cambridge			4/7b (1),	
Colchester	Essex	MBA		9b (1),	
Felmersham (ring ditch I)	Bedfordshire	EBA/ MBA	Necklace		
Felmersham (ring ditch II)	Bedfordshire	EBA/ MBA	Bead	1a/2 (1)	
Feltwell	Norfolk	LBA		1b (1)	
Gazley	Suffolk	EBA/ MBA	Bead	7c (1)	
Rochford	Essex	EBA/ MBA	Beads	1a/1b/2 (9), 7a (2)	Poss. cremation burial
Sustead	Norfolk	LBA	Necklace	1a (1), 4 (1), 9b(46), 10 (6)	

Table 22: Amber Beads from the region listed by Beck and Shennan (1991)

Although the beads display signs of surface damage it is unlikely that they would have survived the process of cremation (McKinley 1994). If the beads were not 'survivors' of a complete necklace burnt with the cremation pyre, then it is most likely that they were included with the deposit as grave goods. Shale bracelets are found throughout the Bronze Age, though the plainer simpler form is not exclusive to the period, and similar forms have been recovered from later prehistoric and Roman contexts. The majority are of Kimmeridge shale, although other sources of raw material have been exploited. Further analysis would therefore be required to determine the source of the raw material. Local parallels for the Rhee Lakeside example have been recovered from a Bronze Age ditch at Padholme Road, Fengate (Pryor 1980) and from the Flag Fen site (Pryor 2001).

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

Faunal remains - *Krish Seetak*

An assemblage of bone was recovered and analysed from the Rhee Lakeside South excavation undertaken at Earith Quarry, Somersham, Cambridgeshire. This assemblage forms an important continuation of on-going work in the region by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit with reports executed on the faunal remains from a number of other sites in the immediate region (Higbee forthcoming a, b) and surrounding environment (i.e. Serjeantson 2006). This report will briefly outline the methods used for analysing the material followed by the results elicited. These will initially be discussed in broad terms relative to species representation and consequently situated within the chronological phasing of the site which offers an important later prehistoric complement to the early historic assemblages studied previously.

Methodology and Preservation

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Aging of the assemblage employed a combination of Grant's (1982) tooth wear stages and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969). Metrical analysis followed von den Driesch (1976). Elements from sheep and goats were distinguished, where possible, based on criteria established for the post-cranial skeleton by Boessneck (1969) and teeth by Payne (1985) and Halstead *et al.* (2002). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, the Grahame Clark Zooarchaeology Lab, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Cambridge and the Zoology Museum, University of Cambridge. Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

The assemblage was hand collected and overall exhibited good preservation; of 163 separate contexts studied 51 were 'Quite Poor' or 'Poor' indicating that extensive weathering, bone surface exfoliation and other erosive damage had occurred to the bone. 56 contexts showed 'Quite Good' or 'Good' levels of preservation, with 51 demonstrating 'Moderate' preservation. While the above might suggest an equal distribution of fragments showing poor, moderate and good preservation, when we observe the actual numbers of fragments that these figures correspond to, we see that some 1645 bones showed a level of preservation that was quite good / good, compared to 408 that were quite poor / poor. This then increases the significance of this assemblage in relation to other sites in Earith where the material showed a poor level of preservation. Although recorded in small numbers, both butchery marks and pathology were clearly evident from this site and will be discussed below.

Species representation

The assemblage totalled some 3649 fragments (25272g), of which 2522 were assessable; 1800 fragments were identified to element (71%) and 690 (29%) further identified to species. The medium and large mammalian assemblage was dominated by domestic species: cow, horse, sheep/goat, pig and dog. Wild species were represented by two roe deer antlers; red deer was also evident from antler fragments, including an intact pedicle, and an ulna; other wild species included fox, an amphibian, a juvenile otter and immature crane.

Of the domestic animals recovered cattle were the most abundant within the context of NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimen) counts (302 / 44%); the MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) for this species was calculated as showing at least 16 individuals recorded for the assemblage as a whole. Sheep, though exhibiting a lower fragment count (NISP: 264 / 38%) were actually represented by a higher MNI count of 19 individuals; pig (NISP: 50 / 7.2%) had an MNI count of eight individual animals with horse (NISP: 42 / 6%) and dog (NISP: 20 / 2.9%) both registering a minimum of two individuals (refer to Table 1).

Species	**NISP**	**% NISP**	**MNI**
COW	**302**	**44**	**16**
DOG	20	2.9	2
HORSE	42	6	2
PIG	**50**	**7.2**	**8**
S/G	**264**	**38**	**19**
Total ID Specimens	*690*		
UMM (Un.id medium mammal)	768		
ULM (Un.id large mammal)	342		
TOTAL NISP COUNT	*1800*		
TOTAL FRAGMENT COUNT	***2522***		

Table 23: NISP and MNI counts and percentages for domesticates:

Bos Taurus - Of the domestic species recorded, cattle elements were the most abundant. However, cattle did not show the same dominance of the assemblage as noted from excavations at the Camp Ground, (c.f. Table 5, Higbee forthcoming b) and Rhee Lakeside North site (Seetah 2007), both from Colne Fen, Cambridgeshire. Although sheep were recovered in comparable numbers, cattle would have been the more significant economic species and would have been the main providers of meat due to the significantly greater bulk of flesh these animal carry compared to the smaller domesticates. The skeletal part representation, while dominated by distal portions, particularly from the head, does show a relatively even distribution of carcass portions. There is a predominance of forelimb elements, although the hind limb is represented and, overall, this pattern of distribution would suggest localised slaughter and consumption. The aging evidence suggests the presence of both young and old animals. A more specific age estimation derived from the teeth (though only one mandible was present and therefore the results are ambiguous), indicated an average age of 30-36 months, with three younger animals having Mandibular Wear Stages (MWS) indicating individuals aged between eight and eighteen months. The fusion data pushes the age limit slightly further, with at least six animals falling into the oldest age bracket for fusion data of 42-48 months. This age structure would suggest that individuals were kept for traction although, the culling of animals at a younger age for meat was apparently also part of the husbandry pattern employed at this site.

Ovicaprids - Ovicaprids were recovered in number marginally smaller than cattle and were in fact more abundant as calculated for MNI. The ovicaprid portion of the assemblage was once again composed of all main carcass units, with a similar dominance of distal portions as noted for cattle. Again, it would appear that animals were raised on site and killed once they were 'surplus to requirements'. Although in general it is difficult to distinguish between sheep and goats, for some elements this is far more straightforward, the horn cores being a particularly good example. At least six definite goat horn cores were recovered, and four definite sheep: as noted from the cross section and overall shape of the bones. Clearly both sheep and goat formed part of the live assemblage and would have taken advantage of different resources. The tooth wear aging data suggests that animal were killed at approximately two to three years of age; this result is repeated with the fusion data which indicates a kill-off at between 30-36 months. This pattern is more closely linked to slaughter for meat rather than secondary products, although it would be a mistake to overemphasis this point as both sheep and goats would have been used as a multipurpose animal, for wool, milk and meat.

Sus scrofa - Pig bones accounted for 50 elements that represent just over seven percent of the total assemblage. Unlike either cattle or ovicaprids, pigs are primarily reared for their meat and this was supported by the aging data for this species from this site: the tooth wear data points to animals being killed between 14-21 months, although one individual was between two and seven months old. This assemblage showed an interesting skeletal part distribution with a significant preference for the fore quarter. With the exception of one unfused distal epiphysis of a femur, there were no hind limb elements whatsoever. Furthermore, there is a total dearth of distal and, with the exception of the cranium and mandible, axial (ribs, vertebra and pelvis) elements. While we have to exercise caution as the number of bones recovered is relatively small, this pattern of distribution would suggest that pigs were not being raised on site and where in fact brought in as disarticulated carcasses, or more probable, as salted / smoked joints (particularly fore limb). The fact that cranial and mandibular elements are present in relatively significant numbers further complicates the issue as it would seem that animals were being slaughtered on site due to the presence of skull bones. However, pigs have a particularly high meat content on and around the cranium, especially from the cheeks. Thus, pig heads may have been an important enough source of nutrition to warrant more specialised treatment. However, the evidence at this site regarding the proportion of this species relative to cattle and ovicaprids would suggest that pigs did not form a major part of the diet or economy.

Canids and equids - Both of these species are well represented, particularly horse, which not only had a relatively high fragment count, but also showed good skeletal part representation. Although it was not possible to estimate a withers height from any of the horse bones recorded, in general the animals appeared to be relatively small. The level of wear on the maxillary teeth indicated adult animals, no juvenile horses were present and it is unlikely that they were raised on site. A number of horse bones had evidence of dog gnawing, although there was no butchery to suggest deliberate knackering for dogs or consumption by humans.

The majority of dog bones were from the cranium, although two pelvis fragments and one fibula were also recorded. Furthermore, the presence of dogs is evidenced from gnawing damage on cattle, horse and ovicaprid bones, though this occurred in small numbers.

Wild species - The wild fauna component of this assemblage was particularly interesting. Wild animals were represented by two species of cervid, one species of mustalid and one wading bird. Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) was noted from four fragments of antler, including one shed pedicle, and one ulna bone. Although this is a very small sub-set, the presence of the ulna fragment would suggest that this species formed an occasional part of the diet, rather than the antlers being collected for decorative purposes or for working. The portion of antler with a pedicle (see Plate 1) was evidently from a large individual as the circumference (220mm) was greater than the average measurements noted at Grimes Graves (212.97mm) or Durrington Walls (198.5mm; Serjeantson 1995).

Plate 1. Red deer antler pedicle

Two roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) antlers were recorded (see photo below) and were evidently from two different individuals. A juvenile crane (*Grus grus*) and a juvenile otter (*Lutra lutra*) were noted. Both of these species are potentially important indicators of the local environment and, combined with the cervids noted and a fragment of fox humerus, they add considerably to the breadth of species recovered.

Plate 2. Roe deer antlers

Butchery - The evidence for butchery was minimal and was evident predominantly on cattle (seven records) and ovicaprid (five records) bones. In nearly all instances the butchery was carried out with knives, with only one indication of a cleaver being used. A cut mark to the inferior surface of a cow hyoid provided strong evidence that the slaughter process occurred on site followed by gross dismemberment.

Pathology - Pathological change was evident on a cow radial shaft fragment. The element showed a high degree of infectious osseous development to the cortical surface covering approximately 50% of the bone and was probably caused by a break or osteomyelitic condition.

Bronze Age / Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age

The identifiable component from this phase of the site is marginally dominated by ovicaprid bones: 159 fragments compared to 126 for cattle. As with the more general discussion above, all main body units are represented suggesting that both cattle and ovicaprids were raised, slaughtered and consumed on site. Again, as noted previously, despite a higher fragment count for ovicaprids it should not be forgotten that cattle were no doubt providing the higher proportion of meat. It is unfortunate that the aging data is not more conclusive for this assemblage and that we are only able to make cursory suggestions as to the kill-profile; it would be interesting to note with a greater degree of accuracy the age of slaughter for both of these main domestic species. This is particularly important in addressing the issue of whether the animals have been raised primarily for meat or for secondary products. The Bronze Age to Early Iron Age transition is an important one for animal husbandry in southern Britain as it witnesses the shift towards a sheep dominated mode of animal management.

Pig is relatively well represented in this phase (29 fragments) as is horse (20 fragments). The presence of these two species, one raised almost exclusively for meat and the other employed predominantly as a beast of burden, indicates a diverse management strategy aimed a harnessing all the potential resources available from animals. Aside from beef, mutton and pork, venison would have formed part of the diet; it is from this phase that all cervid elements were recovered.

Middle Iron Age

The faunal subset from this phase provides an interesting 'anomaly' with regard to the species frequency of cattle and ovicaprids. By the Middle Iron Age (MIA) animal husbandry in Britain is no longer focused on cattle and has shifted towards ovicaprids: the 'sheep age' as coined by Albarella (2007). However, the MIA assemblage at Earith Quarry would at first appear to buck this trend with a greater proportion of cattle (181 fragments) as opposed to ovicaprids (89 bones). This is a significant departure from the findings of other MIA sites in southern Britain; however, this anomaly is explained when we look at the unidentified fragments. The figures illustrated above of 181 and 89 fragments for cattle and ovicaprids respectively are for the *identifiable* elements. The unidentifiable fragments for large and medium mammal are obviously not included in these figures. In particular, whereas the ribs of the larger mammals (cow, horse and to a lesser extent deer) can be distinguished from each other with a greater degree of accuracy (and are therefore included in the identified species count), this is not the case for the medium mammals such as sheep, goat, pig, dog and roe deer. Thus, a higher proportion of *unidentified* fragments are assigned to the 'medium mammal' category. Considering that, of the medium mammals, roe deer, dog and pig (no roe deer were recorded from this phase at all) appear in relatively small numbers for this site, and a similar situation is repeated for horse and red deer for large mammals, we can potentially include the unidentifiable fragments of medium mammal to ovicaprids, and large unidentified fragments to cattle. With this amalgamation the new 'cattle' figure rises to 332 fragments; however, a more dramatic increase is noted for the new 'ovicaprid' fragment count that increases to 441 elements. By including the unidentified portion of the assemblage we are able to make better use of the overall fragment count and clearly this shows that the Earith Quarry material demonstrates the same predominance of ovicaprids as noted on other sites in Britain.

Another interesting point to emerge is that while all the main carcass units are present for cattle, there is a dearth of hind limb units for ovicaprids with only one femur fragment noted for this subset. However, unlike similar findings noted for pigs, above, distal and axial portions are present which would indicate that animals were slaughtered on site.

The wild fauna from this phase complements an environment with waterlogged fenlands and river inlets. Although we cannot rule out the possibility that both the crane and otter were transported to the site (particularly the otter with only the pelt brought in), it is interesting that both of these 'aquatic' species were evidenced by juvenile individuals.

This assemblage has provided a useful and informative set of data, predominantly for the MIA. It is significant in that it has shown a good level of preservation, a feature considered unusual for this type of site and noted at Haddenham (Serjeantson 2006). Furthermore, and again as noted at Haddenham, it has a well represented selection of native British fauna. Although not as comprehensive or extensive as the material from Haddenham, for this size of the overall assemblage it is nonetheless an important addition to the zooarchaeological interpretation of the region.

The fact that both the otter and crane were juvenile animals would support the notion that these animals were from the local environment. The crane in particular would have most likely nested in the immediate environment, as the conditions would have been favourable (Serjeantson 2006). We have to be somewhat more cautious with the otter find as younger animals are more likely to become caught in traps, and the portion of the skeleton found, a metatarsal, would probably have been left attached to the pelt. However, no skinning marks were present on the bone and we cannot be certain of anthropogenic activity. Serjeantson (2006) highlighted that if a site could be found that had feet bones from the smaller fur bearing animals then potentially we could be observing a location that acted as a supply source to HAD V. Although one juvenile foot bone is too small a sample to extrapolate to that extent, the fact that Earith Quarry is environmentally suitable for otter may have made it part of the network of exchange with sites such as HAD V.

This site is also of importance from the perspective of domestic husbandry. The proportions of ovicaprids to cattle have been discussed above and would appear to be in line with other sites in southern Britain. The fact that preservation bias would favour the recovery of larger mammals and that the MNI count overall favours ovicaprids is strong support for a sheep based mode of husbandry, even though cattle were recorded in higher numbers, they would have probably provided more meat. However, as mentioned above, it is unfortunate that the age at death profile has not been more conclusive for ovicaprids as a kill-off pattern of young animals has been used at Market Deeping to suggest a meat orientated economy (Albarella 1997) whilst the same profile has been employed to suggest secondary product exploitation at Haddenham (Serjeantson 2006). Although the present assemblage did not provide sufficient data to contribute to this discussion, it is probable that with large numbers of sheep being maintained, that both management strategies were being employed: on the one hand meat would be gained from killing excess juvenile males whilst secondary products would be attained from older animals. However, a few very old 'senile' individuals should reinforce this; this category is totally absent at Earith Quarry and further complicates the issue.

The complete dearth of fish remains is interesting for a site that would appear to have access to copious aquatic resources. The wild species noted from the site would indicate a rich local environment, thus the conspicuous absence of fish bones is noteworthy. Whether this is a product of recovery bias or simply that aquatic resources only formed a small part of the diet, as speculated at Market Deeping (Albarella 1997) remains to be clarified.

This site represents an important assemblage for studying the region and the links to other important sites in the area. There is much promise of future research –

particularly if sieving can be implemented on site, as this will augment the microfaunal and fish assemblage. This will help address the question of whether fish was a constituent of the diet, as might be expected from the environmental conditions, or actively avoided as suggested for Iron Age sites around the North Sea (Dobney & Ervynck 2007). The aquatic environment also complicates the domestic husbandry issue. A waterlogged environment favours cattle husbandry, yet it would appear that ovicaprids were the preferred species. This is a complicating factor and one that has bearing on more general question of animal husbandry patterns in southern Britain.

Environmental Samples - *Anne de Vareilles*

138 samples, 108 of which are from seven cremations and one inhumation, were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The flots were collected in 300µm meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of charred plant macro remains. Sorting and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Floral nomenclature follows Stace (1997). All environmental remains are listed in Tables 24-28.

All samples, except that for F.957 [4120], contained plant remains uniquely preserved through carbonisation. Preservation by waterlogging was present in F.957, although the feature had evidently began to dry out in recent times. Intrusive modern rootlets and seeds, found in all cremations and most of the other 30 samples, are indicative of bioturbation through which macro remains may have been lost and/or displaced.

The Bronze Age monument and cremations

The three samples from the basal fills of the 'C'-shaped monument F.833 and a sample from the adjacent gully F.895 (surrounding cremation F.666) were analysed, but no botanical remains were recovered other than very low quantities of charcoal and some modern material. Flots from eight of the cremations were also analysed for botanical remains. Cremation F.666 was located within gully F.895, whilst cremation F.891 cut this feature. Cremation F.696 was loacted at the ring-ditch entrance, as was cremations F.671. In the centre of the centre of the ring-dicth lay inhumation F.834, from which a five litre bulk sample was taken. These revealed nothing but a little charcoal. Cremations F.1114, F.1138 F.1069 and F.1029 were all also sampled, and were all located in the southwest corn of Paddock A.

The botanical remains recovered from some of cremations are suggestive of turf burning. This is not altogether unexpected for Bronze Age cremations (cf. Godwin 1975, Robinson 1988, Stevens 1996). Small tubers, monocot (grass) roots and the basal culms of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp. *bulbosum*) were found in abundance, especially in F.696, and indicate a layer of topsoil was burnt either as part of, or unintentionally with the funerary pyre. Fragments of grass stems were also frequent. Conversely, F.891 and F.666 had very little evidence for the use of turf. This apparent absence should not be used to differentiate them from the other cremations (as might be suggested by their unique position within a mini ring-gully) since they were also poor in charcoal, suggesting little pyre material was buried/found.

The same wild plants occur throughout the cremations. Knotgrass (*polygonum aviculare*), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), blinks (*Montia Fontana ssp. Minor*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) are usually associated with arable land. However, stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are plants of open scrub

or waste land. Hawthorn and elder may have been added as fuel (though one might expect the wood to be dry and seedless), or the seeds brought in by birds or animals prior to the cremation. Medics and clovers (*Trifolium/Medicago*) are common in grasslands but can also grow as crop weeds. False oat-grass, the most commonly occurring species, spreads in un-grazed grasslands. It grows in dense tussocks, often favouring derelict land no longer exploited for cultivation, and represents a stage in land development between arable or pasture and scrubland (Robinson 1988).

Though wood was also evidently burnt, charcoal quantities are only significant in F.1138 and F.1114. These two cremations also contained the most burnt bone fragments. Cereal grains were found in six cremations: F.1114 (seven grains), F.1069 (one grain), F.1029 (one grain), F.666 (two grains), F.696 (two grains) and F.891 (one grain); their provenance is unclear.

The four cremations in Paddock A are similar in that they revealed inconclusive evidence for the burning of turfs and contained more edible plants than the cremations from the ring-ditch monument. The higher concentrations of cereal grains, the presence of a hazel-nut shell in F.1069 and of mint in F.1114 may indicate the presence of dwellings in the vicinity. If the pyres were erected nearby houses, such material may have become incorporated in the pyre, or it may simply be residual waste that 'fell' into the excavated pits before, during or after burial. The few wild plant seeds are usually associated with arable land and may thus represent cereal processing waste. However, these plants could also have grown on settlement / waste land on which the pyre was probably built. No grass stems, no monocot roots and only two false oat-grass basal culms were found.

A few lumps of iron pseudomorphs and some precipitated calcium carbonate were noted towards the base of the cremation F.1114 (some small, heavily worn bone fragments may have been mistaken for $CaCO^3$). The iron pseudomorphs (iron oxidised around organic matter) appear vitrified, indicating intensive burning. The iron may have originated from the soil, plant matter or metal objects. The precipitation of calcium carbonate is a post-depositional phenomenon, caused by slightly acidic rain-water percolating through the deposit. It is odd that these particles were not found in any of the other cremations.

Bronze Age- earlier Iron Age settlement features

Five postholes, four pits, two wells and two ditches were sampled from the settlement. The pits belonged to Pit Group A, located around the entrance to Structure 7. The wells sampled included F.957 and F.872. The postholes samples were from Structures 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7. The ditches were uncovered in the far Area A, and are possibly of Middle Iron Age date.

Apart from the postholes, pit F.606 and ditch F.1073, the remaining pits and ditch contained no more than six cereal grains each, four wild plant seeds and some charcoal (mostly smaller than 2mm). These remains are most likely residual waste from the processing and eating of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare sl.*) and spelt and/or emmer wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*). An unusual find of two possible einkorn grains (*Triticum* cf. *monococcum*) was made in well F.872; this wheat variety is rare in both the British Bronze and Iron Ages (Greig 1991). The sample taken from well F.957 was not evidently wet, though it did contain some waterlogged seeds indicative of a once waterlogged environment. It would appear that only those elements rich in lignin, such as wood and the harder seeds, have survived the increasingly dryer natural conditions. The seeds recovered suggest that pit F.957 was surrounded by scrub / waste land and/or possibly a hedge where species such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) grew. The lack of artefacts and almost complete absence of charred botanical remains suggests that F.957 was not used for domestic waste.

Burnt barley and wheat processing waste seems to have been discarded in both pit F.606 and ditch F.1073. Although overall quantities of cereal chaff were low (one or two wheat glume bases and one straw fragment each), the pit and the ditch had a minimum of 416.5 and 35 wild plants seeds respectively. Whereas those from the ditch do not provide us with any useful information on the arable field(s), those from the pit give us some indication of soil type: damp, clay-rich soils are indicated by stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*); and the 13 seeds from nitrogen-fixing plants point to nutrient-poor soils (vetches/wild pea - *Vicia / Lathyrus*, clovers - *Trifolium* sp., medics - M*edicago* sp.). Black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), one of the most common seeds in the sample, also fairs well on nutrient deficient soils. Conversely, field penny-cress

(*Thlaspi arvense*) and cleavers (*Galium aparine*), which also occur in high numbers, are indicators of humus or sandy loams rich in nutrients (Hanf 1983).

All five postholes had a little residual charcoal, but only F.932 from Structure 7 contained a cereal grain (wheat or barley), and only F.927 from Structure 6 had any wild plant seeds: one blinks (*Montia fontana* subsp. *minor*). There is no botanical evidence from Structure 3 to support its interpretation as a granary.

Middle Iron Age features

Three pits, two ditches and three roundhouse gullies were sampled. Ditch F.1048 in Compound C (located next to F.1073 described above) had a few charred wild plant seeds and some possibly waterlogged elder seeds. The only archaeobotanical remains from ditch F.692 Compound A were a tiny bit of charcoal and one cereal grain fragment. Pit F.823 however, adjacent to F.692 in Compound A, was very rich in plant remains. Though total quantities of cereal grain and chaff were low, there were almost five wheat glume bases to every grain (the ratio for spelt and emmer is normally 1:1), which suggests processing waste. Some of the wild plant seeds are associated with arable and thus support this interpretation. Others, however, are more suggestive of damp to wet grassland or fenland scrub; spike rushes (*Eleocharis* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.) and water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) are unlikely to have grown as crop weeds. Pit F.851 had slightly more cereal grain and chaff than F.823, with a ratio just over the normal value. As with F.823, the wild plant seeds seem to represent two environments: weeds of damp arable fields, and wild plants growing in damp to wet grassland. Why such specimens became charred is difficult to ascertain.

Three samples were taken from the ring gully of Syructure 13: one from the northern terminus [4766], and two from other locations within the gully. [4766] was the only context to contain any artefacts and archaeobotanical remains (other than a little charcoal). The plant remains included a little hulled barley and emmer or spelt grains, and a few cereal crop weeds. A pit dug into the southern terminal of Structure 13 was also sampled (F.1140). It contained a similar assemblage of plant remains to [4766], both in quality and quantity, with the exception of a sedge (*Carex* sp.) seed.

The distribution of plant remains in the ring gully of Structure 14 appears to follow the same pattern seen in Structure 13. Four samples were taken but the only ones with meaningful assemblages came from the southern and northern ends of the gully, [4416] and [4429] respectively (house entrance). The other two samples only had one cereal grain each and a little charcoal. Like [4766] of Structure 13, [4416] and [4429] contained some hulled barley grains, emmer or spelt grains and chaff, and a range of arable weeds.

A sample was taken from one of the ends of the Structure 17 ring gully but revealed nothing more than a tiny amount of charcoal.

During the Late Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age, hulled barley, spelt or emmer wheat, and possibly einkorn, appear to have been grown on both clay-rich, damp, nutrient deficient soils, as well as dryer, 'richer' soils. It remains possible that those plants indicative of 'richer' soils grew in and around the settlement on domestic waste. Cereal processing waste is a sign of domestic activities and nearby dwellings. Therefore, further houses probably lie around ditch F.1073, south-west of the main excavation area. The abundance of cereal processing waste in pit F.606 suggests that the area around Pit Group A may have been associated with food preparation. The difference in botanical remains between the pits sampled around the Pit Group A may translate to the spatial distribution of activities – a possibility which could be explored by processing further samples from the numerous pits within the area.

