

The Addenbrooke's Access Road, Clay Farm, Trumpington, Cambridge.

The 2007 Investigations: Site 3



Simon Timberlake

**CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**



The Addenbrooke's Access Road, Clay Farm, Trumpington, Cambridge

The 2007 Investigations: Site 3

Simon Timberlake

With contributions from Emma Beadsmore, Matt Brudenell, Katie Anderson,
Grahame Appleby, Anne de Vareilles, Natasha Dodwell, Andy Hall and Vida Rajkovaca
Graphics by Bryan Crossan and Andy Hall

© Cambridge Archaeological Unit
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
December 2007

Report No. 803

ECB 2847

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Site	1
Geology and topography	1
Archaeological background	3
Methodology	5
Results	7
Site Phasing.....	11
Site Description.....	13
Neolithic.....	13
Bronze Age	15
Later Prehistoric.....	29
Iron Age	31
Late Iron Age/Roman	38
Post-Roman.....	48
Undated	52
Discussion	54
Neolithic.....	56
Bronze Age	57
Early Bronze Age.....	57
Middle-Late Bronze Age	57
Later Prehistoric.....	60
Late Iron Age	60
Late Iron Age/ Roman	62
Romanisation	62
Roman Horticulture	63
Roman quarrying, drainage and field enclosure	65
A Roman Perspective.....	67
Post-Roman.....	67
Conclusions	68
Acknowledgements	70
Bibliography	70
APPENDICES	
Specialist reports	
Appendix 1: Lithics (<i>E. Beadsmoore</i>).....	72
Appendix 2: Prehistoric pottery (<i>M. Brudenell</i>)	74
Appendix 3: Roman pottery and tile (<i>K. Anderson</i>)	75
Appendix 4: Post-medieval pottery (<i>A.Hall</i>)	79

	Page
Appendix 5: Metalwork (<i>G. Appleby</i>)	80
Appendix 6: Burnt stone (<i>S. Timberlake</i>)	81
Appendix 7: Worked stone (<i>S. Timberlake</i>).....	85
Appendix 8: Burnt and worked clay (<i>S. Timberlake</i>)	85
Appendix 9: Human remains (<i>N. Dodwell</i>)	86
Appendix 10: Animal bone (<i>V. Rajkovaca</i>)	86
Appendix 11: Assessment of bulk environmental samples (<i>A. de Vareilles</i>)	92
Appendix 12: Radiocarbon dating (<i>S. Timberlake</i>)	95

Feature descriptions

Appendix 13: Site 3 Feature descriptions	97
---	----

TABLES

Table 1: Flint types and context.....	73
Table 2: The quantified prehistoric pottery	74
Table 3: All Roman pottery by feature	77
Table 4: Species frequency by NISP (Number Identifiable Specimens) bone	87
Table 5: Species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)	88
Table 6: Bronze Age species frequency by NISP	88
Table 7: Bronze Age species frequency by MNI.....	88
Table 8: Late Iron Age-Roman species frequency by NISP bone	89
Table 9: Late Iron Age-Roman species frequency by MNI.....	90
Table 10: Post-medieval, Victorian and modern species frequency by NISP	91
Table 11: Post-medieval, Victorian and modern species frequency by MNI	91
Table 12: Archaeo-botanical (macroplant) remains	94
Table 13: Molluscan (snail) remains.....	95

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location.....	2
Figure 2: Location of Site 3 excavation area with proposed road corridor and previous archaeological interventions.....	4
Figure 3: Topography and geology	6
Figure 4: Plan of Site 3, Area A north-western section.....	8
Figure 5: Plan of Site 3, Area A south-eastern section	9
Figure 6: Plan of Site 3, Area B	10
Figure 7: Phase plan: Neolithic, Bronze Age and Later Prehistoric features	12
Figure 8: Phase plan: Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Roman features	14
Figure 9: Phase plan: Post-Roman features.	16
Figure 10: Section through Early Bronze Age pit F.489 showing location of charcoal sampling (Area B)	18

Figure 11: South-facing section through slot 127: Late Iron Age ditches F.364 and F.463 and earlier Later Prehistoric and Late Iron Age quarry pits F.469 and F.465	18
Figure 12: Section through Middle-Late Bronze Age enclosure ditch F.301, plus intercutting Late Iron Age trackway ditches F.300, F.302-F.304	20
Figure 13: Section through quarried Middle-Late Bronze Age ditch F.301 north of 6a	20
Figure 14: Plan showing inter-relationships between F.301, F.351, F. 403 and F.509	22
Figure 15: Section through middle of Late Bronze Age pit F.351	24
Figure 16: 90° section through SE end of pit F.351 and ditch F.509	24
Figure 17: Red deer antler found within upper fill [3334] of pit F.351	26
Figure 18: Detail of antler within pit F.351	26
Figure 19: Section through NW-SE Middle-Late Bronze Age enclosure ditches F.476 and F.511	28
Figure 20: Terminus of F.423, a Middle-Late Bronze Age paddock enclosure	30
Figure 21: Section across terminus of F.423 revealing possible beam slot, perhaps part of a wooden enclosure fence	32
Figure 22: Section through pair of Middle Bronze Age ‘cooking pits’ F.485 and F.486.....	32
Figure 23: Section through burnt stone pit F.379	32
Figure 24: View looking north-east across north end of Area A showing outline of Late Iron Age trackway ditches.....	34
Figure 25: Discarded animal bone within base of Late Iron Age pit F.465.....	36
Figure 26: Section through junction between Late Iron Age ditch F.338 and Early Roman enclosure ditches F.349 as well as quarrying phases F.464 and F.466	39
Figure 27: Terminus of an Early Roman enclosure ditch F.438 (SE part of Area A).....	39
Figure 28: Excavated slots through Early Roman (1 st century AD) cultivation trenches and planting pits (Area A)	41
Figure 29: Samian dish [3440] placed within the base of Early Roman cultivation trench F.417	43
Figure 30: Section through Early Roman planting pit F.483	43
Figure 31: Section through a shallow Early Roman quarry pit F.337	49
Figure 32: Section through a post-medieval quarry pit F.394	49
Figure 33: Section through post-medieval well pit F.491.....	55
Figure 34: Reconstructed Middle Bronze Age Deveril-Rimbury urn from ditch F.321	76
Figure 35: Gaulish Samian Dressel 18 bowl [3440] from F.417	76

Summary

Between April and August 2007 an area of 2.9 hectares within the corridor of the proposed link road to Addenbrooke's was excavated (Site 3 Areas A and B). Archaeological features were largely confined to the north-western part of the site on the edge of the Third Terrace gravels, the Second Terrace being the former flood plain of the Hobson's Brook valley which lies between here and the edge of the chalk at Addenbrooke's, another area of denser Prehistoric-Early Roman settlement.

Pre-Middle Bronze Age activity was minor, confined to a number of Neolithic pits and tree throws and a single cluster of Early Bronze Age pits, perhaps former cooking or boiling pits. Middle Bronze Age occupation was characterised by a NW-SE aligned rectilinear field system, probably fenced paddocks. From the ditch fill of one of these came the partial remains of a Deveril-Rimbury urn. Most prominent at this period, however, was the establishment and re-cutting of a large enclosure ditch. This follows the edge of the field system and was picked up to the north-west during the 2007 Guided Bus Route excavation. A large Middle-Late Bronze Age pit defines the change in angle of this enclosure ditch. Within the same area are a number of Middle Bronze Age burnt stone spreads and pits, including a pair of pits with a clear cooking function. There is no evidence for a Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age presence in this area and Late Iron Age occupation activity is confined to a poorly developed field system and the edge of a north-south ditched trackway which seems to follow the edge of the terrace northwards along the side of the valley. Small-scale quarrying begins on the eastern side of the site towards the end of the Late Iron Age, as does the first establishment of a cultivation enclosure during the immediately pre-Conquest Period. This develops during the period 40-60AD (?), perhaps an indication of the Romanisation of this South Cambridge countryside during the very Late Iron Age (the Aylesford - Swarling phenomenon). By c.50-60 AD the cultivation of probable asparagus beds is taking place within the far north-west corner of the site, perhaps indicating the presence of an as yet unknown villa/farmstead a short distance to the west. Quarrying continues through into this Conquest-Early Roman period outside the cultivation area, whilst the ditched enclosures of much larger paddocks can be traced eastwards across the valley floor. The very edge of these were picked up in Area B.

By 80-100AD the Site 3 area seems to have been largely abandoned, perhaps in favour of the larger roadside settlement(s) at Addenbrooke's across the valley. No Saxon or Medieval activity of note has been detected. The next phase of activity which has left its mark is small-scale post-medieval gravel and marl quarrying and the cutting of field ditches and land drains as part of land improvement in the 19th century. Twentieth century features relate mostly to those identified with the Agricultural Show which took place on Clay Farm land during the 1950s-60s.

INTRODUCTION

Site

An open area excavation was undertaken within Field D (ALR Site 3) of Clay Farm on the route of the Addenbrooke's Access Road between Shelford Road and Hobson's Brook (Figure 1). The 2.9 hectare site consisted of two areas (Area A (1.6 hectares) and Area B (1.3 hectares)) 120 m apart, joined by a 2m wide trench.

The work was undertaken on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, based on a brief issued by the CAPCA office (Thomas 2006) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by the CAU (Dickens 2006).

The Clay Farm Field D site was one of seven locations along the route of the Access Road to be mitigated by excavation or further trench evaluation (Figure 2). The report on Addenbrooke's Link Road (ALR) Sites 1, 2, 5 and 6 is currently under preparation (Armour *forthcoming*), whilst Sites 4 and 7 remain to be excavated.

Geology and topography

ALR Site 3 lies along the western edge of a very shallow north-south valley and flood plain (approx. 500m wide), on the course of a former palaeo-channel of the River Cam. This was subsequently the valley of Vicar's Brook which flowed northwards and was later canalised as Hobson's Brook to carry water from the springs at Nine Wells to Hobson's Conduit. The edges of this floodplain are defined by the 15m OD contour, which coincides with the north-western margin of ALR Site 3, although the extreme north-west corner of the site lies 0.6 m above this. Eastwards from the floodplain edge, the gradient is steeper for the first 100m (dropping 0.6m), then shallows out, losing height gradually (0.8m over a distance of 350m) towards the eastern edge of the site. The south-east corner of Area B lies at 13.2m OD. This point of the site is close to the centre of the valley and the present-day line of Hobson's Brook. The water table at the north-west end of the site lies at a depth of over 1.5m, whilst at the eastern end of Area B it is little more than 0.6m from the surface.

ALR Site 3 lies mostly on the sands and gravels of the 2nd Terrace; the junction of this with the earlier 3rd Terrace gravels on this side of the Vicar's Brook valley coincides almost exactly with the floodplain edge and the 15m OD contour. The swathe of 2nd Terrace gravels clearly indicates the former course of the palaeo-channel (Figure 3), although the junction between the two terraces was not at all clear-cut within the area of exposed gravels at the north-west end. The 2nd terrace is typified by the presence of marly clay-rich bands, chalk gravels and occasional tufa. Underlying the 2nd Terrace gravels is the Lower Chalk. This outcrops on the east side of the Vicar's Brook valley (BGS 2002). The Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW 1983) classifies the soils in this area as being of river terrace and chalky drift type (soil association 512f).

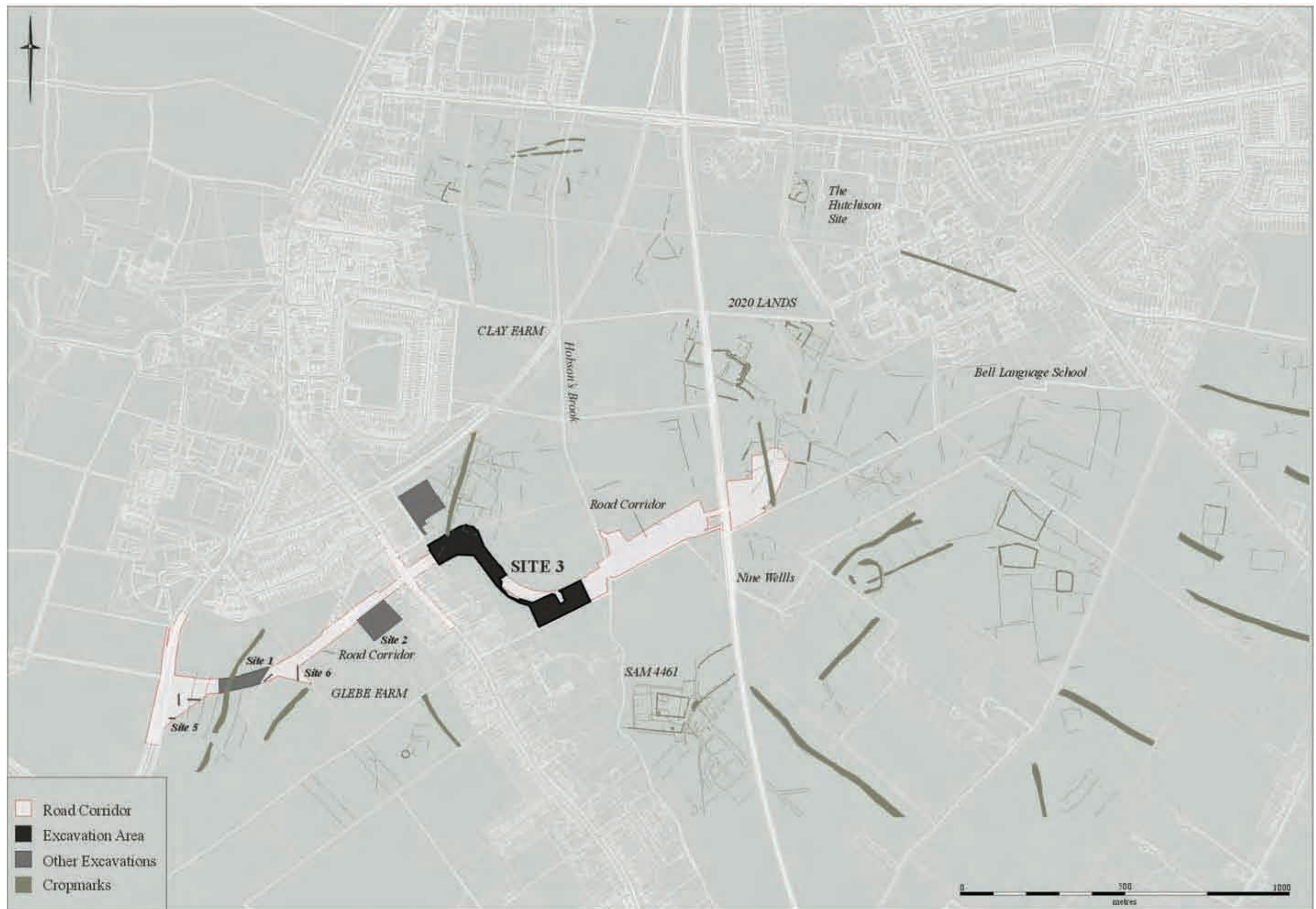


Figure 1. Site location.

Archaeological background

The archaeological and historical background of the proposed development area and its hinterland have been fully outlined within a number of desktop studies (Appleby 2004; Dickens 2002; Evans *et al.* 2004b) as well as in reports issued for the many Addenbrooke's, Cambridge Guided Bus Route, and Bell Language School investigations (Brudenell 2004; Cessford & Mackay 2004; Dickens 2000; Evans 2002; Evans & Mackay 2005; Evans *et al.* 2004; see Figures 1 & 3). Most relevant to the current project is the Clay Farm desk-top study (Dickens 2002). This was followed in 2004 and 2005 by a major programme of evaluation, consisting of fieldwalking, geophysical survey, and trial trenching, carried out over a large area of the Clay and Glebe Farm lands (Clay and Glebe Farm Sites 1-8; Evans *et al.* 2006; see Figure 2). Since this work has already been comprehensively covered, here it is only proposed to provide a synopsis of the relevant findings.

Also worthy of consideration here are adjacent sites which have been evaluated and which are now in the process of being assessed and/or written up. These include Addenbrooke's Link Road (ALR) Sites 1, 2, 5 and 6 (Armour *forthcoming*), as well as a small area excavation which was carried out immediately to the north-west of ALR Site 3 (CGB:SRC07). This area was excavated earlier this year as part of the Guided Bus Route scheme investigations (Collins *forthcoming*).

An aerial photographic assessment of the Clay Farm lands (Palmer 2002) indicated a dense area of crop-marks at the northern end of 'Area C' (Field D), including a broad double-ditched track following one of the ridges of hard ground and several rectilinear enclosures. At the southern end of Field D (TL 451543) were other suggestions of enclosures, which matched similar alignments of crop-marks on the opposite (eastern) side of the valley. All of the above features hugged the slightly elevated (and presumably drier) edges of the valley. Another dense concentration of crop-marks ([SAM 4461]) can be seen to the south of here on land which lies just to the east of Scotsdale Garden Centre (TL 458538), some 300m beyond the southern edge of Field D (see Figures 1 & 3). This was interpreted as a Roman settlement (perhaps a villa site) on the basis of crop-marks and pottery finds from fieldwalking which dated to the 1st-4th centuries AD (Dickens 2002). The crop-marks indicate a pattern of rectangular enclosures as well as curvilinear elements, trackways and hut circles (the latter perhaps representing an earlier Iron Age settlement core). This settlement area lies on the east side of the Vicar's Brook valley, avoiding the middle of the flood plain.