During the Middle Iron Age damp, clay-rich soils continued to be cultivated. The botanical remains are much more diverse and plentiful in the pits and ditches than within the roundhouses, where the seeds appear to be a purer assemblage of crop

weeds; the sedge and spike-rush were probably used in thatching, basketry, weaving, etc. Therefore, it seems that at least some cereal processing waste was burnt within the houses. As has been seen in other roundhouses, such as those found at Greetham (de Vareilles 2006) and Whittlesey (Ballantyne 2000), the majority of the botanical remains (and artefacts) were found within the entrance-ways. Though there is no conclusive interpretation for such a pattern, it may simply reflect the regular passing of peoples and goods. At Greetham, evidence was found suggesting was emmer or spelt were parched within the roundhouse (to release the grain from its glumes) (de Vareilles 2006). At Rhee Lakeside South, the almost complete absence of cereal chaff associated with small crop weed seeds may indicate that fine sieving to remove seeds was carried out before spikelets were parched or otherwise opened. The hulled cereals were probably stored as clean spikelets. Further samples from features within and around the houses should be analysed for a better understanding of the location and sequence of food preparation.

Apart from arable weeds, pits F.851 and F.823 contained a variety of seeds from damp grassland or open scrub where elder and hawthorn might have grown. Blinks indicate fairly wet sandy/gravely soils, perhaps within the settlement itself.

Botanically, the cremations around Paddock A differ from those around the ring-ditch in that they generally contain more charcoal and bone, and yet far fewer remains indicative of turf burning. At Butcher's Rise, Barleycroft, turf was also found to have been burnt in most, but not all, of the 32 Bronze Age cremations (Stevens 1996). A correlation was noticed between those with high quantities of charcoal and good evidence for turf, and those with low quantities of charcoal and poor evidence for turf (*ibid.*). The pattern here, albeit inconclusive until more cremations are analysed, is almost reversed. In trying to understand how plant parts below the soil surface became incorporated into the pyre, Stevens (1996) decided the most likely explanation was that turf was broken up before the pyre was constructed, to prevent the fire from spreading. '…it can only be assumed that as the body was gathered…, burnt tubers, seeds and other root material were gathered with it' (*ibid*.: 78). Another possibility is that turfs were stacked on top of the pyres in order to generate more heat and less flame (*ibid*.).

The wild plant seeds may originate from plants that grew locally around the pyre, or the seed bank beneath the soil surface. Either way, the seeds most likely represent old arable or fallow land, very occasionally, if at all, grazed. The presence of blinks and the same ruderal seeds in cremations and other features around the site suggests pyres were constructed on settlement-type land that had probably once been cultivated.

Half an amber bead was found in the flot of cremation F.671. To see if there are any botanical (and non-botanical) differences between the two linear clusters of cremations samples from the group east of the mini ring-gully F.895 would need to be processed.

Sample number		**<141>**	**<142>**	**<145>**	**<138>**	**<236>**
Context		[3661]	[3898]	[3920]	[3858]	[4120]
Feature		833	833	833	895	957
Feature type		ring-ditch monument			gully	Pit
Phase/Date		E	B	A	MBA	LBA
Sample volume - Litres		7. 5	7	7	10	8. 5
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/4
Urtica dioica – M / WL?	Stinging Nettle					+++
Chenopodium sp.- M / WL?	Goosefoots			- M	- M	++
Atriplex patula/hastata	Orache				- M	
***Stellaria* sp. - WL**	Stitchworts					++
Rubus sp. - WL	Brambles					++
Crataegus monogyna - WL	Hawthorn					-
Cornus sanguinea - WL	Dogwood					-
Lithospermum sp. – WL	Gromwells					-
Sambucus nigra – WL	Elder					+++
Parenchyma - Undifferentiated plant storage tissue		-				
Modern rootlets		+++	+++	+++	+++	
Charcoal >4mm					-	-
2-4mm					-	-
<2mm		++	-	+	++	++

Table 24: Plant Macro Remains from Bronze Age Features. Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; M – modern; WL – waterlogged

Sample number		**<150>**	**<151>**	**<169>**	**<147>**	**<134>**	**<205>**	**<206>**
Context		[1809]	[1820]	[1831 / 1832]	[1853]	[3760]	[4559]	[4564]
Feature		602	605	606	613	872	1073	1074
Feature type		Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		L	B	A / E	I	A	MIA?	
Sample volume - Litres		14	7	17	12	15	15	9
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/3	1/1	1/1
Cereals								
Hordeum vulgare s. lato	Hulled Barley grain		3	14	1	1		1
Triticum dicoccum / spelta	Emmer or Spelt grain			1			1	
Triticum cf. *monococcum*	Possible Einkorn grain					2		
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain	2	2		2		6	
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment		2	1	4	3		2	
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base			1			2	
Modern rootlets		+++	+	+++	+++	++	+++	+++
Parenchyma - Undifferentiated plant storage tissue			+		-	-	+	
Charcoal >4mm		-	+	-	+	++	+	
2-4mm		+	+++	+	+	+++	++	
<2mm		++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
Culm node	Grass stem node			1			1	

Sample number		**<150>**	**<151>**	**<169>**	**<147>**	**<134>**	**<205>**	**<206>**
Context		[1809]	[1820]	[1831 / 1832]	[1853]	[3760]	[4559]	[4564]
Feature		602	605	606	613	872	1073	1074
Feature type		Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		L	B	A / E	I	A	MIA?	
Sample volume - Litres		14	7	17	12	15	15	9
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/3	1/1	1/1
Cereals								
Hordeum vulgare s. lato	Hulled Barley grain		3	14	1	1		1
Triticum dicoccum / spelta	Emmer or Spelt grain			1			1	
Triticum cf. *monococcum*	Possible Einkorn grain					2		
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain	2	2		2		6	
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment		2	1	4	3		2	
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base			1			2	
Modern rootlets		+++	+	+++	+++	++	+++	+++
Parenchyma - Undifferentiated plant storage tissue			+		-	-	+	
Charcoal >4mm		-	+	-	+	++	+	
2-4mm		+	+++	+	+	+++	++	
<2mm		++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
Culm node	Grass stem node			1			1	

Table 25: Plant Macro remains from LBA/IA Samples. Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; M – modern; WL – waterlogged. The large grass seeds are as long though not as wide as the cereal grains; Poaceae fragments may include cereals as well as grass seeds. The unspecified modern species represent no more than ten seeds per species

Sample number		**<150>**	**<151>**	**<169>**	**<147>**	**<134>**	**<205>**	**<206>**
Context		[1809]	[1820]	[1831]	[1853]	[3760]	[4559]	[4564]
Feature		602	605	606	613	872	1073	1074
Feature type		Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Well	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		L	B	A / E	I	A	LBA / MIA?	
Sample volume – Litres		14	7	17	12	15	15	9
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/3	1/1	1/1
Wild Plant Seeds								
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	- M	- M, 2	- M, 16		- M	+ M	+M
Atriplex patula/hastate	Oraches						1	
Montia fontana ssp. Minor	Blinks				2		1	
Stellaria cf. *graminea*	Lesser Stitchwort	1						
***Stellaria* sp.**	Stitchworts			8				
Silene sp.	Campions			5				
Small Caryophyllaceae	Seed of Pink family			12				
Persicaria lapathifolia	Pale persicaria		1					
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrasses			2				
Fallopia convolvulus	Black-bindweed			57				- M
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel						1	
Rumex conglomerates/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock			1				
Rumex sp.	Docks			4				
Malva sp.	Mallows			2				
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse			3				
Thlaspi arvense	Field Penny-cress			18				
Brassica sp.	Cabbages			4				
Rosaceae kernels	Kernels of Rose family			8				
Vicia / Lathyrus	Vetches / Wild Pea			7				
Trifolium sp.	Clovers			4				
Trifolium / Medicago	Clovers / Medics			2				
Apiaceae	Seed of Carrot family			5				
cf. *Stachys* sp.	Woundworts			21				
Lamium / Mentha	Dead-Nettles / Mint			2				
Veronica hederifolia	Ivy-leaved Speadwell			1				
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia			2				
Galium aparine	Cleavers			19				
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile			7				
Carex sp.	Sedge (flat)						1	
Poaceae fragments	Grass seed fragments			3			1	
Large Poaceae	Large wild grass seed			18			21	1
Medium Poaceae	Med. wild grass seed		1	19			8	1
Small Poaceae	Small wild grass seed			118	1			
Indeterminate wild plant seed				37			1	1
Indet. kernels				7				
Indet. cotyledon				9				
Quantity of other modern species found		1		1			1	

Table 25: Plant Macro Remains from LBA/IA Samples. Cont.

Sample number		**<130>**	**<166>**	**<167>**	**<202>**
Context		[3679]	[3629]	[3169]	[4522]
Feature		851	823	692	1048
Feature type		Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		MIA			
Sample volume - Litres		10	12	11	6. 5
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Cereals					
Hordeum vulgare s. lato	Hulled Barley grain	4			
Triticum dicoccum / spelta	Emmer or Spelt grain	4	1		
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain	5	1		
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment		3	5	1	
Triticum spelta glume base	Spelt wheat glume base	6			
T. diccocum glume base	Emmer glume base	2	1		
T. dicoccum spikelet fork	Emmer spikelet fork	1			
T. spelta / dicoccum glume base	Spelt or Emmer wheat glume base	2	5		
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base	1	3		
Indeterminate rachis segment		1	1		
Total wheat glume bases / grain (excluding fragments & rahis segments but including wheat/barley grains)		**1. 4**	**4. 5**	**0**	**0**
Modern rootlets		+++	+++	+++	
Parenchyma - Undifferentiated plant storage tissue			+	-	
Charcoal >4mm		+	+		+
2-4mm		++	++	-	++
<2mm		+++	+++	+	+++

Table 26: Plant Macro Remains from MIA Samples Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; M – modern; WL – waterlogged. The large grass seeds are as long though not as wide as the cereal grains; Poaceae fragments may include cereals as well as grass seeds. The unspecified modern species represented no more than ten seeds per specie

Sample number		**<130>**	**<166>**	**<167>**	**<202>**
Context		[3679]	[3629]	[3169]	[4522]
Feature		851	823	692	1048
Feature type		Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch
Phase/Date		MIA			
Sample volume - Litres		10	12	11	6. 5
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Wild Plant Seeds					
Ranuunculus sp.	Buttercups	1	1		
Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle	1		+++ M	
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	- M, 17	38	+ M	++ M
Montia fontana ssp. minor	Blinks	3	1		1
Stellaria palustris	Marsh Stitchwort		1		
***Stellaria* sp.**	Stitchworts	2	10		
Silene sp.	Campions				1
Caryophyllaceae	Seed of Pink family	1	4		
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass	3			
Fallopia convolvulus	Black-bindweed	3	1		
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	12	14		
Rumex conglomeratus/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock				2
Malva sp.	Mallows		1		
Brassica sp.	Cabbages		1		1
cf. *Crataegus* sp.	Possible Hawthorn		2 x 0. 5		
Trifolium sp.	Clovers	3	6		
Trifolium / Medicago	Clovers / Medics	2			
cf. *Myriophyllum* sp.	Possible Water-milfoil		8		
Plantago major	Greater Plantain		1		
Plantago media / lanceolata	Hoary /Ribwort Plantain		4		
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia	1			
Sambucus nigra	Elder – WL?				+++
Carduus / Cirsium	Thistles	1			
Alisma plantago-aquatica	Water Plantain		1	+ M	
Eleocharis sp.	Spike rushes	21	33		
Carex sp.	Sedge (trilete)		4	+ M	
Poaceae fragments	Grass seed fragments	4	1		
Lolium / Festuca	Rye-grasses / Fescues	3			
Large Poaceae	Large wild grass seed	13	6		
Medium Poaceae	Med. wild grass seed	3	11		3
Small Poaceae	Small wild grass seed	15	49		1
Indet. wild plant seed		14			2
Indet. cotyledon		1			

Table 26: Plant Macro Remains from MIA Samples. Cont.

Sample number		**<186>**	**<101>**	**<187>**	**<153>**	**<152>**	**<223>**	**<221>**	**<231>**	**<216>**	**<180>**	**<185>**	**<188>**	**<194>**	**<156>**
Context		[4399]	[3312]	[4397]	[3971]	[3983]	[4766]	[4779]	[4797]	[4733]	[4416]	[4426]	[4429]	[4452]	[3855]
Feature		1049	738	1047	927	932	1130	1130	1130	1140	963	963	963	963	893
Feature type		S1 posthole	S3 posthole	S5 posthole	S6 posthole	S7 posthole	Round House 13 ring gully			Pit, cuts RH 13	Round House 14 ring gully				RH 17 r. gully
Phase/Date		L	B	A / E	I	A	Middle Iron Age			M.I.A.	Middle Iron Age				M.I.A.
Sample volume – litres		7	1	7. 5	11	6. 5	14	7	9. 5	10	11. 5	11	13	12. 5	8
Flot fraction examined		1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	Hulled Barley grain						3			4	1		2		
Triticum dicoccum / spelta	Emmer or Spelt grain						1				1		1		
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain					1	7			1	2	1	2		
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment													4	1	
Triticum spelta glume base	Spelt wheat glume base										2				
T. dicoccum/spelta g.b.	Emmer/Spelt glume base										2		1		
Triticum sp. glume base	Wheat glume base						1								
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	+++ M		++ M		+ M	++ M		+ M	+ M, 3	- M, 5	+ M, 1			++ M
Montia fontana ssp. *minor*	Blinks				1										
Silene sp.	Campions									1					
Small Caryophyllaceae	Small seed of Pink family											1			
Persicaria lapathifolia	Pale persicaria					- M							+ M		
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass				+ M		- M, 1						1		
Polygonum sp.	knotgrasses												1		
Fallopia convolvulus	Black-bindweed						2			- M	1				
Rumex conglomerates/ sanguineus/ obtusifolius	Small seeded Dock										1				
Vicia / Lathyrus	Vetches / Wild Pea												1		
Eleocharis sp.	Spike rushes										1				
Trilete *Carex* sp.	Sedge									1			- M		
Poaceae fragments	Grass seed fragments						2			1	2		1		
Large Poaceae	Large wild grass seed						1			2	2		1		
Medium Poaceae	Medium wild grass seed						1								
Small Poaceae	Small wild grass seed												2		
Indet wild plant seed							1			4			2		
Parenchyma - Undifferentiated plant storage tissue							+			+	+	-	-		-
Quantity of other modern species found		2				2		1	1	1	4		1	2	
Modern rootlets		+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Charcoal >4mm					-	-	-		-	+	++				
2 - 4mm		-		+	+	+	+	-	++	+++	++	+	++	-	-
<2mm		+	-	+	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Vitrified														-	
Culm node	Grass stem node										3				

Table 27: Plant Macro Remains from LBA/EIA and MIA Structures Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items; M – modern; RH – round house; S – structure. Note: the unspecified modern species represented no more than ten seeds per specie

		Cremation F.671 <84> (2096) SE quadrant						Cremation F.671 <84> (2096) NE quadrant							
Depth below surface – cm		0 - 5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	10-25	0 - 5	0 - 5	0 - 5	5-10	5-10	5-10	10-15	10-15
Sample volume – litres		6	5	5	5	6	8	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	4
Charcoal > 4mm			-	+	+	+		-		-	++	+	-	-	
2 - 4mm				+	++	++	-	-	+	+	++	++	+	+	-
< 2mm		+	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Culm node	Grass stem fragment			4	3	2	1	1		2		3	1	3	2
Small monocot root	Probable grass root								1						
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots			2	2	8	4				6	1	1	1	
Montia Fontana ssp. minor	Blinks			1		3									
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrasses			2	1	2	1	1						2	
cf. *Fallopia convolvulus*	Black bindweed		1		1		1								
Small Rosaceae kernel	Rose family kernel			1			1								
Medicago / Trifolium	Black medic / Clover					1	2				1		2		3
Small Umbelliferae	Carrot family seed				1	2									
Sambucus nigra	Elder											1			
cf. *Anthemis cotula*	Stinking chamomile						1								
Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. tuberosum	False oat grass swollen basal culms				4	5					10	6		5	1
Small wild grass seed							1								
Indeterminate wild plant seed					3	5			1		1				
Burnt bone fragments				+	++	++						+	+	+	+

		NE quadrant		F.671 <84> (2096) SW quadrant					Cremation F.671 <84> (2096) NW quadrant					
Depth below surface – cm		15-20	15-20	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 -15	15 -20	15 -20		0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	
Sample volume – litres		4	6	5	2	2	1	1		1	3	2	1	
Charcoal > 4mm		-	-	+	+	+				+	+	+	-	
2 - 4mm		+	+	-	+	+		-		+	+	+	+	
< 2mm		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++		+++	+++	+++	+++	
Culm node	Grass stem fragment	2	1								1			
Small monocot root	Probable grass root	1				2								
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots		1					2						
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrasses	1			2									
Rumex sp.	Docks					1								
Medicago / Trifolium	Black medic / Clover	3												
Small Umbelliferae	Carrot family seed				1									
Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. tuberosum	False oat grass swollen basal culms		4	1	1	4				2. 5	1	1		
Indeterminate wild plant seed		2	1	1										
Burnt bone fragments		+	-		++	+++	-	++		-	-	++	+++	

Tables 28: Botanical and Other Remains from eight Cremations and one Inhumation

Cremation F. 666													
		Sample <76>					Sample <77>						
Context		2105	2105	2105	2105	2105	2106	2105	2105	2105	2105	2105	2105
Quadrant			NE	SE	SE	NW	In Pot	NE	NE	NW	SW	SW	SW
Depth below surface – cm			5 - 10	0 - 5	5 - 10	5 – 10		0 - 5	5 – 10	0 – 5	0 - 5	5 - 10	5 – 10
Sample volume – litres		1. 5	3. 5	3. 5	3. 5	4. 5	0. 5	1	1	2	1	1	1
Charcoal > 4mm		+						+		-	-	-	
2 - 4mm		+		++	-	-	-	++	+	-	+		-
< 2mm		+++	-	+++	-	+	++	+++	++	++	++	++	++
Culm node	Grass stem fragment	1											
Small monocot root	Probable grass root												1
Parenchyma – undifferentiated plant storage tissue								++					
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn				2								
Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. Tuberosum	False oat grass swollen basal culms			1									
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain	2											
Indeterminate wild plant seed						1		3					
Burnt bone fragments		++		-	++	++		+	-		+	-	
Small pot sherds from urn		+++					++				++		

Cremation F. 1069											
		Sample <201>									<214>
Context		4597	4597	4598	4598	4600	4600	4602	4602	4602	4603
Quadrant		NW	W	S	W	S	W	N8/EQ	W	W	W
Sample volume – litres		5	4	5	5	10	8	8	4	6	3
Charcoal > 4mm		+++	++	+	-	+	-	+++	-	-	-
2 – 4mm		+++	+++	++	++	+++	++	+++	-	++	+
< 2mm		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Corylus avellana	Hazel nut shell frags.							1			
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots						1				
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrasses	2									
Rumex sp.	Docks					1					
Medicago / Trifolium	Medics or Clovers	1									
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain	1									
Indeterminate seed						1					
Burnt bone fragments				-	++	+	+	+++		++	-

Tables 28: Botanical and Other Remains from eight Cremations and one Inhumation. Cont.

		Cremation F. 696 Sample <87>											
		North Quadrant						East Quandrant					
Sample number		1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	
Context		[3181]						[3180 / 1]		[3181]		[3181/2]	
Volume – litres		3	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0. 5	
Charcoal > 4mm		+	++	++	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	
2 - 4mm		+	++	+++	++	++	-	++	+++	++	++	+	
< 2mm		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	
Parenchyma – undifferentiated plant storage tissue		-		+	-	+			+		-		
Culm node	Grass stem fragment	1	10	34	8	19	1	2	1	4	5	2	
Small monocot root	Probable grass root	2	2	26	5	12	3		1		4		
cf. *Urtica dioica*	Stinging nettle					1							
Montia Fontana ssp. minor	Blinks					1							
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass				1								
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrasses			1						1			
Fallopia convolvulus	Black bindweed		1	1	1								
Small Rosaceae kernel	Rose family kernel								1	1			
Medicago / Trifolium	Black medic / Clover				1, 1cf.	2cf.		1, 2cf.	1, 1cf.	3cf.	1cf.		
Small Umbelliferae	Carrot family seed				1								
Sambucus nigra	Elder			1		1							
Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. Tuberosum	False oat grass swollen basal culms	2	18	49	22, 1cf.	18	2	9	8	10	7	2	
Triticum / Hordeum	Wheat or Barley grain								1			1	
cf. *Eleocharis* sp.	Spike rush		1										
Indeterminate tuber									1		1		
Indeterminate seed			5	8	5	2			4	1	1	1	
Indeterminate bud											1		
Burnt bone fragments				++	+	++						+	
		South Quadrant						West Quadrant					
Sample number		1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Context		[3181]						[3180]	[3180 / 1]			[3181]	
Volume – litres		0. 5	1	2	1	1	0. 25	2	0. 5	0. 5	0. 5	0. 25	0. 5
Charcoal > 4mm			+	++	++		-	-	-		-		-
2 - 4mm		+	++	++	++		-	++	++	+++	++	+	++
< 2mm		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Parenchyma – undifferentiated plant storage tissue					-			-	+	-	-	-	+
Culm node	Grass stem fragment	1	7	2	23	4	3	2	9	20	19	3	3
Small monocot root	Probable grass root	1	2		13				1		3	2	3
cf. *Urtica dioica*	Stinging nettle						1	1					1
cf. *Fallopia convolvulus*	Black bindweed				1								
Medicago / Trifolium	Black medic / Clover				2cf.								
Asteraceae	Daisy family seed				1								
A. elatius ssp. Tuberosum	basal culms		5	12	14	2	2	2	8	8	11		1
Indeterminate tuber				1			1		2	1	1	1	
Indeterminate seed			3	2						2		1	1
Burnt bone fragments			+	+	++		-		+	+	++	+	

Tables 28: Botanical and Other Remains from eight Cremations and one Inhumation. Cont.

Cremation F.1114 sample <210> North-West Quadrant									
Depth below surface – cm	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 30	30 - 35	35 - 40	40 - 45
Context	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4679	4680	4680
Sample volume – litres	7	6	6	5	11	10	9	6	4
Chenopodium sp.					2				
Polygonum sp.									
Fallopia convolvulus	1								
Rumex sp.			1						
Medicago / Trifolium	1								
A.elatius ssp. Tuberosum									
Triticum / Hordeum Wheat or Barley grain	1	1				1			
Indeterminate seed		1		1	1	1			
Charcoal > 4mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+		
2 - 4mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+	-	
< 2mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+
Burnt bone fragments	++	+++	+++	++	++	++			
Lumps of molten iron					++	-			
Lumps of precipitated calcium carbonate					+	++	+++	+++	+++

Cremation F.1114 sample <210> North-East Quadrant									
Depth below surface – cm	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 30	30 - 35	35 - 40	40 – 45
Context	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4679	4680	4680
Sample volume – litres	7	5	6	4	4	4	9	6	10
Chenopodium sp.									
Polygonum sp.			1						
Fallopia convolvulus									
Rumex sp.									
Medicago / Trifolium									
A.elatius ssp. Tuberosum						1			
Triticum / Hordeum Wheat or Barley grain									
Indeterminate seed	1								
Charcoal > 4mm	+++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+
2 - 4mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++
< 2mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Burnt bone fragments			+			+	+		
Lumps of molten iron									
Lumps of precipitated calcium carbonate							++	++	+++

Cremation F.1114 sample <210> South -East Quadrant									
Depth below surface – cm	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 30	30 - 35	35 - 40	40 - 45
Context	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4679	4679	4680
Sample volume – litres	4	8	5	5	5	4	12	10	11
Chenopodium sp.				1	2	1			
Caryophyllaceae seed	1								
Polygonum sp.		1							
Medicago / Trifolium					1				
Mentha sp. – mint				1					
Poaceae seed – grass	1								
Triticum / Hordeum Wheat or Barley grain	1				1	2			
T.spelta glume base: spelt	1								
Indeterminate seed	2				1				
Charcoal > 4mm	+++	+++	++	++	++	+	+	-	
2 - 4mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+	+	-
< 2mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+
Burnt bone fragments	-	-		++	++	++			
Lumps of molten iron									
Lumps of precipitated calcium carbonate						+	++	++	+++

Cremation F.1114 sample <210> South-West Quadrant									
Depth below surface – cm	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	20 - 25	30 - 35	35 - 40	40 - 45
Context	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4677	4679	4680	4680
Sample volume – litres	6	5	4	4	1	3	6	6	3
Chenopodium sp.							3		
Caryophyllaceae seed									
Polygonum sp.									
Medicago / Trifolium									
Mentha sp. – mint									
Poaceae seed – grass									
Triticum / Hordeum Wheat or Barley grain									
T.spelta glume base: spelt									
Indeterminate seed									
Charcoal > 4mm	+++	++	++	++		++	-	-	
2 - 4mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	-	+++	++	+	
< 2mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+
Burnt bone fragments		-	++		-	+++	++		
Lumps of molten iron				+++		+++			
Lumps of precipitated calcium carbonate							++	+++	+++

Tables 28: Botanical and Other Remains from eight Cremations and one Inhumation. Cont.

Cremation F.891 sample <137> fill (3849)										Inhumation F.834 <121> fill (3609)		
Depth below surface – cm	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	N ↔ S	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20		?	
Sample volume – litres	1	1	1	1	sides	1	1	1	1		5	
Triticum / Hordeum			1									
Charcoal > 4mm	-	-					-					
2 – 4mm	-	++		-		-	-	-			-	
< 2mm	+++	++	+	+		++	++	++	+		++	
Burnt bone fragments							-					

Tables 28: Botanical and Other Remains from eight Cremations and one Inhumation.