Fieldwalking undertaken in Field D during 2004 and prior to the trench evaluation produced only small scatters of worked flint and Roman pottery within Clay Farm Site 3 (corresponding to ALR site 3), with few or no finds to the east of this. The single exception to this was a possibly Early Neolithic flint scatter located just outside the current area of investigation (east of Area A and north of Area B). Immediately to the north of ALR Site 3 Area A, more worked flint were recovered, most of it Late Bronze Age in character (Anderson & Evans 2004). Within the same general area, the 2005 trial trenching revealed a scatter of Iron Age features, some containing Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery. These were interpreted as indicating the presence of an 'open settlement' of this date (Evans *et al.* 2006). Surrounding this and extending southwards into Field D at its north end (including the area incorporated by

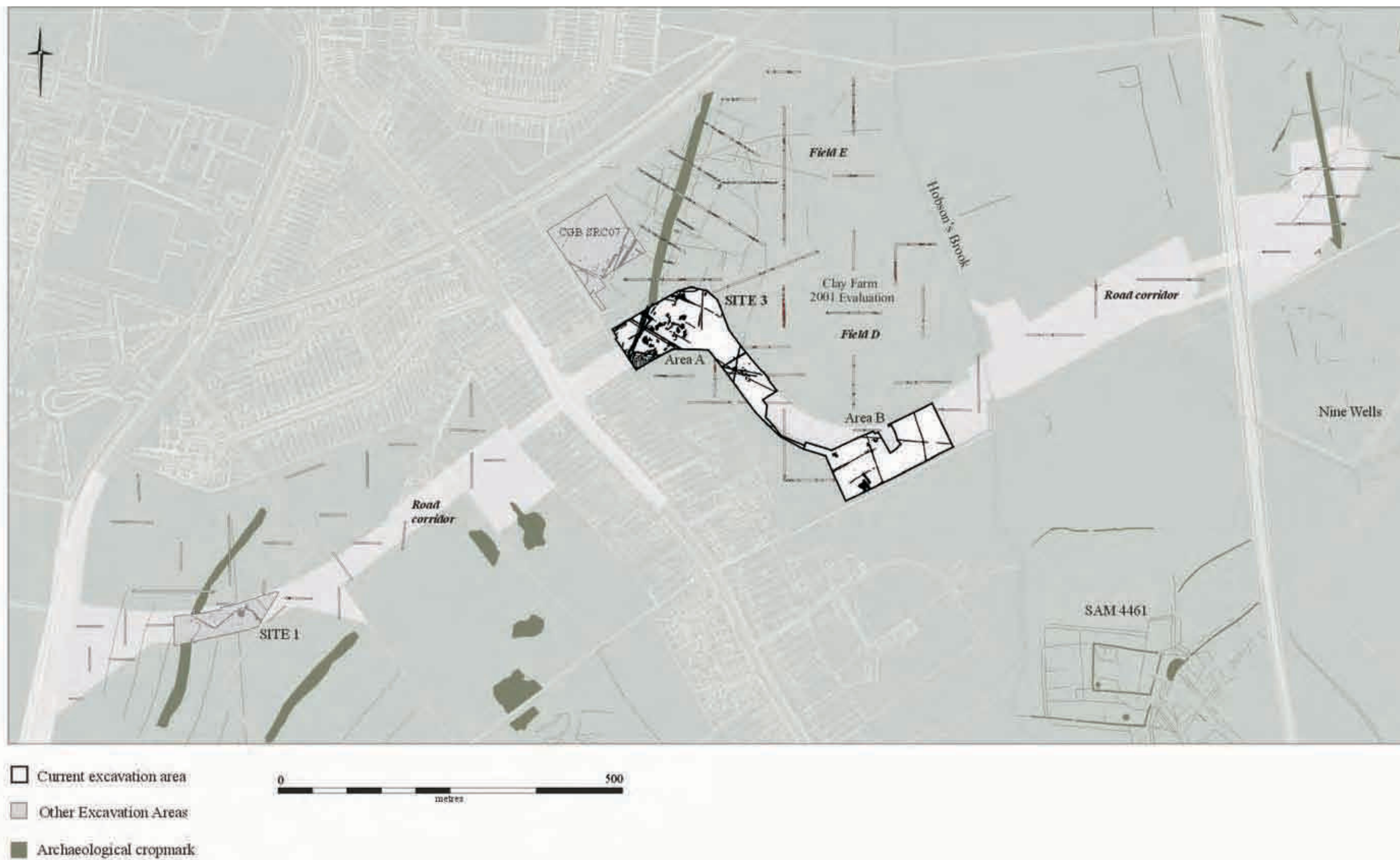


Figure 2. Location of Site 3 excavation area with proposed road corridor and previous archaeological interventions

Area A), a major 1st-3rd century AD Roman site was suggested, based on ditch features encountered within evaluation trenches just to the north (Tr. 117, 119 *etc.*). These ditches were interpreted as a series of interlinked rectilinear enclosures that variously represented in-field plots and animal paddocks (*ibid.*). Yet another focus of Roman settlement was indicated at the southern end of Field D, based on features encountered in Trench 76 (coinciding with the western edge of Area B).

The archaeology of the eastern fields of Clay Farm and the 2020 Lands (Addenbrooke's development), which overlie the Lower Chalk east of the floodplain, has been moderately well investigated, suggesting the presence of 'landscape wide' late prehistoric field systems (Evans & Mackay 2005a; Evans *et al.* 2006). Excavations at the Bell Language School (Brudenell 2004) and various Addenbrooke's sites, including the Hutchinson Site (Evans *et al.* 2004), have demonstrated the continuity between Iron Age and Roman settlement in this area (Figures 1 & 3). The Hutchison site produced evidence of Iron Age and Early-Late Roman settlement and a roadside cremation and inhumation cemetery associated with a NW-SE road which crossed the Vicar's Brook valley in a westerly direction just north of Clay Farm Site 7. Earlier elements included a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age 'settlement compound' (Evans *et al.* 2006). To the south of here (Clay Farm Site 6), a Late Iron Age cremation cemetery of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition was found. This was also at a roadside location (*ibid.*), but here associated with a north-south Late Iron Age trackway. This may be the same trackway as one encountered at the northern end of the current site.

Saxon settlement has been identified both at the Hutchinson site and at the north end of the evaluated 2020 Lands, but west of the Vicar's Brook valley there is barely any evidence for post-Roman archaeology. Apart from the ubiquitous evidence for post-medieval plough cultivation and late (18th-19th century) drainage ditches and field boundaries, there is a lacuna of evidence between the Late Roman period and the 2nd World War, when defence entrenchments, now visible as crop-marks (Clay Farm Site 8), were dug (Evans *et al.* 2006). The possible archaeological impact of a major agricultural showground, in use during the 1950s and 1960s, within Fields D, E & H was noted at the time of the 2006 trench evaluation, although a precise location for this was not identified, and no definite traces of it were found.

The written scheme of investigation for this project highlighted a number of location-specific research objectives to be addressed by the excavations within Field D (this site). This included an examination of the potential presence of a pre-Conquest settlement and fieldsystem and an investigation of whether such a settlement had continued to evolve post-Conquest, being replaced by an independent later Roman system. In effect, the aim was to investigate whether the pattern witnessed at the Hutchinson site some 1.5 km away was repeated within the greater South Cambridge landscape.

Methodology

The topsoil (and a proportion of the sub-soil) over the 2.9 hectare site was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or the natural sub-soil using a 20 tonne 360° tracked excavator. This took place under the close observation and supervision

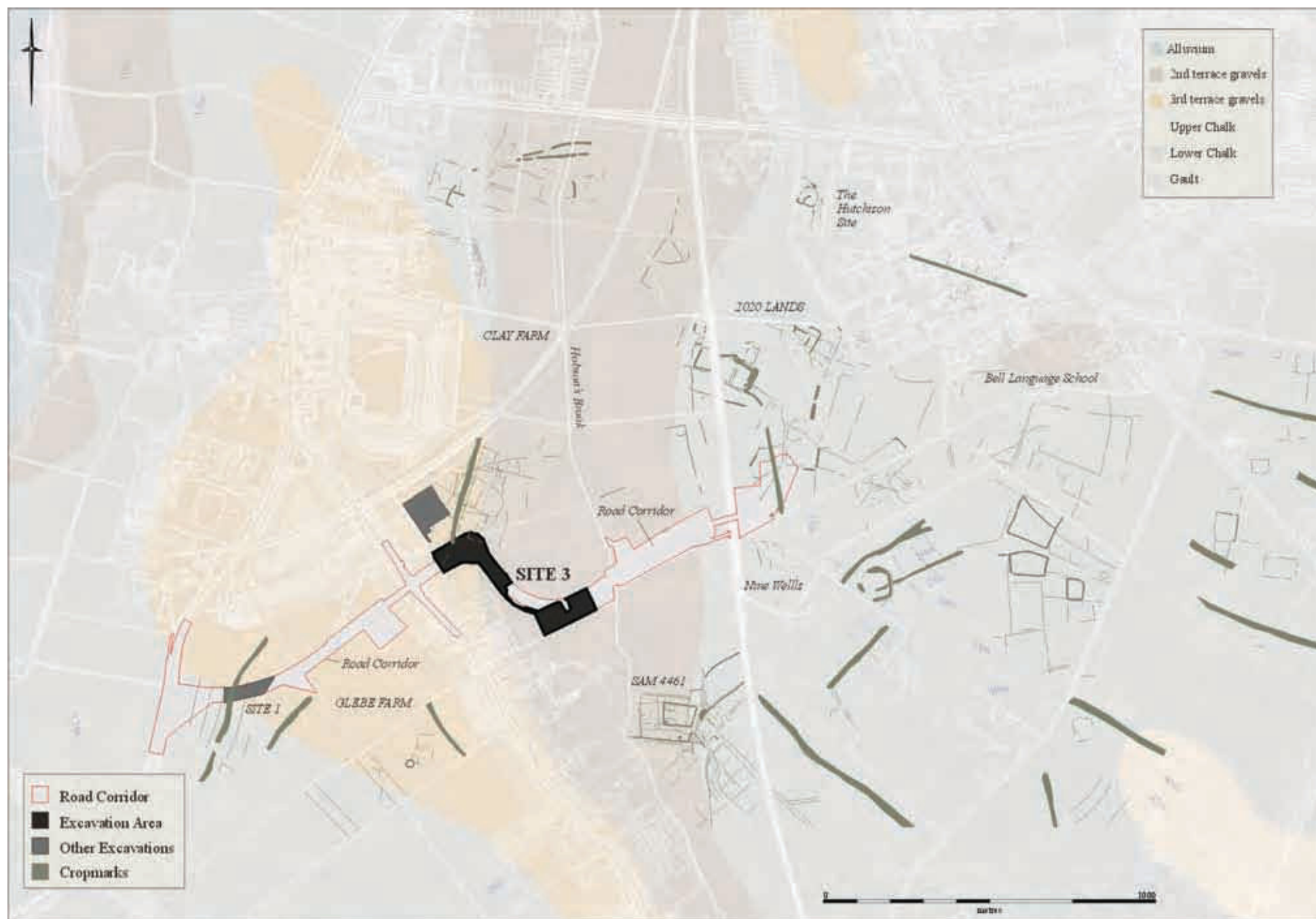


Figure 3. Topography and Geology

Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright University of Cambridge Licence No AL 550833

of an experienced archaeologist. All spoil from the stripping of this area was dumped 20m back from the eastern side of the excavations, the topsoil being dumped separately for possible later reinstatement or agricultural use.

All archaeological features were cleaned, base-planned and then dug by hand, with discrete features (such as pits or post-holes) 50% sample excavated and larger features (such as quarry pits) excavated by means of a 25-50% sample (dependant on their area). All linear features (ditches) were sampled by 1m wide slots every 25m; further judgemental slots were added as necessary in order to determine exact feature relationships (raising the percentage sample of these linear features from four to 10%). All features and contexts were recorded using the standard CAU modified MoLAS recording system, with features drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 and sections at 1:10 (Spence 1990). Photographic recording was undertaken using standard digital photography, supplemented by black and white print film. Environmental sampling was undertaken wherever relevant. This included the sampling of organic and burnt deposits for seeds, formerly damp pits or ditches for molluscs (snails) and peat-filled features for preserved pollen. Some buried soils were sampled for their soil-micromorphology. A number of features containing charcoal horizons but with little or no pottery evidence were sampled for C14 dating.

Excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation (Dickens 2006) and the Health and Safety recommendations set out in a prepared Method Statement and Safety Plan (CAU April 2007).

Within this report, feature numbers are shown in bold (**F.302**). All context numbers are shown in square brackets ([3000] – [3891]). The full feature descriptions are to be found within *Appendix 13*.

RESULTS

Plans of all features excavated are shown in Figures 4-6. The highest density of archaeological features (of all periods) were found at the western end of the site, east of the gardens backing onto Shelford Road and south of the access track from Shelford Road which runs along the north-western edge of Area A (Figure 4). In addition to relatively modern features such as drainage ditches and field drains, a series of NNE-SSW ditches link into one of the crop-mark alignments visible from the aerial photographs, with a series of re-established sub-rectangular enclosures enclosing cultivation beds.

To the east and south of the cultivation beds, a series of rectilinear field enclosures (some with a prevailing WNW-ESE trend) become ever more open, cut only by some curvilinear ditches and a superimposed network of very widely spaced and generally more substantial east-west and north-south ditches with 90° intersections (of Roman date; Figures 4 and 5). To some degree, both Roman and pre-Roman alignments are mimicked by the modern drainage ditches, essentially where both correspond with the damper and more low-lying areas of the site. Towards the southern boundary of Field D (Area B of Site 3), a quite different set of WNW-ESE aligned narrow ditched

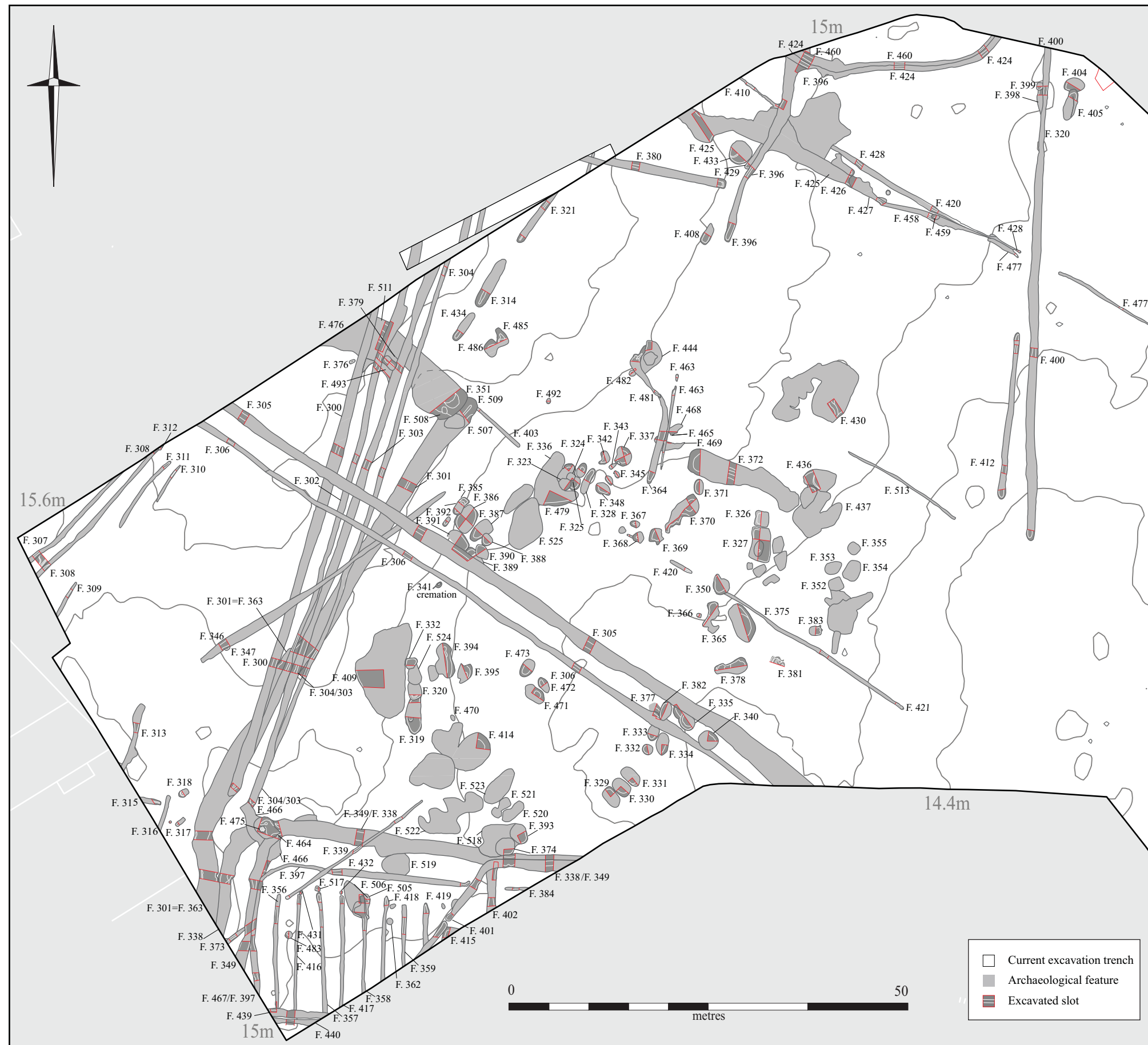


Figure 4. Plan of Site 3, Area A north western section

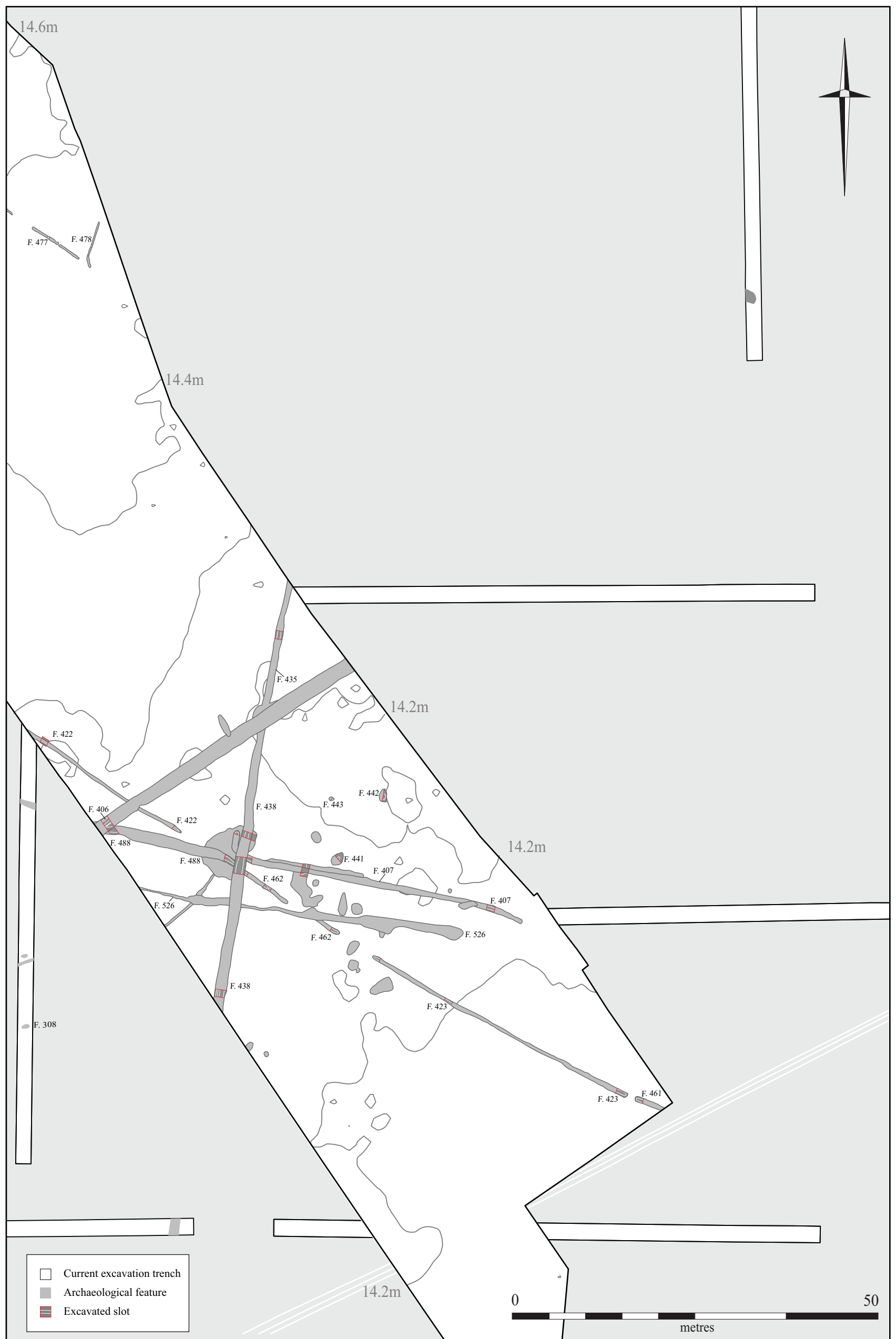


Figure 5. Plan of Site 3, Area A south eastern section

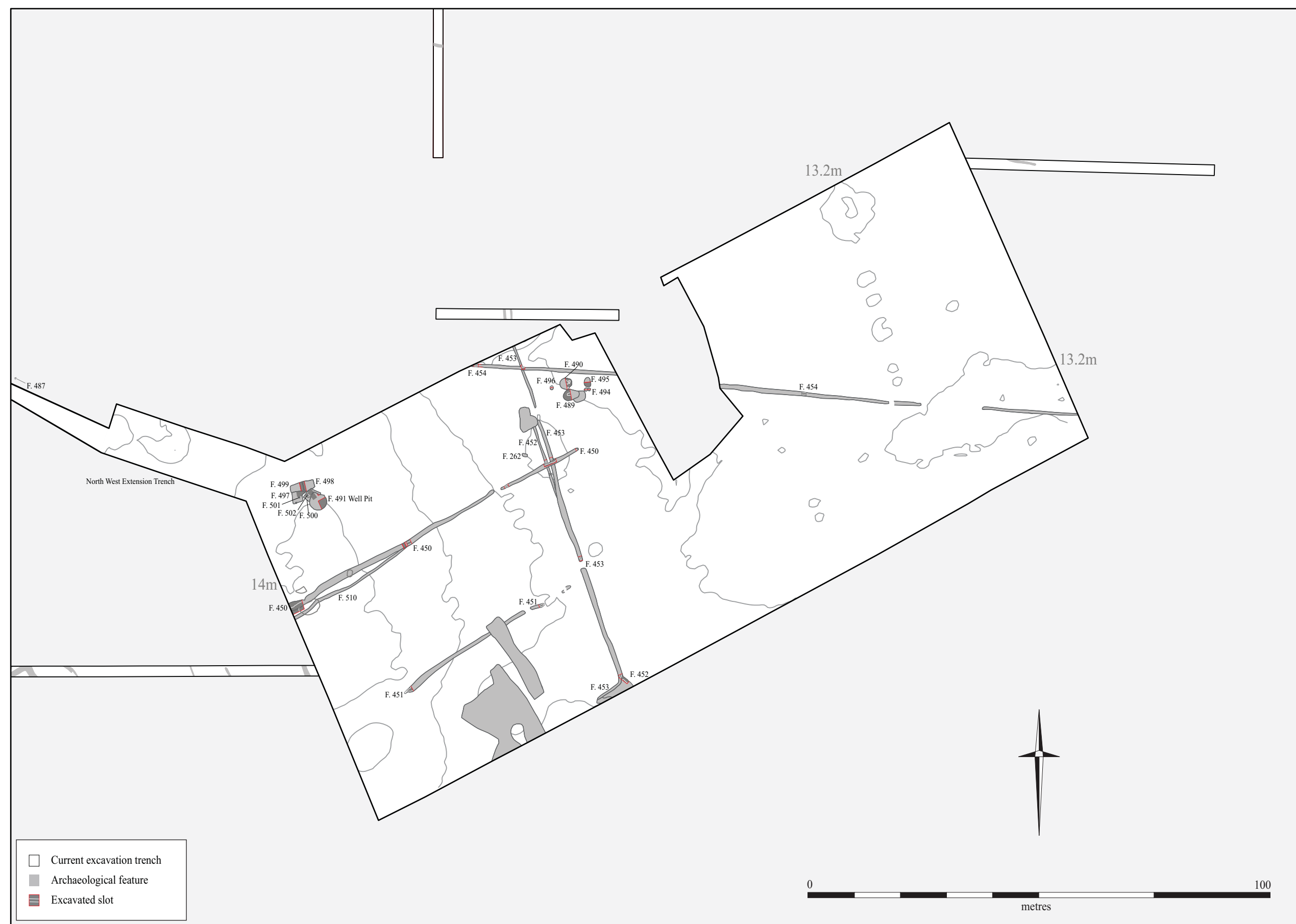


Figure 6. Plan of Site 3, Area B

enclosures is encountered. This does not relate to any of those seen within Area A. The overall density of features found at the eastern end of Area A appears to be lower, a pattern which is even more evident within the eastern half of Area B (Figure 6).

A rather misleading impression of fairly intensive occupation of the western end of Area A is provided by evidence of considerable quarrying activity. Most of this consisted of relatively small quarry pits, with little evidence for any other sort of pitting, nor of any structures represented by post-holes or beam slots. Eastwards, this area of pitting is replaced by natural features, mostly ancient tree throws, indicating the former presence of several small areas of woodland. The presence of long-standing woodland copses implies an absence of archaeology within these areas.

Site phasing

The archaeological phasing of Site 3 is described here, and is illustrated in Figures 7-9. The phasing is as follows.

Phase 1 *Neolithic* (Figure 7) A small number of backfilled pits (**F.441 & F.442** etc.) were associated with minor amounts of worked flint and flint working debris. Other features of Neolithic date were tree throws with washed-in flint (e.g. **F.381**). Former areas of activity were also suggested by the incorporation of diagnostically Neolithic flint within later features (e.g. quarry pit **F.326** and ditches **F.363** (**301**), **F.380** and **F.339**).

Phase 2 *Bronze Age* (Figure 7) Within this category, a small number of early Bronze Age features and a larger number of Middle-Late Bronze Age features could be distinguished. An Early Bronze Age pit cluster in Area B includes evidence for domestic activity, including the presence of burnt stone and charcoal and water supply (**F.489** etc.). Quarry pits **F.468** and **F.469** may also be of Early Bronze Age date. Paired cooking pits (**F.485 & F.486**) date to the Middle Bronze Age, as do pits with dumps of burnt stone (**F.379**) within the NW part of Area A and a series of segmented ditches, one of which contained part of a Deveril Rimbury urn. Most Bronze Age features from Site 3 could be dated to the Middle-Late Bronze Age. These include the major enclosure ditch **F.301**, ditches **F.476** and **F.511**, the possible trackway ditches (**F.307 & F.308**) at the NW end of Area A, and a long series of field ditch enclosures **F.410**, **F.421**, **F.423** and **F.428** which continue to the south end of Area A. Most of the above features may be Middle Bronze Age, their precise dating evidence being inadequate. Pit **F.351** may date to the Late Bronze Age, although the presence of Middle Bronze Age type flintwork within it and also the juxtaposition of features may indicate a much earlier origin.

Phase 3 *Later Prehistoric* (Figure 7) This category included those features that had a prehistoric appearance (from their alignment, structure or fill type), but which could not be further assigned to a specific prehistoric phase. Pre-Roman field enclosure ditches **F.450-F.453** within Area B, were orientated on an unrecognised ditch alignment. No good dating evidence is available for these features and it is therefore unknown whether they are Bronze Age or Iron Age in date.

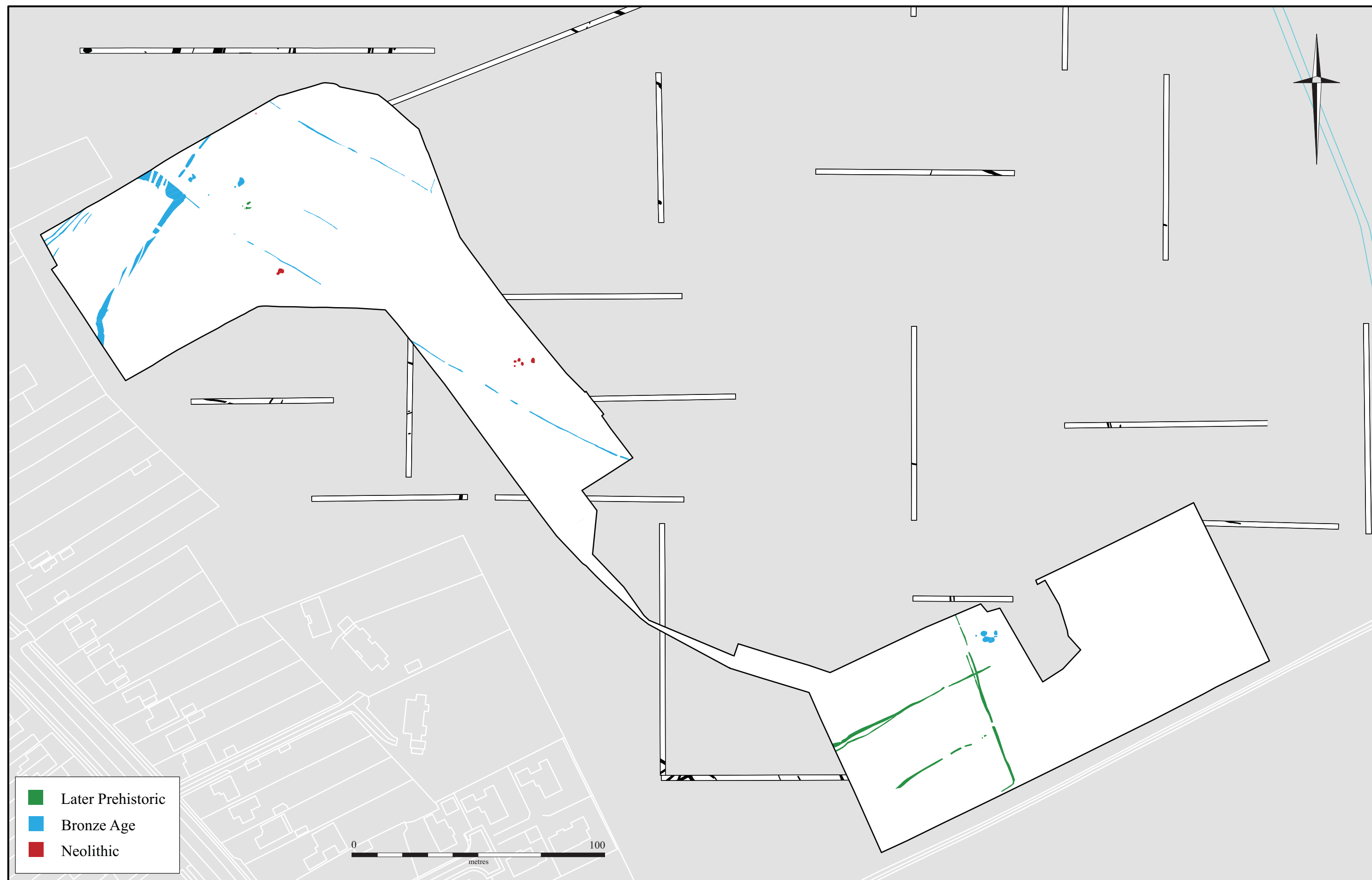


Figure 7. Phase plan: Neolithic, Bronze Age and Later Prehistoric features

Phase 4 Iron Age (Figure 8) Almost all features included within this category are Late Iron Age in date. These include the paired NNE-SSW trackway ditches (F.300 *etc.*) at the NW end of the site, the short ditches F.313, and the major ditches (F.425 and F.460) at right angles to the above alignment NNE-SSW ditches F.463 & F.396 which cut F.425. The curvilinear ditch F.425, and the earliest enclosure ditch (F.338) surrounding the area of later cultivation are also of Late Iron Age date. Amongst the quarry pits, bone-filled quarry pit F.465, F.519, F.329 and F.335 are of the same date, as may be quarry pit F.464.

Phase 5 Late Iron Age/Roman (Figure 8) Late Iron Age/ Roman or 'Romanising period' (40 AD – 60 AD?) field enclosures are present on recognisable Roman alignments (F.397, F.488 & F.407). In addition to this are clusters of quarry pits (*e.g.* F.385 and F.325) with associated proto-greyware pottery. The final cultivation bed enclosure (F.349), the cultivation trenches, planting pits, and the better defined and dated field ditches (including F.380 and F.438 in Area A and F.454 in Area B) date to the period 50-100 AD. Additionally there are various minor ditches and field drains (*e.g.* F.412) and groups of quarry pits (*e.g.* F.370, F.326 & F.353) dating to this phase, the latter following a horizon of marly gravel east-west across the NW part of the site. Several short NE-SW ditches within the NW part of Area A truncate all earlier Roman features (F.339 and F.347) and may date to the later Roman or early post-Roman period. These have not been dated from pottery.

Phase 6 Post-Roman (Figure 9) Of features placed within this category, only pit F.336 may have had a medieval date, based on the presence of possible pre-19th century artefacts. Post-medieval features (17th-19th century) include ditches F.305 and F.306, the field drains and most of the larger quarry pits (*e.g.* F.409, F.470, F.372 & F.430). The dating evidence for many of these quarry pits is poor. Possible 20th century features include those associated with agriculture and the 1950s-60s agricultural showground (most of these are not described in detail, with the exception of the water hole and tanks).

Method of description

For ease of interpretation, features are grouped according to their chronology. Within each phase, broadly similar features are described together. In this way it is hoped to give an impression of the overall development of Site 3. More detailed descriptions of individual features can be found in *Appendix 13*.

Neolithic

Three oval-shaped pits associated with an area of tree throws to the east of the junction between ditches F.407 and F.438 were sampled (half-sectioned) and revealed evidence for Neolithic activity. One tree-throw also contained Neolithic worked flint.

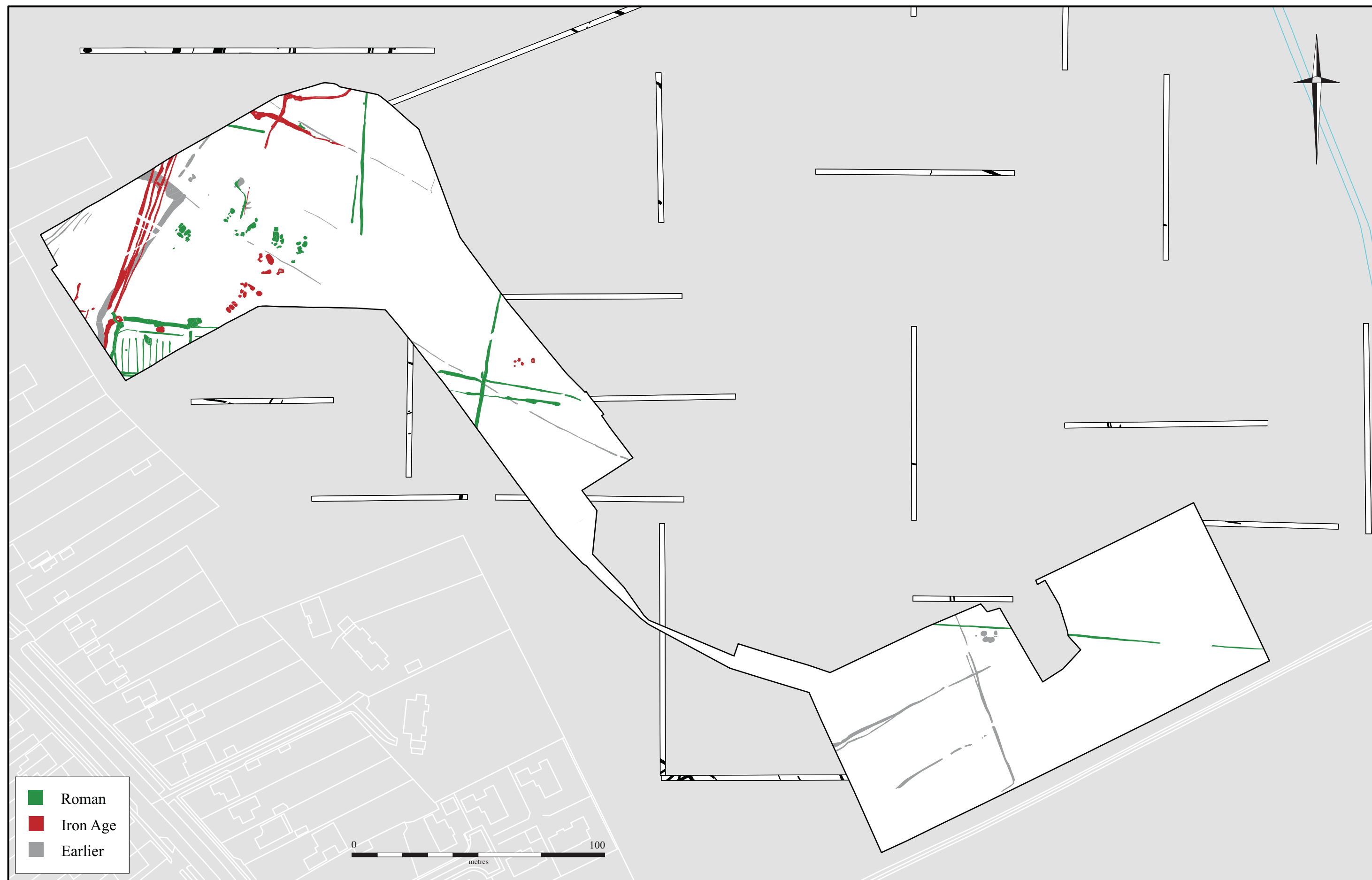


Figure 8. Phase plan: Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Roman features

F.441 was a sub-oval pit, 2m long, 1.25m wide and 0.21m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat to concave base, containing a single fill of orange-grey silt [3605], from which a Neolithic edge-used blade and secondary flake were recovered alongside other non-diagnostic flint-working waste. Some 10m to the north-east lay another pit, **F.442**, of similar shape and size, but deeper (0.35m), with a fill which contained a similar assemblage. Amongst this were secondary flakes as well as a single and an opposed platform Neolithic core. A little bit to the west lay a smaller circular to oval-shaped pit (0.5m diameter and 0.12m deep) with a similar 'U' shaped profile (**F.443**). Although no finds were recovered from this, the similar shape and location of this pit within this area of tree throws suggests a similar period of origin and genesis. The function of these pits is unknown.

F.381 was a possible tree throw up to 1m+ in diameter which lay some 5m to the south of the Middle Bronze Age field ditch **F.421**. This was half-sectioned to reveal possible evidence of Neolithic flint-working activity in the form of struck flint associated with a darker patch of the orange grey mottled sand fill. The latter consisted of a single edge-used Neolithic flake.

In addition to these features, residual Neolithic worked flints were recovered from later features on Site 3. These included quarry pit **F.326** and ditches **F.363**, **F.380** and **F.339**.

Bronze Age

Pits, ditch alignments and trackways

Securely dated Early Bronze Age features were rare at Site 3. One pit group can be attributed to this period from a radiocarbon date within its upper fill, whilst a pit from a separate group contained a scraper of possible Early Bronze Age form.

A semi-circular cluster of 7-8 pits of different widths and depths was found half-way along the northern side of Area B at a location just to the south of the Early Roman field ditch **F.454**. The dominant pits of this group consisted of **F.489**, a large sub-oval pit 3.4m long, 2.2m wide and 0.78m deep with very steep sides leading to a flattish then hollow concave base, with a slightly stepped slope to the south, and **F.490**, a large circular pit 2.4m in diameter and up to 0.85m deep with steeply sloping concave sides and a near symmetrical 'U' shaped profile. It had an almost flat base sloping gently from the sides to a central depression. The upper fills of both these pits consisted of a dark grey clay peat with occasional gravel, abundant mollusc (snail) shell, burnt stone (sandstone) and occasional charcoal and animal bone; the lower fills consisted of dark grey silty clay with occasional bone, lumps of charcoal and snail shells interspersed with slump deposits of sand and gravel washed/fallen in from the north and south sides. No other finds were recovered, but from the upper 'dark earth' fill of **F.489** ([3784]) charcoal was collected after washing and sieving, which provided a radiocarbon date of 1670 to 1490 cal. BC (Figure 10). The snail evidence suggested that both pits had contained fresh water, at least seasonally. The most likely explanation of this is that these pits were dug to tap the water-table, perhaps as a water-hole rather than a well.