	Cremation F.1138 sample <232> fill (4801) or (4800)									Cremation F.1029 sample <178> fill (4352)						
Depth below surface – cm	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0 - 5	0 - 5	0 - 5	5 - 10	5 - 10	10 - 15	10 - 15
Sample volume – litres	11	11	9	13	14	12	12	12	11	14	13	18	16	15	10	15
Charcoal > 4mm	+	+++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	+++	-	-	+				
2 - 4mm	++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+	+		-		-
< 2mm	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Chenopodium sp.												1				
Odontites vernus: Red bartsia				1												
A.elatius ssp. b*ulbosum*: basal culms									1							
Triticum/Hordeum/Avena: Wheat, Barley or Oat												1				
Indeterminate seed	1								1				1			
Burnt bone fragments	+	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++							

Tables 28: Botanical and Other Remains from eight Cremations and one Inhumation. Cont. Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++' >50 items.

DISCUSSION

Given the scale of the excavations, generally the paucity of Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age material can only reflect very low intensity usage prior to the mid 2nd millennium and the establishment of the fieldsystem (see below), and this recovery pattern is in keeping with almost all the Colne Fen investigations to date. With only some 400 worked flints recovered, and just over 150 sherds of the period(s), these certainly cannot be considered high numbers.

The majority of this material was of earlier Neolithic attribution, correlating with the recovery of two leaf-shaped arrowheads and some 110 sherds of plain ware pottery. Although occurring more widely as residual material within later contexts (and in tree-throws), as discussed above there was a focus of this material within the area of the later, Area C 'settlement swathe', and which probably reflects clearance-/camping-related activity.

While a minor later Neolithic/earlier Bronze Age presence is attested to within the site's flint assemblage, the complete absence of later Neolithic pottery - again, typical of most of the Colne Fen sites (and in contrast, for example, to the results from Barleycroft Farm/Over just up the Ouse river valley) - could well reflect the fact that its terraces then saw very little usage; the Fen Clay marine incursions of that time possibly isolating this portion of the southwestern fen-edge.

Broadly correlating with the establishment of the ring-ditch, earlier Bronze Age material occurs in slightly greater numbers (e.g. thumbnail scrappers) and some 60 sherds of pottery are attributable to that time. Yet, with the latter only variously representing 4.6/1.9% of the total prehistoric pottery assemblage (respectively by number and weight), this is not, in itself, sufficient quantities to explain/determine any population-driven 'need' for the terrace's Middle Bronze Age fieldsystem.

The Bronze Age Landscape

Seeing the occurrence of a major fieldsystem, settlement clusters and mortuary activity, by its scale, the site offers a fulsome picture of a Bronze Age fen-edge landscape (fig. 25). Yet, with its fieldsystem involving multiple alignments (and diverse scales of ditching), and with not all of its facets/parts directly cotemporary, the interaction of these components was clearly complex and changed over time.

The Ring-Ditch and Mortuary Activity

This site's ring-ditch is the third such monument exposed within the course of the Colne Fen excavations. As discussed below, its greatest affinities would be with the cremation cemetery-associated 'C'-shaped setting at the Camp Ground (Regan *et al*. 2004); whereas the complete 'circle' of that at Site IV (essentially left unexcavated and preserved *in situ*) was evidently not a focus of mortuary activity (Regan & Evans 2000). Three further ring-ditches are suspected within the immediate area. One, still extant, is known as a cropmark in the field immediately west of the Camp Ground,

Figure 25. Aerial Photograph of Areas C-E under Excavation

with the others having been lost to quarrying prior to the CAU's involvement within the area. (There was, in fact, another possible candidate within the area of the Camp Ground itself, but its status can only be considered highly ambiguous; see Evans *et al*. forthcoming.) Of the latter, one appears to have been a large, complex, double-/triple-circuit monument on the east side of the Plant Site complex (*ibid*.); the other - also a simple cropmark circle - lay *c.* 225m west of this site's. Aside from the latter, all of these monuments lay adjacent to the terrace's marshland-divide. Moreover, set at an interval of between *c.* 500-800m, they would seem to regularly dot/demarcate the fen-edge landscape and presumably served as group-territorial markers.

The basic grammar of the site's ring-ditch is generally comparable to the other monuments of this type excavated within the lower Ouse environs. Admittedly, its 'entranced-ring' would have similarities to earlier henge monuments, yet no Neolithic material was recovered in association (the *c.* 3700 cal. BC radiocarbon date achieved from charcoal in its central inhumation can only have been from residual material) and, based on precedent, this must have been of Bronze Age/2nd millennium BC date. This attribution becomes all the more obvious when the phased nature of its construction is taken into account. Like the crescent of the main Camp Ground ring-ditch (southeastern arc; Regan *et al*. 2004), it started as an eastern-oriented 'C' whose western perimeter was only later ditched. (The unexcavated ring-ditch at Site IV also displayed a marked broadening around its eastern/northern perimeter and which could suggest a comparable 'crescented' origin and/or 'emphasis'.) It is true that the Camp Ground's ring-ditch seemed to lack a central inhumation, but then its interior was so severely truncated by later, Roman features that any certainty in this matter is impossible and, moreover, it also had a near-contemporary crouched inhumation set centrally along its exterior aspect (and cut by the ring's ditch; see Evans *et al*. forthcoming). Equally, the Camp Ground's cremations had a similar distribution along the monument's southern side and, also, seemed grouped into clusters. Like in the Rhee Lake monument, its cremations did not extend into the ring-ditch's interior (beyond a *c.* 3.00m berm), which, in both cases, suggests the existence of a low interior mound.

In terms of its secondary cemetery-size, with 36 cremations this was larger, and 14 were urned. The Camp Ground's evidence was somewhat more ambiguous, there being 11 'definite', plus 11 'possible' cremations (some of the latter probably being the by-product of having bone dragged by rabbit burrowing), of which, six were urned. Representing a ratio of 27.2% of urned interments in relationship to all possible cremation candidates, this is lower than the 38.8% figure of urned cremations at the Rhee Lake monument. As outlined by Knight above, 33-39% seems a representative range of urned cremation burials in Eastern England.

Of this site's cremations, two were distinguished in that they involved paired urns; the body evidently being accompanied on the pyre by a small urn, that, thus burnt, was then set with the cremated remains within a larger 'unburnt' urn. Interestingly, accompanied by two burnt amber beads, the only other 'special' cremation was unurned (F.671). (Having both a burnt barbed-and-tanged arrowhead and a drilled wolf/large dog's tooth pendant, the only really distinguished cremation at the Camp Ground monument - F.295 - was unurned.)

What seems unique to this monument is the 'mini-ring' added to the exterior side of its southeastern terminal (F.895) and which participated in the division of its two main interment 'cluster-lines'. As discussed above, while having general similarities to Dutch urnfield cemeteries, their minor rings tend to date to the 1st millennium BC and cannot, therefore, be the inspiration/source of such 'small cremation circles' in Britain. Within the region it would have affinities with Pryor's supposed 'mini-henge' at Cats Water, Fengate (Pryor & Cranstone 1978). Yet, the putative later Neolithic dating of that monument as a whole is highly suspect and, in all likelihood, it was probably also of earlier Bronze Age attribution. In other words, its 'mini-ring' - though without any accompanying interment - appears to occur *within* a Bronze Age ring-ditch. (A far better candidate for such a Neolithic 'mini-monument' is, in fact, the small Grooved Ware-associated circle found in the course of the Over investigations (Evans & Knight). However, its morphology differed greatly; the encircling ditch being much deeper/wider, thereby leaving a much more reduced central 'platform' area.) Closer at hand, a more comparable, Bronze Age 'mini-ring' was present within *The Holme* Site (F.233; Evans & Patten 2003). Though also without any associated mortuary activity - like some larger/full ring-ditches that were also without interments - and though possibly doing no more than encircling a hayrick, it could have represented some manner of territorial marker (?pasture-related).

Finally, the linkage, by ditch F.850/875, of the site's ring-ditch to the main droveway may also be informative concerning its potential dynamics as a monument. It suggests that the participant/'visitor' was meant to approach it from the south and that movement around it was meant, in effect, to occur in a 'clock-/sunwise' manner.

Otherwise, of the site's mortuary-related deposits, the occurrence of the articulated human remains within pit F.778 beside the terminal of ditch F.741 could reflect the importance of that boundary; marking the change of the system's predominant orientation from northwest-southeast to a north-south alignment (Axis 5; see below). This being said, in some respects, its location is comparable to the F.1104 urned cremation relative to the southern end of the F.949 ditch. Equally, however, the latter's proximity to the main F.664 boundary, dividing Paddocks A and C, is not unlike that of the F.1029, F.1069, F.1114 and F.1138 cremation cluster, tucked tightly into the corner of Paddock A. This 'four-group' setting, in effect, amounts to a separate (flat/unenclosed) cremation cemetery and, as such, can be compared to those excavated at Barleycroft Farm and Eye Quarries. Although as yet undated (apart from one feature yielding a single generic 'Bronze Age' sherd), occurring 'unurned' in the base of larger, 'complexly/multiply-filled' pits, the interment rite in this case clearly differed than with those associated with the ring-ditch. They are probably of somewhat later date and, as further discussed below, perhaps, most crucially, is their proximity to settlement.

The Fieldsystem and Settlement

Due to their long-term recut maintenance, it is notoriously difficult to absolutely date Bronze Age fieldsystems. In this case, the fact that fieldsystem-ditch F.850/875 appeared to impinge upon and cut the fills of the ring-ditch could be interpreted as indicating that the fieldsystem post-dated that monument and its cremations; the latter

being dated to 3700-3639 cal. BC (2 Sigma). Yet, this would be a misreading of the data. While that ditch (and, by extension, the fieldsystem as a whole) would have post-dated the earlier Bronze Age ring-ditch *per se* and its central inhumation - probably 'assign-able' to *c.* 1800-1600 cal. BC - there is nothing stopping it being contemporary with its secondary cremation cemetery. Indeed, two of the latter's interments were themselves dug into the monument's circuit and, in Area C, the interrelationship of the urned F.1104 cremation and the F.949 fieldsystem-ditch would suggest their broad contemporanity.

A pressing question when considering the layout of the site's fieldsystem is, like also at *The Holme* (Evans and Patten 2003), the quite robust character of some of its ditches. In fact, the size and layout of those associated with Paddocks A and C (and, also, F. 863 in Area F) are almost more akin to 'enclosure-type' rather fieldsystem boundaries as such. Crucial here is whether this more robust ditching related to a greater intensity of settlement within these respective areas or, at least in the instance of the Paddock A/C boundaries, their 'hub-like' situation within the fieldsystem's overall layout. While this is an issue that will be further explored below, the differential scale/character of the site's Bronze Age ditches seems to relate to a combination of factors: both larger 'system' dynamics and the proximity of settlement.

What makes this site's fieldsystem so difficult to understand (aside from the trench-only exposure of large portions of it) is that it reflects the meeting/meshing of multiple boundary alignments. As shown on Figure 26, attempting to analyse its layout can best be approached by appreciating the various 'dynamics'/alignments of its *c.* north-south (-ish) axes and, for our purposes here, these have been duly enumerated (1-9). Three main alignments can be distinguished. First, there is the near-proverbial northwest-southeast, which is common to most fieldsystems of the period within the region and, here, is reflected in Axes 1-4 and, also, the southward length of 6. The next to recognise - 5 and 8 - essentially ran north-south and extended at right-angles southward from the east-west droveway (J). The final alignment, being something of a compromise orientation between the first two, consisted of Axes 7 and 9, only occurred across the eastern part of the area and, essentially, north of the droveway. (The southward length of Axis 9 appeared to be 'pulling' westward towards that of Axes 5 and 8.) What is crucial to acknowledge is that, while the western half of the area was dominated by the first, northwest-southeast alignment, the eastern layout was largely determined by the 'great' droveway. Aligned east-west, this basically matched the orientation of the drove across *The Holme* Site and, essentially, they ran back at right-angles from the immediate portion of the terrace-/fen-edge. Having recognised these basic components/orientation within the site's fieldsystems allows us to more readily comprehend the quasi-arcing and more enclosure-like arrangement of Paddocks A and C that, lying at its core, seems specific to the intermeshing of the two main axial orientations.

Before progressing, one final point needs to be raised; that is the arcing of ditch F. 647 in the south-centre of Area D, and which basically appears to reflect a south-westward deflection of the droveway's southern boundary. The continuation of its line is visible on the cropmark plot just south of the area of excavation (and it is adjacent to this length that the 'quarry-lost', simple cropmark ring-ditch occurred; fig.

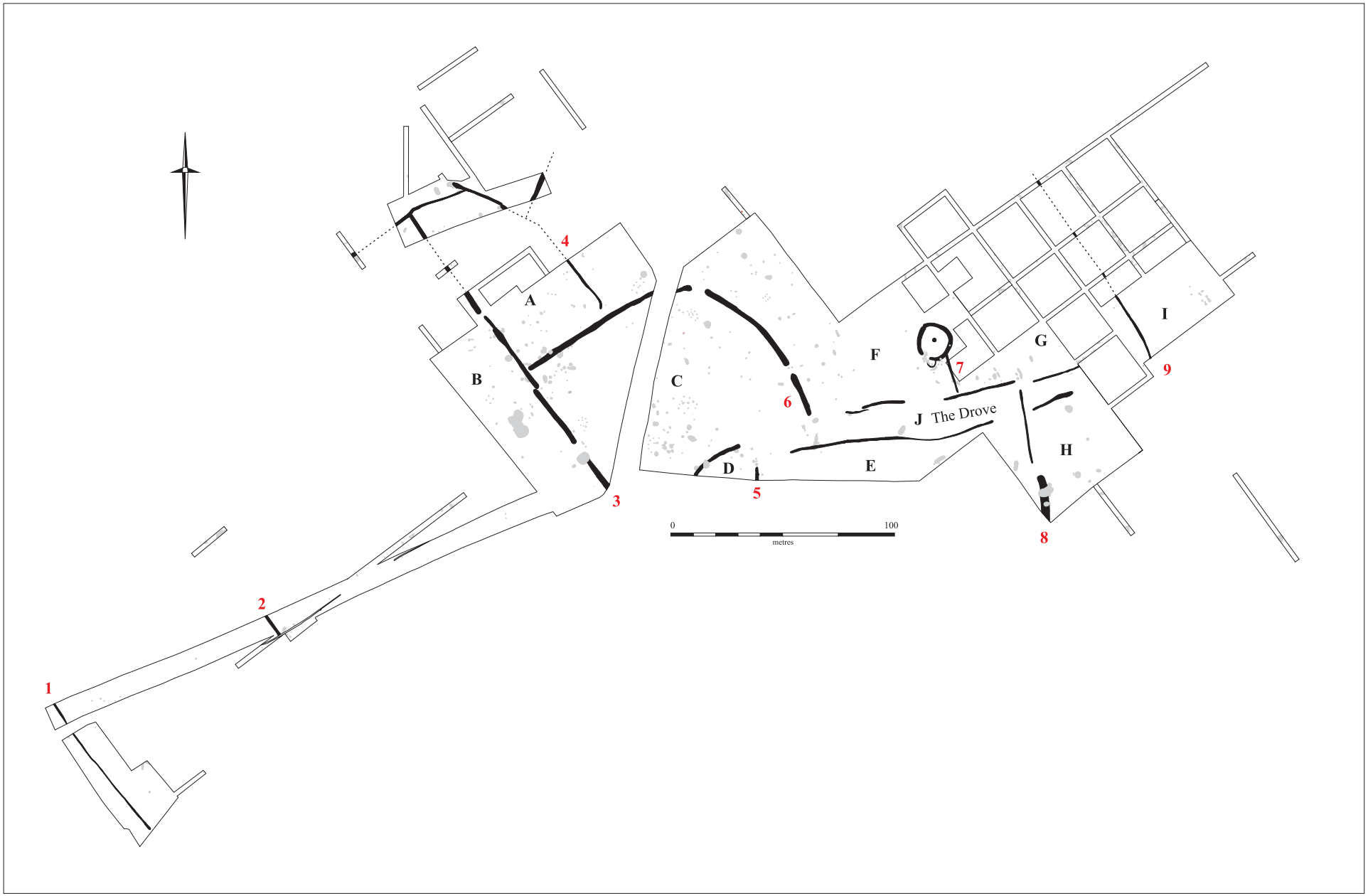


Figure 26. Rhee Lake North - Bronze Age Fieldsystem Dynamic

Figure 27. The Holme and Rhee Lakeside Bronze Age System

27 A). On the one hand, its projected alignment could correspond with the major, north/northeast-south/southwest ditch boundary (F.78) excavated at *The Holme* (Evans & Patten 2003). Based on this, it could be argued that the projected south-westward line of F.647 marked a major landscape/fieldsystem *seam*. On the other hand, if it did not continue beyond its immediate cropmark register in that direction, then it might just mark another system-central 'compromise'/enclosure-like arrangement comparable to Paddock C's. Another alternative is that its line continued on a somewhat more north-westerly alignment and corresponded with the 'B' cropmark-line shown on Figure 27. Yet, if this was the case, it would have been parallel with the main axis of the 'three-compound' series of Iron Age enclosures (Axis/Compound C; see also below) and what seems to have been a 'ladder-like' network of small cropmark paddocks that register throughout the northwestern sector of the quarried-out field between this site and *The Holme.*

The site's basic 'settlement-architecture' components are typical of the period: large pit-wells/watering-holes, post-built roundhouses (Structures 4, 7-9) and four-/six-posters (Structures 1-3, 5 & 6; with the configuration of Pit Group C's features suggests another). Generating just over 700 sherds of pottery of later Bronze Age/earlier Iron Age date (and 334 identifiable animal bones assigned to that time), relatively, this represents a considerable occupation presence. As is commonly found, little of this seems directly attributable to the Middle Bronze Age/mid-2nd millennium BC origins of the fieldsystem and, rather, the majority seems of later Bronze Age date. (We will not further explore this issue at this time as additional radiocarbon dates are needed to permit more nuanced interpretation.) Be this as it may, and as discussed above, given the proximity of most of the site's settlement clusters to the fieldsystem's main entranceways, there can be no doubt of the lingering influence of the latter's axes - as earthworks and/or augmented by accompanying hedge-lines (see, though, below) - and that they certainly structured subsequent settlement activity.

While Paddock C and its immediate 'surround' saw the majority of this occupation, it was not concentrated in the way that it was at *The Holme* in relationship to its main boundary-demarcated drove-side paddocks. Although three of this site's four identified roundhouses fell within the area of that paddock, most of its interior was without contemporary settlement features (and these, otherwise, also occurred scattered around its exterior). By this pattern, and the manner in which it was directly accessed by the main droveway (but which also opened into Paddocks D & E), it can only be presumed that animals were also kept within the bounds of this 'settlement' paddock. This surely would have correlated with the period's cattle-dominated faunal assemblage (see Seetah above) and suggests that animals may have been penned overnight within the fieldsystem's main paddocks (C and D/E) and where there milked; being driven out daily - *via* the drove - into adjacent fen pastures. In this regard, and unlike in the instance of *The Holme* (and possibly also Fengate's system), this suggests that the role of site's 'great' drove was not to provide access to seasonal marshland pastures for more distant hinterland communities passing through these immediate fen-edge fields, but, in this case, was integral to the operation of the 'edge's' fieldsystem itself (i.e. for direct site/fieldsystem needs).

The importance of the latter observation should not be underestimated, for this site would appear to include, for the first time, what effectively amounts to 'the source' of

a major fen-edge droveway - otherwise, they invariably pass through site-areas. Equally, concerning the 'style' of this and *The Holme's* fieldsystem it should be noted that no narrow double-ditch boundaries seem present, as is the case at Barleycroft/Over and Fengate. Raising the question of what was 'the norm'; at those sites such closely spaced ditch-pairs have been associated with embanked hedging (Evans *et al*. forthcoming). As seems proverbially the case, such settings were probably not absolutely necessary for hedge-provision. Yet, this may either suggest different 'sources' for, or developmental trajectories of, the region's Bronze Age fieldsystems, and this may well eventually prove to have a chronological dimension/implications.

Middle/Later Iron Age

Given the site's Iron Age sequence as a whole, particularly its number of enclosures and roundhouses, it is tempting to advocate long-term settlement continuity; from the earlier Iron Age through to the decades of the BC/AD interface (the lack of wheelmade pottery arguing against any significant earlier 1st century AD presence). Yet, to do so, would entail ignoring the marked paucity of their artefact assemblages; for example, the excavation only yielded some 500 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery - an extraordinarily low number. Given this, the alternative way to consider its sequence would be as a series of short-term 'events', reflecting that various 'outside' communities were drawn - however briefly - to explore the potential of this marsh-edge locale. In short, a more quasi-'historical' and dynamic prehistory. On the one hand, with its multiple/recut 'robust' bounding of what must have been a single structure, Compound A's 'heavy' squared-'C' (i.e. its ditch not bounding a larger compound) is without immediate parallel within the Colne Fen area. Indeed, the only local comparison for it would be Enclosure IV at the Upper Delphs terrace, Haddenham (Evans & Hodder 2006), but there, too, that enclosure was unique amid its otherwise square and more organic/ovoid-'type' compounds. At Haddenham that enclosure was, also, in contrast without Scored Wares, as was the primary form of Compound A at the Rhee Lakeside. Given this, and the western/Midlands affinities of enclosures of this distinct form, it is conceivable that they mark the arrival of outside groups into this area. Probably coming into the western Fenlands *via* the Ouse, such enclosures could relate to the seasonal exploitation of fen-edge resources (e.g. pasture and marshland produce) and need not have been permanently occupied year-round.

The site's square compounds (B & C) would have direct parallels both within the Colne Fen environs (Site I and possibly, two others at the Plant Site; Evans *et al*. forthcoming) - and another has since been excavated on the southern side of the Langdale Hale complex (Appleby *et al*. 2007) - and, again, also at the Upper Delphs, Haddenham (Evans & Hodder 2006). In the latter's publication it is argued that, Scored Ware-associated, these distinct enclosures have their parallels to the northwestern Midlands, with the Ouse marking the southeastern limits of such Scored Ware distributions. (Such enclosures do not, for example, occur on the Isle of Ely, where Scored Ware only occurs in much lower/negligible quantities; Evans 2003; Evans, Knight & Webley forthcoming). The evidence could, therefore, be interpreted as indicative of another Midlands-derived 'arrival' in the latter centuries of the 1st millennium BC. The crucial point in the context of the Colne Fen investigations is that these enclosures seem remarkably short-lived. As opposed to the comparable

HAD V compound - occupied for *c.* 150-200 years and producing vast finds assemblages - the paucity of finds generally from Compounds B and C here, and, also, that they neither saw a 'build-up'/succession of internal roundhouses structures or sustained recutting of their boundary ditches, could attest to only brief usage. Seemingly 'pristine', they perhaps may have been occupied for as little as 50 years or less.

Of its 'Scored Ware'/square compound occupation, the immediate area offers a convincing 'picture' of contemporary landscape-usage, with three such compounds, B and C, and that along the southern side of Langdale Hale, dotted around the Rhee Lake marshes (fig. 28). The close, 300-400m interval of their 'edge' distribution is suggestive of, at least locally, high population densities and this is now known to be common throughout much of the region (Evans *et al* 2006, 2007; forthcoming). What is extraordinary in the case of this site's enclosures is the 'three-compound' ladder-like arrangement conjoining the larger Compound C; such compounding of square enclosures is without ready parallel. (The scale of that square-compound along - the easternmost of the 'three-grouping' - is itself very large, approximately 20-25% greater than most such enclosures.) This must raise the issue of whether this is directly reflective of that (sub-) community's/family's kinship relations (e.g. the attached households of off-spring, but if so, this kind of compound-conjoining would surely have been more widespread) or social status/hierarchy. However, if Compound C was to mark the residence of any kind of local 'headman', then its distinction would seem to have been of a very low level and would not seem reflected within its finds assemblages.

As is discussed at length within the forthcoming Colne Fen volume (Evans *et al*.), the demise of these 'square compound communities' in the decades bracketing the BC/AD divide might also have been marked by a final Iron Age' arrival' into the area. Neither at Colne Fen or Haddenham did these enclosures see any significant Late Iron Age wheelmade pottery or metalwork (e.g. coins or brooches). In contrast, at Colne Fen finds of this type - hallmarks of the *Late* Iron Age - are only found on two sites, The Camp Ground and The Plant Site, where they occur in association with more 'organic form/circular-type' enclosure complexes, and which had sandy ware assemblages. Probably reflective of more southward affinities, the evidence could be interpreted as indicating still another community succession and, in effect, the ousting of the Midlands'-associated groups from the area.

As discussed above, it is difficult to evaluate how the 'open' settlement-swathe structures within Area C related to the site's series of Iron Age compounds. Having Scored Ware assemblages, it is unlikely that they were associated with the primary usage of Compound A. However, this does not mean that they did not overlap with its later phases and/or with Compound B; indeed, they could alternatively represent an intervening occupation, that occurred independent of the compounds.

The various potential interrelationships between the five roundhouses in question - whether they could represent a single/unified household or separate double 'pairing' (and possibly also involving ancillary units) - has been discussed at length above and need not be repeated here. What is relevant in this capacity (especially in the light of their very low finds densities) is that even the three larger roundhouses - 13, 14 and 16 - at 9.90-10.70m diameter, are substantially smaller than the region's largest

Figure 28. Iron Age Enclosures around Rhee Lake

roundhouses of the period (*c*. 14-15.00m diameter). One could, perhaps, speculate that the fact the largest building, Structure 13, also yielded two unusual finds - the drilled cow rib and La Tène-style sherds - might suggest a degree of social distinction. Yet, once again, this could only have been of a fairly low level.