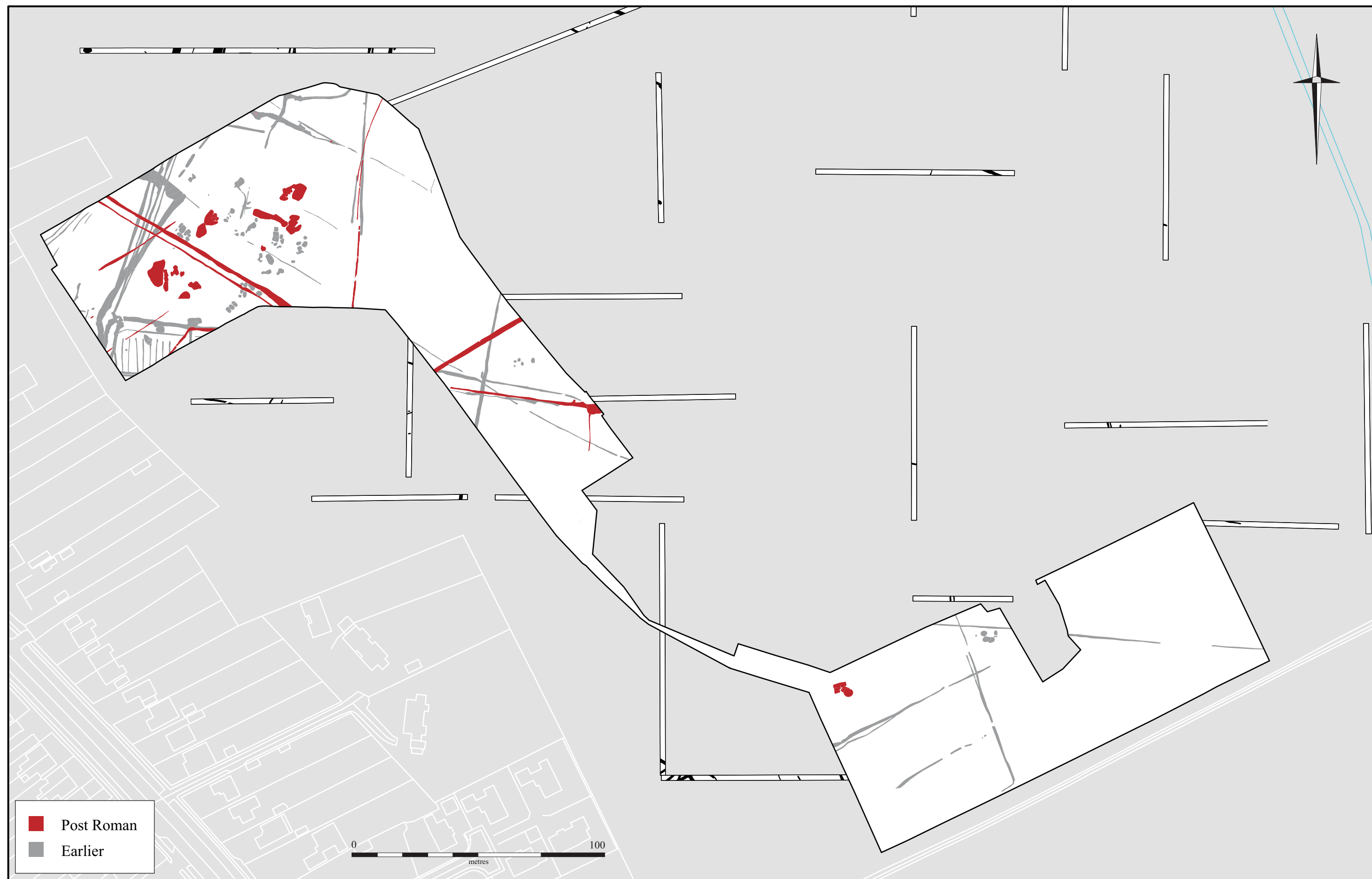


Figure 9. Phase Plan: Post-Roman features

Three other associated pits within this pit cluster were also sampled. These formed a small intercutting group just to the north of the large pits. **F.494** was a small circular pit (0.85m in diameter and 0.22m deep) with a 'U' shaped profile and rounded base and with fills consisting of grey clay and silt, occasional charcoal, gravel and mollusc remains. The adjacent intercutting pit **F.495** was similar, but with more steeply cut sides. Just to the north-west another similar size and shaped pit, **F.496**, contained a single fill of black peaty clay with a much higher density of charcoal and burnt stones. This appeared to have had a different function from the others, perhaps as some sort of cooking or boiling pit. In addition, there were several other intercutting pits associated with this cluster on its eastern side, though none of these were examined.

Two pits found close to the south-west end of ditch **F.463** (and truncated by it) may have also had an Early Bronze Age date. Pit **F.468** was sub-oval, of irregular shape and orientated NW-SE (3.55m long by 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep). It had concave sides and a flat base and contained two fills. From the upper fill, consisting of pebbly sand, came a single piece of worked flint, an end scraper which may be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in origin. Pit **F.469** was the southern of this pair, sub-rectangular to irregular in shape with a rounded end to the north-west and pointed to the south-east; the feature was up to 3.65m long, 3.05m wide and 0.62m deep (see Figure 11). It had moderately steep sides; the base of the pit was relatively flat but disturbed by animal activity. The two pits appear to be contemporary and were interpreted as being quarry pits, perhaps for gravel. The gravel-rich fills of these pits made them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding gravel, the backfill within these features being distinctly different from most of the later (Late Iron Age – Early Roman) quarries encountered in the excavation. The truncation by **F.465** implies that these pits are pre-Late Iron Age, whilst their form, type of fill and flint finds suggest they could be much earlier.

The majority of Bronze Age features from Site 3 can be dated to the Middle to Late Bronze Age. The most prominent Middle-Late Bronze Age feature was a major NE-SW aligned ditch, **F.301**, traceable for 60m across the north-west end of the site. This followed a slightly curvilinear trajectory, curving round to the south-east as it disappeared past the edge of the area at its southern end. This ditch was between 2m and 3.5m wide and up to 1m deep with a 'U' shaped, square or irregular profile depending upon the amount of quarrying which had taken place (mainly along its western side). Some of this quarrying may have been linked to a defensive function and the construction of a bank along the outer west scarp face, something which is indicated within the fairly complex ditch fill by the amount of slumping that has taken place along this side. Where quarrying didn't occur (for example close to the northern terminus) the profile of the ditch was narrower and 'V' shaped. Altogether the ditch was sampled in 10 different slots, most of which were broadly similar, with evidence of at least two re-cuts. The fill of the first re-cut consisted of a series of darker grey loams including a soil layer [3009] which contained charcoal, dumped burnt stone, animal bone and small amounts of Later Prehistoric pottery (1100BC-50AD), eleven sherds of which were recovered from two of the middle slots (Figures 12 & 13). One interpretation of this is that the Middle Bronze Age ditch remained open, and perhaps still in use, well into the Late Bronze Age (and possibly into the Early Iron Age). During this period it was re-cut and re-established on several different occasions. A radiocarbon date from charcoal (1380 – 1120 cal. BC) recovered from context [3728] at the south end dated burnt stone and hearth debris from the ditch to the Middle

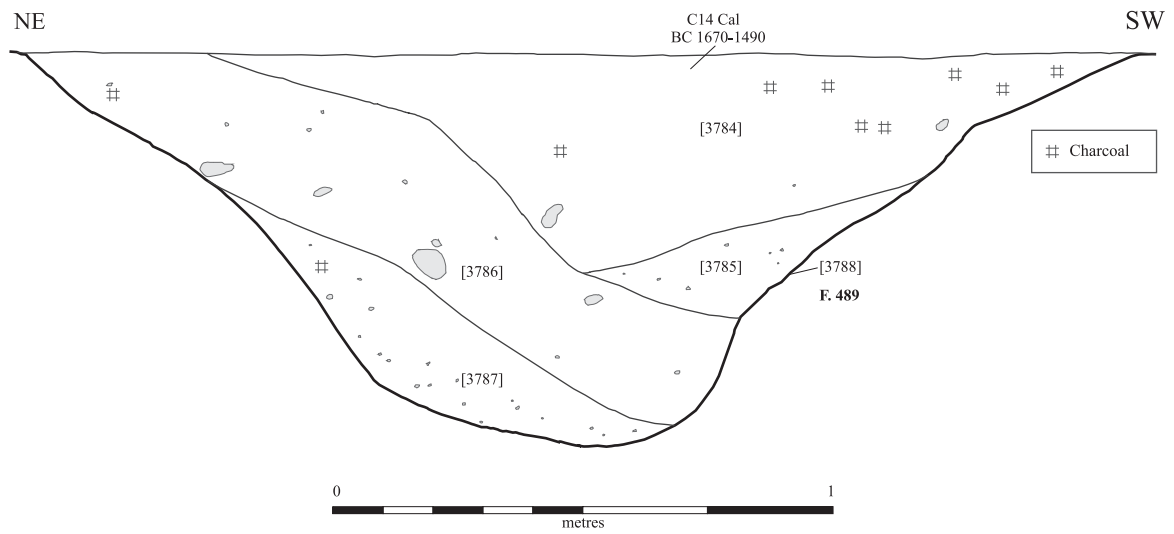


Figure 10. Section through Early Bronze Age pit F. 489 showing location of charcoal sampling (Area B)

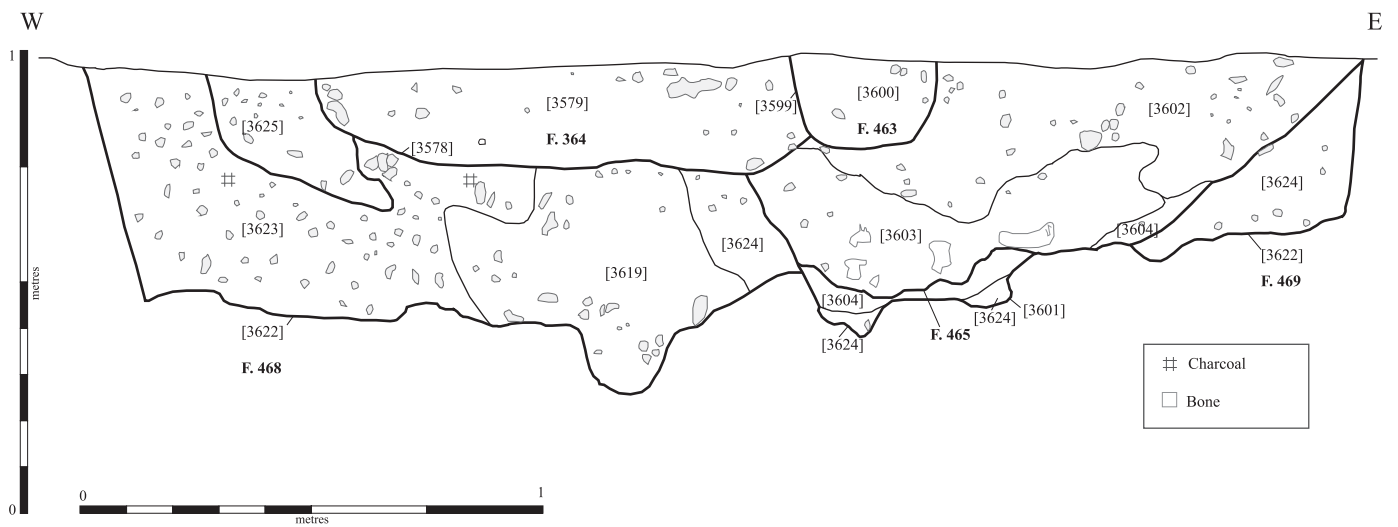


Figure 11. South-facing section through slot 127: Late Iron Age ditches F. 364, F. 463, and earlier Later Prehistoric and Late Iron Age quarry pits F. 469 and F. 465

Bronze Age, suggesting that this material was still extant in the vicinity of the ditches during their infilling in the Late Bronze Age. It may have been incorporated within the fabric of the bank which lay to the west. This would then have been integrated gradually into the fill through the process of slumping and erosion. A surface find of a clay loom weight [3891] came from the southern end of this feature close to the point where it changed direction. Presumably this was derived from the upper fill [3200] of the ditch, also sampled within a slot at the far south-eastern end (see Timberlake *Appendix 8*).

F.301 is abutted at its north end by a 5m long ‘sausage-shaped’ section of ditch, **F.509**, which is on exactly the same alignment, but off-set 0.5m to the east, presumably in order to respect a pre-existing large pit to the west (**F.351**). The ‘V’ shaped profile of this ditch is similar to that at the north end of **F.301**, containing a fill of grey sandy silt with inclusions of animal bone, charcoal and burnt stone. The flanks of this ditch were cut by two small and probably contemporary quarry pits (**F.507** and **F.508**). **F.509** cuts the earlier field ditch **F.403**.

The large sub-circular ‘pit’, **F.351**, which is abutted by **F.509**, also abuts the north-west edge of ditch **F.301** (Figure 14). It was approximately 5m in diameter and 1.15m deep with a symmetrical semi-circular cut around its sampled eastern half. The pit had irregularly sloping (convex to concave) sides with some suggestion of quarrying and a flattish to concave base (Figures 15 & 16). The pit fill was complex, the upper layers including large amounts of redeposited burnt stone and flint (washed-in or backfilled), some charcoal, fired clay, animal bone, and single pieces of probable Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery [3332]. Beneath this were layers which contained more burnt stone and bone including pieces of a single large and complete (adult) red deer antler which had been placed horizontally in layer [3334], in the south-west corner of the pit (Figures 17 & 18). The latter horizon may correspond chronologically to horizon [3009] within ditch **F.301**. Nevertheless, there remained some uncertainty as to whether this large feature post-dated ditch **F.301** and whether it represented a pit or the rounded terminus of a wide NW-SE aligned ditch linked to, or perhaps identical with, ditches **F.476** and **F.511**. What is certain, however, is that it lies roughly on the same alignment as (and on the junction of) a series of NW-SE and SW-NE ditches.

West of **F.351**, the outline of a 3m wide and 1.34m deep ‘V’ shaped ditch, **F.511**, continued on a NW-SE alignment (Figure 19). The eastern end of this was not located within the 1m wide slot excavated and therefore its relationship with **F.351** was not established. Provisionally this has been interpreted as a ditch of similar type and age to **F.301** which has been cut by (or abuts) pit **F.351**. The ditch fill consisted of lower silts containing mollusc remains, slump layers, and an upper backfill of medium to dark grey silts [3658] – [3662] packed full of dumped burnt stone and charcoal. No pottery, but a tiny amount of worked flint, was recovered from one of the upper layers [3660]. A charcoal sample recovered from the darkest silt layer returned an almost identical Middle Bronze Age radiocarbon date (1420 – 1220 cal BC) to that provided by the sample from ditch **F.301**. **F.511** cuts an earlier ditch (**F.476**) on its south side. **F.476** appears to have been open during the same period of backfill/ silting-up as **F.511** (post-dating the formation of the burnt stone features), suggesting that it may not pre-date **F.511** by long.

Little in the way of useful environmental evidence was recovered from these Middle – Late Bronze Age ditches and pits. From layer [3009] within the middle section of ditch **F.301** a very small amount of cereal *Hordeum/Triticum* (wheat or barley) grain was recovered, along with a small amount of carbonised chaff waste. The absence of damp-loving molluscs from here suggested that at least the upper portion of this ditch remained relatively dry. However, considerable numbers of freshwater or damp-loving molluscs were recorded within the lower fills of ditch **F.511**.

In addition to the large Middle Bronze Age ditches and pits, an alignment of at least three Middle Bronze Age NE-SW ditch segments (**F.434**, **F.314** & **F.321**) was identified at the north end of the site. These ditches lined up with (but didn't meet) pit **F.351** and were at right angles to the major MBA-LBA ditches **F.511** and **F.476**; they were also north of the termini (and on the same alignment as) the MBA-LBA ditches **F.301** and **F.509**, but offset to the northwest by some 7m. This suggests that both these ditches and some additional NW-SE ditches (**F.403**, **F.410**, **F.420**, **F.421**, **F.423**, **F.428**, **F.458**, **F.462**, **F.477**, **F.478** and **F.513**) which are at 90° to the segmented ditch alignment (and of similar dimensions, suggesting that they are possibly contemporary) pre-date the major **F.301/509** system and may be cut by it. This would explain the clear difference in dates.

The three ditch segments (from south to north) consist of **F.434**, a 3.88m long, 1.06m wide and 0.88m deep 'U' shaped ditch which contained a small amount of bone; **F.314**, a 6-7m long, 1.25m wide and 0.42m deep ditch with a more pronounced 'V' shaped profile and basal fills containing animal bone and worked flint, plus burnt stone and a single sherd of Late Iron Age/ Early Roman pottery (which appears to be intrusive) in the top; and **F.321**, the longest segment (>7m long), which continues beyond the north-west edge of the excavation and is approximately 0.3m deep. **F.321** contains animal bone and charcoal towards the base, with bone and some 24 sherds of a Deveril-Rimbury urn within its upper fill. These sherds were found sitting upright at the interface between the middle and upper layers suggesting, that the urn had been carefully placed within the bottom of a re-cut ditch. The latter find is probably the best evidence we have for the dating of these three ditches, and by inference from this, a field system 50m+ wide and at least 200m long which stretches to the east.

The variation in the dimensions, cut profile and fills of the three ditch segments suggests that they may have been dug separately and at slightly different times, even though they are all clearly part of the same enclosure boundary.

Two NW-SE oriented parallel ditch alignments, possibly forming part of the fieldsystem, cannot themselves be more precisely dated than the Middle-Late Bronze Age. These have been divided up into a southern group (**F.403**, **F.420**, **F.421**, **F.422**, **F.423**, **F.463** and **F.462**) and a northern group (**F.410**, **F.420**, **F.428** and **F.477**), both consisting of long runs of semi-continuous segmented ditch of similar type and profile, separated from each other by a gap of about 55m.