Noteworthy is the northwestern doorway orientations of Structures 12-15; whereas the southeastern alignment of Structures 16 and 19 is far more commonplace (Oswald 1997; Evans & Hodder 2006). This being said, even more distinct is the southwestern orientation of Structures 17 and 18 located on the east side of Compound A. Above, these are, in effect, argued as relating to the third phase of that Compound's sequence and, by their association with the F. 806 ditch line, associated with the development of Compound B to the south (as an 'External Enclosure'; the line of that gully being thought to project northward from the west side of that compound). Certainly by their small size of their half/two-third arc 'circles' (9.5 & 6.5m in dia. respectively) and the paucity of their finds, makes it difficult to see these structures as fulfilling a residential function and, presumably, they had an ancillary role (i.e. 'sheds').

Interestingly, the very occurrence of these type of buildings and what is, in effect, a small-scale Iron Age fieldsystem demands reappraisal of the main Langdale Hale sequence (Regan 2003) and where, as mentioned above, another sub-square compound has subsequently been excavated along its southern side (Appleby *et al*. 2007). During the excavation of the main bulk of that site, traces of what were then thought to be a minor later Bronze Age fieldsystem were exposed, but which lacked any definite dating evidence (Regan 2003, fig. 4). Also then found were three, slight two-thirds-/half-arc roundhouses (Structures 9-11). Not producing any dating evidence, they were nevertheless assigned to that settlement's Early Roman phases (*ibid*, fig. 7). Yet, their relationship to the Roman paddock systems was very awkward, and it has since been recognised that they 'better fit' within the earlier (would-be) later Bronze Age boundaries. However, now with the hindsight of the Rhee Lakeside excavations, both these roundhouses and the early boundary system at Langdale Hale seem much more likely to have been akin to the layout of the 'External Enclosure' (in relationship to Compound B) at this site.

Roman

The paucity of the site's Roman usage seems remarkable given the scale of the Langdale Hale complex on the north side of Rhee Lake opposite; essentially, its southern shore only saw dispersed fieldsystem boundaries. While the F. 662/958 axis would seem to continue the line of the round/trackway around which the Langdale site was laid-out, its projected route would have crossed the then 'wet' Rhee Lake marshes. Yet, trenching undertaken over the last year shows that the ditch-line of the 'way' stops well short of the marsh/peat level. Admittedly, this might indicate that the extent of its marshes might then have been greater/higher. Nevertheless, the trenching gave no indication of any kind of crossing; neither bridge-supportive uprights or brushwood stacking to carry a causeway. In the light of this, it can only be supposed that the along-terrace route skirted the lake's western end.

Otherwise, the low density usage of the site then is, generally, in keeping with the findings from *The Holme* sub-site, where only two Roman 'outfield paddocks' were

present and which probably related to a south-lying settlement (Evans & Patten 2003). The crucial point being that the high ground of *The Holme* generally - that is the 'island rise' lying between the sub-site of that name and Rhee Lake in the north - evidently did not draw any major Roman settlement. Rather, its location in the landscape seems to have been largely determined by transportation access (presumable relating to canal systems) and, thereby, it straddled the terrace's marsh/channel 'edges'.

Radiocarbon Dating

The results of the samples submitted for AMS radiocarbon dating are given below. All are deemed to be reliable except that from F.834 (3).

1) Beta-229347 (Sample 76, Cremation F.666, context [2105], charred plant remains)
- 3040 +/- 40 BP
1410 to 1200 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

2) Beta-229348 (Sample 84, Cremation F.671, context [2096], charred plant remains)
- 3110 +/- 60 BP
1500 to 1250 AND 1240 to 1220 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

3) Beta-229349 (Sample 121, Inhumation F.834, context [3609] charcoal)
- 4860 +/- 40 BP
3700 to 3630 AND 3560 to 3540 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

4) Beta-229350 (Sample 134, Well F.872, context [3760], charred seed)
- 2800 +/- 40 BP
1130 to 920 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

5) Beta-229351 (Sample 137, Cremation F.891, context [3849], charred plant remains)
-3070 +/- 50 BP
1430 to 1200 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

6) Beta-229352 (Sample 147, Pit F.613, context [1853], charred seed)
2260 +/- 40 BP
400 to 340 AND 330 to 200 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

7) Beta-229353 (Sample 150, Pit F.602, context [1809], charred seed)
2250 +/- 40 BP
400 to 350 AND 300 to 210 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

8) Beta-229354 (Sample 236, Well F.957 context [4120], charred seed)
2800 +/- 40 BP
1020 to 840 Cal. BC (2 Sigma)

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FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

F.600 Cremation pit, circular, measured 0.28-0.30m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with U-shaped profile. Pit was filled with mid-dark grey sandy silt

F.600 cut [1801], fill [1800]

F.601 Pit, circular measuring 1.1m in diameter, 0.4m in depth with vertical sides and a flat base, consisting of fills of medium-dark grey silty sand with fine gravel and charcoal inclusions, and redeposited orange sand and gravel in its base.

F.601 cut [1805], fills [1802-1804]

F.602 Pit, oval-shaped pit 1.7m in diameter and 0.5m deep, with almost vertical sides and a flat base; 100% excavated, containing five fills consisting of light grey to dark grey-black sandy silts with inclusions of fine gravel and charcoal, plus some reddish redeposited gravel and sand.

F.602 cut [1811], fills [1806-1810]

F.603 See Structure 7 description below.

F.604 See Structure 7 description below.

F.605 Pit, oval-shaped pit, measuring 1.69-1.92m in diameter and 0.75m deep, with steep partly stepped sides and a flattish base containing seven fills, mostly consisting of dark grey - black to reddish brown sandy silts with occasional gravel lenses, inclusions of charcoal, plus yellow redeposited sands and gravel toward the base.

F.605 cut [1825], fills [1818-1825]

F.606 Pit, circular, measuring 1.4m in diameter and 0.58m deep, with steep sides and a flat base containing seven fills ranging from pale grey-brown sandy silts with gravel inclusions to an almost black silty loam.

F.606 cut [1833], fills [1826-1832]

F.607 See Structure 7 description below.

F.608 See Structure 7 description below.

F.609 See Structure 7 description below.

F.610 See Structure 7 description below.

F.611 Pit, shallow circular shape 1m long, 1.2m wide and 0.14m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a rounded base with two fills consisting of an upper mid brown friable silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks, and a lower fine yellow silty sand and gravel.

F.611 cut [1845], fills [1843-1844]

F.612 Pit, sub-circular measuring 2.165 m long by 1.84 m wide and 0.52m deep, with steep sides and gentle break of slope to a moderately sloping upper edge (forming a ledge on its eastern side) and a flat base. Contains four fills consisting of mid grey - darker brown sandy to clayey silt with flint gravel and occasional charcoal.

F.612 cut [1850], fills [1846-1849]

F.613 Pit, large irregular shaped, measuring 3.02m long by 2.11m to 1.08m wide and up to 0.68m deep, with near vertical undercut sides and a flattish base, containing five fills consisting of grey-brown to mottled orange and dark brown silty sands with some gravel lenses and slumped gravel fills, plus occasional charcoal and charcoal lumps.

F.613 cut [1854], fills [1851-1835], [1855], [1928]

F.614 Ditch, 63.29m long orientated SW-NE, turning SE-NW. Excavated in three slots. Width of the ditch varied between 3.40-3.60m, and the depth between 1.05-1.10m. The ditch displayed a V-shaped profile with moderately sloping straight sides in its eastern half, but slightly more concave U-shaped profile to the west, A sequences of between four and eight fills were identified in the slots, most of which were stratified in symmetrical concave bands. The primary ditch fills consisted of either pale grey or reddish brown sandy-silts with common to frequent small gravels. These were overlain by various mid grey to mid grey-brown silty-sands with occasional gravels and rare charcoal inclusions. Cut ditch F.641 in two places.

F.614 cut [1860], fills [1856-1859]; cut [1927], fills [1922-1926]; cut [1998], fills [1992-1997], [1999], [2008-2012]

F.615 Pit, circular, measuring 1.4m in diameter and 0.37m deep, with steep almost vertical sides and a flat base containing six fills of mid to light brown-grey sandy silts to orange-brown silty gravels with inclusions of flint and flecks and chunks of charcoal.

F.615 cut [1867], fills [1861-1866]

F.616 Pit, sub-circular, measured 0.70m long, 0.56m wide and 0.18m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and flat base, filled with light brown silty sand with frequent gravels

F.616 cut [1869], fill [1968]

F.617 Pit, small shallow, circular-ovoid in plan. Length 1.02m, width 0.8m and 0.18m deep, with shallow sides and a rounded base, and a single fill consisting of a grey-brown friable silt containing flint nodules and occasional flecks of charcoal.

F.617 cut [1871], fill [1870]

F.618 Posthole, 0.47m long, 0.56m wide, and 0.17m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised brown-black sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel and flecks of charcoal. Cut by pit F.620

F.618 cut [1873], fill [1872]

F.619 Posthole, 0.28m long, 0.27m wide and 0.15m deep, with moderately steep concave sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised firm mid brown-grey sandy silt with gravel inclusions.

F.619 cut [1875], fill [1874]

F.620 Pit, oval-shaped, 1.95m long, 0.77m wide and 0.14m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. Single fill of pale brown friable silty sand with gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Cuts posthole F.618

F.620 cut [1877], fill [1876]

F.621 Pit, oval-shaped measuring 1.07m long by 0.93m wide and 0.3m deep, with moderately sloping concave sides and a rounded concave base. Fill comprised mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravels.

F.621 cut [1879], fill [1878]

F.622 Posthole, measured 0.29-0.31m in diameter and 0.11m in depth, with moderately steep concave sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised a friable mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

F.622 cut [1881], fill [1880]

F.623 Posthole, measured 0.26m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. Posthole displayed moderately steep concave sides leading to a rounded concave base. Fill comprised a firm to friable mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

F.623 cut [1883], fill [1882]

F.624 Pit, circular, measured 0.40-0.44m in deimater and 0.25m in depth. Pit displayed moderately steep concave sides leading to a rounded concave base. Fill comprised firm to friable mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions and charcoal.

F.624 cut [1885], fill [1884]

F.625 See Structure 7 description below.

F.626 See Structure 7 description below.

F.627 Posthole, measuring 0.54m in diameter and 0.16m in depth, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. Fill consisted of a light to medium brown silty sand.

F.627 cut [1891], fill [1890]

F.628 Pit, oval-shaped, measured 0.39m in length, 0.53m in width and 0.09m in depth. Pit displayed moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled with a loose grey-brown silty sand with occasional flint nodules and flecks of charcoal.

F.628 cut [1897], fill [1896]

F.629 Posthole, measured 0.24-0.25m in diameter and 0.06m in depth. Fill comprised dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravels.

F.629 cut [1899], fill [1898]

F.630 Pit, circular in shape, measured 0.74m in diameter and 0.19m in depth. Pit displayed moderately sloping sides and a perfectly round bottom. Fill comprised grey-brown compact sandy silt.

F.630 cut [1901], fill [1900]

F.631 Pit, oval-shaped, measured >0.98m in length, 0.76m in width and 0.12m in depth. Pit displayed moderately sloping sides and a flat bottom. Fill comprised mid brown-grey compact sandy silt with occasional flint nodules and flecks of charcoal. Cut by posthole F.633.

F.631 cut [1903], fill [1902]

F.632 Unassigned

F.633 Posthole, measured 0.66m in length, 0.73m in width, and 0.26m in depth. Posthole displayed steep sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised mid brown friable sandy silt with moderate amounts of flint and occasional flecks of charcoal. Cuts pit F.631.

F.633 cut [1905], fill [1904]

F.634 Posthole, measured 0.36-0.37m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. Posthole filled with mid brown-grey sandy silt with rare charcoal and gravels.

F.624 cut [1907], fill [1906]

F.635 Pit, circular, measured 0.84m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. Pit displayed sloping (45°) sides and a flat bottom. Contained a single fill of mid grey sandy silt with small gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal.

F.635 cut [1909], fill [1908]

F.636 Posthole, measured 0.56-0.64m in diameter and 0.23m in depth. The post-pipe was filed with dark grey silt with charcoal flecking, whilst the surrounding packing comprised mid grey sandy silt with common gravel inclusions.

F.636 cut [1912], fills [1910-1911]

F.637 Pit, oval, measured 1.14m in length, 0.86m in width and 0.51m in depth. Pit displayed steep (85°) sides and a flattish base. Fill comprised compact dark grey sandy silt, with frequent gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal and clay.

F.637 cut [1914], fill [1913]

F.638 Posthole, measured 0.26m in diameter and 0.21m in depth, with concave sides and a flat base. Posthole contained two fills consisting of mid reddish-brown to grey silty sand with occasional charcoal and stones

F.638 cut [1921], fill [1919-1920]

F.639 Posthole, measured 0.25-0.26m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Posthole displayed moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Contained fill of mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels and flecks of charcoal.

F.639 cut [1930], fill [1929]

F.640 Posthole, measured 0.30-0.34m in diameter and 0.20m in depth, with vertical sides and a round base. Posthole contained two fills of mid brown -black silty sand with moderate amounts of flint gravel and charcoal

F.640 cut [1933], fill [1931-1932]

F.641/869 Ditch, measured 93.30m in length, 0.28-1.31m in width and 0.35-0.51m in depth. Excavated in four slots, the ditch was aligned E-W, turning ENE-WSE towards its eastern terminal. The ditch displayed a concave 'U'-shaped to bowl-shaped profile, filled with grey-brown sandy silts and gravels. Ditch cut tree-throw F.643, and was cut by ditch F.614.

F.641 cut [1935], fill [1934]; cut [1953], fill [1952]; cut [1955], fill [1954]; cut [3769], fills [3741-3744]

F.642 Posthole, measured 0.53-0.54m in diameter and 0.20m in depth, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Fill comprised mid grey-brown silty sand with gravel and occasional charcoal.

F.642 cut [1937], fill [1936]

F.643 Tree-throw, oval, measured 6.47m in length, 0.76m in width and 0.07m deep. Irregular cut filled with grey-brown firmly compacted silty sand with moderate amounts of charcoal. Cut by ditch F.641.

F.643 cut [1939], fill [1938]

F.644 Pit, oval, measured 0.74m in length, 0.36m in width and 0.17m in depth. Pit displayed vertical sides and a flattish base. Filled with mid-dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

F.644 cut [1941], fill [1940]

F.645 Posthole, measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.22m deep, with a square cut profile and near vertical slightly concave sides and a flattish concave base. This contained a single fill of dark brown-grey sandy silt with rare charcoal and occasional small stones. Cuts pit F.646.

F.645 cut [1943], fill [1942]

F.646 Pit, sub-circular, measured 1.65m in length , 1.75m in width and 0.52m in depth deep. Pit displayed steep concave sides and irregular flattish concave base. Single fill consists of soft mid yellow-grey sandy silt, firmer, more gravelly towards the base. Cut by the posthole F.645.

F.646 cut [1945], fill [1944]

F.647 Ditch, measured 24.40m in length, 1.50-1.74m in width and 0.57-0.65m in depth. The ditch was curvilinear, and was aligned SSW-NNE, turning SW-NE towards its terminal. Two slots were excavated through the ditch showing it to have a V-shaped profile. The fills consisted of dark grey-brown sandy silts with some gravel and charcoal inclusions, and with orange-brown gravels towards its base. Cut by pit F.646

F.647 cut [1951], fills [1946-1950]; cut [1971], fills [1968-1970]

F.648 Pit, oval, measured 1.5m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.6m in depth. Pit displayed steep sub-rounded sides and a flat base. Fills comprised mid grey to orange-brown sandy silts with occasional stones. Cut pit F.649

F.648 cut [1958], fill [1956-1957]

F.649 Pit, oval, measured 1.5m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.58m in depth. Pit displayed moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Fills consisted of mid grey to orange-brown sandy silts with occasional stones. Cut by Pit F.648

F.649 cut [1962], fill [1959-1961]

F.650 Pit, circular, measured1.93m in length, 1.86m in width and 0.62m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a flat, slightly concave base. The pit contained four fills, including dark grey sandy silt with gravel and occasional charcoal, a mottled grey-orange iron panned silty sand, and a blue-grey sandy silt.

F.650 cut [1967], fills [1963-1966]

F.651 Ditch/Gully, 10.10m in length, up to 0.75m wide and 0.32m deep. A single slot was excavated through the ditch which was aligned E-W. Fill consists of a soft grey-brown silty sand with moderate amounts of gravel and yellow sand.

F.651 cut [1973], fill [1972]

F.652 Cremation burial: circular pit, measuring 0.51m long by 0.47m wide by 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Single fill of dark grey sandy silt with patches of blacker material and occasional charcoal flecks as well as frequent angular gravel. Within the pit a heavily truncated urn was found, which contained an internal fill [1974] comprising a sandy silt containing flecks of cremated bone and frequent pebbles. Cut by Cremation F.669.

F.652 cut [976], fills [1974-1975]

F.653/847 Ditch, measuring 19.60m in length, 0.97-1.23m in width and 0.35-54m in depth. The ditch was aligned E-W and ws excavated in two slots. The profile varied from moderate to steeply angled and slightly concave sides. The fills comprised weathered bands of sands and gravels, capped by mid grey-brown sandy silt

F.653 cut [1982], fills [1977-1981]; cut [3657], fills [3655-3656].

F.654 Pit, sub-circular, 1.2m long by 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Three fills consist of light to dark grey sandy silts and soils with variable amounts of gravel.

F.654 cut [1986], fills [1983-1985]

F.655 Pit, oval, 5.30m in length, 1.35m in width and 0.35m in depth. The pit displayed a bowl-shaped profile with concave base. Fills comprise green-grey and orange-brown silty sand with occasional stones and rare flecks of charcoal.

F.655 cut [2002], fills [2000-[200]

F.656 Ditch, measured 20.22m long, 1.87-2.40m in width and 0.51-0.62m in depth. The ditch was aligned NW-SE and was excavated in two slots. The ditch displayed a bowl-shaped profile with moderately steep sided and a concave base, with a simple threefold fill sequence soft grey-brown silty sands with patches of red and yellow sands and gravels and flint.

F.656 cut [2016], fills [2013-2015]; cut [2049], fills [2044-2048]

F.657 Posthole, measured 0.50m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Filled with mid orangey brown sandy silt and gravels capped with mid greyish brown sandy silt.

F.657 cut [2019], fill [2017-2018]

F.658 Posthole, measured 0.40m in diameter and 0.22m deep. Filled with mid grey brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

F.658 cut [2021], fill [2020]

F.659 Ditch, measured 51.30m long, 2.25-2.58, in width and 0.78-0.90m in depth. The ditch was curvilinear, though it was aligned roughly NW-SE aligned NE-SW. Excavated in four slots, the ditch displayed a V-shaped profile and contained dark orange-brown to olive and grey coloured sandy silts, re-deposited gravel slumps, with occasional charcoal and iron-panned horizons.

F.659 cut [2032], fills [2002-2031]; cut [2068], fills [2059-2067]; cut [2055], fills [2033-2037], [2050-2054]; cut [2080], fills [2074-2079]

F.660 Ditch, measured 44m in length, 0.40m in width and 0,13m in depth. The ditch was aligned NE-SW, and was excavated with a single slot. The ditch profile was U-shaped, and contained a fill of brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions. Cut ditch F.661.

F.660 cut [2034], fill [2038].

F.661 Ditch, 0.75m wide and 0.42m deep. The ditch was aligned NW-SE and displayed straight, slightly concave and moderately sloped sides and concave base. Fills consist of grey to yellow-brown silty sands with moderate amounts of sub-angular to rounded flinty gravel and some charcoal.

F.661 cut [2043], fills [2040-2042].

F.662/958 Ditch, measured 150.20m in length, 0.48-0.90m in width and 0.23-0.30m in depth. The ditch was aligned NW-SE turning NE-SW. Excavated in four sections, the ditch displayed a bowl-shaped profile and was filled with dark grey sand silts with an alluvium capping in parts. Cuts ditches F.1153 and F.664/952/955, and eaves-gully F. 979. Cut by pits F.965 and F.966.

F.662/958 cut [2058], fills [2056-2057]; cut [4075], fill [4074]; cut [4089], fill [4088]; cut [2073], fills [2071-2072]

F.663 Pit, measured 1.57m long, 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep. Pit displayed steep sides and flattish base, and contained a single fill of mid grey to dark grey brown sandy silt.

F.663 cut [2070], fill [2069]

F.664/952/955 Ditch, measured 83.10m in length, between 1.65-2.45m in width and 0.65m-0.95m in depth. Excavated in five slots, the ditch was aligned NE-SW, and displayed a 'V'-shaped profile with between three and seven fills. The basal deposits comprised of weathered pale orangey-grey silty sands with frequent gravels, overlain by various layers of mid orangey-brown to greyish-brown silty sands, with banded gravel horizons. These were capped by mid orangey-grey sandy silts. The ditch cut pits F.951 and F.1132, and was cut by pit F.954, gully F.979, and ditch F.662/958.

F.664 cut [2086], fills [2081-2085]; cut [4038], fills [4035-4037]; cut [4087], fills [4078-4086]; cut [4097], fills [4090-4096]; cut [4200], fills [4197-4199]

F.665 Cremation burial: circular pit, 0.40m long by 0.36m wide and 0.19m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Contained two fills, the top [2087] consisting of a dark brown sandy silt containing flecks of cremated bone and charcoal, with the cremated bone concentrated in the SW quadrant. Beneath the cremation, the fill [2088] contained gravel, which increased with depth.

F. 665 cut [2089], fills [2087-2088]

F.666 Cremation burial: pit, circular in cross-section with a diameter of 0.5m and a depth of 0.15m. The pit has steeply sloping sides and a rounded concave base and contains two fills, the upper of dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small gravel and the lower of dark blackish grey sandy silt containing large quantities of cremated bone. Towards the bottom of the upper fill [2105] was the base of a burnt pot containing cremated bone.

F.666 cut [2107], fills [2105-2106]

F.667 Cremation burial: circular pit measuring 0.43m long by 0.38m wide and 0.24m deep, with steep, slightly convex sides and a flat base. The upper fill [2090] consists of a firm, mid-dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal; the lower fill [2091] is a cremation deposit of a black silt dominated by charcoal with small fragments of cremated bone and fragments of degraded, burnt pot.

F.667 cut [2092], fills [2090-2091]

F.668 Cremation burial: circular pit, 045m by 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep with u-shaped section and concave base. Two fills of moderately compact dark brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and bone fragments. The lower fill contained pockets of black cremated remains.

F.668 cut [2045], fills [2093-2094]

F.669 Cremation burial: pit, circular in cross-section with moderately steeply sloping sides and flat base. Measures 0.44m long by 0.42m wide by 0.16m deep. Single fill consists of compact mid-grey sandy silt, mottled with charcoal stained patches and small angular gravel. Pottery sherds and fragments of bone retrieved from fill. No other finds. Cuts Cremations F.652 and F.670 and is cut by Cremation F.686.

F.669 cut [3197], fill [3196]

F.670 Cremation burial: circular pit, 0.53m long by 0.54m wide and 0.30m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Single fill of dark grey sandy silt with patches of orange-brown sand and moderate gravel. Contains cremated bone fragments and heavily degraded pot fragments. Cut by Cremations F.669 and F.729.

F.670 cut [3215], fill [3214]

F.671 Cremation burial: oval pit, 0.86m long by 0.60m wide by 0.27m deep with steeply sloping sides and concave base. Contains two fills, the upper of which was light brown with charcoal flecks and the lower of which was darker and contained fragments of cremated bone, charcoal, burnt clay and pottery.

F.671 cut [2096], fills [2097-2098]

F.672 Cremation burial: circular pit measuring 0.50m long by 0.47m wide by 0.22m deep with steeply sloping sides and concave base. Upper fill of black sandy silt with frequent bone fragments, charcoal pieces and fragments of pottery. The lower fill was a brown-red sand containing charcoal flecks but not bone. No other finds.

F.672 cut [2101], fills [2099-2100]

F.673 Cremation burial: pit, 0.42m long by 0.39m wide, vertical sides and concave base. Fill is dark brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and cremated bone. Just SW of the centre of the pit was a complete urn, containing a dark reddish-brown silty deposit with infrequent charcoal and burnt bone and frequent pebbles. Near the bottom of the urn was a layer of thick black clay which may have been degraded pyre material.

F.673 cut [2103], fills [2102], [2104]

F.674 Cremation burial: circular pit with steeply sloping sides and concave base, measuring 0.60m long by 0.50m wide by 0.30m deep. Single fill of dark brown sandy silt stained by charcoal and containing occasional fragments of burnt bone and frequent gravel.

F.674 cut [2109], fill [2108]

F.675 Cremation burial: oval pit 0.55m long by 0.50m wide by 0.22m deep with steeply sloping sides and flat base containing a single fill of dark brownish grey silty sand with cremated bone and charcoal as well as possible burnt pottery. In the centre of the pit was an urn, which contained a brown sandy silt with fragments of burnt bone and pebbles. The pebbles are concentrated at the base of the urn.

F.675 cut [2112], fills [2110-2111]

F.676 Cremation burial: oval pit, oriented E-W and measuring 0.55m long by 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. Fills are brown to grey clayey silts with flint gravel. The top two fills [2113] and [2114] contain red mottling. Cremated bone fragments were retrieved from [2113] and pot fragments from [2114]. The pot was originally placed upside down, but fragmented on deposition. Cuts Cremation F.677.

F.676 cut [2116], fills [2113-2115]

F.677 Cremation burial: circular pit 0.34m long by 0.18m wide (surviving width) by 0.13m deep. Near vertical sides and concave base. The fill consists of a mid-brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and large quantities of cremated bone fragments. No charcoal or pyre debris; no other finds. Cut by Cremation F.676.

F.677 cut [2118], fill [2117]

F.678 Dark spread with cremated bone, covering Cremations F.799, F.800, and F.801. Excavated in quadrants.

F.678 quadrants assigned numbers [3282-3287] and [3318-3321]

F.679 Ditch, measuring at least 8.85m long, *c* 3.2m wide, and up to 0.68m deep, with shallow sloping, moderately concave sides, steeper on the NW than on the SE side. Fills consist of mid grey-brown silty sands with gravel inclusions and rare charcoal. Cuts ditches F.681, F.682, F.683.

F.679 cut [2127], fills [2124-2126]

F.680 Ditch, measured 0.5m in depth, but of unknown width (>1m) and length, with moderately sloping and slightly concave sides. The fills consist of mid to dark grey silty sands with gravel inclusions, as well as some redeposited natural (yellow-grey gravelly sand). Cut by ditches F.682, F.683, F.684 and F.679.

F.680 cut [2127], fills [2124-2126]

F.681 Ditch, oriented SW-NE up to 0.69m deep, but of unknown width (>1m) and length, with moderately sloping sides and a V-shaped base. Fill consists of dark grey silty sand with gravel inclusions. Cut by F.680

F.681 cut [2129], fill [2128]

F.682 Ditch, oriented SW-NE up to 0.59m deep, but of unknown width (>1m) and length, with both steep (NW) and moderate (SE) sloping sides and a slightly concave/ flattish base. Fills consist of mid grey to yellow-grey and brown silty sands with occasional gravel and iron panning. Cuts ditch F.681 and cut by ditch F.680.

F.682 cut [2136], fills [2130-2135]

F.683 Ditch, oriented SW-NE with equiangular steep to vertical sides and a narrow V-shaped base. Up to 0.68m deep and *c* 0.55m wide, but of unknown length. Single fill of firmly compacted light - mid grey silty sand and gravel. Cuts ditch F.682. Cut by ditches F.679 and F.684.

F.683 cut [2138], fill [2137]

F.684 Ditch, oriented SW-NE excavated in two sections, measuring at least 11.52m long, 1.51m wide and approx 0.5m deep, with moderately sloping and concave sides, possibly stepped and an uneven base. Single fill of a mid grey-brown silty sand and gravel. Cuts ditch F.683.

F.684 cut [2140], fill [2139]

F.685 Ditch, curving in a SW-NE direction. Excavated in two sections. Measuring at least 22.87m long. The ditch profile same as F.693; this was narrow (between 0.29 and 1.27m wide) in relation to its depth. At its western end it measured 0.97m wide with steep V-shaped sides and narrow base. The two fills consisted of compact light grey sand and gravel and a dark grey brown silty sand along with some charcoal flecks.

F.685cut [2143], fills [2141-2142].

F.686 Cremation burial: oval pit measuring 0.49m long by 0.36m wide by 0.24m deep with steeply sloping sides and concave base. Fills are compact orange-grey [3198]and grey [3199] sandy silts with small flint gravel. The upper fill contains small pottery sherds and fragments of cremated bone, and occasional charcoal flecks. The lower fill contains a greater frequency of charcoal. Cut by Cremation F.669.

F.686 cut [3200], fills [3198-199]

F.687 Ditch, of uncertain orientation and length and measuring 0.55m wide and 0.18m deep, with sloping concave sides and slightly pointed base. Single fill of mid grey-brown sandy silt with gravel. Cuts ditches F.679 and F.688. Cut by ditch F.691.

F.687 cut [3159], fill [3158]

F.688 Ditch, oriented N-S (?) of unknown length, 0.48m wide and 0.13m deep, with a slightly concave-flattish and uneven base. Single fill of mid orange-brown mottled sandy silt with gravel inclusions, suggests silting in one episode. Cut by ditch F.687 and F.689.

F.688 cut [3161], fill [3160]

F.689 Ditch, oriented N-S (?) of unknown length, >1.50m wide and 0.65m deep, with a slightly convex sides and a round base. Fills consist of firm brown – orange mottled sandy silts with moderate amounts of gravel. Cuts ditches F.688 and F.69. Cut by ditch F.684.

F.689 cut [3153], fills [3149-3152]

F.690 Ditch, oriented N-S measuring at least 0.85m long, 1.16m wide and 0.37m deep, with convex/concave sides and a narrow rounded base (terminal is convex on east side/ concave on west). Fills consist of firm orange-brown sandy silts with gravel, including redeposited natural. Possibly cuts the edge of F.684.

F.690 cut [2146], fills [2144-2146]

F.691 Ditch, oriented N-S (?) of unknown length and at least 3.51m wide, 0.58m deep, with gently sloping but uneven sides and a flattish uneven base. Fills of mid grey-brown to orange sandy silts with gravel inclusions, with some lenses of slumped gravel. Cuts ditch F.679. Cut by ditch F.689.

F.691 cut [3157], fills [3154-3156]

F.692 Ditch, oriented NW-SE of unknown length, but at least 2.40m long, 1.0m wide and 0.61m deep, with moderately steep and slightly convex sides, a fairly sharp basal break of slope and a flat base. Primary fill [3168] consists of a soft pale grey silty sand with occasional gravel, the secondary fill [3169] of a grey brown silty sand with red-brown mottling. Cuts ditches F.693 and F.694.

F.692 cut [3170], fills [3168-3169]

F.693 Ditch, oriented NW-SE of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 0.45m wide and 0.50m deep, with steep and slightly convex sides, the SW side being nearly vertical and straight, with a gradual basal break of slope to a concave base. Consists of a primary fill of soft dark grey sand and gravel [3174], a slump fill of friable reddish-orange sand [3173], a secondary fill of soft mid grey silty sand [3172], and a tertiary fill of soft mid grey-brown silty sand [3171]. Cut by ditches F.692 and F.695.

F.693 cut [3175], fills [3171-3174]

F.694 Ditch, oriented NW-SE of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 1.00m wide and 0.20m deep, with moderately steep and straight sides and a gradual basal break of slope to a concave base, possibly the base of a truncated V-shaped ditch. Fill consists of a soft mid grey-brown sand with gravel inclusions. Cut by ditch F.692.

F.694 cut [3177], fill [3176]

F.695 Ditch, oriented NW-SE of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 1.00m wide and 0.48m deep; a small V-shaped ditch with moderately steep and straight sides and a narrow concave base. Single fill of soft pale grey silty sand,. Cut by ditch F.692.

F.695 cut [3179], fill [3178]

F.696 Cremation burial: circular pit 0.47m long by 0.43m wide by 0.33m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. The fills consist of grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks. The lower fill contains frequent charcoal and burnt bone, a single piece of pottery and a possible piece of degraded wood. Very degraded pottery suggests the original presence of an urn.

F.696 cut [3182], fills [3180-3181]

F.697 Ditch, gently curving E-W of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 0.7 – 0.8m wide and between 0.20 – 0.28m deep; a shallow ditch with uneven moderately steep sides (30° - 60°) rounding to a narrow and uneven base. Re-cut of ditch F.698, extending from the latter butt end westwards, beyond the limit of excavation. The single fill consists of a firm brown-grey silty sands. Cuts ditch F.698.

F.697 cut [3185], fill [3184]

F.698 Ditch, oriented E-W of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 1.05m wide and between 0.73m deep; a V or U-shaped ditch with moderately steep parallel sides and a tightly rounded base which both narrows and steepens at the butt end. The two fills consist of friable pale grey-brown silty sands with patches of orange-brown sand and stones. Cut by ditch F.697.

F.698 cut [3187], fill [3186]

F.699 Ditch, oriented E-W of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 0.88m wide and between 0.52m deep; a fairly deep ditch with steep sides (60° - 70°) and gently concave base, level along its length. Fills consist of friable pale grey-brown to bright orange-brown silty sands.

F.699 cut [3190], fills [3188-3189]

F.700 Ditch, oriented E-W of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 0.60m wide and 0.38m deep; a U-shaped ditch with straight parallel sides (60° - 70°) rounding to a narrow concave base, level along its length. Fills of friable mid to dark brown-grey to bright orange-brown silty sands and gravel.

F.700 cut [3193], fills [3191-3192]

F.701 Ditch, oriented E-W of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long, 0.88m wide and 0.56m deep; a U-shaped ditch with gently curving parallel sides; the southern side 40° - 45° rounding sharply at 0.2m depth to a steep 70° then rounding to a level concave base, the north side being steeper (at 70°). Fills consist of mid brown-grey to orange-brown silty sands, more orange-red with iron panning towards the base.

F.701 cut [3202], fills [3194-3195], [3201]

F.702 Pit, oriented E-W of unknown length, but at least 1.00m long (probably 4m+), 2.15m wide and 0.82m deep; the southern side moderately sloping at 40° - 45°, rounding to a level concave base rounding sharply at 0.2m depth to a steep 70° then, the northern side initially shallow, rounding to a moderately steep (55°) slope, which rounds imperceptibly to the base. Contains five fills of grey-brown-orange silty sand with lenses of gravel and iron staining. Cuts pit F.818. Cut by gully F.816.

F.702 cut [3208], fills [3203-3207]

F.703 Cremation burial. Apparently circular, heavily truncated base of cremation pit 0.35m long by 0.26m wide by 0.05m deep with concave base. Fill consists of dark brownish grey sand silt with a rare small gravel. Cut by F.673.

F.703 cut [3210], fill [3209]

F.704 Cremation burial: circular pit with diameter 0.40m and depth 0.20m. Near vertical sides and flat base. Fill is dark brownish grey silty sand. A large Deverel-Rimbury urn (0.30m diameter) was placed in the centre of the pit, and this contained a smaller vessel, placed upside down. The outer vessel contained a brown sandy silt fill with dark brown/black mottling and occasional bone. The inner vessel contained a dark brown silt.

F.704 cut [3213], fills [3211-3212], [3476-3477]

F.705 Posthole, oval-shaped, 0.46m long by 0.30m wide and 0.38m in depth, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contains fills of mid grey-brown sandy silt plus a loose orange sandy silt and gravel.

F.705 cut [3218], fills [3216-3217]

F.706 Posthole, similar dimensions to F.705. Sub-circular, 0.3m long by 0.26m wide and 0.28m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contains fills consisting of a mid grey-brown sandy silt plus a loose orange sandy silt and gravel with flecks of charcoal.

F.706 cut [3221], fills [3219] & [3220]

F.707 Posthole, 0.28m long by 0.27m wide and 0.28m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contains fills of a compact mid grey sandy silt and loose orange sandy silt with gravel and flecks of charcoal in the base.

F.707 cut [3224], fills [3222-3224]

F.708 See Structure 19 description below

F.709 See Structure 19 description below

F.710 Cremation burial: circular pit measuring 0.45m long by 0.39m wide by 0.22m deep with steeply sloping sides and concave base. Fills are moderate to compact grey sandy silts with small flint gravel. Cuts cremation F.728. Cut by cremation F.729.

F.710 cut [3498], fills [3495-3497]

F.711 Ditch, oriented NNW-SSE up to 3.75m wide and 0.52m deep, with two fills of brown-black silt and an underlying compact grey silt and gravel.

F.711 cut [3240], fills [3238-3239]

F.712 Ditch, oriented NNW-SSE possibly curvilinear in plan with evidence of several re-cuts with moderately sloping sides and a wide V-shaped base was at least 3m wide and 0.81m deep at its deepest point, and contained five fills consisting of silvery grey – grey brown silts with varying amounts of gravel. Cuts and ditches F.720, F.713, F.714 and F.715.

F.712 cut [3246], fills [3241-3245]

F.713 Ditch, oriented NNW-SSE 2.39m wide and 1.09m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Contained six fills consisting of silver-grey gravely sands, yellow-orange iron-panned gravels, and a loose brown silt.

F.713 cut [3254], fills [3248-3253]

F.714 Ditch, oriented NNW-SSE of undetermined length, but 2.94m wide and 1.16m deep in section, with steep sides and a V-shaped base. Contains four fills of grey-brown to orange gravely silts, with a basal redeposited/ slumped gravel layer. Cuts ditch F.715. Cut by F.712 and F.711, and possibly by F.713.

F.714 cut [3258], fills [3247], [3255-3257]

F.715 Ditch, oriented NNW-SSE, measured approximately 2m wide and up to 1.22m deep, with steep sides and a V-shaped base. Contained three fills of loose to firmly compacted light grey-brown silts with a redeposited orange gravel (slump deposit) within the base.

F.715 cut [3262], fills [3259-3261]

F.716 Unassigned

F.717 Tree-throw; 3m long, 1.3m wide and 0.48m deep, with uneven sides and base. Fill of yellow-brown silty sand with gravel.

F.717 cut [3926], fills [3934-3935]

F.718 Ditch, aligned N-S up to at least 12.5m long. The ditch was 1.80m wide and 0.48m deep withhad straight parallel sides with gently sloping tops becoming steep (50°-70°), leading to a broad, flat and level base. Fills consist of pale mid grey-brown to orange-brown silty sands with gravel. Cuts ditches F.679- F.684, F.719 and Tree-throw F.717.

F.718 cut [3234], fills [3231-3233]

F.719 Ditch, aligned N-S forming a narrower linear over 0.45m wide and 0.38m deep, with steep (70°-80°) parallel sides and a flat level base. Fills consist of friable grey-brown to brown-orange silty sand from which some animal bone was recovered. Cut by ditch F.718.

F.719 cut [3237], fills [3235-3236]

F.720 Ditch terminal, aligned NNW-SSE surviving to a width of 0.44m and 0.22m deep. Containing a single fill of heavily iron-panned yellow-orange gravel. Cut by ditches F.713 and F.714.

F.720 cut [3264], fill [3263]

F.721 Posthole, 0.32m in diameter and 0.21m deep, with steep straight sides and a concave almost pointed base. Contains a single fill of loose mid orange-brown sandy silt with gravel.

F.721 cut [3266], fill [3265]

F.722 Pit or hollow, sub-oval in shape, 1.2m long by 0.82m wide and 0.27m deep. Contains a fill of mid grey-orange sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel; no finds.

F.722 cut [3268], fill [3267]

F.723 Cremation burial: circular pit of diameter 0.40m and depth 0.27m. Pit has near vertical sides and a concave base. The fill is dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional flint gravel and charcoal pieces.

F.723 cut [3270], fill [3269]

F.724 Cremation burial: oval pit oriented E-W with length 0.48m, width 0.42m and depth 0.40m. steeply sloping sides and concave base. Upper fill consists of a dark greyish brown silty sand with some red mottling and moderate charcoal fragments and occasional charcoal fragments. The lower fill [3272] consists of a mid brown silty sand with occasional small flint gravel. In the NW corner of the pit is a small depression which may have been used for a marker post; no evidence of separate cut.

F724 cut [3273], fills [3271-3272]

F.725 Cremation burial: circular pit measuring 0.38m by 0.37m with depth 0.30m. Steeply sloping sides and concave base, fill of dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal. Cremation urn from pit contained three fills of sandy silt, the bottom of which was probably burnt ceramic.

F.725 cut [3501], fills [3499-3500]

F.726 Eaves-gully, see Structure 19 description below.

F.727 Pit, oval-shaped, *c.*2.3m long, 1m wide and 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The three fills deposited from west side, consisting of dark brown – orange silt and gravel with some stones.

F.727 cut [3280], fills [3278-3279], [3281]

F.728 Cremation burial: sub-circular pit of length 0.44m, width 0.35m and depth 0.21m with steeply sloping sides and concave base. Two fills of grey/brown sandy silt with gravel. Upper fill contains charcoal flecks and fragments of cremated bone. Cut by cremation F.710

F.728 cut [3510], fills [3508-3509]

F.729 Cremation burial: circular pit 0.38m long by 0.32m wide by 0.15m deep with moderately sloping sides and concave base. Single fill of dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and cremated bone fragments. Pit contained fragmented cremation vessel within which were small fragments of cremated bone and occasional larger pieces. Cyt by cremations F.670 and F.710.

F.729 cut [3512], fills [3435], [3511]

F.730 Posthole, see Structure 19 description below.

F.731 Posthole, see Structure 19 description below.

F.732 Posthole, see Structure 19 description below.

F.733 Posthole, see Structure 19 description below.

F.734 Pit, substantial circular pit, 1.95m long, 2.25m wide and 0.77m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, containing nine fills consisting of medium to dark grey silty sands, dark grey to black silt with charcoal, and redeposited yellow-orange sandy gravels.

F.734 cut [3305], fills [3297-3304]

F.735 Posthole. See Structure 3 description below.

F.736 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below.

F.737 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below.

F.738 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below.

F.739 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below.

F.740 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below.

F.741 Ditch, measured 0.94-1.44m in width and 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Fill consists of a mid-brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. Cut by ditch F.806 and post-medieval ditches.

F.741 cut [3323], fill [3322]

F.742 Pit, circular, measuring 1.25m long, 0.65m wide and 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, containing a single fill of mid brown-grey silty sand with gravel inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal.

F.742 cut [3225], fill [3224]

F.743 Pit, oval, measured, 0.67m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.27m in depth. Pit displayed moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Contained two fills consisting of a pale and a medium grey silty sand with patches of yellow and red sand, occasional gravel, and rare inclusions of charcoal.

F.743 cut [3328], fills [3326-3327]

F.744 Posthole, length 0.20m, width 0.25m, depth 0.08m, with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Contained a single fill consisting of a medium grey silty sand with rare gravel and charcoal inclusions.

F.744 cut [3330], fill [3329]

F.745 Posthole, length 0.27m, width 0.25m, depth 0.20m, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Contains a single fill consisting of a medium grey silty sand with rare gravel and charcoal inclusions.

F.745 cut [3332], fill [3331]

F.746 Pit (?). Measured 0.6 m long, 0.3m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and rounded base. Single fill of mid grey compact silty sand with gravel inclusions.

F.746 cut [3334], fill [3333]

F.747 Posthole, oval, measured 0.75m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.15m in depth. Posthole displayed gently sloping sides and a concave base. Single fill of mid brown-grey silty sand with angular gravel inclusions.

F.747 cut [3336], fill [3335]

F.748 Posthole, measured 0.33-0.38m in diameter and 0.14m deep, with straight moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of a loose mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel.

F.748 cut [3338], fill [3337]

F.749 Posthole, measured 0.28-0.30m in diameter and 0.11m in depth. Posthole displayed straight moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of a loose mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel.

F.749 cut [3340], fill [3339]

F.750 Pit, circular, 2.3m in length, 2.56m in width and 0.83m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides, a sharp basal break of slope and an irregular base, containing eleven fills. Fills consisted of grey to orange-brown silts and silty sands and yellow-orange silty gravels.

F.750 cut [3352], fills [3341-3351]

F.751 Pit, oval. Length 0.6m, width 0.4m, and depth 0.1m, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Contains a single fill of mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent angular gravel

F.751 cut [3354], fill [3353]

F.752 Posthole, 0.25m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Contained mid brown-grey silty sand with angular gravel inclusions

F.752 cut [3556], fill [3555]

F.753 Pit, circular, measured 1m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base, with two fills; a primary fill of a red-brown silty sand and a secondary fill of brown-grey silty sand, both with moderate amounts of angular flinty gravel.

F.753 cut [3359], fills [3357-3358]

F.754 Tree-throw, measuring 2.5m long, 0.45m wide and 0.19m deep, containing a fill of grey brown sandy silt.

F.754 cut [3361], fill [3360]

F.755 Posthole, circular, measured 0.25m diameter and 0.05m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. Contained a single fill of mid grey-brown silty sand with gravel inclusions.

F.755 cut [3363], fill [3362]

F.756/528 Ditch, measured 94m in length, 0.55-0.98m in width and 0.23m-0.48m in depth. Ditch was aligned NW-SW and displayed a steep 'V'-shaped to concave profile filled with dark grey brown silty sand.

F.756/528 cut [3365], fill [3364]; cut [3368], fill [3367]; cut [3370], fill [3369]

F.757 Pit, circular in shape; length 0.52m, width 0.5m and 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a sharp basal break of slope and concave base, with a single fill consisting of compact light grey-brown sandy silt.

F.757 cut [3375], fill [3374]

F.758 Posthole, measured 0.29m in diameter and 0.06m in depth, with gently sloping sides and a gentle concave base. This contained a single fill consisting of a compact light orange-grey-brown silt with rare stones

F.758 cut [3377], fill [3376]

F.759 Pit, oval, measured 2.4m in length, 1.3m wide and 0.58m deep, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Contained two fills consisting of soft to firm pale grey-yellow sandy silt with varying amounts of gravel and charcoal.

F.759 cut [3373], fills [3372-3373]

F.760 Posthole, measured, 0.49m long, 0.46m wide and 0.10m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contained a single fill of compact light grey-orange silt and some gravel.

F.760 cut [3379], fill [3378]

F.761 Posthole, measured 0.55m long, 0.35m wide and 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a gently concave base. Contains a single fill of a compact mottled light grey to orange sandy silt with some small stones.

F.761 cut [3381], fill [3380]

F.762 Posthole, measured 0.47m long, 0.46m wide and 0.18m. Posthole displayed a bowl-shaped profile with a concave base. Contains a single fill of compact light grey-orange silt with rare stones.

F.762 cut [3383], fill [3382]

F.763 Posthole, measured 0.20m in diameter and 0.07m deep, with steep sides and a sharp basal break of slope and concave base. Contains a single fill of compact mid grey-brown silt with rare stones.

F.763 cut [3385], fill [3384]

F.764 Posthole, meaured 0.36m long, 0.38m wide and 0.04m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill of a soft silvery-grey sandy silt.

F.674 cut [3387], fill [3386]

F.765 Posthole, measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.02m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill of compact mid grey silt with rare stones.

F.675 cut [3389], fill [3388]

F.766 Posthole, measured 0.26m long, 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of a mid grey-brown silt with rare stones.

F.766 cut [3391], fill [3390]

F.767 Posthole, oval, measured 0.60m long, 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill of mid grey-brown silt.

F.767 cut [3393], fill [3392]

F.768 Posthole, 0.36m long, 0.38m wide and 0.04m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill of loose light silvery-grey silt.

F.768 cut [3386], fill [3387]

F.769 Tree throw-irregular shaped, measured 2.97m long, 0.9m wide and up to 0.3m deep, with irregular sides and a concave undulating base. The fill consists of soft mid brown sand with reddish-orange mottling and moderate amounts of gravel.

F.769 cut [3397], fill [3396]

F.770 Pit, measured 0.62m in length, 0.56m in depth and 0.37m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and flattish base filled with dark brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

F.770 cut [3399], fill [3398]

F.771 Posthole, measured 0.55m in diameter and 0.31m deep, with steep straight sides and a concave base. Fills consist of dark grey-brown to orange sandy silts with small amounts of gravel.

F.771 cut [3402], fills [3401-3402]

F.772 Posthole, measured 0.45m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.31m in depth, with steep straight sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of mid brown-grey sandy silt with small amounts of gravel.

F.772 cut [3404], fill [3403]

F.773 Pit, circular, measured 1.17m in diameter and 0.29m in depth, with steep sides and a wide concave and base. Pit contained two fills consisting of loose dark grey brown sandy silts and gravel.

F.773 cut [3407], fills [3405-3406]

F.774 Posthole, measured 0.26-0.30m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. Filled with mid brown grey sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions.

F.774 cut [3409], fill [3408]

F.775 Posthole, measured 0.42m long, 0.4m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Contained fills of mid grey-brown-orange silty sands with occasional gravel.

F.775 cut [3413], fills [3410-3412]

F.776 Pit, oval, measured 0.98m long, 0.78m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Single fill of mid brown-grey silt with occasional flint gravel and flecks of charcoal.

F.776 cut [3415], fill [3414]

F.777 Posthole, mesasured 0.50-0.59m in diameter and 0.17m deep. Filled with mid grey brown sandy silt.

F.777 cut [3417], fill [3416]

F.778 Pit, circular, 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base, containing a mid brown-grey silty sand with frequent angular gravel inclusions.

F.778 cut [3419], fill [3418]

F.779 Posthole, measured 0.40m long, 0.35m wide and 0.14m deep, with straight moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of a loose mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel.

F.779 cut [3421], fill [3420]

F.780 Posthole, measured 0.23m long, 0.18m wide and 0.23m deep, with straight vertical sides and a flat base. The single fill consisted of a loose mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel

F.780 cut [3423], fill [3422]

F.781 Posthole, measured 0.22m long, 0.20m wide and 0.16m deep, with straight vertical sides and a flat base. The single fill consists of a loose mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel.

F.781 cut [3425], fill [3424]

F.782 Posthole, 0.3m long, 0.33m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderate to gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contained two fills consisting of grey to orange-grey silty sand with moderate amounts of angular stone and gravel.

F.782 cut [3428], fills [3426-3427]

F.783 Pit, circular, 1.66m in diameter and 1.04m deep, with steep sides and a rounded, slightly pointed base containing three fills of mottled light grey to brown-grey clayey silts and a primary fill of orange-grey sandy silt with moderate-rare charcoal.

F.783 cut [3432], fills [3429-3431]

F.784 Posthole, measured 0.35m long, 0.2m wide and 0.18m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Single fill consists of a pale brown grey silty sand with frequent angular gravel.

F.784 cut [3434], fill [3433]

F.785 Posthole, measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. The single fill is of a compact mid brown-grey silty sand with angular gravel inclusions.

F.785 cut [3437], fill [3436]

F.786 Posthole, measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.23m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. The fill consisted of a compact mid brown-grey silty sand with frequent angular gravel inclusions.

F.786 cut [3439], fill [3438]

F.787 Posthole, measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The fill consists of a mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional angular gravel inclusions.

F.787 cut [3441], fill [3440]

F.788 Posthole, length 0.29m, width 0. 21m and 0.18m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Contained a single fill of an orange-grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, flint and gravel.

F.788 cut [3443], fill [3442]

F.789 Posthole, measured 0.35m in length, 0.33m in width and 0.24m in depth, with vertical sides and a slightly rounded base. Contained two fills consisting of a grey and a reddish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint gravel

F.789 cut [3446], fills [3444-3445]

F.790 Posthole, measured 0.29m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.20m in depth, with vertical sides and a flat base. Contained two fills of mid grey silt and a reddish-brown silt with occasional flint gravel.