A 6m long ditch segment, **F.403**, was sampled at its western terminus at the point where this was cut by the later MBA-LBA 'sausage ditch' **F.509**, the latter in turn truncating ditch **F.301** and pit **F.351**. The establishment of this relationship was very important in that it helped provide a *terminus ante quem* for the whole series of NW-SE segmented ditches. At this terminus only the base of ditch **F.403** had survived

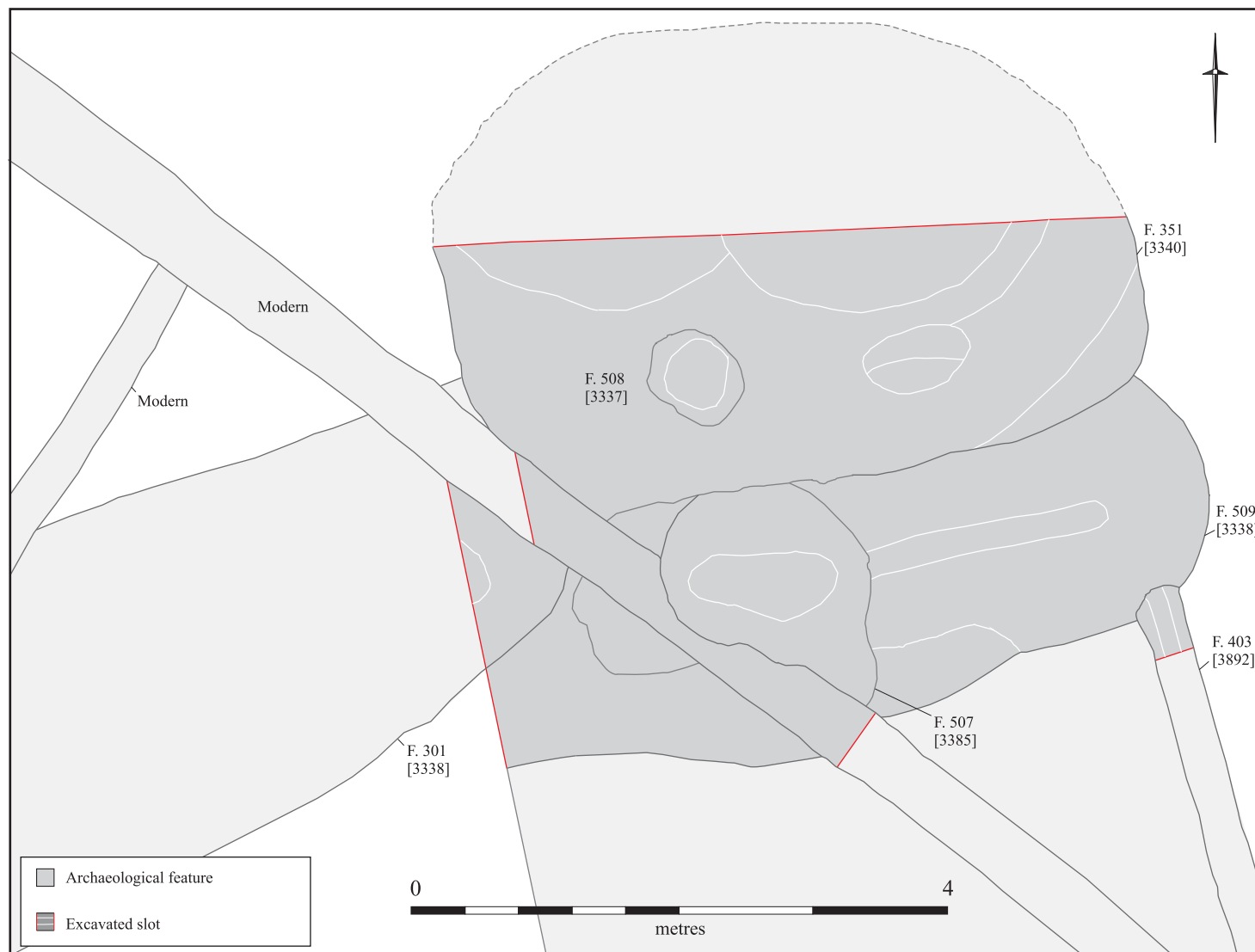


Figure 14. Plan showing inter-relationships between F. 301, F. 351, F. 403 and F. 509

machine and plough truncation: thus here it was only 0.27m wide and 0.07m deep. A gap of 25m separated the eastern terminus of **F.403** from the next 3m long ditch segment, **F.420** (0.3 – 0.4m wide and <0.2m deep). **F.420** terminated only 5m northwest of the terminal of the next segment. The absence of any ditch between **F.403** and **F.420** suggests its possible removal by plough or machine truncation. The next ditch segment, **F.421**, forms the continuation of this alignment eastwards in a straight line for another 30m. This was sampled in three different places and is of fairly uniform dimensions: narrow (0.42m wide), shallow (0.14m deep) and with a typical ‘U’ shaped profile. Just over 30m to the east of **F.421**, the northwestern end of segment **F.422** disappears beyond the western edge of the excavations. The shape of the ditch cut here was similar in appearance to **F.421** but deeper (0.33m); however, at this point the profile suggested the possible former presence of a wooden beam or series of upright planks (palisade), the latter perhaps forming a boundary or a fence for an animal pen (see Figures 20 & 21). A further 15m long segment **F.462** continued eastwards. This was sectioned in three places: at the intersection of ditches **F.488** and **F.438**, where the ditch remained ‘U’ shaped (0.65m wide and 0.15m deep) and contained a single fill sterile of finds; 5m to the east of this, where there was evidence for a re-cut and finally at the south-western terminus where it was partly obscured by a tree-throw. Approximately 7m to the east of here lay the western terminus of **F.423**, the last long 35m long segment on this alignment (Figure 21). From the shallowest (0.21m wide and 0.12m deep) ditch section came four crudely struck worked and burnt flints from a single silty fill, [3587], with another from a similarly sampled sediment in the middle, and a further seven from the east end. Such flints are possibly of Middle Bronze Age type. Within the latter section another beam slot, [3584], was observed. Separated by just over a metre from **F.423** was the continuation of this ditch line in the form of **F.461**. This continued with a similar ditch profile (0.45m wide and 0.18m deep) beyond the south-eastern end of the excavations. The overall consistency in dimensions of this narrow ditch alignment for hundreds of metres raises the interesting question of whether we are dealing with wooden fencing or corralling over an extensive area.

Any continuation of the ditch alignment is not picked up in Area B to the south-east, suggesting that it either terminates or curves around to the east before this point. At its southern end there is indeed some suggestion of it curving around to the south-east, perhaps forming a curvilinear termination to this field system just as it reaches the lower ground of the flood plain.

The northern ditch alignment can be seen just to the west of the northern corner of the excavated site. Here a 5m long ditch, **F.410**, extends beyond the western limit of excavations, but where sampled a few metres from this edge has revealed a similar ‘U’ shaped ditch to that seen in the southern alignment, between 0.3-0.4m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep with similar fills of sterile silt and gravel. The eastern end of this is cut by the Late Iron Age ditch **F.396**. The **F.410** alignment continues some 8m to the east as **F.428**, a 33m long ditch segment which begins with a ‘U’ shaped profile, but appears to have been re-cut as a ‘V’ shaped ditch (0.7m wide and 0.4m deep) in its upper half, with the ‘V’ shape becoming more pronounced in a second slot half way along its length. The fill contained bone, burnt bone and stone. Beyond this the ditch becomes partly truncated by the Iron Age ditch (**F.459**) along its southern edge. **F.428** terminates just west of the line of ditch **F.400**. At this point it once again becomes shallow and ‘U’ shaped (0.2m wide and 0.08m deep) with a light blue-grey silty fill

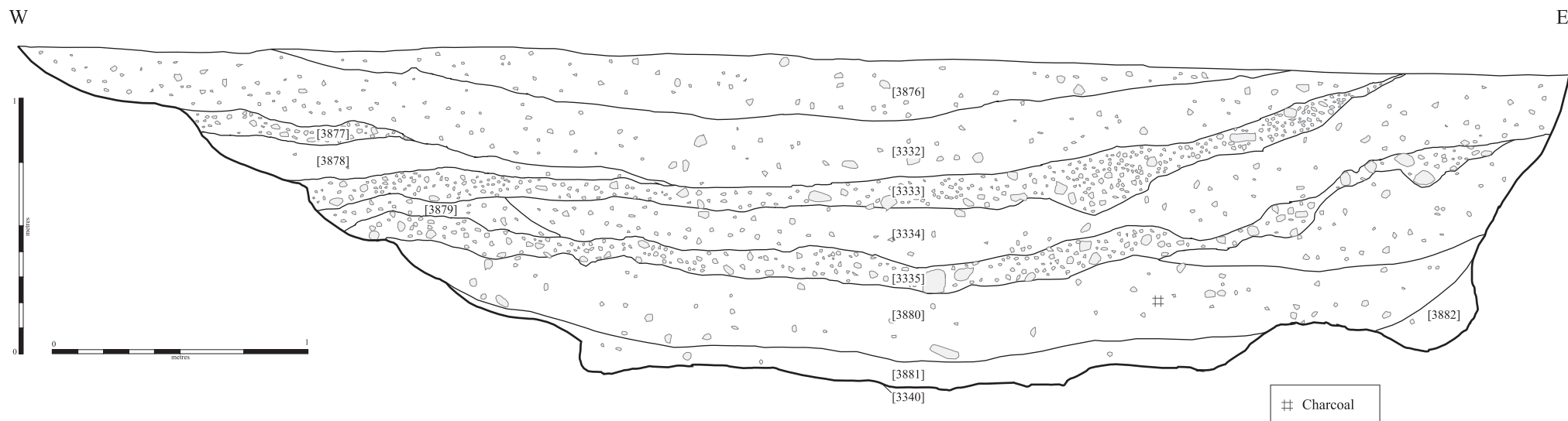


Figure 15. Section through middle of Late Bronze Age pit F. 351

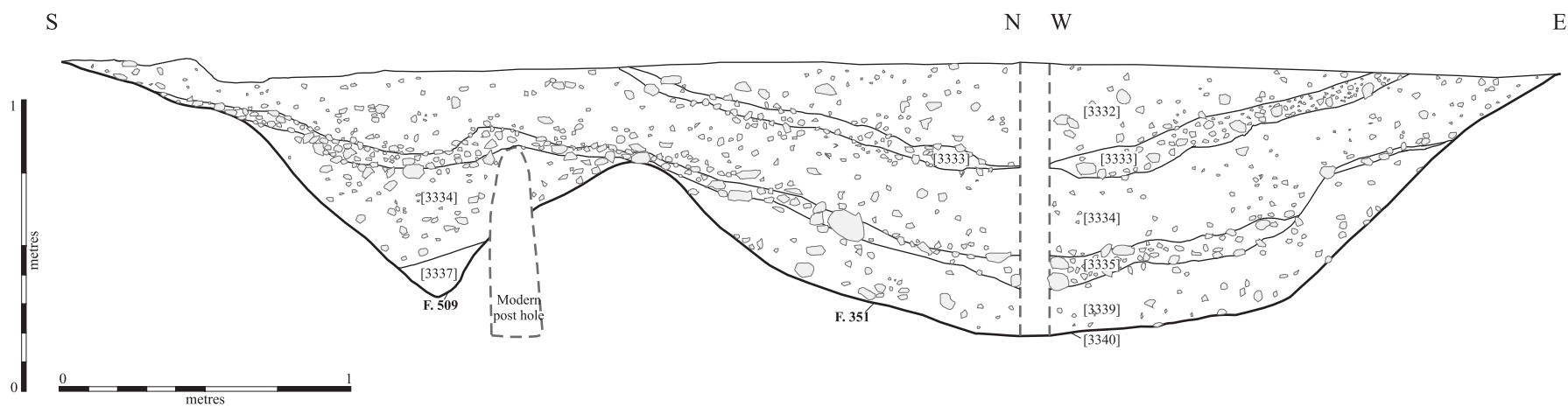


Figure 16. 90° Section through SE end of pit F. 351 and ditch F. 509

[3470]. Two small fragments of Later Iron Age (350BC-50 AD) pottery were recovered from the terminal, although it seems most likely that these come from the fill of ditch **F.459**, which has almost completely truncated the earlier ditch at this point and is re-cut along its course. Three segments of ditch (all assigned the same feature number) mark the continuation of the northerly ditch sequence. The westernmost segment of **F.477** was cut by the top of **F.428** which runs parallel to it for 5m, the profile of this being 'V' to 'U' shaped (0.25m wide and 0.21m deep) with a similar fill, but devoid of finds. This cross-section seems also to suggest the presence of a beam slot, although it is much less obvious than in the southern ditch alignment. The eastern segment of **F.477** was narrow and very shallow (0.21m wide and 0.09m deep) and more 'V' shaped, yet the single fill was similar and likewise devoid of finds. This had been truncated away by plough or machine over a 3m section some 7m from the eastern end. Just beyond this, **F.478**, the only surviving segment of a same-phase ditch on a NNE-SSW alignment, heads north for about 5m. The outline of this is at approx 85° to **F.477**, just a metre from its eastern terminus. The profile is 'U' shaped (0.25m wide and 0.25m deep) with a sterile silty sand fill. Beyond this point the continuation eastwards of the northern alignment of ditches is cut off by the excavation edge.

Mid-way between the northern and southern ditch alignments, the outline of a third parallel ditch segment, **F.513**, was noted. This is approximately 15m long and 0.3m wide. **F.513** lay some 23m north of **F.421** and 28m south of **F.428**. Unfortunately, its outline was obscured by silt following flooding on the site in July 2007. Thereafter this area remained damp and difficult to investigate and the feature was never sampled.

A group of NE-SW shallow gullies which cut across the extreme western corner of the site have been identified as the possible remains of a trackway. None of these contained any datable material, but they followed closely the orientation of the large enclosure ditch **F.301**. Ditches **F.307** and **F.308** were both at least 15m long, between 0.46m and 0.64m wide and 0.19m and 0.21m deep and contained single silty fills. They continued beyond the edge of the excavation both to the northeast and southwest. Some 5m to the east lay the partly truncated away (machine or plough damaged) gully of **F.311**, which is on a slightly more westerly alignment. A short (3m long) surviving section of ditch (**F.310**) on an even more westerly alignment can be seen at the northern end of this group. It can only be presumed that its southern end of this has been truncated away. These four gullies show some distinct similarities to two pairs of Late Iron Age trackside ditches (**F.300** *etc.*; see below) further east: in particular their slightly diverging alignments, a feature characteristic of braided trackways. It has been assumed that this 'trackway' group is Middle-Late Bronze Age, based on the exact orientation of the ditches in relation to other Middle-Late Bronze Age ditches on the site, yet it is just possible that they are contemporary with the Late Iron Age group and are converging upon the latter from the south-east. If this is not the case, then the overall similarity in alignment between the Bronze and Iron Age trackways implies the re-establishment of a broadly similar alignment over time.



Figure 17. Red deer antler, found within upper fill [3334] of pit F. 351



Figure 18. Detail of antler within pit F. 351

Cooking pits and burnt stone spreads

A series of pit features with a possible relation to cooking occur within the north-western part of the site, to the east of ditch **F.305** and to the north-west of the Iron Age ditch **F.364**. The best examples of these were the paired pits **F.485** and **F.486** (Figure 22).

F.485 was one of two inter-connected sub-oval pits which appeared to be coeval and functionally related. They were approximately the same size and lay end to end on the same ENE-SSW alignment. **F.485** was 1.7m long, approximately 1.2m wide and 0.58m deep, with rounded corners to the north and squared corners to the south and moderately sloping sides leading into a concave-flat base. Opposite this a slope led up to a platform or step connecting the two pits. The two fills of **F.485** consisted of a lower firm grey silt up to the level of the platform (containing some well-preserved animal bone) and above this a brown silt containing gravel and occasional charcoal. Very little burnt stone and almost no burnt flint was recovered from the two fills. Pit **F.486**, on the other hand, had a 'U' shaped longitudinal profile with a rounded concave base and a moderately steep concave side at its western end (1.4m long, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep). The fills were slightly more complex, consisting of a lower layer of black silt containing burnt stone and occasional bone; a concave lens up to 0.15m deep consisting of pebbles, some angular and rounded flint and up to 30% burnt sandstone fragments [3763]; and an uppermost fill of silty sand with occasional charcoal. The arrangement of these fills suggested that hot stones may have been placed here: thus it may have been part of a cooking (roasting) pit arrangement, although boiling cannot be completely excluded (as might be suggested by the silty bone-filled sediment within the adjacent pit **F.485**). Burnt cereal grains and chaff recovered from **F.486** implied that cereal processing waste, along with grasses, reeds and sedges, was being used as kindling. A bulk sample of charcoal picked from this layer provided a radiocarbon date of 1410-1200 cal BC, confirming a Middle Bronze Age date for this feature, and by inference also for the other burnt stone filled pits nearby.

Another similar feature is **F.376**, an oval-shaped pit 0.75m long, 0.37m wide and 0.13m deep, located just to the south of the Mid-Late Bronze Age ditch **F.511** and to the west of the Iron Age trackway ditch **F.300**. This pit contained much fragmented burnt and calcined animal bone, some of it indicating high temperatures such as might have been obtained on a pyre. The mixing of burnt wood and ash with this material suggests that the pit had been backfilled with the hearth debris, rather than that the hearth was *in situ* or above this, although the latter can't entirely be disproved. Some 5m south-east of **F.376** lie two elongated sub-rectangular shaped pits, **F.493** and **F.379**, (approximately 2m long, 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep). Both of these pits respected the same NW-SE alignment as the Mid-Late Bronze Age features **F.351** and **F.511**, and both contained lenses of dumped burnt sandstone and charcoal within a sandy silt. A total of 440 fragments of burnt stone were collected from two slots cut through **F.379** (Figure 23), whilst from **F.493** the single fill contained up to 75% small to medium sized pebbles in a dark brown silty sand matrix. The majority of the rounded to sub-rounded stones had been burnt and the larger ones placed near the base. There was no evidence that the pit itself had been used to heat up the stones, suggesting rather that it was a repository for spent material. There was some evidence

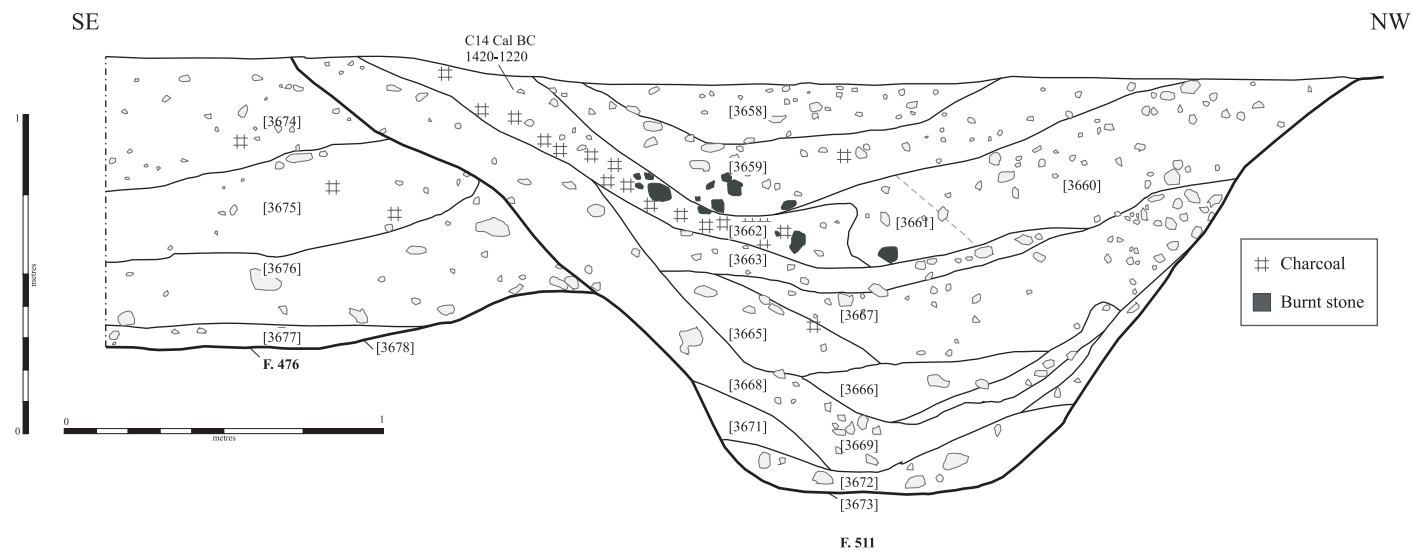


Figure 19 . Section through NW-SE Middle-Late Bronze Age enclosure ditches, F. 476 and F. 511

that the burnt stone may have been used twice (or more) on account of its small size and significant degree of fracturing.