F.790 cut [3449], fills [3447-3448]

F.791 Pit, circular, 1.49m in diameter and 0.50m deep with moderate-steep sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Pit contained two fills of a mid red-brown sandy silt with abundant gravel and light brown-grey clayey silt with gravel.

F.791 cut [3452], fills [3450-3451]

F.792 Posthole, measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.17m in depth, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Fill consisted of a mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions

F.792 cut [3454], fill [3453]

F.793 Posthole, measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, with steep sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.

F.973 cut [3456], fill [3455]

F.794 Posthole, measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised of mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.

F.974 cut [3458], fill [3457]

F.795 Posthole, measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.08m in depth, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Fill consisted of a mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.

F.795 cut [3460], fill [3459]

F.796 Posthole, 0.65m long, 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep, with near vertical sides and a concave base. Fill comprised mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.

F.976 cut [3462], fill [3461]

F.797 Posthole, 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. Fill comprised mid brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.

F.977 cut [3464], fill [3463]

F.798 Posthole, measured 0.21-0.24m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, with steep sides and a rounded base. Contained a single fill of a grey-brown friable silt with occasional flint gravel

F.798 cut [3466], fill [3465]

F799 Cremation burial: circular pit with vertical sides and concave base, 0.52m long by 0.44m wide by 0.27m deep. Upper fill moderate to compact grey silt with gravel and clay nodules, plus rare cremated bone fragments. Lower fill is dark brown/black sandy silt with frequent large fragments of cremated bone and charcoal. An urn sat on top of this fill, but broke during cleaning.

F.799 cut [3492], fills [3502-503]

F.800 Cremation burial: circular pit 0.49m long by 0.4m wide by 0.22m deep with vertical sides and concave base. Upper fill compact grey silt with gravel, occasional burnt clay and occasional cremated bone fragments at base. Lower fill consists of dark brown sandy silt with large amounts of bone and black patches.

F.800 cut [3493], fills [3504-3505]

F.801 Cremation burial: circular pit with vertical sides and concave base, measures 0.49m long by 0.48m wide by 0.45m deep. Upper fill compact light grey silt with gravel and occasional cremated bone fragments. Lower fill almost black sandy silt with large quantities of cremated bone.

F.801 cut [3494], fills [3506-3507]

F.802 Pit, circular pit, 0.75m long, 0.64m wide and 0.29m deep, with fairly steep sides and a concave rounded base containing two fills; a light brown-grey clayey silt with minor gravel and a lower orange-brown loose sandy silt with abundant gravel

F.802 cut [3469], fills [3467-3468]

F.803 Posthole, measured 0.35m long, 0.25m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. Contained a single fill of a compact brown-grey silty sand and angular gravel.

F.803 cut [3471], fill [3470]

F.804 Posthole, measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, with steep sides and a rounded base. Contains a fill of pale brown-grey compact silty sand with flinty gravel inclusions

F.804 cut [3473], fill [3472]

F.805/904 Posthole, measured 0.25-0.30m in diameter and 0.10m deep. Filled with dark brown-grey silty sand.

F.805/904 cut [3475]/[3887], fill [3474]/[3886]

F.806 Curvilinear ditch, 118m in length, 0.24-0.39m in width and 0.09m in depth. The ditch formed a rectilinear enclosure aligned NW-SE turning NE-SW. Excavated in two slots the ditch had steep sides and a flat base, with a fill of dark grey silty sand.

F.806 cut [3479], fill [3478]; cut [3483], fill [3482]

F.807 Pit, circular, measured 0.64m long by 0.59m wide and 0.11m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Contained a single fill of a mid brown sandy silt and gravel

F.807 cut [3481], fill [3480]

F.808 Unassigned

F.809 Unassigned

F.810 Unassigned

F.811 Unassigned

F. 812 Cremation burial: circular pit with steeply sloping sides and flat bottom, 1.05m long by 1.02m wide by 0.30m deep containing three fills of dark grey sandy silt, the top two of which contained fragments of cremated bone and charcoal. Two urns were retrieved: a large central containing highly fragmented cremated bone and brownish black to reddish brown clayey silt, and a smaller urn in the NW quadrant containing little cremated bone.

F.812 cut [3518], fills [3513-3515]

F813 Cremation burial: circular pit measuring 0.46m long by 0.4m wide by 0.41m deep with almost vertical sides and concave base. The cremation was represented by the middle fill at 0.10-0.35m, a black sandy deposit with a large number of large and small fragments of cremated bone. Above this was a compact grey silt and below was a compact orange sandy silt.

F.813 cut [3522], fills [3519-3521]

F.814 Pit, circular, 1.3m long, 1.4m wide and 0.6m deep, with vertical sides and a concave base. This contained three fills of medium to dark grey silty sand with occasional gravel and flecks of charcoal.

F.814 cut [3529], fills [3526-3528]

F.815 Posthole, measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The single fill consists of a dark brown-grey silty sand with gravel and flecks of charcoal

F.815 cut [3525], fill [3524]

F.816 Gully, oriented NE-SW gully, 2.65m long, 0.44-0.56m wide and 0.38m deep, with steep, uniform and slightly concave sides and a concave rounded base. Fill consists of a dark grey-brown silty gravel with frequent stones and flecks of charcoal. Cuts pit 702, F.817 and gully F.911.

F.816 cut [3531], fill [3530]

F.817 Pit, measured 0.60m long and approximately 0.20m deep with near vertical sides. Fill consists of soft mid grey silty sand with gravel. No finds. Cut by gully F.816 and pit F.818.

F.817 cut [3533], fill [3532]

F.818 Pit, over 3m long, 2.3m-2.7m wide and 1.05m deep with irregular but steep concave sides; the NW side steeper, the SE side collapsed and slumped inwards and containing eight fills consisting of dark grey-brown to mid yellow-orange silty gravels, sands and silts, some with patches of sand, larger stones and occasional charcoal. Some of these were of slumped redeposited natural. Cuts pit F.817. Cut by pit F.702.

F.818 cut [3542], fills [3534-3542]

F.819 Pit, oriented N-S, at least 1.4m wide, with remaining depth of 0.65m; the ditch profile seems to be concave and rounded, but its exact form was unclear. The three fills consisted of light grey to mid orange silty gravels, some evidently slumped redeposited natural. Cut by pit F.818

F.819 cut [3546], fills [3543-3545]

F.820 Pit, oriented NW-SE, surviving to a depth of 0.87m. Fills consist of grey to light brownish-grey silty gravels with patches of lighter yellow-orange and stones. Cut by pit F.823.

F.820 cut [3549], fills [3547-3548]

F.821 Pit, at least 1.50m wide, the depth below truncation level being 0.45m. Profile is steep with a sharp basal break of slope at the butt end, and a concave base. Fills consisted of mid yellow-grey to orange sandy/silty gravels. Cut by F.820 and F.823

F.821 cut [3553], fills, [3550-3552]

F.822 Pit, remaining length measured 2.45m, with a maximum width of 0.60m and depth of *c*. 0.60m; the sides sloping inwards gradually (at 40°), becoming steeper almost vertical (at 85°), with a sharp basal break of slope to a concave base, with a single fill consisted of mid grey-brown silty gravel with occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by pit F.823.

F.822 cut [3555], fill [3554]

F.823 Pit, unknown length, 5m wide and up to 0.75m deep. The pit profile varied from a moderate top break of slope and gradual bottom break of slope, with irregular sides and a shallow, almost flat base, with 17 fills. These consisted of yellow-grey silty gravels with occasional charcoal and water-lain silts, to dark yellow and blackish grey silty sands, and a basal layer of grey silt containing charcoal, lime and chalky material

F.823 cut [3565], fills [35563565], [3594-3600], [3629]

F.824 Ditch, surviving for 1.85m and measuring 0.7m wide and up to 0.45m deep. The western side of the pit was straight and almost vertical, whilst the eastern side was concave and sloped more shallowly. The base was rounded and concave. Fills consisted of light brown to orange silty gravels, silty sands and gravel, some with stones and charcoal. Cut b y pit F.823 and F.827

F.824 cut [3570], fills [3566-3569]

F.825 Pit, length unknown, surviving width 0.15m, surviving depth 0.08m. Pit had a concave base, with a single fill consisting of light grey silty gravel with clear basal boundary. Cut by pit F.823.

F.825 cut [3572], fill [3571]

F.826 Pit, length 2.1m, 0.55m wide and 0.17m deep. The sides have been truncated, but the base appears to be concave. Fills consist of mid yellow-grey silty gravel and mid orange-red gravel.

F.826 cut [3575], fills [3573-3574]

F.827 Pit surviving up to 1.8m in length, 2.1m wide, and 0.75m deep. The sides appear regular, with a gentle break of slope both top and bottom, the west side surviving intact. The four fills consist of light yellow-grey to orange silty/sandy gravels with occasional charcoal. Cut by pit F.832.

F.827 cut [5583], fills [3576-3583]

F.828 Pit, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.08m deep. The shape is unclear. Single fill of dark red sandy gravel. Cut by F.829.

F.828 cut [3585], fill [3584]

F.829 Pit, length *c*. 3m, width 0.65m, with a surviving depth of 0.30m. Fills consisted of light to mid grey to yellow sands and silty gravels. Cut by pit F.823 and F.831.

F.829 cut [3591], fills [3586-3590]

F.830 Pit, length at least 4m; the base was 0.48m wide and *c*. 0.10m deep, with a concave profile. Single fill of mid grey sandy gravel with lenses of orange gravel. Cut by pits F.823 and F.831 and

F.830 cut [3593], fill [3592]

F.831 Pit measuring 1.15m in section and 1.8m wide. The non-truncated eastern edge has a sharp basal break of slope (the western edge is truncated), with a relatively flat base. Fills consist of mid brown-grey sandy silt and banded reddish-yellow sandy gravel. Cut by pit F.823. Cuts pit F.829 and F.830

F.831 cut [3605], fills [3601-3602]

F.832 Pit, measured 0.3m deep, but covers a very large area, with gradual top and bottom breaks in slope, sides slightly convex, with a relatively flat but undulating base. Two fills consisting of dark black-grey to mid orange-yellow silty/sandy gravels. Cuts F.821-F.831

F.832 cut [3608], fills [3606-3607]

F.833 Ring-ditch, measured 30.60m in length, with a maximum diameter of 17.45m, widths between 1.33-2.00m and depths of 0.52-0.77m. The ditch displayed a reasonably uniform 'U'-shaped profile, with a marked break of slope between the sides and a flattish base. Five slots were excavated through the ditch. Fills comprised grey-brown weathered silty-sand with poorly sorted ravels, beneath a sequence of gravely, orange-brown sandy-silts and a capping deposit of yellow-grey silt.

F.833 cut [3626], fill [3625]; cut [3628], fill [3627]; cut [3663], fills [3658-3662]; cut [3899], fills [3895-3899]; cut [3921], fills [3917-3920].

F.834 Inhumation pit, oval, measured 1.61m in length, 1.30m in width and 0.57m deep, with steep near-vertical sides and a flat base. Pit was filled with compact pale orangey-brown sandy silt. The skeleton lay at the base of the pit orientated northwest-southeast.

F.834 cut [3611], fills [3609-3610]

F.835 Inhumation pit, circular, measured1.65m in length, 1.58m in width and 0.14m in depth, with straight but gently sloping sides and an uneven base. The fill consisted of a mid grey-brown-orange sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional flecks - chunks of charcoal.

F.835 cut [3613], fill [3612].

F.836 Pit, irregular, measuring 1.23m long, 1.08m wide and 0.2m deep, with very gently sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of light silvery-grey silt with some small stones

F.836 cut [3615], fill [3614]

F.837 Pit, circular, measuring 1.21 long, 1.09m wide and 0.1m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The two fills consisted of mottled dark brown to light silvery-grey silt with small amounts of stone and gravel.

F.837 cut [3618], fills [3616-3617]

F.838 Pit, oval, 1.23m long, 0.75m wide and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The fill consists of alight silvery-grey silt with stones.

F.838 cut [3620], fill [3619]

F.839 Pit, oval, measured 2.3m long, 0.95m wide and 0.3m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Fills comprised grey-orange silty sand with angular gravel, black sand with gravels, and grey silty sand.

F.839 cut [3624], fills [3621-3623]; cut [3036], fills [3034-3035]

F.840 Pit/tree-throw, measured 0.79-0.80m in diameter and 0.47m deep. Bowl-shaped profile filled with bands of orangey-grey silts sand with common gravels.

F.840 cut [3633], fills [3630-3632]

F.841 Ditch terminal, aligned ESE-WNW, and measured between 1.1m wide and 0.8m deep. Ditch displayed a U-shaped profile with concave base. Fills consist of mid brown sandy silts and gravels with slumped gravel horizons.

F.841 cut [3639], fills [3637-3638]

F.842 Pit, oval, 3.8m long, 1.70m wide and 0.7m deep. Pit displayed a wide bowl-shaped profile with steep=sided and a concave base. Fills consist of mid to dark brown sandy silts.

F.842 cut [3642], fills [3640-3641]

F.843 Ditch, 28.8m long, between 0.60-0.90m wide, narrowing towards its western end. Unexcavated. Cut Pit F.1152.

F.844 Ditch, measured 5.50m in length, 1.40m wide and 0.32m deep. The ditch displayed steep sides, a sharp basal break of slope and a concave base. The fills consisted of brown to orange-grey sandy silts. Cut ditch F.843 and F.1155

F.844 cut [3648], fills [3645-3647]

F.845 Ditch aligned N-SW, measured 43m long and 0.60m wide. The ditch was filled with dark grey alluvial silts. Unexcavated.

F.845 cut [3644], fill [3643]

F.846 Cremation burial: circular pit, length 0.40m by width 0.38m by depth 0.46m with very steeply sloping sides and flat base. Cremation inserted into ring ditch to north of other cremations on site. Fill consists of loose dark brownish black sandy silt with frequent charcoal and gravel and moderate cremated human bone fragments.

F.846 cut [3654], fill [3653]

F.847 See F.653

F.848 Ditch, 33.5m long excavated in two sections, oriented roughly NNW-SSE, measured 0.75- 0.90m in width and between 0.35m- 0.47m in depth, with mid brownish grey silty sand and light grey silt fills.

F.848 cut [3668] fill [3667]; cut [3705], fills [3703-3704]

F.849 Ditch, measured 33m in length, 0.80-0.90m in width and between 0.32-0.42m in depth. Excavated in two sections, the ditch was filled with brownish grey silty sand to mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent small gravel.

F.849 cut [3666], fills [3664-3665], cut [3678] fills [3676- 3677]

F.850/875 Ditch, measured 17.9m in length, 0.61-0.95m in width and 0.26-0.40m in depth. Aligned NNW-SSE. The ditch was excavated in two slots and displayed a concave profile containing grey sandy silt

F.850/875 cut [3675], fills [3673-3674]; cut [3776], fills [3774-3775]

F.851 Pit, circular, measured 1.84m in diameter and 0.94m deep, with steep but partly slumped, undercut sides and a flat base. Its single fill consists of dark brown-black organic silt with small patches of burnt clay throughout, flecks of charcoal and occasional burnt stones.

F.851 cut [3680], fill [3679]

F.852 Cremation burial: circular pit 0.23m long by 0.20m wide by 0.08m deep with moderately sloping sides and concave base. Fill is loose blackish brown sandy silt with charcoal fragments and flecks and medium gravel.

F.852 cut [3682], fill [3681]

F.853 Cremation pit, circular, 0.57m in diameter and 0.28m deep. The fill comprised very dark grey sandy silt with common charcoal fragments

F.853 cut [3684], fill [3683]

F.854 Pit, elongated, measured 2.3m in length, 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep, with a mid brownish grey silty sand fill.

F.854 cut [3686], fill [3685]

F.855 Ditch, over 20m in length, oriented ENE-WSW, and measured between 0.60m- 0.75m in width and 0.28m in depth. The ditch had a concave profile filled with mid grey to mid greyish brown sandy silt fill.

F.855 cut [3689], fills [3687-3688]

F.856 Cremation burial: circular pit with vertical sides, measuring 0.37m long by 0.33m wide by 0.25m deep with fill of loose greyish brown sandy silt with gravel and containing urn. Cremated bone concentrated at base of urn and topped with grey-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel.

F.856 cut [3692], fills [3690-3691]

F.857 Pit, circular, 0.7m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Contains two fills consisting of dark grey to mid grey-orange sandy silts and sands with gravel.

F.857 cut [3695], fills [3693-3694]

F.858. Cremation burial: circular pit 0.5m long by 0.47m wide by 0.31m deep with steeply sloping sides and concave base associated with ring ditch. Two fills consist of an inner olive brown [3696] and outer black silt, with cremated bone concentrated in the bottom 0.10m of [3696] and all of [3697].

F.858 cut [3698], fills [3696-3697]

F.859 Pit, oval, measured 0.59-0.73m in diameter and 0.36m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a conave bases. Fill comprised of reddish brown silty sand and gravel capped by grey silts.

F.859 cut [3708], fills [3706-3707]

F.860 Posthole, measured 0.31-0.36m in diameter. Filled with mid brown grey sandy silt with moderately frequent gravel inclusions.

F.860 cut [3710], fill [3709]

F.861.Pit, measured 0.60-0.63m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Pit displayed steep shallow sides and a concave base. Filled with pale grey sandy silts with moderately frequent gravel inclusions.

F.861 cut [3712], fill [3711]

F.862 Pit, oval, measuring 3m long, 2.5m wide and 0.40m in depth, with shallow sides and flat base. The two lower fills of pale to mid grey sandy silt and silt were capped by a layer of dark greyish to black silt containing frequent burnt stones. Cut ditch F.863

F.862 cut [3724], fills [3721-3723]

F.863 Ditch, 18.8m long excavated in two sections, oriented roughly N-S, 0.90m wide and between 0.35m and 0.41m in depth. Fills consisted primarily of mid greyish brown or mid greyish silty sand with occasional gravel and evidence of redeposited natural. Cut by pit F.862.

F.863 cut [3270], fills [3713-3719]; cut [3730] fills [3725-3729]

F.864 Pit, measured 0.40m in diameter and 0.10m deep. The pit displayed a bowl-shaped profile and was filed with light brownish grey sandy silt with frequent gravels.

F.864 cut [3732], fill [3731]

F.865 Pit, measured 0.90m in diameter and 0.18m deep. The pit displayed a shallow bowl-shaped profile with concave base, filled with dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and common gravels.

F.865 cut [3734], fill [3733]

F.866 Pit, measured 0.70-0.88m in diameter and 0.24m deep. The pit displayed steep sides and concave base filled with mid grey-brown sandy silt with common gravels.

F.866 cut [3736], fill [3735]

F.867 Pit, measured 0.78-0.84m in diameter and 0.24m deep. Pit displayed a bowl-shaped profile and concave base, filled with mid grey brown sandy silt with common gravels.

F.867 cut [3738], fill [3737]

F.868 Pit, measured 0.66-0.70m in diameter and 0.19m deep. Pit displayed a bowl-shaped profile and concave base, filled with mid grey brown sandy silt with common gravels.

F.868 cut [3740], fill [3739]

F.869 See F.641

F.870 Pit, circular, measuring 0.50m in diameter and 0.10m in depth with a single fill of dark grey silty sand.

F.870 cut [3748], fill [3747]

F.871 Ditch, aligned ENE-WSW, measured 19.7om in length, between 0.70m -1.70m in width and 0.24- 0.34m in depth. Concave profile filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt.

F.871 cut [3752], fill [3751]; cut [3750] fill [3749]

F.872 Pit/Well, sub-circular in shape, measured 3.3m long by 3.1m wide and approximately 1.6m deep, with steep irregular-straight slightly tapered sides and a bowl-shaped base, containing 29 distinct fills, consisting of grey-brown sandy silts, red-orange-brown gravels (slump lenses), dark charcoal-rich layers and banded grey-orange silts.

F.872 cut [3768], fills [3753-3767], [3813-3826]

F.873 Posthole, 0.3m in diameter and 0.13m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consists of a firm dark grey silt with gravel and charcoal inclusions.

F.873 cut [3771], fill [3770]

F.874 Pit, oval, measured 0.98m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.32m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a concave base filled with mid grey sandy silt with common gravels.

F.874 cut [3773], fill [3772]

F.875 See F.850

F.876 Pit/Well, oval, measured 3.1m wide, 3.9m long and 1.3m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base. The pit contained 20 fills with layers of slumped redeposited natural (eight fills/layers) and concreted, hard fills in the centre. The fills varied from light greyish and light to mid brown sandy silt or silt to reddish orange sandy silt with differing quantities and sizes of gravel and charcoal inclusions.

F.876 cut [3799], fills [3780-3798]

F.877 Pit, oval in shape, measuring 0.55m long, 0.34m wide and 0.45m deep. Pit displayed a U-shaped profile with steep sides and a concave base. The upper fills comprised pale grey silty sands, overlying a band of dark charcoal-rich silt. The basal deposit comprised weathered browny-orange sands and gravels.

F.877 cut [3804], fills [3800-3803]

F.878 Posthole. See Structure 4 description below

F.879 Posthole, 0.3m in diameter and 0.13m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill of grey-brown silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal inclusions.

F.879 cut [3808], fill [3807]

F.880/912 Posthole, 0.38m long, 0.35m wide and 0.35m deep, with near vertical (80°) sides and a flattish concave base. The two fills consist of mid to dark brown sandy silts, moderately compacted with angular stones.

F.8809/912 cut [3810/3931], fills [3909/3929], [3930]

F.881/913 Pit, oval-shaped pit, measured 1.35m long, 0.85m wide and 0.13m deep, filled with a mid grey-brown silty sand

F.881/913 cut [3812/3933], fill [3811/3932]

F.882 Pit, circular in shape, measured 1.40-1.44m in diameter and o.46m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a concave base, filled with an upper horizon of dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels, and a lower layer of mid greyish-brown sandy silts with occasional gravel inclusions.

F.882 cut [3829], fills [3827-3828]

F.883 Posthole, measured 0.54m long, 0.46m wide and 0.1m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contained a single fill of mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

F.883 cut [3831], fill [3830]

F.884 Posthole, measured 0.64m long and 0.43m wide, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contained a single fill of orange-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.

F.884 cut [3833], fill [3832]

F.885 Posthole, measured 0.54m long by 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Single fill of compact light brown sandy silt with small amounts of gravel.

F.885 cut [3825], fill [3824]

F.886 Posthole, measured 0.52m long by 0.49m wide and 0.12m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Single fill of a compact mid grey-brown sandy silt with small amounts of gravel.

F.885 cut [3825], fill [3824]

F.887 Posthole, measured 0.3m long, 0.28m wide and 0.19m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The fill consisted of a loose mid brown-grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel.

F.887 cut [3839], fill [3838]

F.888 Pit, circular, measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.22m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consists of dark grey silty sand with fine gravel and occasional charcoal inclusions. Cut pit F.889.

F.888 cut [3842], fill [3841]

F.889 Pit, measured at least 0.5m in diameter, and 0.18m deep, with a flattish base. Contained a single fill of mid grey silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal inclusions. Cut by pits F.888 and F.890.

F.889 cut [3844], fill [3843]

F.890 Pit, oblong-shaped, measured 3.5m long and up to 1.05m wide, 0.42m deep, with vertical sides and almost flat base. The three fills consisted of dark grey silty sands with fine gravel and charcoal inclusions, with some redeposited orange gravel. Cut pit F.889.

F.890 cut [3848], fills [3845] – [3847]

F.891 Cremation burial: oval, length 0.46m, width 0.31m, depth 0.9m. Steeply sloping sides and concave base, fill is dark grey sandy silt with frequent flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks, fragments of cremated bone and degraded pottery fragments. Cut ring-gully F.895.

F.891 cut [3850], fill [3849]

F.892 Posthole, 0.45m long, 0.37m wide and 0.15m, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Contains a single fill of dark to mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions and charcoal.

F.892 cut [3852], fill [3851]

F.893 Eaves-gully, see Structure 17 description below.

F.894/914 Posthole, measured 0.28-0.30m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Filled with dark grey brown silty sand.

F.894/914 cut [3857/3935], fill [3856/3934]

F.895 Ring-ditch, measured 4.02m in diameter (external edge), with widths of 0.24-0.44m and depths of 0.07-0.20m. The ditch was excavated in three slots, and displayed a U-shaped profile with a concave base, filled with grey-brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks. Cut by cremation F.891.

F.895 cut [3859], fill [3858]; cut [3861], fill [3860]; cut [3916], fill [3915]

F.896 Posthole, measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.23m in depth. Filled with light grey silty sand with occasional stones.

F.896 cut [3863], fill [3862]

F.897 Posthole, measured 0.55m in diameter and 0.23m in depth. Filled with light grey silty sand with occasional stones.

F.897 cut [3865], fill [3864]

F.898 Posthole, measured 0.22m diameter and 0.13m in depth. Filled with light grey silty sand with occasional stones.

F.898 cut [3867], fill [3866]

F.899 Posthole, measured 0.55m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. Posthole displayed shallow concave sides and a rounded concave base. Fill comprised light grey silty sand with occasional stones.

F.899 cut [3869], fill [3868]

F.900 Posthole, sub-circular, 0.40-0.50m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. Posthole displayed shallow concave sides and a rounded concave base. Fill comprises light grey silty sand with occasional stones.

F.900 cut [3871], fill [3870]

F.901 Posthole, measured 0.74m in diameter and 0.26m in depth. Posthole displayed moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Fill comprised mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions

F.901 cut [3873], fill [3872]

F.902 Eaves-gully, see Structure 18 description below.

F.903 Pit, sub-circular, measuring 2.1m in diameter and 0.56m in depth. Pit displayed steeply sloping sides and a flat base, filled with eight layers of mid to dark grey silty sands and light orange silty sands with occasional gravel and rare charcoal. Cuts pit F.917.