Some 10m to the south of **F.486** a shallow sub-circular feature, **F.492** (approximately 0.55m diameter and 0.08m deep), contained burnt stone but no direct evidence for any burning. To the north-east of this a large irregular-shaped shallow pit, **F.444**, linked to the northern end of ditch **F.481**, was filled with a grey silt. This contained moderate amounts of burnt and cracked stone and an upper grey-black sandy silt fill from which a limited amount of animal bone was recovered. There is no evidence to suggest that any of the burnt stone within this was specifically dumped. Rather it could have been backfilled or else washed in from pre-existing spreads of burnt stone associated with former prehistoric cooking hearths nearby. Much of this activity may be of Middle Iron Age origin, although the presence of burnt stone in the backfill of pits and ditches containing Late Iron Age pottery suggests that this material was ubiquitous at the surface, and perhaps therefore was being redeposited over hundreds of years. Redeposition may equate to the digging up of mounds or levelling, and the subsequent backfill or washed-in infill of still open features.

Later Prehistoric

Not all apparently prehistoric features could be dated precisely, both due to a lack of datable finds and because they did not intercut with more securely dated features.

A segmented WSW-ENE ditch, **F.450**, could be traced for 40m across the western half of Area B. This was sampled in five different places and was shown to cut **F.452**, **F.453** and **F.510**, and was in turn cut by several modern drainage ditches. At its eastern terminus it was 0.53m wide and 0.11m deep with a shallow 'U' shaped profile and a single fill of soft grey-brown clay and silt. Further to the west, it became wider (1.05m) and deeper (0.19m) and truncated an earlier much shallower and more sinuous ditch (**F.510**). At the far western end **F.450** was up to 1.4m wide and 0.31m deep with multiple fills; from the upper layer came a number of more modern artefacts including clay pipe and iron. From the earlier ditch fill [3523], animal bone, but no datable finds was recovered. **F.451** was a shorter (>20m long) length of ditch parallel but almost 50m to the south of **F.450**. At its eastern end it was 0.62m wide and 0.11m deep, whilst at its western end it was wider (1.12m), though of similar depth (0.16m) and slightly more asymmetric in profile. From the upper fill of **F.451** some pottery sherds and burnt flint were recovered. Unfortunately these were lost in the field, although spot-dating at the time of their discovery suggested that these were more likely to have been prehistoric than Roman. The earlier ditch **F.510** was a narrow (0.27m wide), sinuous and shallow (0.07m deep) curvilinear ditch which could be traced for at least 15m eastwards from one slot to the next. No finds were recovered from its uniform grey-brown silty sand fill, but its form and orientation implied a prehistoric date.

Ditch **F.452** was a 40m long NNW-SSE aligned ditch which appeared to be cut by an adjacent and parallel ditch **F.453** in several different places. Both of these ditches were cut by the eastern end of **F.450**, and thus are marginally earlier than the latter, but nevertheless related by virtue of their being part of the same rectangular field system. The two sets of ditches cross at about 85°. **F.452** had a broadly 'U' shaped



Figure 20. Terminus of F. 423, a Middle-Late Bronze Age paddock enclosure

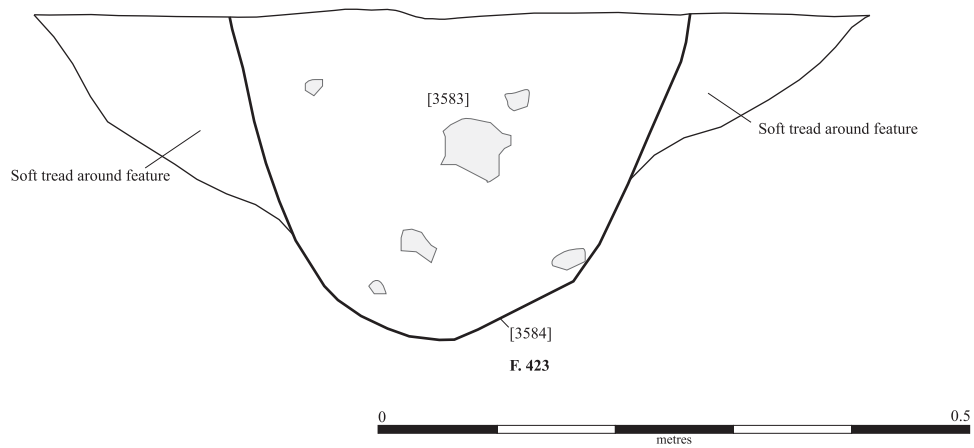


Figure 21. Section through terminus of F. 423 revealing possible beam slot, perhaps part of a wooden enclosure fence

ditch profile (0.46-1m wide and 0.19-0.22m deep), which contained a single fill which was more or less identical to that of the neighbouring ditch (**F.453**). **F.453** could be followed over a distance of about 55m from north to south. At its northern end it was truncated by the Roman ditch **F.454**. South of this **F.453** was sampled by a further three slots. The profile of this ditch varied from 'V' to 'U' shaped and had a symmetrical to asymmetrical profile. The depth was uneven, varying between 0.17m and 0.54m. At the southern end of this ditch there was a re-cut close to the intersection with **F.452**. At this point a cobble hammer stone (utilised at one end) was recovered from [3814], along with some worked flint. This would seem to indicate a prehistoric, possibly a Bronze Age date for both these ditches. However, at present there is really insufficient data to narrow this down any further, other than assigning this whole system of field ditches to the later prehistoric period.

Iron Age

Although not all Iron Age features from Site 3 could be assigned a precise date, in all cases where this was possible they dated to the later Iron Age. Iron Age features included numerous ditches and pits, as well as a probable trackway and a cremation burial.

Ditches and trackways

A pair of intercutting 'U' to 'V' shaped ditches follow the same route as one another across the northernmost corner of Area A and can be dated to the Late Iron Age. The southern 'U' shaped ditch, **F.424**, is moderately wide (0.55m – 0.7m) and mostly shallow (0.4m – 0.1m), becoming deeper at its narrower eastern end. **F.424** cuts the northern ditch of the pair (**F.460**) as well as ditch **F.396** to the west. The northern ditch, **F.360**, is cut by ditch **F.396** as well as by **F.424**; thus it is amongst the earliest of the Late Iron Age features in this corner of the area and may be contemporary with the pre-Conquest ditch **F.425**. Apart from occasional animal bones, no finds were recovered.

A 10m long section of a NW-SE aligned ditch, **F.458**, meets with the similarly aligned Late Iron Age ditch **F.425** and Early Roman ditch **F.426** and at its west end runs parallel with the probable Middle-Late Bronze Age ditch **F.428**, eventually merging with it. This was sampled close to this intersection, then again towards their joint termination further east. The western terminus of this would have been picked up in the Clay Farm evaluation trenches; in these slots the profile is shallow and stepped (0.7m wide and 0.12m deep) with a dark grey clay fill pretty much devoid of finds. Based on the pottery find recovered from the far east end of **F.428** (within this section of superimposed ditches), **F.458** has been dated to the Late Iron Age. In fact it is probably of similar date to ditch **F.425** (*i.e.* earlier Late Iron Age).

A further feature on a NW-SE alignment in this area is a 28m+ long ditch of variable width (0.57m – 3.63m) and depth (0.2m – 0.8m) and slightly irregular outline, **F.425**. This has a similar orientation to the Middle Bronze Age field system, yet its axis is turned slightly towards the west, being at right angles to the Late Iron Age trackway. **F.425** was sampled at both its eastern and western ends. At the western end it contained multiple fills, some of which contained animal bone, whilst from one of the

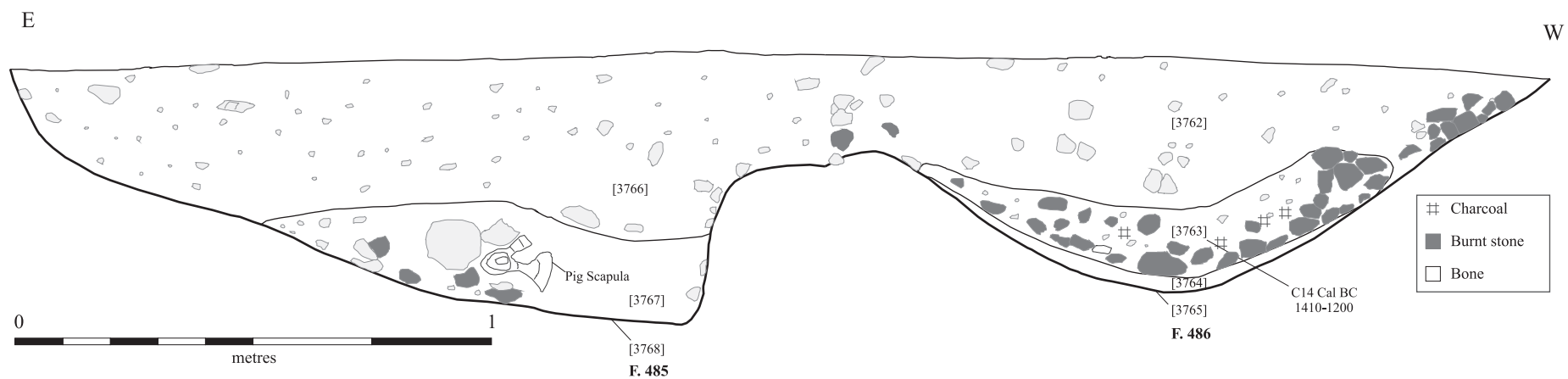


Figure 22. Section through pair of Middle Bronze Age 'cooking pits' F. 485 and F. 486



Figure 23. Section through burnt stone pit F. 379

upper fills, [3824], came the rim of a Late Iron Age (50BC-50AD) hand-made bowl. The slot to the east, [3468], produced some 32 sherds of what was clearly later 'Conquest period' pottery. It seems likely that the latter may be associated with a short intercutting Conquest period/Early Roman ditch fragment, **F.426**.

In the north-western corner of the site, ditches linked to an early NNE-SSW aligned droveway or track (Figure 24) can be seen superimposed upon an earlier enclosure and field system, then overlain by a later one. The trackway consisted of two pairs of roadside ditches, **F.300 & F.303** and **F.302 & F.304**. **F.300 & F.303** cut across and overlay **F.302 & F.304**, indicating that they weren't in contemporary use. They may have joined at the less distinct south end, perhaps forming part of a braided track. The heavy truncation of these features (to the point of disappearance) meant that the continuation of this trackway to the south could only be assumed, and their relationships to the various (Roman) enclosure ditches could not be properly determined. Of variable width (between 0.45m and 1.5m) and depth (0.25-0.45m), **F.300-F.304** shared similar profiles: mostly steep-sided 'U' shaped cuts with single or primary fills of silty sand, but a confusing mixture of prehistoric pottery, some of it clearly residual. The ditches were sampled by up to six slots over their entire recognisable length of 60+m. Most of the pottery recovered was Late Iron Age (50BC-50 AD) in date. This came from four different slots, and from all four ditches (**F.300** [3249], **F.302** [3014], **F.303** [3016], and **F.304** [3018]) and consisted of grog and shell tempered fabric vessels with combed and shoulder-rilled decoration. However, in addition to this, five sherds of Conquest Period (c.40-60AD) pottery were also recovered from **F.304** ([3018]); a residual sherd of Post-Deverel Rimbury (Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age) pottery was recovered from ditch **F.302** ([3002]) and three sherds of residual flint-gritted Neolithic pot from layer [3398] of **F.302**. From both **F.302** and **F.304** came a small amount of residual flint, amongst which was noted some secondary and tertiary flakes and unworked chunks, the former certainly suggesting Neolithic flint working in the area. The ditches possessed a distinct alignment and cut all the Middle – Late Bronze Age features in their path, the overall dimensions of the trackway group widening to almost 10m at the western edge of the excavated area.

At the far south-western end of Area A, to the west of the Mid-Late Bronze Age enclosure ditch **F.301** and against the edge of the excavation, lay a couple of short NNE-SSW ditch fragments (**F.313** and **F.316**). The alignments of both these features lay parallel to the Late Iron Age trackway, a short distance to the east. They also shared the same alignment as ditches **F.463** and **F.396**. It is likely that the greater part of these features has already have been truncated away by ploughing. What survived was a 7m+ long section of **F.313** (0.7-1m wide and 0.15m deep) with a shallow 'U' shaped profile and a single fill of silty sand, burnt flint and charcoal, as well as a 5m long section of **F.316**, the latter with fills of flinty gravel and sand. At right angles to this and possibly associated with it was **F.315**, the terminus or truncated end of a very shallow ENE-WSW ditch (0.8m wide and 0.07m deep), containing silt and burnt flint. No finds were recovered from any of these features, but based on their alignment it is assumed that these are Late Iron Age in date.



Figure 24. View looking north-east across north end of Area A showing outline of Late Iron Age trackway ditches

Late Iron Age cremation

The truncated remains of a cremation, **F.341**, were found within a poorly defined cut (0.5m long, 0.3m wide and 0.13m deep) at a spot immediately to the west of the post-medieval ditch (**F.306**) and opposite the Late Iron Age/Roman quarry pits (**F.386** *etc.*). The eastern edge of this cut had been badly truncated by the post-medieval ditch. The single fill of **F.341** contained redeposited sand and gravel mixed with charcoal, small fragments of calcined bone (114g). Finds consisted of three small sherds of Late Iron Age (50BC-50AD) pottery, a single fragment of glass (the latter found during surface cleaning of the feature and possibly introduced following plough disturbance) and part of a slightly bowed and corroded fragment of copper-alloy rod (*c.* 32mm long and 2mm in diameter) recovered from the washed cremation residues. The latter was identified as a possible brooch or hairpin fragment. Carbonised plant remains recovered from the cremation indicate cereal grains and wild plant seeds, suggesting that they may have been included unintentionally alongside straw as kindling material (de Vareilles; *Appendix 11*). The majority of identifiable bone fragments indicate upper and lower limb shafts but small skull fragments and teeth were also discovered. The size and robustness of the bone elements indicates that these cremated remains derive from an older sub-adult/ adult (Dodwell; *Appendix 9*). The pottery fragments were insufficient on their own to suggest a burial urn, meaning that the exact nature of the deposit remains uncertain. It could be redeposited pyre debris or a disturbed unurned or even urned burial.

Pits

Pit **F.465**, in the central part of Area A, appears to have been dug through the earlier pits **F.468** & **F.469**; its edge is truncated by ditch **F.463** which appears to be a Late Iron Age-Conquest Period feature. The cutting of **F.465** appears to be the third and final phase of pitting in this area (Figure 25). **F.465** is a sub-oval pit, 1.7m long by 1.34m wide and 0.53m deep, orientated NW-SE, with straight sides, steep to the west and stepped to the east, and an irregular (uneven) base. It contained three fills. The basal fill of yellow-orange sand contained several small pieces of very soft and fragile pottery identified as Late Iron Age (350BC-50AD). These were found well sealed within this layer ([3604]). Overlying this was a dark grey sandy silt ([3603]), which included a small amount of burnt stone. This layer was characterised by the presence of large amounts of animal bone (food debris) including cow, pig, sheep and possibly goat remains. A single piece of unidentified worked flint was recovered from this layer. Above this, another fill of yellow sand ([3602]) contained some animal bone. The pit may originally have been dug as a quarry pit for gravel, left open for a while (indicated by the basal slumping) and then re-used as a refuse pit for animal bone (see Figure 25). This was followed by gradual backfilling using the surrounding natural. This appears to be of the earlier Late Iron Age, contemporary with the use of the trackway (droveway), which dominates this area of the site.

To the west, underlying the junction of ditches **F.338** and **F.349**, the irregular shaped cut of an earlier quarry, **F.464**, was identified within the ditch bases alongside a series of seven stake or pick-holes in the floor (**F.475**). The overlying fill of ditch **F.338** contained a sherd of Later Iron Age pottery (350-50 BC), suggesting that the quarry may be earlier. However, the early dating of this feature is not as reliable as that of pit **F.465**.



Figure 25. Discarded animal bone within base of Late Iron Age pit F. 465

Three NW-SE aligned oval-shaped pits which form a discreet group (**F.329**, **F.330** & **F.331**) lie close to the southern edge of excavations in Area A, mid-way between the cultivation bed enclosure and the post-medieval ditches **F.305** & **F.306**. These pits were characterised by their shape (which included sub-rounded edges), size (2.4m-2.7m long and 1.5m-1.7m wide), steep sides and flattish undulating bases. Typically their fills consisted of two to three layers of slump material and washed-in silts, but contained little evidence of what had been removed and no finds. An Iron Age date is suggested by their overall similarity to pits some 5m to the east, from which pottery dates have been obtained (e.g. **F.335**). These included three smaller circular to oval-shaped pits, **F.332**, **F.333** & **F.334**, between 1.13m and 2.3m in diameter and 0.08m and 0.25m deep. **F.332**, **F.333** and **F.334** had rather similar moderate to steep sides and undulating bases with sterile chalk-flecked silt fills. Another pit group lay in a line just to the north of this. This included **F.335**, **F.340**, **F.377** and **F.382**. **F.335** was 2m in diameter and circular and contained four distinct fills including a basal clay silt layer with four sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. The latter may have been deposited naturally during silting up, indicating that this feature could have been used and abandoned for some time prior to its eventual backfilling. The snail shell evidence suggested the presence of semi-permanent standing water (de Vareilles; *Appendix 11*). **F.382** was a slightly earlier quarry pit cut by **F.335** on its south side. To the west lay **F.377**, a circular pit with a rounded and slightly deeper base and a more complex series of sterile fills. This may have been dug for marl or lime as the pit had been cut into a rich marly (tufa) seam within the gravels.

Another Late Iron Age quarry pit, **F.519**, was identified just inside the area of Roman cultivation. Its edges appear to have been truncated by the ditches **F.397** and **F.338**/**F.349**.

To the north of ditches **F.305** and **F.306**, but probably still part of the same group of pits as **F.329**-**F.332**, is the large sub-oval to irregular shaped pit **F.378** (3.92m long, 1.77m wide and 0.21m deep). This had an uneven base and contained two fills: a lower grey sandy silt with rare charcoal and mollusc shells and an upper red-brown sandy silt. A single sherd of 'later prehistoric' (1100BC-50AD) pottery was recovered from the least disturbed basal fill ([3275]). The snail evidence suggested a slow accumulation of silts deposited within standing water and vegetation following the abandonment of the quarry pits (de Vareilles; *Appendix 11*). This indicates that the quarry pits were left open. A similar explanation has been offered for pits **F.350**, **F.365** and **F.366**. Probably these are early quarries for lime and gravel.

Against the south side of ditch **F.481**, and truncated by it, is the Late Iron Age pit **F.482**. This lay on the very northern limit of the quarrying area and thus might not be a quarry. Only 0.8m in diameter and 0.13m deep, the pit had steep and slightly undercut sides and was extensively animal burrowed at its base. The silt and mollusc evidence suggested that this had been left open and was damp but not water-filled (de Vareilles; *Appendix 11*).

Late Iron Age/Roman

A series of features dating to the Late Iron Age/Roman period are associated with cultivation, perhaps relating to asparagus production. In addition, there is evidence

that quarrying activity continued throughout this period and several ditches can be seen crossing the site.

Cultivation enclosure and cultivation trenches

These are sub-rectangular enclosure(s) within the southern corner of the north-west end of Area A. All appear to be phases of enclosure of an area of cultivation defined by parallel cultivation trenches. However, whilst the cultivation trenches appear to be Early Roman, the origins of the enclosure itself can perhaps be traced back to the Late Iron Age

The earliest enclosure is a 1.6m wide and 0.3 to 0.4m deep NNE-SSW ditch, **F.338**, which changes direction after 10m, turning 120° to follow a WNW-ESE course for another 40-50m. The latter section was later re-cut by another ditch, **F.349**. **F.338** has a concave gently sloping side to the west, a flattish undulating base, and a straight to slightly convex steeper side to the east. It contained three fills, with the primary (middle) fill containing some burnt flint and animal bone. A single sherd of Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the basal fill at the change of angle of the ditch. At this point, the ditch overlay an earlier quarry pit, meaning that there is some uncertainty as to which feature the pot relates to.

F.349 is a 50-60m long enclosure ditch of rather similar dimensions (1.5-2.07m wide and 0.3-0.46m deep), which forms an almost identical/sub-parallel boundary (though shorter along its east-west axis) with a change of angle at 90°. After changing direction, **F.349** is re-cut along the line of the preceding ditch **F.338**, coinciding with it almost exactly (Figure 26). It cuts an earlier quarry pit (**F.519**), and possibly another (**F.464**), but respects the ends of most cultivation trenches, truncating only one (**F.467**) at its westernmost end. This indicates that it relates to a re-establishment of the enclosure after the cultivation trenches had been dug. Sampled in six slots; for most of its length **F.349** was 'U' shaped with gently sloping sides, and a multiple to single ditch fill, such as at the change of angle where the ditch appeared to be bilobate, yet containing the same fill in each. Finds from here, as well as from the far western end included sherds of Early Roman pottery (1st century AD). **F.338** and **F.349** enclose a parcel of land containing a number of north-south cultivation trenches.

F.397 is a much shallower ditch (0.2-0.67m wide and 0.15 – 0.2m deep) which lies inside the enclosure. The north side of it is parallel to **F.349**, but 5m to the south. However, in places this ditch was completely truncated away. At its western end, an E-W to N-S change of direction could be detected, but the ditch had been more or less completely truncated by **F.349**. Meanwhile, at its easternmost end **F.397** becomes segmented, perhaps due to truncation. Here its continuation is referred to as **F.384**. From the fill of **F.384** ([3287]) 37 sherds of Early Roman pot were recovered, all apparently part of the same broken and collapsed vessel. A large number of snail shells in the fill suggested original damp conditions. The exact relationship between this earlier enclosure and the cultivation trenches is uncertain, although it must have predated the trenches at least by a little, since the westernmost of them (**F.467**) coincides with the north-south arm of the enclosure and truncates it. At the southern end of the block of cultivation trenches are to be found two parallel NW-SE ditches

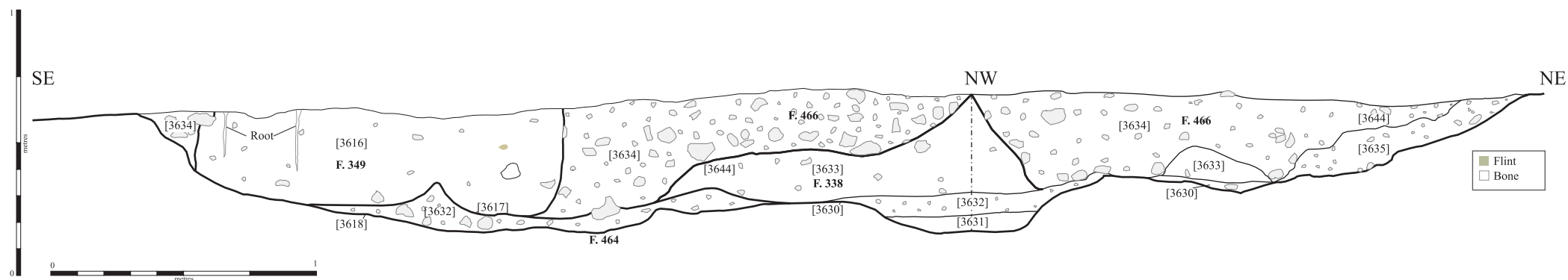


Figure 26. Section through junction between Late Iron Age F. 338 and Early Roman enclosure ditches F. 349 as well as quarrying phases F. 464 and F. 466



Figure 27. Terminus of an Early Roman enclosure ditch F. 438 (SE part of Area A)

(**F.439** and **F.440**), which survive only as short sections within the current area of excavation. These may form part of a southern boundary to the above enclosure(s).

An easterly continuation of the same or similar enclosure ditches to **F.349** and **F.338** is ditch **F.488**. This crosses the south-east extension of Area A in an ENE-WSW direction. The presence of Late Iron Age pottery within this ditch may have been an arbitrary residual inclusion. Alternatively, it indicates that **F.488** was a continuation of the Late Iron Age ditch **F.338**. The 90° junction of this with the NNE-SSW ditch **F.438** (1.85m wide) may disguise a similar change in angle of **F.488** to the south. However, the slightly later ditch coincides almost exactly with this. The fill of **F.438** at this junction contained some animal bone and a single sherd of Early Roman pot, whilst to the south (towards the edge of the excavation) a fragment of human bone and some residual worked flint were recovered (interestingly any continuation of this ditch southwards would pass close to a modern garden where two Roman bracelets and potential burials have been found). Another sherd of Early Roman pottery was recovered from the northern end of this ditch. **F.438** appears to be a linear feature, apart from the very slight kink at its junction with **F.488**. It should probably therefore be regarded as a major field boundary (Figure 27), whilst **F.488** forms part of an earlier rectangular enclosure. The form of the latter is mirrored by the outline of ditch **F.407**, the western terminal of which abuts **F.488** on its north-eastern corner. The northern end of **F.488** (on the other side of the modern ditch **F.406**) has been referred to as **F.435**. However, here this is slightly shallower (0.35m) and narrower (<1m wide). A single sherd of Early Roman pottery was recovered from **F.435**.

The outline of eight, probably nine long, straight, narrow and shallow parallel trenches, approximately 3m apart, all around 13m long, and between 0.63 and 0.63m wide and 0.07m and 0.3m deep were identified within the enclosure: **F.419**, **F.359**, **F.418**, **F.358**, **F.417**, **F.357**, **F.416**, **F.386** and **F.467** (see Figure 28 for general view). The area of these trenches or beds was defined by the inner (earlier) and outer (later) enclosure ditches **F.397** and **F.349**. All of the enclosed trenches had rounded northerly termini and regular 'U' shaped profiles, invariably containing at least one fill of dark brown to grey to blue sandy clay, but occasionally with two or more. Some had stony or gravelly bases. Some of trench fills included layers of waterlain blue-grey clay, but most showed evidence of mixing (bioturbation) and contained traces of humic material together with burnt stone and flint and small amounts of very disintegrated tile. A small lump of coal and some charcoal was recovered from the base of Trench **F.417**. Soil micro-morphology samples were taken, but have not yet been examined. The bases of some of these spade-dug trenches were irregular, although to some extent this may reflect the uneven contemporary ground surface and the truncation of the top of these features by modern ploughing. This can be seen in **F.417**, where a regular stain in the natural indicates that parts of this feature have been almost completely removed by modern truncation.

Generally, animal bone was absent from the trench fills, as was pottery. The exception to this was **F.417**. The entire base of a fractured Samian dish (a South Gaulish Dressel 18) [3440] was found placed within the bottom of this trench, its date suggesting a period of use between 60 and 100 AD. The dish had been placed within the trench after being broken, with one half on top of the other (see Figure 29). Its very top seems to have been removed by the plough (a scatter of sherds were found on the



Figure 28. Excavated slots through Early Roman (1st century AD) cultivation trenches and planting pits (Area A)

surface of the cleaned feature). This vessel is amongst the latest dated examples of (Roman) pottery to be found on site.

The only other pottery recovered from the enclosure trenches was from the westernmost trench, **F.467**, where it had been cut by the edge of the enclosure ditch **F.349**. This trench also cuts the inner enclosure ditch **F.397**, putting into question whether it was contemporary with the other cultivation trenches, or whether instead it was part of the surrounding enclosure(s) or boundary. What is clear, however, is that its date falls somewhere between the establishment of **F.397** (perhaps a shallow slot-gully for a wooden fence) and the establishment of the more substantial enclosure ditch **F.349**. From within **F.467** were recovered large numbers of degraded animal bones and teeth as well as sherds of 'proto-greyware' or 'Romanising period' (Late Iron Age/Roman) pot. The latter came from the upper fill of this trench, whilst from the base of the same trench further north came an apparently placed item, the bottom of an Early Roman pot or beaker [3754].

Only one of the southern terminals of the cultivation trenches was encountered, that of **F.416**. This proved to be a mirror of its northern end. The remainder disappeared beyond the edges of the excavation or else were truncated by NW-SE linear ditch **F.439** (0.58m-0.89m wide and 0.26m deep), some 7m of which is preserved in this corner of the excavation. **F.439** cut the trenches at right angles, but otherwise appeared to be broadly contemporary with their use. Immediately to the south of **F.439** lay a parallel ditch, **F.440**. This was sterile of finds; a contemporary date could only be assumed therefore on the basis of a common alignment.

All of these features are dated to the Conquest-Early Roman period, and there is no evidence for the continued use of the cultivation trenches or horticultural beds much after 80 AD. The trenches may represent the ditches cut either side of north-south raised beds or instead could have been the planting cuts for rows of crop such as asparagus.

Up to seven pits were identified associated with the northern terminals of the cultivation trenches, either cut by or within a few metres of the butt ends (thus immediately preceding, contemporary with or immediately post-dating the trenches). These included pits **F.360**, **F.361**, **F.362**, **F.431**, **F.432**, **F.484** and **F.517**. Typically, they were circular to sub-circular in shape (occasionally oval), around 0.5m diameter and between 0.15 and 0.5m deep, with a 'U' shaped to undercut profile in cross-section. None of these features seem to be post-holes at the ends of the trenches; instead they had the appearance of planting pits with very similar fills as the trenches (silt to sandy clay 'loam'), but are devoid of finds. Another rather similar sub-circular pit, **F.480**, cut the base of a possible Late Roman to post-Roman drainage ditch (**F.373/F.339**). This post-dated the cultivation trenches south-west of **F.349**. A slightly larger planting pit, **F.483** (Figure 30), was identified in between the rows formed by trenches **F.416** and **F.356**. A much larger oval to ellipsoid shaped pit, **F.505** (4m long by 2m wide and 0.35m deep), was located towards the northern terminus of trench **F.358**, and may have been cut earlier or later than this trench. The fill of **F.505** was more or less identical to that of **F.358** and difficult to distinguish from it. **F.505** may have been dug for the quarrying of soil, or perhaps for the removal of a shrub or small tree. Another large pit, **F.506**, of uncertain dimensions (although > 2m diameter) was found adjacent to and cut by **F.505**. Only part of this was still



Figure 29. Samian dish [3440] placed within base of Early Roman cultivation trench F. 417



Figure 30. Section through Early Roman planting pit F. 483

visible within the base of trench **F.358**. It appears that this may have been a quarry pit for sand and gravel, which was backfilled at an early date. Most probably this was constructed during the Late Iron Age/Roman period, but either way this indicates a phase of quarrying which pre-dates the use of this area for cultivation.

Apart from the latter feature, all of the above pits and planting pits appear to be broadly contemporary with the use of the cultivation trenches or raised beds and thus Early Roman (post-Conquest 1st century AD) in date. The location of most of the planting pits at the ends of the rows suggests the planting of perennial herbaceous shrubs such as might be utilised alongside the asparagus or other crops planted. The positioning of such pits at the end of each trench implies that the trenches were planting trenches rather than the ditches of raised beds.

Ditches

A group of Roman ditches was associated with, but post-dated a series of N-S and NNE-SSW Iron Age ditches in Area A. At the southern end of this group of ditches, an 11m long and 0.2m – 0.3m wide ‘U’ shaped ditch, **F.463**, was sampled in three separate slots. This produced no dateable finds, but towards its southern terminus the uneven cut of its base suggested pick or mattock marks, indicating the method of its original excavation. The same ditch appears to have been cut by the edge of another parallel ditch (**F.364**) immediately to the west, the latter dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman (Conquest) period. On its southern side **F.463** cuts a number of Bronze Age or Iron Age pits (**F.465**, **F.468**, and **F.469**). The northern terminal of **F.463** may have been truncated away by ploughing or machining; thus it may originally have connected up with a similarly aligned ditch, **F.396**, some 16-17m to the north. This was approximately 25m long. At its southern end **F.396** had a wide (0.85m) almost symmetrical ‘U’ shaped cross-section (approximately 0.2m deep) containing two sterile fills. **F.396** may have been a re-cut for the earlier (apparently shorter and altogether smaller) ditch **F.429**, a 3.5m long section of which lay against its western side. **F.429** was filled with silty-sand and gravel and contained some burnt stone. A further series of slots were cut into the sides of **F.396** north of the point where it cut **F.429**. Here the ditch truncated the earlier Late Iron Age ditch **F.425**, the Middle Bronze Age ditch **F.410** and the curvilinear Late Iron Age ditch **F.424**. Although undated by finds, the alignment of **F.396** is closer to the axial alignment of the Late Iron Age Trackway (**F.300**, **F.302-F.304**) than it is to the Early Roman field system.

Ditch **F.364** is an 8m long and 0.95-1.1m wide and 0.13-0.24m deep curvilinear ditch on a NNE-SSW alignment, veering off in a NW-SE direction to abut another irregular ditch, **F.481**. The single fill consisted of a grey clay and silt and was devoid of finds but contained burnt stones and charcoal. Ditch **F.481** was 17m long, broadening out from about 0.45m to 1.7m wide at its north-western terminus. Here it was up to 0.18m deep and contained several layers which included both animal bone and burnt stone. Given the slope in the floor of the ditch and its direction, it was considered that this might have acted as a drain between ditch **F.364** (with which it was contemporary) and two pre-existing pits (**F.482** & **F.481**) to the west.

In the Northern part of Area A, two short Conquest period/Early Roman ditch segments were sampled, **F.426** and **F.427**. These formed a continuation of the line of the Late Iron Age ditch **F.425**, which they cut. Indeed, Conquest-period pottery

ostensibly found in the upper fill of the end slot of **F.425** is likely to relate to **F.426**. Both of these ditch segments post-date **F.425**, and are probably Late Iron Age/Conquest period in date.

Located within the same area of the site, and sub-parallel to **F.425**, lies the 10m long, straight (1.1m wide) and uniformly shallow (0.3 – 0.38m deep) WNW-ESE trending ditch **F.380**. This may have demarcated a field. **F.380** contained fills of grey clay silt and gravel with occasional charcoal and some redeposited burnt stone and worked flint within its upper layers; some sherds of Early Roman pottery came from the ditch terminus. This pottery was well contextualised and dates **F.380** with some confidence to the 1st century AD.

Some 40m to the east of **F.380** and at an angle of approximately 85-90° to it lay another straight ditch, **F.400**, traceable for almost 70m north-south across the centre of Area A. This was a 'U' shaped ditch (0.7m-0.9m wide and up to 0.35m deep) containing three sterile silt fills, none of which appeared to be modern. Given the low-lying depression and dampness within this area and the presence of post-medieval field drains in this area, this feature was interpreted as a field drain. However, it corresponds exactly to the Roman alignment, suggesting that it may be of that date. Another sub-parallel ditch (**F.412**) of similar dimensions (but only 0.15m deep) lies just to the west of **F.400**. This was sampled in four slots and followed over a distance of about 20m. Both ditches were considered to be Early Roman. A shallow circular pit, **F.399**, of similar width and depth to the ditch was cut by **F.400** at its northern end. The single fill of this was sterile.

Towards the eastern end of Area A was a 40m long straight section of ditch, **F.407**. This was of variable width (0.7-1.25m) but shallow depth (0.35m), with gently sloping sides and an undulating base. It appears to have been re-cut in its middle section. From the surface of this silt-filled ditch came 14 sherds of Late Iron Age (50BC-50 AD) pottery plus some worked flint. The east-west alignment of this ditch with its north-west terminal cut by the Early Roman enclosure ditch **F.438**, and the change in direction of this terminal to the north, appears to be a mirror-image of what we find at the east end of **F.488**. It seems very probable therefore that both **F.488** and **F.407** were of the same Late Iron Age/Roman (Conquest Period) date, both of them being examples of mirror-image rectangular field enclosures meeting at the corners. Just to the south of this lies another east-west field ditch, **F.526** which is also cut by the Early Roman enclosure ditch **F.438**. This ditch appears to be much more sinuous in outline and thus may be an Early Roman drainage ditch rather than a field boundary. This was not sampled.

The probable western end of ditch **F.487** was picked up in the c.70m long trench cut between Area A and Area B. Only 2m of this ditch was exposed. This was 0.95m wide and 0.29m deep with a 'V' shaped profile, moderately steep and straight sides and a concave base. **F.487** contained a single fill from which no finds were recovered. Some 120m to the east, this same ditch may have been encountered again in **F.454**, an absolutely straight feature which could be traced for another 130m diagonally across Area B. This feature was sampled in three slots, with little variation in width and depth (0.59-0.7m wide and 0.12-0.17m deep), although it alternated between a 'V' and 'U' shaped profile. The single fill of this ditch consisted of a laminated waterlain silt which was peat-filled towards the top. This contained no dateable finds but good

environmental information in the form of abundant freshwater snails. The ditches were interpreted as being part of one extensive 'drain' containing standing or slow-moving water. They are likely to be Early Roman in date based on their alignment.

Pits

Several quarry pits form a distinct grouping to the east of the large Middle-Late Bronze Age enclosure ditch and pit. One cluster (**F.385-F.390**) lies to the north of ditch **F.305** with another (**F.323-F.348**) just to the south of ditch **F.364**. Typically, these appear as tightly grouped round features compared to the more sub-rectangular pits of Early Roman date. The dating and classification of these quarry pits is difficult, but where pottery evidence is present it is of Late Iron Age/Roman (or 'Romanising period') type.

Pit **F.386** was a well-shaped sub-oval pit with steep concave sides and a flat base with two fills representing a gradual silting up. The basal fill, [3298], contained a single sherd of 'proto-greyware' (or 'Romanised period') pot. This pit was cut by pit **F.385**, of rather similar size, shape and profile and containing three silted fills; to the east another similar sized but shallower pit, **F.387**, contained a mixture of backfill and naturally silted infills. From the latter was recovered a single sherd of red oxidised ware of Late Iron Age/Roman date. This truncated the edge of another similar but smaller pit, **F.388**. On the south side another NW-SE aligned oval-shaped pit, **F.389**, lay against the edge of ditch **F.305**. Again this had the steep sides and a flat base typical of these quarry pits, the varied lower fill suggesting that a combination of different activities contributed to its infilling. **F.390**, **F.391** and **F.392** were shallow and small to medium sized quarry pits that over time became naturally silted-up.