F.903 cut [3885], fills [3877-3885]

F.904 See F.805

F.905 Pit, circular, measured 0.95m in diameter and 0.37m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a concave base, with two fills of mid to dark grey silty sand with gravels.

F.905 cut [3890], fills [3888-3889]

F.906 Ditch, measured 13.6m in length, with widths between 1.44-1.91m and depths between 0.58-0.68m. The three slots excavated showed the ditch to have a U-shaped profile which became steeper and deeper towards the terminals. The fills comprised orange-brown sandy-silts overlain by gravely deposits, capped by a layer of greyish, gravely silt. Cut ditch F.833.

F.906 cut [3672], fill [3669-3671; cut [3894], fills [3891-3893]; cut [3914], fills [3909-3913]

F.907 Posthole, 0.33m long, 0.35m wide and 0.18m deep, with gently sloping sides and a rounded concave base. Contains two fills, consisting of a light grey silt with inclusions of loose-medium compacted gravel, and a brown-yellow sandy gravely silt.

F.907 cut [3906], fills [3904-3905]

F.908 Posthole, measured 0.74m long, 0.62m wide and 0.2m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. This contained a single fill of mid grey-brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions.

F.908 cut [3908], fill [3907]

F.909 Posthole, sub-circular, measured 0.5m long and 0.3m wide, 0.17m deep, with concave rounded sides and base. Fill consists of a light grey silty sand.

F.909 cut [3923], fill [3922]

F.910 Posthole, sub-circular, measured 0.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. Contains two fills consisting of light grey to dark brown sandy silts and gravels.

F.910 cut [3926], fills [3924-3925]

F.911 Gulley, oriented NNW-SSE, measuring 1.15m long, 0.33m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a narrow, rounded base. Single fill of mid grey-brown sandy silt with stones. Cut by gully F.816

F.911 cut [3928], fill [3927]

F.912 See F.880

F.913 See F.881

F.914 See F.894

F.915 Pit, measured 1.10-1.30m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Pit displayed bowl-shaped profile with concave base. Filled with compact dark grey-brown silt.

F.915 cut [3937], fill [3936]

F.916 Pit, measured 1.00-1.10m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Pit displayed bowl-shaped profile with concave base. Filled with compact dark grey-brown silt.

F.916 cut [3939], fill [3938]

F.917 Pit, shallow, circular and flat-bottomed, measuring >1.1m in diameter and 0.38m deep, with steep, almost vertical sides. Contains three fills consisting of brown-grey to reddish-orange sandy silts with some stone and rare flecks of charcoal. Cut by pit F.903.

F.917 cut [3943], fills [3940-3942]

F.918 Posthole, oval, measured 0.64m long, 0.49m wide, and 0.18m deep, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile in section with steep sides and a concave base. The single fill consisted of a compact mid grey sandy silt with small amounts of gravel.

F.918 cut [3950], fill [3949]

F.920 Posthole, measured 0.45m long, 0.22m wide, and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Fills consisted of light grey silty sand.

F.920 cut [3955], fills [3953-3954]

F.921 Posthole, measured 0.45m long, 0.22m wide, and 0.14m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Contains two fills consisting of medium light grey silt and a brown-red sand, some small amount of gravel and charcoal flecks.

F.921 cut [3958], fills [3956-3957]

F.922 Posthole, measured 0.32m long, 0.29m wide and 0.16m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The single fill consists of compact light grey sandy silt with occasional angular flint and flecks of charcoal.

F.922 cut [3960], fill [3959]

F.923 Posthole, 0.78m long, 0.85m wide, and 0.33m deep, with moderate to steep sides and a concave base. Contains two fills consisting of loose to moderately compacted dark grey to orange-brown sandy silts and gravel.

F.923 cut [3963], fills [3961-3962]

F.924 Posthole, measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.09m in depth with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill consisting of a dark grey silt with occasional fine gravel and charcoal inclusions.

F.924 cut [3965], fill [3964]

F.925 Posthole, measured 0.3m long by 0.28m wide and 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides, a gradual basal break of slope, and a concave base. The single fill consists of a compacted mid grey to orange-brown sandy silt with moderate gravel.

F.925 cut [3967], fill [3966]

F.926 Posthole, measured 0.45m long, 0.38m wide, and 0.11m deep, with moderately sloping sides, a gradual break of slope, and a concave base. The single fill consists of a light brown-grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel.

F.926 cut [3969], fill [3968]

F.927 Posthole. See Structure 6 description below.

F.928. Posthole, oval in shape, measured 0.46m long, 0.36m wide and 0.21m deep. Bowl-shaped profile, filled with mid grey sandy silt with occasional gravels and charcoal flecks.

F.928 cut [3974], fill [3973]/

F.929 Posthole. See Structure 6 description below.

F.930 Posthole. See Structure 6 description below.

F.931 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below

F.932 See Structure 7 description below.

F.933 Cremation burial: circular pit 0.65m diameter and 0.21m deep with steeply sloping sides and concave base. Fill consists of compact mid greyish brown silt with rare gravel, cremated bone and degraded pot fragments.

F.933 cut [3989], fill [3988]

F.934 Posthole, measured 0.7m long, 0.65m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Contains two fills; a mid grey-brown sandy silt with gravel above and a dark grey-black sandy silt with charcoal material in the base.

F.934 cut [3987], fills [3985-3986]

F.935 See Structure 4 description below.

F.936 See Structure 4 description below.

F.937 Pit, measured 1.2m in diameter and 0.28m deep, with a shallow sides and flat base and a dark grey silty sand fill.

F.937 cut [3995], fill [3994]

F.938 See Structure 4 description below.

F.939 See Structure 4 description below.

F.940 See Structure 4 description below.

F.941 See Structure 4 description below.

F.942 See Structure 4 description below.

F.943 See Structure 4 description below.

F.944 See Structure 4 description below.

F.945 See Structure 4 description below.

F.946 See Structure 4 description below.

F.947 Posthole, measured 0.40m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. Filled with light grey-brown orangey silt with rare charcoal flecks and frequent gravels.

F.947 cut [4013], fill [4012]

F.948 Ditch, oriented NW-SE, measured 13.8m (where surviving), 0.49m wide and 0.73m in depth. Ditch displayed moderately steep sides and a concave base. Fills comprised primarily of orangey brown silt to light or mid grey sandy silt. Cut by well F.957.

F.948 cut [4022], fills [4016-4021]

F.949 Ditch, oriented NW-SE with a curving terminal, excavated in three sections, the ditch measured 27.2m in length, between 0.77-1.10m wide and 0.25- 0.44m in depth, with orangey brown clayey and light to mid grey sandy silt fills with patches of iron pan. Cut by pit F.953.

F.949 cut [4025], fills [4023, 4024]; cut [4049] fill [4046-4048]; cut [4066] fill [4065]

F.950 Ditch, NW-SE, measured 30.4m in length, 2.13-2.25m wide and between 0.98m-1.09m in depth. The ditch was excavated in three slots and displayed steep sides and a flat to concave or V-shaped base. Fills consisted of light to mid orange brown sandy silt, mid to dark brown sandy silt and light to very dark grey silty sand.

F.950 cut [4032], fills [4026-4031]; cut [4045] fills [4039-4044]; cut [4064] fills [4055-4059]

F.951 Pit, measured 1.48m long, 0.75m wide, 0.42m deep with straight sides and a concave base. The fill was a mid orangey brown sandy silt. Cut by F.664/952/955.

F.951 cut [4034], fill [4033]

F.952 See F.664

F.953 Pit, oval, measured 1.65-2.55m in diameter and 0.62m in depth. The pit displayed steep sides and concave base. Fills comprised very dark to light grey grey sandy silt, with patches of iron-panning. Cut ditch F.949

F.953 cut [4054], fills [4050-4053]

F.954 Pit, measured 1.65m in diameter, 0.68m in depth with vertical sides and flat base, containing a dark grey to black sandy silt. Cut F.664/952/955.

F.954 cut [4077], fill [4076]

F.955 See F.664

F.956 Ditch, oriented NW-SE, excavated in five slots. Measured 33.3m in length, 1.30-2.50m in width and between 0.70-0.88m in depth. Ditch displayed a V-shaped profile with steep occasionally stepped sided and a narrow concave base. The fill sequence comprised basal deposits of weathered pale orangey-grey silty sands with frequent (sometimes slumped) gravels, overlain by various layers of mid orangey-brown to greyish-brown silty sands, with banded gravel horizons deriving from both edges of the

ditch. These were then capped by mid orangey-grey sandy silts Cuts pits F.959, F.1064 and F.1065 and ditch F.1058. Cut by eaves-gully F.963.

F.956 cut [4073], fills [4067-4072]; cut [4100], fills [4098-4099]; cut [4134], fill [4132]; cut [4140], fills [4135-4139, 4148]; cut [4512] fills [4498-4511]

F.957 Pit/Well, rectangular in shaped, measured 2.4m wide, 3.7m in length and 1.92m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The pit had 22 fills, including several layers of redeposited and slumped natural. These consisted of intercalated layers of mid brown to orange sand and orangey white clay and black or light grey silt.

F.957 cut [4131], fills [4109-4130]

F.958 See F.662

F.959 Pit, measured 1.3-1.45m in diameter and 0.40m in depth, with shallow sides and flat base. The fill consisted of mid brownish grey sandy silt. Cut by F.956.

F.959 cut [4102], fill [4101]

F.960 Pit, oval, measured 1.35m in length, 0.50m in width and 0.17m in depth. Pit displayed moderately steep sides and a pointed base. Filled with compact grey sandy silt

F.960 cut [4104], fill [4103]

F.961 Pit, measured 0.85m long, 0.50m wide, 0.18m deep, possessed irregular steep sides and uneven base with a dark grey sandy silt fill.

F.961 cut [4106], fill [4105]

F.962 Pit, measured 0.45m long, 0.35m wide, 0.24m deep, possessed steep sides and concave base with a dark grey sandy silt fill.

F.962 cut [4108], fill [4107]

F.963 Eave-gully, see Structure 14 description below

F.964 Pit, measured 2.7- 2.5m in diameter and 0.61m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a flat base. Fills consisted of light to dark grey silt and dark orangey brown sandy silt.

F.964 cut [4147], fills [4141-4146]

F.965 Pit, measured 2.2m in diameter, 0.55m deep with steep sides and uneven base. Fills consisted of dark, almost peaty silt, pale grey chalky marl and light grey silt. Cut pit F.966 and ditch F662/.958

F.965 cut [4157], fills [4153-4156]

F.966 Pit, measured 0.85m in diameter, 0.30m in depth with steep sides and uneven base. Fills consisted of a mid grey silty sand and light grey silt with patches of dark yellow sand and pale grey chalky marl. A single flint was recovered. Cut ditch F.662/958. Cut by pit F.965.

F.966 cut [4160], fills [4158-4159]

F.967 Posthole, measured 0.39m long, 0.32m wide and 0.30m deep undercut sides and concave base and a single fill of grey sandy silt with charcoal.

F.967 cut [4150], fill [4149]

F.968 Pit, measured 0.85m long, 0.50m wide and 0.12m in depth with gentle slopes and concave base and a fill of grey sandy silt.

F.968 cut [4152], fill [4151]

F.969 measured 1.6m long, 0.70m wide and 0.57m deep, with steep sides and concave base. Fills consisted of grey fine silty sand and yellow to white sand.

F.969 cut [4165], fills [4163-4164]

F.970 Pit, measured 1.4m long, 1.20m wide, 0.53m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base with a mid brownish grey sandy silt fill. No finds were associated with the feature.

F.970 cut [4167], fill [4166]

F.971 Pit, measured 1.05m long, 0.60m wide, 0.80m in depth with very a shallow slope, concave base and grey sandy silt fill. No finds.

F.971 cut [4169], fill [4168]

F.972 Posthole, measured 0.24-0.34m in diameter, 0.17m deep with steep sides and concave base and a dark grey sandy silt fill.

F.972 cut [4171] fill [4170]

F.973 Pit, measured 0.80m in diameter and 0.38m in depth. Sides were steep, with a concave base, the pit was clay lined and contained fills of very dark bluish brown grey sandy clay, a layer of mixed sized burnt stones and mid to light greyish blue sandy clay.

F.973 cut [4174], fills [4172-4173]

F.974 Posthole. See Structure 5 description below

F.975 Posthole. See Structure 5 description below

F.976 Pit, measured 1.4m long, 1.08m wide and 0.55m in depth. Pit displayed shallow sides, a concave base and fills which consisted primarily of grey fine silt/sand and white-yellow sand. Cut pit F.981.

F.976 cut [4182], fills [4179-4180]

F.977 Eaves-gully, see Structure 16 description below

F.978 Pit, measured 1.19m long, 1.11m wide, 0.25m in depth with shallow sides and concave base and a mid greyish brown sandy silt.

F.978 cut [4194], fill [4193]

F.979 Eaves-gully, see Structure 15 description below.

F.980 Pit, measured 1.2m long, 0.50m wide, 0.48m deep. Pit displayed shallow sides and a concave base. Fills consisted of dark grey and grey silts, and yellow orange sand. Cut pit F.981

F.980 cut [4204], fills [4201-4203]

F.981 Pit, measured 1.3m long, 0.60m wide, 0.51m deep, with gradual sides and concave base. Fills consisted of dark grey and grey silts, and yellow orange sand. Cut by pits F.976 and F.980.

F.981 cut [4208], fills [4205-4207]

F.982 Pit, measured 1.43m long, 0.95m wide, 0.46m in depth and had steep sides and concave base. Fills consisted of mid to dark grey mid orange brown sandy silt.

F.982 cut [4209], fills [4210-4211]

F.983 Pit, sub-circular to oval measured *c*. 7m in length, 5.1m in width and 1.02m in depth. Pit displayed uneven gently sloping sides and an undulating base. Up to 16 fills identified, consisting of moderate to loosely pack brown-grey to orange-brown sandy silts, silty gravels, brown silty clays and marly clays and sands. Cut by pits F.984, F.985 and F.986.

F.983 cut [4228], fills [421204227]

F.984 Pit, measuring up to 1.75m long, but of unknown width (probably >0.7m) and 0.75m deep. Fills consist of assorted grey to orange-brown sandy silts, with some marl inclusions, small stones and gravel.. Cut by pit F.985

F.984 cut [4233], fills [4229-4232]

F.985 Pit, measuredLength 1.68m, width >0.78m (in section), and depth 0.68m. The sides are fairly steep (45°); slightly concave base. Fills consist of moderately compact mid grey to brown-orange banded sandy silts with marl and gravel inclusions. Cut F.984.

F.985 cut [4241], fills [4234-4238]

F.986 Pit, length 4.4m, width *c* 3.6m and 0.36m deep, with irregular sides and an irregular base, and of uncertain shape within. Pit displayed a shallow cut and was extensive, covering a large undulating series of hollows. Fills consist of mid yellow-grey to light green-grey and white sandy silts.

F.986 cut [4245], fills [4242-4244]

F.987 Pit, length 1.3m, width 0.35m, and 0.37m deep, with shallow concave cut. Fills consisted of soft grey-yellow-brown silty sands. Cut by pit F.988

F.987 cut [4248], fills [4246-4247]

F.988 Pit, length at least 3m, width 0.65m, depth 0.47m. Pit was truncated but displayed an irregular base. Fills consist of mid grey to greenish-grey banded silts. Cut pit F.987. Cut by pit F.989.

F.988 cut [4252], fills [4249-4251]

F.989 Pit, length 1.08m, width 0.75m , and 0.28m deep. Fills consist of light blue-grey sandy silt. Cut by F.988

F.989 cut [4255], fills [4253-4254]

F.990 Posthole, see Structure 9 description below.

F.991 Eaves-gully, see Structure 15 description below

F.992 Pit measured 1.13m long, 0.51m wide, 0.62m deep with shallow sides and concave base. Fills consisted of grey to brown orange and yellow/white sand.

F.992 cut [4268], fills [4265-4267]

F.993 Pit, measured 1.4m long, 1.2m wide and 0.47m in depth. With steep sides and concave base fills consisted of mid grey and orange yellow sands.

F.993 cut [4271], fills [4269-4270].

F.994 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.995 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.996 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.997 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.998 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.999 Posthole, see Structure 9 description below.

F.1000 Posthole, see Structure 9 description below.

F.1001 Posthole, see Structure 9 description below.

F.1002 Posthole, see Structure 9 description below.

F.1003 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.1004 Posthole, see Structure 16 description below.

F.1005 Pit, measured 1.02-1.36m in diameter and 0.29m deep with shallow sides and concave base, with a mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt fill.

F.1005 cut [4299], fill [4298]

F.1006 Pit, measured 1.5m long, 1.4m wide and 0.63m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Fills consisted of light grey to grey brown and white sands.

F.1006 cut [4303], fills [4300-4302].

F.1007 Posthole, measued 0.30m in diameter, 0.10m deep and possessed shallow sides and a concave base, with a mid grey silty sand fill.

F.1007 cut [4305] fill [4304]

F.1008 Pit, measured 0.75m in diameter and 0.16m deep with shallow sides and flat base, with a mid brownish grey silty sand fill.

F.1008 cut [4307], fill [4306]

F.1009 Posthole, measured 0.50m in diameter and 0.22m in depth, with shallow sides and concave base, containing a fill of mid brownish grey sandy silt.

F.1009 cut [4309], fill [4308]

F.1010 Posthole, 0.25m in diameter, 0.10m deep with concave base and with a dark grey silty sand fill with occasional charcoal.

F.1010 cut [4311], fill [4310]

F.1011 Posthole, measured 0.30m in diameter, 0.12m deep with a concave base and with a dark grey silty sand fill.

F.1011 cut [4313], fill [4312]

F.1012 Posthole, measured 0.25m in diameter, 0.16m deep with very steep sides, concave base and with a dark grey silty sand fill.

F.1012 cut [4315], fill [4314]

F.1013 Pit, measured 0.65m in diameter and 0.06m in depth with a flat base. The fill was a dark blue/grey clay with a large quantity of burnt stone and degraded pottery.

F.1013 cut [4317], fill [4316]

F.1014 Pit, measured 0.82m in diameter, 0.95m in depth with steep sides and flat base. Fills consisted of mid grey sandy silt and brownish blue clay.

F.1014 cut [4320], fills [4318-4319]

F.1015 Posthole, oval, measured 0.59m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.09m in depth. Filled with light grey sandy silt with frequent gravels.

F.1015 cut [4322], fill [4321]

F.1016 Posthole, measured 0.54-0.56m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Filled with light brownish grey sandy silt with moderately frequent gravels.

F.1016 cut [4324], fill [4323]

F.1017 Posthole, measured 0.40-0.42m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. Filled with light brown-grey sandy silt with occasional gravels.

F.1017 cut [4326], fill [4325]

F.1018 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1019 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1020 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1021 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1022 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1023 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1024 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1025 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1026 Posthole, see Structure 10 description below.

F.1027 Pit, measured 1.16m long, 0.90m wide, 0.39m deep, with steep sides and concave base. Fills consisted of mid grey brown and orange brown sandy silts.

F.1027 cut [4347], fills [4345-4346]

F.1028 Pit, measured 0.55m in diameter, 0.18m deep with a concave base and a mid grey silty sand fill.

F.1028 cut [4349], fill [4348]

F.1029. Cremation pit, measured 0.90m long, 0.66, wide. 0.17m deep. Oval pit with steep-sides and concave base. Fill comprised a dark grey/back sandy silt cremation deposit rich in charcoal and cremated bone, covering a lower lens of orangey yellow sand.

F.1029 cut [4352] fills [4350-4351]

F.1030 Pit, measured 3.7m long, between 1.8- 2.0m wide and 1.0m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and irregular base. Fills consisted of layers of ashy dark grey silts mixed dirty sand and gravels and orange sand.. Cut pits F.1057 and F.1132.

F.1030 cut [4353], fills [4354-4356], [4433], [4444-4445]

F.1031 Posthole, measured 0.29m in diameter, 0.09m deep with steep sides and flat base with a dark grey sandy fill..

F.1031 cut [4359], fill [4358]

F.1032 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1033 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1034 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1035 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1036 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1037 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1038 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1039 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1040 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1041 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1042 Posthole, see Structure 8 description below.

F.1043 Posthole, measured 0.38m in diameter, 0.13m deep, with steep sides and concave base and a fill of mid brownish grey silty sand.

F.1043 cut [4384], fill [4383]

F.1044 Ditch, aligned NW-SE turning NE-SW. The ditch was excavated in two slots, and measured 8.2m long, between 0.65m and 0.75m wide and 0.18m deep, with a concave base. Fills consisted primarily of mid to dark grey silty sand with fine small sized gravel inclusions.

F.1044 cut [4388], fills [4382-4388]; cut [4391] fills [4389-4390]

F.1045 Pit, circular in shape, measured 0.65m in diameter, 0.18m deep and with a concave base. The two fills consisted of light to mid brownish grey silty sand.

F.1045 cut [4394], fills [4392-4393]

F.1046 Posthole. See Structure 5 description below

F.1047 Posthole. See Structure 5 description below

F.1048 Ditch, oriented approximately NW-SE excavated in two sections, measured 44.6m in length, 1.40-1.80m wide and between 1.07m and 1.25m in depth with steep sides and concave base. Fills consisted of mid to dark brown silts and light to dark grey sandy silt with varying quantities and sizes of gravel, redeposited natural and lenses of grey or orange sand. Cut F.1065 and F.1060.

F.1048 cut [4472], fills [4456-4471]; cut [4532] fills [4519-4531]

F.1049 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below. Cut pit F.1063.

F.1050 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below

F.1051 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below

F.1052 Posthole. See Structure 1 description below

F.1053 Posthole. See Structure 2 description below

F.1054 Posthole. See Structure 2 description below

F.1055 Posthole. See Structure 2 description below

F.1056 Posthole. See Structure 2 description below

F.1057 Pit, measured 1.6m long, 1.0m wide and 0.80m deep. Cut pit F.1132. Cut by pit F.1030.

F.1057 cut [4431], fills [4354], [4432]

F.1058 Ditch, oriented NW-SE, was excavated in two sections and measured 7.7m in length, 1.01m wide and 0.52m in depth with straight steep sides and an uneven base. Cut by ditch F.956 and pit F.1059.

F.1058 cut [4441], fills [4438-4440]; cut [4556], fill [4554]

F.1059 Pit, measured 1.0m wide and 0.35m in depth with straight sides and uneven base; the fill was a dark greyish brown sandy silt. Cut ditch F.1058.

F.1058 cut [4443], fill [4442]

F.1060 Ditch, traceable for 69m oriented NW-SE. Excavated in three sections, measured 0.45-0.90m wide and between 0.23-0.34m in depth. The ditch displayed steep sides and a V-shaped base, and contained a single fill of greyish brown sandy silt. Cut by ditches F.1048, \F.1073 and F.1074

F.1060 cut [4534], fill [4533]; cut [4536], fill [4535]; cut [4538], fill [4537]

F.1061 Pit, measured 2.5m in diameter and 0.85m deep. Pit displayed near vertical sides and flat base. Fills comprised of mainly yellowish grey to grey sandy silt and gravels.

F.1061 cut [4484], fills [4473-4483], [4626-4627]

F.1062 Pit, measured 2.45m in diameter and 1.34m deep with near vertical sides and concave base. Fill consisted principally of dark grey to dark brown or mid greyish brown sandy silts with layers of slumped redeposited dirty natural.

F.1062 cut [4495], fills [4485-4494]

F.1063 Pit, circular, measured 0.55-0.59m in diameter and 0.19m in depth. Pit was bowl-shaped with shallow sides and concave base. Filled with pale grey silty sand with orange mottling. Cut by posthole F.1049.

F.1063 cut [4497], fill [4496]

F.1064 Pit, measured <1.4m in length, 1.30m in width and 0.52m in depth. Pit displayed near vertical sides and flat base. Fills consisted principally of mid orange, orangey brown sandy silt and mid brownish orange silty sand. Cut by ditch F.956.

F.1064 cut [4516], fills [4513-4515]

F.1065 Pit, measured 2.7m long, 0.50m wide and 0.10m in depth, with very shallow straight sides and a flat base. Filled with mid orange grey sandy silt. Cut by ditch F.956.

F.1065 cut [4518], fill [4517]

F.1066 Eaves-gully, see Structure 12 description below.

F.1067 Posthole, see Structure 12 description below.

F.1068 Posthole, see Structure 12 description below.

F.1069 Cremation pit, measured 1.32m in length, 1.19m in width and 0.41m in depth. The pit displayed a U-shaped profile with steep sided and. The basal fill comprised of a dump of sterile dark-yellow sands. This was overlain by black lenses of charcoal and pyre material, and bands of reddish-pink heat-affected sands and burnt gravels

F.1069 cut [4605], fills [4596-4604]

F.1070 Pit, see Structure 14 description below

F.1071 Ditch oriented NW-SE, 54m in length, 1.5- 2.13m wide and 0.42- 0.85m in depth. Excavated in two slots, the ditch displayed gentle to steep slopes with a narrow u-shaped base, Fills consisted principally of mixed mid grey t orangey brown silty sands and brown grey silty sands and gravels.

F.1071 cut [4553], fills [4549-4552]; cut [3652], fills [3649-3651]

F.1072 Pit, measured 1.2m in diameter, 0.05-0.10m in depth with a flat base and fill of black ashy silty sand.

F.1072 cut [4557], fill [4558]

F.1073 Ditch, aligned NE-SW, measured 16m in length, between 0.35-1.0m in width and 0.30-0.38m in depth. The ditch was excavated in three slots and displayed moderately steep sides and concave base, containing a mid brown to orange light grey sandy silt. Cuts ditch F.1060. Cut by ditch F.1074

F.1073 cut [4561], fills [4559-4560]; cut [4563] fill [4562], cut [4570] fill [4569]

F.1074 Ditch, aligned NE-SW, mesured 18.1m in length, between 0.34-1.40m in width, and 0.25-0.28m in depth. Ditch displayed steep sides and a concave base. Fills consisted primarily of light greyish brown sandy silt. Cut ditches F.1060 and F.1073.

F.1074 cut [4566], fills [4564-4565]; cut [4568] fill [4567]; cut [4572] fill [4571]

F.1075 Ditch, aligned NW-SE, length exposed 3.75m, width 0.6m, depth 0.36m. Ditch displayed straight but very slightly concave sides and a flat base. Fill consists of a light to mid grey-blue mottled silty sand with moderate amounts of gravel and some occasional charcoal.

F.1075 cut [4574], fill [4573]

F.1076 Ditch, aligned NW-SE extending for 2.8m, up to 0.73m wide and 0.15m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a flattish concave base. Fill consists of moderately compacted dark grey silty sand.

F.1076 cut [4576], fill [4575]

F.1077 Pit, measured 0.80m in diameter, 0.13m deep with shallow sides and concave base, with a dark brownish grey sandy silt fill.

F.1077 cut [4578], fill [4577]

F.1078, Posthole, measured 0.30-0.40m in diameter, 0.35m in depth with a dark brownish grey silt fill.

F.1078 cut [4580], fill [4579]

F.1079 Pit, measured 0.60m in diameter, 0.12m deep with a concave base and a single fill of very dark grey sandy silt.

F.1079 cut [4582], fill [4581]

F.1080 Pit, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1081 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1082 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1083 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1084 Pit, measured 1.25m in diameter, 0.55m in depth with concave sides and concave base. Fills consisted of dark brown silty sand and light orangey brown sand.

F.1084 cut [4606], fills [4607], [4621]

F.1085 Pit (?), measuring 0.37m wide and 0.14m deep. Pit displayed steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill of brownish grey sandy silt. Cut by ditch F.1048

F.1085 cut [4609], fill [4608]

F.1086 Pit, measured 0.60m in diameter, 0.12m deep with a concave base and fill of brownish grey sandy silt.

F.1086 cut [4611], fill [4610]

F.1087 Pit, measured 1.22m long, 0.70m wide and 0.10m in depth with a flat base. Fill comprised dark grey silty sand with common charcoal and burnt flints

F.1087 cut [4613], fill [4612]

F.1088 Pit, measured 0.80m x 1.0m in diameter with steep sides, concave base. Fill comprised very dark grey silty sand and dark orangey brown sandy silt.

F.1088 cut [4616], fills [4614-4615]

F.1089 Posthole, measured 0.24-0.32m in diameter and 0.09m deep with a dark grey silty sand fill.

F.1089 cut [4618], fill [4617]

F.1090 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1091 Silt hollow. Natural. Measured 2.8m in length, 0.70m wide and 0.22m in depth, with a single fill of light brown silt.

F.1091 cut [4625], fill [4624]

F.1092 Posthole, measured 0.40-0.45m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. Filled with dark brown silty sand.

F.1092 cut [4628], fill [4629]

F.1093 Posthole, measured 0.40-0.50m in diameter and o.20m in depth. Filled with dark brown silty sand.

F.1093 cut [4630], fill [4631]

F.1094. Posthole. See Structure 11 description below

F.1095 Posthole. See Structure 11 description below

F.1096 Posthole, measured 0.31-0.33m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. Filled with dark grey-brown sandy silt with dark grey clayey patches.

F.1096 cut [4637] fill [4636].

F.1097 Posthole. See Structure 11 description below

F.1098 Posthole. See Structure 11 description below

F.1099 Posthole, measured 0.20m in diameter and 0,06m in depth. Filled with dark brown silty sand.

F.1099 cut [4642], fill [4643]

F.1100 Posthole, measured 0.40-0.46m in diameter and 0.34m in depth. Filled with mid grey-brown silty sand.

F.1100 cut [4645], fill [4644]

F.1101 Ditch/Pit, oriented NW-SE measured 1.1m in length, 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep, with steep sides and v-shaped base and mid brownish grey silty sand fill.

F.1101 cut [4647], fill [4646]

F.1102 Pit, measured 0.50m long, 0.30m wide, 0.17m deep with a concave base and dark grey and brown sandy silt fills.

F.1102 cut [4650], fills [4648-4649]

F.1103 Pit, measured 0.57m in diameter. Pit displayed bowl-shaped profile, filled with grey sandy silts.

F.1103 cut [4653], fills [4651-4652]

F.1104 Cremation pit, measured 0.26-0.28m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The pit was shallow with bowl-shaped profile and concave base. The fill comprised dark blackish brown to orangey brown sandy silt, within which the base of an urn was found. The urn itself contained a black charcoal rich burnt deposit with frequent fragments of cremated bone.

F.1104 cut [4656], fills [4654-4655]

F.1105 Pit, measured 0.25m in diameter, 0.15m deep with steep sides, concave base and a very dark brown grey sandy silt fill.

F.1105 cut [4658], fill [4657]

F.1106 Posthole, measured 0.34-0.37m in diameter and 0.08m deep. Filled with dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional gravels.

F.1106 cut [4660], fill [4659]

F.1107 Posthole, measured 0.31-0.42m in diameter and 0.17m deep. Filled with dark brown sandy silt with moderately common gravels.

F.1107 cut [4662], fill [4661]

F.1108 Pit, measured 0.84-0.89m in diameter. Pit displayed steep shallow sides and a wide flat base. Filled with very dark grey sandy silt with common charcoal and moderately frequent gravels.

F.1108 cut [4664], fill [4663]

F.1109 Pit, measured 0.86m in diameter, 0.18m deep with steep sides, concave base and very dark grey sandy silt, mid brown grey silty sand and black sandy silt fills.

F.1109 cut [4668], fills [4665-4667]

F.1110 Posthole, measured 0.25-0.30m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. Filled with dark brown silty sand with occasional gravels

F.1110 cut [4670], fill [4669]

F.1111 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1112 Posthole, measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Filled with grey brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

F.1112 cut [4674], fill [4673]

F.1113 Posthole, measured 0.30-0.33m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled with dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravels.

F.1113 cut [4676], fill [4675]

F.1114 Cremation pit, measured 0.85m in length, 0.60m in with and 0.45m in depth. The pit displayed a steep-sided U-shaped profile with concave base. The basal fill comprised loose light yellowish sandy marl. This was horizon was covered by three layers of dark brown-black and reddish brown sandy silts, containing burnt bone and charcoal.

F.1114 cut [4681], fills [4677-4680]

F.1115 Pit, measured 1.2m long, 0.50m wide, 0.20m in depth with a flat base and light grey silty fill. Two flints recovered.

F.1115 cut 4683], fill [4682]

F.1116 Posthole, measured 0.28-0.31m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with gravels.

F.1116 cut [4685], fill [4684]

F.1117 Posthole, measured 0.28-0.34m in diameter and 0.19m in depth. Filled with dark grey sandy silt with gravels.

F.1117 cut [4687], fill [4686]

F.1118 Posthole, measured 0.25-0.36m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled with mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels.

F.1118 cut [4689], fill [4688]

F.1119 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1120 Posthole, see Structure 14 description below.

F.1121 Posthole, measured 0.26-0.29m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. Filled with grey brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

F.1121 cut [4697], fill [4696]

F.1122 Posthole, measured 0.24-0.26m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Filled with dark grey silty sand with moderately frequent gravels.

F.1122 cut [4695], fill [4694]

F.1123 Posthole, measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. Filled with mid grey silty sand and moderately frequent gravels.

F.1123 cut [4699], fill [4698]

F.1124 Pit, oval, measured 0.44-0.63m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Pit displayed shallow gently sloping sides and a concave base. Filled with mid grey silty sand with moderately gravel inclusions.

F.1122 cut [4701], fill [4700]

F.1125 Posthole, measured 0.35-0.40m in diameter and 0.30m in depth. Filled with mid grey silty sand and moderately frequent gravels.

F.1125 cut [4703], fill [4702]

F.1126 Posthole, measured 0.34-0.36m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. Filled with dark brown silt with occasional gravels.

F.1126 cut [4705], fill [4704]

F.1127 Posthole, measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. Filled with dark brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

F.1127 cut [4707], fill [4706]

F.1128 Posthole, measured 0.35-0.38m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Filled with dark brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

F.1128 cut [4709], fill [4708]

F.1129 Pit, see Structure 13 description below

F.1130 Eaves-gully, see Structure 13 description below. Cut b y Eaves gully F.1131.

F.1131 Eaves-gully, see Structure 13 description below. Cut eaves-gully F.1130.

F.1132 Pit, measured 4.05m long, 3.55m wide and 1.11m deep, with steep sides and wide concave base. The basal fill comprised clean fine white sand and an upper fill of mixed sands and gravels; mainly orangey yellow sands, fine light grey sandy gravels and reddish brown iron-stained coarse gravels. Cut by ditch F.64/952/955 and pits F.1030 and F.1057.

F.1132 cut [4719], fills [4713-4718], [4720]

F.1133 Eaves-gully, see Structure 13 description below. Cut eaves-gully F.1131. Cut by pit F.1140

F.1134 Pit, measured 1.60 in length, 1.20m in width and 0.36m in depth deep. Pit displayed near vertical sides, flat base and light pale brown sandy silt fill. Cuts pit F.1035.

F.1134 cut [4741], fill [4740]

F.1135 Pit, measured 1.50m in length 1.20m in width an 0.15m in depth, with a flat base and a fill of greyish brown sand. Cut by pit F.1134.

F.1135 cut [4743], fill [4742]

F.1136 Posthole, see Structure 13 description below

F.1137 Posthole, see Structure 13 description below

F.1138 Cremation pit, measured 0.85m in length, 0.58m in width and 0.74m in depth. The pit displayed steep sides and a concave base. The basal fill comprised the charcoal and ash-rich cremation deposit. This was then sealed by a thick layer of sterile pale grey sandy silts and gravels.

F.1138 cut [4801], fills [799-4800]

F.1139 Posthole, see Structure 13 description below

F.1140 Pit, oval, measured c.1.80m in length long, 1.50m in width and 0.50m in depth. Pit displayed steep sides and a flat base. Nine different fills were identified in the pit. The lower fills comprised a series of 'dirty' orangey-grey gravel slumps, capped with two dark silty sand deposits, the lower of which contained frequent charcoal. Cut eaves-gully F.1131, F.1133.

F.1140 cut [4739/4821], fills [4733/4819], [4734-3738], [4820], [4824-4825]

F.1141 Ditch, aligned NW-SE, measured 24m long, over 0.15m wide and 0.12m deep. Contained two fills, both of pale grey sandy silt. Cut by ditch F.1142

F.1141 cut [4843], fills [4841-4842]

F.1142 Ditch, aligned NW-SE, measured 24m long 0.72m wide and 0.15m deep, with shallow concave sides and a rounded base and a single fill of dark grey sandy silt and some flint. Cut ditch F.1141

F.1053 cut [4408], fill [4407]; F.1054 [cut 4411], fill [4410]; F.1055 cut [4413], fill [4412]; F.1056 cut [4415], fill [4414].

Structure 3

Structure 3 was rectangular in shape, consisting of six circular postholes, F.735-740, measuring between 0.24m and 0.29m in diameter and between 0.11m and 0.18m in depth. Measuring approximately 1.9m x 2.00m the structure's internal area measured *c*. 3.8m^2. Fills consisted of light greyish brown sandy silt.

F.735 cut [3307], fill [3307]; F.736 cut [3309], fill [3308]; F.737 cut [3311], fill [3310]; F.738 cut [3313], fill [3312]; F.739 cut [3315], fill [3314]; F.740 cut [3317], fill [3316].

Structure 5

This structure was rectangular in shaped, measuring approximately 2.3m x 2.6m with an internal area of *c*. 4.7m^2, and consisted of four oval-shaped postholes, F.974-975 and F.1046-1047, measuring 0.36 to 0.44m in diameter and between 0.40m and 0.44m in depth, with brown to light grey silty sand fills.

F.974 cut [4176], fill [4175]; F.975 cut [4178], fill [4177]; F.1046 [4396], fill [4395]; F.1047 cut 4398], fill [4397].

Structure 6

Of square-shape, Structure 6 measured 2.8m x 3.4m, with an internal area of *c*. 7.8m^2, and consisted of four postholes, F.927 and F.929-93. Postholes measured between 0.36m – 0.45m in diameter with depth varying between 0.40m and 0.65m. Fills consisted of mid to dark grey or brown to orange sandy silt. A post-pipe was evident in F.931.

F.927 cut [3972], fills [3970-3971]; F.929 cut [3976], fill [3975]; F.930 cut [3979], fills [3977-3978]; F.931 cut [3982], fills [3980-3981].

Structure 11

Structure 11 was square-shaped and consisted of four postholes, F.1094-1095 and F.1097-1098, measuring 2.6m x 2.7m, with an internal area of *c*.8m^2. The postholes varied in size, measuring between 0.31m and 0.50m and were 0.20m deep. Fills were dark brown to mid grey sandy silts.

F.1094 cut [4633], fill [4632]; F.1095 cut [4635], fill [4634]; F.1097 cut [4639], fill [4638]; F.1098 cut [4641], fill [4640].

Circular post-built structures

Structure 4

Structure consisted of six shallow postholes arranged in a semi-circular 'C'-shaped ring, *c*. 5m in diameter, with a small, internal rectangular setting of posthole measuring approximately 1.8m x 1.20m and covering an internal area of *c.* 2m^2. The outer ring comprised F.878, F. 935-36, F. 938-39 and F. 946, measuring between 0.2m and 0.3m in diameter and between 0.10m and 0.44m deep, with fills consisting principally of mid grey to dark grey sandy silt. The internal rectangular postholes, F. 940-945, measured 0.12m to 0.34m in diameter and between 0.10m and 0.29m in depth, with fills of mid grey to mid orange brown sandy silts.

Outer ring postholes - F.878 cut [3806], fill [3805]; F.935 [3991], fill [3990]; F.936 cut [3993], fill [3992]; F.938 cut [3997], fill [3997]; F.939 cut [3999], fill [3998]; F.946 cut [4013], fill [4012]

Internal postholes – F.940 cut [4001], fill [4000]; F.941 cut [4003], fill [4002]; F.942 cut [4005], fill [4004]; F.943 cut [4007], fill [4006]; F.944 cut [4009], fill [4008]; F.945 cut [4011], fill [4010].

Structure 7

Structure 7 was a circular structure, with a diameter of 6.5m, an internal area of 34.8m.^{2}The rear of the building comprised a semi-circular ring of seven postholes (F.608, F.609, F.610, F.625, F.626, and F.932), with two entrance postholes to the east (F.607 and F.636). The postholes were sub-circular in shape, between 0.29m-0.64m in diameter and 0.12m-0.26m in depth. Those towards the rear of the building were spaced between 1.75m-2.40m apart, whilst the entrance posts were positioned 1.20m apart. As with Structure 4, these were the deepest two postholes in the building, being between 0.23m-0.26m in depth. All the postholes were filled with a single deposit of mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, except for F.636, which also contained a lower 'post-packing fill' of gravel rich sandy silt. The structure's interior features included two postholes located within the northern half of the building (F.603 and F.604). The postholes were between 0.30m-0.64m in diameter, and 0.09m-0.18m in depth, filled with dark to mid grey sandy silts.

F. 603 cut [1814], fills [1812-1813]; F.604 cut [1814], fills [1815-1816]; F.607 cut [1835], fill [1834]; F.608 cut [1837], fill [1836]; F.609 cut [1840], fill [1838]; F.610 cut [1842], fill [1841]; F.625 cut [1887], fill [1886]; F.626 cut [1889], fill [1888]; F.636 cut [1912], fills [1910-1911]; F.932 [3984], fill [3983].

Structure 8

This structure consists of 11 postholes, F. 1032-1042, forming two arcs with a projected diameter of approximately 3.8m and an internal area of *c*. 22m^2. Postholes measured between 0.19m and 0.40m in diameter and between 0.07m and 0.16m in depth, with primarily mid grey to sandy silt fills.

F.1032 cut [4361], fill [4360]; F.1033 cut [4363], fill [4362]; F.1034 cut [4366], fills [4364-4365]; F.1035 cut [4368], fill [4367]; F.1036 cut [4370], fill [4369]; F.1037 cut [4372], fill [4371]; F.1038 cut [4374], fill [4373]; F.1039 cut [4376], fill [4375]; F.1040 cut [4378], fill [4377]; F.1041 cut [4380], fill [4379]; F.1042 cut [4382], fill [4381].

Structure 9

Structure 9 comprised five postholes, F.990, F.999-1002, formed a C-shaped feature, possibly representing the remnant traces of a structure measuring approximately 5m in diameter/width. Postholes measured 0.17m to 0.5m in diameter and between 0.17m and 0.42m in depth. Fills were primarily mid to grey sandy silt, although a very dark grey sandy silt fill (a possible post-pipe) was present in F. 1001

F.990 cut [4257], fill [4256]; F.999 cut [4283], fill [4282]; F.1000 cut [4285], fill [4284]; F.1001 cut [4289]; fills [4286-4288]; F.1002 cut [4291], fill [4290].

Structure 10

Comprising of eight postholes, F.1019-1026, Structure 10 formed a small circular structure measuring approximately 3.5m in diameter, with an internal area of *c*. 15m^2. Two postholes, F. 1018 and F. 1021, may be associated with the structure. Postholes varied in dimension, measuring between 0.23m and 0.45m in width and 0.08m – 0.16m in depth. Fills were pale to dark grey sandy silt.

F.1018 cut [4328], fill [4327]; F.1019 cut [4330], fill [4329]; F.1020 cut [4332], fill [4331]; F.1021 cut [4334], fill [4333]; F.1022 cut [4336], fill [4335]; F.1023 cut [4338], fill [4337]; F.1024 cut [4340], fill [4339]; F.1025 cut [4342], fill [4341]; F.1026 cut [4344], fill [4343].

Eaves-gully defined Roundhouses

Structure 12

Structure 12 comprised an eaves-gully, measuring 5.9m in diameter, occupying an area *c*. 28m^2, with a northeast facing entrance. The terminals and a mid section of the ring gully, F.1066, were excavate, varying in width between 0.24m – 0.30m and between 0.10m and 0.17m in depth, with a mid to dark grey sandy silt fill. Two postholes, F.1067 and F.1068, measuring between 0.27m – 0.5m in width and between 0.13m – 0.22m in depth with, respectively, dark brown grey sandy silt and mid orange brown silty sand fill, may be associated with Structure 12, the latter cut by the northern terminal of the ring gully.

F.1066 cut [4540], fill [4539]; cut [4542], fill [4541]; cut [4544], fill [4543]; F.1067 cut [4546], fill [4545]; F.1068 cut [4548], fill [4547].

Structure 13

This consisted of two eaves-gullies, F. 1130 and F. 1131 (the terminal of the latter being re-cut by F.1133) with an entrance in the east-northeast. F.1130 formed an complete pennanular gully 11m diameter, and an internal area of *c*. 88m^2, with two postholes, F. 1136-1137, located immediately inside the entrance. The gully varied in width between 0.28m – 0.71m and between 0.10m and 0.25m in depth, with principally a single fill of mid grey sandy silt fill, and was cut on its southern side by ring gully F. 1131. Recut F. 1131 was 18m long, measured between 0.45m and 0.68m in width and varied in depth between 0.28m and 0.43m in depth, with an upper light to mid grey sandy silt fill, with an occasional lower darker, orange-brown to dark grey sandy silt.
The southern terminal of the gully was re-cut by F.1133, a c.2.20m long gully segement.

The two postholes immediately inside the entrance, F.1136 and F.1137, respectively measured 0.8m and 0.87m in width and were 0.17-0.18m deep, both with a mid greyish brown silty sand fill. Two features, F.1129 and F.1139, located inside Structure 13 may be related to the roundhouse. F.1129 measured 0.8m x 1.4m and 0.2m deep with a burnt dark reddish basal fill and an ashy grey silty sand upper fill. F.1139 measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.06m in depth with a mid grey sandy silt fill.

F.1130; cut [4732], fill [4731]; cut [4756], fill [4755]; cut [4765], fill [4764]; cut [4768], fills [4766-4767]; cut [4770], fill [4769]; cut [4772], fill [4771]; cut [4774], fill [4773]; cut [4776], fill [4775]; cut [4778], fill [4777]; cut [4783], fill [4782]; cut

[4788] fill [4787]; cut [4793], fill [4792]; cut [4798], fill [4797]; cut [4808], fills [4806-4807]; cut [4810], fills [4809]; cut [4814], fills [4813]; cut [4818], fill [4817].

F.1131 cut [4730], fills [4727-4729]; cut [4754], fills [4752-4753]; cut [4736], fills [4761-4762]; cut [4781], fills [4779-4780]; cut [4786], fills [4784-4785]; cut [4791], fills [4789-4790]; cut [4796], fills [4794-4795]; cut [4805], fills [4802-4804]; cut [4816], fill [4815]; cut [4823], fill [4822], [4826].

F.1133 cut [4726], fill [4725]; cut [4828], fill [4827]; F. 1129 cut [4712], fills [4710-4711]; F.1136 cut [4749], fill [4748]; F.1137 cut [4571] fill [4750]; F.1139 cut [4812], fill [4811].

Structure 14

Excavated in 16 slots, Structure 14 consisted of a single penannular eaves- gully, F.963, with a diameter of 9.9m, covering an area of *c*. 80m. The gully varied between 0.46m and 0.77m in width and between 0.15m and 0.33m in depth. The fill consisted principally of mid grey sandy silt. Nine postholes, F.1080, F.1090, F.1111, F.1119-1120, and two small clay lined pits, F.1070, F.1080, were located inside Structure 14, varying in size between 0.22m – 1.00m in width and 0.08m – 0.3m in depth. Fills comprised mainly of dark grey sandy silt.

F.963 cut [4417], fill [4416]; cut [4419], fill [4418]; cut [4421], fill [4420]; cut [4423], fill [4422]; cut [4425], fill [4424]; cut [4427], fill [4426]; cut [4430], fill [4429]; cut [4435], fill [4434]; cut [4437], fill [4436]; cut [4447], fill [4446]; cut [4449], fill [4448]; cut [4451], fill [4450]; cut [4453], fill [4452]; cut [4455], fill [4454]; cut [4745], fill [4744]; cut [4747], fill [4746].

F.1070 cut [4587], fills [4583-4586]; F.1080 cut [4591], fills [4588-4590]; F.1081 cut [4593], fill [4592]; F.1082 cut [4595], fill [4594]; F.1083 cut [4620], fill [4619]; F.1090 cut [4623], fill [4622]; F.1111 cut [4672], fill [4671]; F.1119 cut [4691], fill [4690]; F.1120 cut [4693], fill [4692].

Structure 15

Partially surviving only on its western side as an eaves-gully F.979, Structure 15 cut an early ring ditch, F.991. The diameter of the structure is estimated at *c*. 6m, with a projected internal area of *c*. 36m^2. The ring gully measured between 0.70m – 0.55m wide and between 0.25m – 0.34m in depth, with a mainly dark grey silty sands fill.

F.979 cut [4196], fill [4195]; cut [4264], fills [4262-4263]; F.991 cut [4259], fill [4258]; cut [4261], fill [4260]

Structure 16

Excavated in five sections, Structure 16 comprised of a partially truncated eaves-gully, F.977, with a southeast oriented entrance, diameter of 11m and a floor area of *c*. 88m^2. The ring gully was between 0.40m – 0.60m in width and between 0.05m and 0.22m in depth, with a mid grey brown silt fill. Two entrance postholes, F.1003 and F.1004, were located approximately 1.5m inside the entrance, in addition to five small postholes, F.994-998, that may relate to the structure. The entrance postholes were oval and measured between 0.35m and 0.75m and between respectively 0.17m and 0.36m in depth, with mid brown grey and mid grey sandy silt fills. The smaller postholes measured approximately 0.28m in diameter and were between 0.08m and .018m in depth, with dark to mid grey silty sand fills.

F.977 cut [4184], fill [4183]; cut [4186], fill [4185]; cut [4188], fill [4187]; cut [4190], fill [4189]; cut [4192] fill [4191].

F.994 cut [4273], fill [4272]; F.995 cut [4275], fill [4274]; F.996 cut [4277], fill [4276]; F.997 cut [4279], fill [4278]; F.998 cut [4281], fill [4280]; F.1003 cut [4294], fills [4292-4293]; F.1004 cut [4297], fills [4295-4296].

Structure 17

Structure 17 comprised a single C-shaped eaves-gully, F.893, with a possible entrance located towards the southwest, with a diameter of 7.5m and internal area of *c*. 44m^2. Previously investigated during the earlier evaluation, only the southern terminal, 0.3m wide, was excavated and found to contain no finds.

F. 893 cut [3855], fills [3853-3854].

Structure 18

Consisting of a semi-circular ditch, F.902, measuring between 0.20m and 0.40m wide and 0.10m in depth with a grey silty sand fill, excavated in three sections this probable roundhouse had a diameter of approximately 6.5m and an internal area of *c*. 32.5m.

F. 902 cut [3875], fill [3874]; cut [3901], fill [3900]; cut [3903] fill [3902].

Structure 19

Excavated in two sections, Structure 19 consisted of a remnant eaves-gully, F.726, measuring between 0.38 and 0.43m in width and 0.10m in depth with a mid grey sandy silt fill. The structure has an estimated diameter of 11m. Two postholes, F.732 and F.733, may have been located immediately inside a southeast facing entrance. These measured between 0.30m – 0.50m in width

and between 0.21m and 0.23m in depth with mid to dark grey sandy silt fills. Four small postholes, F.708-709 and F. 730-731, measuring between 0.20m and 0.30m in diameter and between 0.11m and 0.21m in depth, were centrally located within the structure.

F.726 cut [3275], fill [3274]; cut [3277], fill [3276]; F.732 cut [3293], fill [3292]; F.733 cut [3296], fills [3294, 3295].

F. 708 cut [3226], fill [3225]; F.708 cut [3228], fill [3227]; F.730 cut [3289], fill [3288]; F.731 cut [3293], fill [3292].

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