To the north-east lay the second pit cluster. This consisted of **F.323** (1.65m long, 1.2m wide and 0.36m deep), one of a series of intercutting sub-circular pits truncated on its south side by pits **F.325** and **F.324**. Re-deposited burnt stone was recovered from the stony basal layer of this pit. Pit **F.324** had been dug into the natural 'chalky' tufa deposit within the gravels. Although no finds were recovered from it, the nature of the backfill suggested that **F.324** may have been used as a rubbish pit following abandonment. **F.328** was an elongated oval-shaped pit with a well-defined cut into the 'chalky' layer at its eastern end. The shallow bowl-like pit contained fills consisting of a basal wind-blown sand overlain by a mottled purplish grey silt. The basal layer contained a single sherd of 'proto-greyware' of Late Iron Age/Roman date. Another oval-irregular shaped quarry pit to the south of this, **F.348**, held a single fill of mottled sandy clay from which another sherd of 'proto-greyware' or 'Romanising period' pot was recovered. Adjacent to this there is another feature, **F.343**. This may, in fact, be a tree throw, although its fill has produced a sherd of 'proto-greyware' pot. **F.344** and **F.345** may also be tree throws. However, a small pit, **F.514**, to the west of these is likely to be a quarry of approximately the same period/phase.

Three quarry pits sampled immediately adjacent to the east end of the cultivation trench enclosure (**F.349**) appear to be Early Roman in date. The earliest of these is a large irregular shaped pit, **F.518**, 7-8m in diameter. This is cut by the sub-circular pit **F.374**, which in turn is cut by **F.393**. All of these truncate the enclosure ditch, implying that they may date from the period at which cultivation was abandoned.

From **F.374** came a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman ('Romanising period') pottery.

At the far western end of the cultivation enclosure a quarry pit, **F.466**, cuts ditch **F.338** at the point where it changes direction. The result is an irregular gravel-filled cut 3m long, 2m wide and 0.4m deep which is cut by the (slightly) later ditch **F.349**, a re-establishment of the enclosure boundary which heralds the temporary abandonment of quarrying in this area. From the single fill of **F.466** ([3644]) consisting of a compact brown clay supported by densely packed angular flint, came three pieces of *Tegula* box flue tile. The latter suggests a 1st century AD date and perhaps even the presence of a villa site nearby. The quarry pit was clearly used for gravel extraction: beds of coarse angular flint abound in this vicinity.

A small group of quarry pits were situated to the north of the Bronze Age field ditch **F.421**. This tight cluster of medium-sized sub-rectangular pits (all recorded as **F.326**) includes a slightly larger (3.85m by 2.5m wide) shallow rectangular feature. Into the southern half of this a deeper sub-circular to oval shaped pit ([3091]) had been dug, up to 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep. The basal fill within both cuts appeared to be contemporary. From [3091] came a sherd of a Late Iron Age/ Early Roman proto-greyware jar, whilst from the overlying middle pit fill came some body sherds and one small rim sherd of a South Gaulish Dressel 18 dish (AD 60-100). A few post-medieval finds came from the very top of these pits, close to the surface. Whilst this quarry pit probably had end Late Iron Age ('Romanising period') origins, it seems that it was worked on through into the Early Roman period. Abutting it to the north was the smaller sub-rectangular pit **F.327**, whilst 4-5 pits immediately to the east, although not sampled, were similar in form, suggesting that they were quarry pits of the same type and period.

Forming part of the same broad band (approx 10-15m wide) of quarry pits, which can be traced in an NW-SE direction both north and south of this, are two further clusters. It would seem from their locations of that these were focussed on a particular horizon of the gravels. This may well have been the beds of 'chalky' material.

To the north of **F.327** etc. was a group of medium sized sub-circular to oval shaped pits, **F.367**, **F.368** and **F.369**, and a large irregular shaped pit, **F.370** (approximately 5.5m long, 2.2m wide and 0.17m deep). From the single fill of **F.370** came a sherd of Early Roman pottery. This feature was interpreted as one of a series of quarry pits of varying shallow depth which could have been worked in consecutive sequence, leaving little with which to differentiate them. To the north of **F.370** lay another much smaller pit, **F.371**. As with **F.369** and **F.370**, this contained a single fill exactly the same as that found in **F.367**. A little further to the west a single shallow, near circular quarry pit, **F.337**, was identified on the north-east edge of the Late Iron Age/Roman pit group (**F.323** etc.). This pit had been dug into the same 'chalky' lens. The backfill consisted of redeposited natural, gravel and silt (Figure 31). A sherd of Early Roman pot was recovered from the upper fill.

East of **F.326** lay a slightly more open cluster of quarry pits. **F.352** was a small sub-rectangular pit (1.8m diameter and 0.2m deep) with a single dark grey clay silt fill, whilst to the north of this lay the deeper (0.5m deep) pit **F.353**, containing a complex of fills including slump material as well as waterlain silts. Next to this was the

medium-sized sub-rectangular pit, **F.354** (2.6m long and 2m wide). This had a form typical of Early Roman working, but no finds were recovered from it. To the north of this lay the very truncated base of another pit, **F.355**, whilst on the southern fringes lay the smaller pit, **F.383**. This, like many of the other pits, had been left open to silt up. Originally it seems to have been quarried into orange sand and patches of gritty lime marl ('chalky' deposit). Around this there were a number of other possible quarry pits of the same type, although none were sampled.

Post-Roman

Post-Roman features were relatively rare on Site 3 and were almost all post-medieval in date.

Roman/Post-Roman ditches

A number of features which appear to post-date the Early Roman cultivation trenches (and which may therefore be Early Roman, Late Roman or post-Roman in date) may have some form of drainage function. No dating evidence was recovered from these features and their interpretation as drains is based upon the lie of the land.

F.339/F.373 is a very shallow (0.9m – 0.15m deep), narrow (0.33m – 0.36m wide) and long (27m) straight ENE-WSW ditch which cuts both the cultivation trenches and enclosure ditches. It consists of two separate but essentially identical segments. Interestingly, the 5m gap between these segments respects cultivation trench **F.356**, which does not appear to be truncated. The ditch profile was 'U' shaped, similar along its length, and in many respects quite similar to the trenches. The single fill (a compact dark grey to blue silty sand) had the appearance of a waterlain sediment. At its eastern end, where it cut the enclosure **F.349**, the fill of **F.373** contained some animal bone and struck flint (a secondary flake of Neolithic origin). However, these are likely to be redeposited items. Some 15m to the south lay another sub-parallel segmented ditch which exists in two segments, **F.401** and **F.415**, separated by a gap of little more than a metre. At its eastern end the latter curves round, cuts and merges with the enclosure ditch **F.338/F.349**. Ditches **F.401/F.415** are of variable width (0.7m – 1.05m) and depth (0.05m – 0.35m) with up to three sandy and gravelly fills. They are devoid of finds.

F.346, a 15m length of ENE-WSW ditch parallel to **F.339** and **F.401**, lay some 27m to the north-west of the latter, truncating both the Late Iron Age trackway and Middle Bronze Age enclosure ditch. This was sampled towards its south end where the 0.5m – 0.9m wide and 0.35m flat-bottomed ditch contained a single fill of brown sandy clay from which two pieces of (residual) struck flint but no other finds were recovered. Based on its overall position and alignment this was also considered to be post-Early Roman and of similar date to the above features. A small sub-rounded pit (**F.347**) was located just to the south of this slot. This was 0.23m in diameter and 0.16m deep and contained a fill devoid of finds. It appeared to be of a similar age to **F.346** but was of unknown function.



Figure 31. Section through a shallow Early Roman quarry pit F. 337



Figure 32. Section through a post-medieval quarry pit F. 394

Post-Medieval ditches and field drains

A pair of straight linear ditches, **F.305** & **F.306**, cross the middle of the western part of Area A in a NW-SE direction, some 3m apart. These cut all the features they crossed and thus appeared to be the latest ditches on site. **F.305** to the north was the larger of the two (0.85-1.8m wide and 0.37-0.54m deep) and probably the earlier; from the single fills sampled in some four slots along its length came a number of abraded sherds of 17th-18th century GRE and also some less abraded 19th century willow pattern china and clay pipe. The much narrower (0.64-0.74m wide) and shallower (0.1-0.17m deep) ditch **F.306** (a field drain) still contained a more-or-less intact series of narrow ceramic pipes within its base, implying a slightly later 19th century date.

More than 40m to the east lay another series of post-medieval to modern field drains which were coincidentally on the same alignment and in the same location as a number of Early Roman drainage ditches (**F.400** & **F.412**), presumably because this was a low-lying and damp area of the site. The former, however, were not provided feature numbers or sampled. About 40m to the south-east lay a 2m wide and 40m long straight section of NE-SW aligned ditch, **F.406**. This was 'U' shaped in profile, also containing an intact series of narrow-bore ceramic land drains. Fragments of 19th century clay tobacco pipe and sherds of pottery were recovered from the overlying fill.

Pits

Just to the north of the Early Roman cultivation beds and enclosure and the quarry pits which truncated them lay a cluster of east-west aligned oval to irregularly shaped pits (**F.520**, **F.521**, **F.522**, **F.523** and **F.527**), some of which were large by comparison (**F.522** is 8m by 4m wide). None of these were sampled through excavated slots, and no pottery or other finds were noted at the surface. Whilst undated, the large size and irregular outlines of these are similar to pits associated with post-medieval quarrying (*e.g.* **F.394**, Figure 32).

Further to the north lay a number of other clusters of large pits, plus a large almost completely circular pit, **F.414**, the latter some 4m in diameter and 0.44m deep in the centre. This had convex and slightly stepped sides, a form different enough from most of the quarry pits sampled to be considered as a distinct phase. This contained two fills. The presence of animal bone in the lower fill and clay pipe stem (19th century) in the upper fill makes the dating of this feature difficult; however, a post-medieval date seems most likely. North-east of this a large sub-rectangular to irregular shaped pit, **F.470** (5.5m long, 3.42m wide and 0.22m deep), was sampled in its NW quadrant. This revealed a rectangular cut in plan with a single fill consisting of backfilled topsoil mixed with redeposited natural ('chalky' marl and pebbles). The fill showed evidence of considerable disturbance, suggesting that the feature, or at least the re-working of it, may have been modern.

Westwards lay another cluster of large quarry pits. A north-south string of sub-oval to sub-rectangular quarry pits beginning with **F.319** (1.8m long, 2m wide and up to 0.4m deep) extended for over 10m northwards. In fact, **F.319** was itself a series of cuts about 5m long in total. This southernmost pit was worked northwards towards its

shallower end within a dipping bed of material, presumably gravel. North of this, the south end of **F.320** cuts the slightly earlier **F.319**. The pit fills appear to have accumulated slowly following the abandonment of the quarry. At the northern end of this line of pits are **F.524** and **F.322**. The latter forms a small and shallow sub-rectangular feature (0.85m by 1.07m wide and 0.35m deep), the upper fill of which contained material shovelled in from elsewhere, rather than redeposited backfill from this pit. Immediately adjacent to this string of quarry pits, and with its abutting edge parallel to it, was the single largest quarry pit identified on this site, **F.409**. **F.409** was >10m long and 7.5m wide. This was sampled by means of a 2m wide slot some 3.5m long. This indicated a very shallow cut with near vertical sides and a single fill. No finds were recovered from this despite a 10% sample. Whilst this may just reflect the stripping of a much shallower layer of material, it seems likely that there is considerable truncation in this area.

In between the clusters of Late Iron Age/Roman pits north of ditch **F.305** were two large adjacent sub-circular to oval-shaped pits. These consisted of **F.525**, a 7m by 4.5m wide and > 0.5m deep pit which was part-sampled by machine but not properly dug or bottomed (and which seemed to have a backfill typical of the later quarry pits), and **F.479**, a large quarry pit (>3.5m diameter) sampled by means of a slot cut through its southern edge. The opposite edge of this pit truncates the Late Iron Age/Roman pits **F.323**. Whilst the dating of these pits is problematic, a post-medieval date seems most likely.

To the north of these a sub-circular to irregular shaped pit, **F.336**, was sampled. This was some 5m in diameter and truncated the edge of the earlier Late Iron Age/Roman quarries **F.323**. This feature had partly cut through into an earlier series of pits. The quarry edge was dug through lenses of the 'chalky' marl band within the gravel but showed little sign of any subsequent erosion or slumping. The two fills contained a mixture of material. From the upper layer came redeposited burnt stone and some fragments of a medieval or early post-medieval iron horseshoe. The quarry may well be pre-19th century, and thus a medieval date is not impossible.

Some 20m to the east of **F.336** lay a medium sized oval-shaped pit **F.350** (2.47 by 1.9m wide, 0.22m deep). This was sampled at the point where it cut the northern terminus of the Bronze Age field ditch, **F.421**. The single fill of this contained a little charcoal and redeposited burnt stone, plus a sherd of modern pot. A function as a quarry pit seems most likely.

North of the Roman quarry pits **F.327** *etc.*, a number of large silt-filled depressions were examined. **F.372** was a very elongated example, aligned WNW-ESE, with a total length of about 14m. This appeared to have both an earlier and a later cut. The later cut was deeper and contained a fill of dark brown topsoil with inclusions of stones and masonry [3230]. This contained pottery dating to the first half of the 19th century along with animal bone and was interpreted as being a late re-cut of an earlier medieval/ post-medieval quarry pit. Just beyond the south end of this feature were two medium to large east-west aligned sub-rectangular to oval-shaped pits, **F.436** and **F.437**. Although no finds were recovered, the upper fills of both appeared to be modern, suggesting a later phase of silting up, or perhaps of re-excavation. The northernmost quarry pit, **F.430**, was located some 10m to the north of **F.372** but was similar in size (10m by 4m wide), with an irregular outline. Sampled by means of a

2m by 1m slot, this proved to have uneven (convex to concave) sides and base, again with a clear distinction between an 'earlier' lower fill and an upper fill interpreted as post-medieval, based on the presence of items such as clay tobacco pipe.

F.317 consisted of a short, narrow and deep rectangular cut, 1.3m long, 0.7m wide and 0.45m deep. The feature was half-sectioned. Broadly east-west aligned, this spade-cut feature with vertical sides tapering slightly towards the base contained no clear evidence of its function. The chalky sandy silt and humic fill appeared to be relatively modern. A single piece of red tile (not Roman) and some redeposited burnt flint were recovered from this feature. The nature of this cut and its possible context remain a mystery, but it is most likely to be post-medieval.

A 1.4m wide round pit (**F.459**) cuts ditches **F.428** and **F.458** to the west at their point of junction. There were no finds from this feature, yet it seemed 'modern' perhaps post-medieval in date

Undated

A number of features remained undated, due to the lack of finds from their fills together with a lack of associations with other features or shared alignments. These are described below but are unable to contribute to the interpretation of Site 3.

Pits

Three sub-circular to oval shaped quarry pits (**F.471**, **F.472** and **F.473**) were examined just south of ditch **F.306** and north of quarry pit **F.470**. These ranged in size from 1.62m long and 1.2m wide (**F.472**) to 2.72m long and 1.68m wide (**F.471**). All of them were approximately 0.2m deep, with similar cuts and fills, but no finds. The typology of the pits and their location provided no clues as to date.

Twenty five metres to the south of these three pits are a further group of quarry pits. **F.365** is an NE-SW orientated irregular-shaped pit, 3.23m by 2.02m wide, with an uneven base. No finds were recovered from the single fill, yet it shared similarities with an adjacent pit. East of **F.365**, **F.375** was a large pit (4.75m long, 2.2m wide and 0.43m deep) with gently slopes and a concave base. No finds were recovered, but it appears to have been used for quarrying lime ('chalky marl' in the gravel) and shows evidence of re-excitation. **F.366** was a small sub-rectangular pit, 0.66m long, 0.55m wide and 0.1m deep, with irregular sides. The fill of this was similar to **F.365**. Although referred to during excavation as a quarry pit, it seemed somewhat small for extraction purposes.

At the far northern end of Area A, adjacent to the west side of the Iron Age ditch **F.425**, was a single circular pit, **F.433** (2.75m in diameter and 0.12m deep). This was half-sectioned, revealing a pit with steep concave sides and an uneven sub-circular base. The fill of this appeared to be natural, but the whole feature was heavily truncated. Although credible as a possible quarry pit, there was little indication of any association with other features and no indication of its date.

Two more definite quarry pits were sampled at the north end of the site. These were located just to the west of a post-medieval field drain and some 5m to the east of the north end of the suggested Early Roman field ditch **F.400**. **F.404** was a shallow sub-circular pit (1.99m in diameter and 0.2m deep) with steep sides and a gently concave base. The single fill of brown grey sandy silt contained no finds. The shape of the pit and absence of root holes suggests that it is not a tree throw, but instead is the result of quarrying at an unknown date. This appears to be cut by **F.405**, a larger oval-shaped pit, 3.5m long, 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep, along its south-west side. **F.405** contained two fills, but again this lacked finds or any distinctive characteristics similar to the phased pits.

Less than 5m to the west of **F.301** in the far southwestern portion of Area A lay **F.318**, an oval-shaped shallow pit, 1.3m long, 0.87m wide and 0.28m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base, which contained three fills. The basal fill consisted of grey silty sand, burnt flint and charcoal with overlying gravelly silts. This type of pit and pit fill is most likely to be prehistoric, but in the absence of finds, no date or function could be ascribed to it.

Water holes/tanks

A cluster of large intercutting round to square pits surrounded several deeper 'water hole' features cut into the gravels. These were located in the north-west corner of Area B.

The pits were grouped around a central deep rectangular pit, **F.503** (approximately 2.6m long, 0.7m wide and 0.95m+ deep), which was not fully excavated, but whose probable depth was revealed in the side of a 1m x 1m test pit cut through the middle. The north side of **F.503** ([3866]) was encountered in section; this proved to be straight, dipping at approx 75° to the south. The single fill consisted of grey silt and fine sand with bands of gravel. This pit, the bottom of which lay below the water table, was the earliest feature, cut by **F.491** to the south, then by **F.497**, **F.498**, and **F.499** to the north. Pit **F.491** was probably the largest feature (3.9m long, 3.7m wide and 1.03m deep). This was a sub-circular pit or well/water hole, part of the <6m wide cluster of pits and square to sub-rectangular tanks. The well-defined cut of **F.491** consisted in its upper part of a 0.75m wide rim with a very gently sloping edge and a moderately pronounced break in slope in the form of a rounded convex step. This then became a steep concave slope within the lower part of the pit, finishing in a sub-circular uneven to concave base ([3520]; see Figure 33). When excavated, **F.491** was found to contain six fills consisting of clay, silt, slumped sand and gravel. The upper part of the pit consisted of a slowly accumulated thick pond deposit of soft brown-grey silty clay ([5214]) with occasional patches of washed-in burnt material. This burnt layer contained degraded charcoal, ash, redeposited burnt clay and occasional (rare) lumps of coal. The complete absence of pot, bone or any other artefacts was striking.

To the west of **F.491** was **F.497** (2.2m square and 0.37m deep), a square pit with 90° rounded corners, moderately sloping sides and a concave base which contained a single fill of silt. This truncated the rectangular features to the north, two 2m by 2m square pits, **F.498** and **F.499**, which formed an 'L' shaped outline (together with **F.497**) on the north side of the slot cut to sample the relationship between these,

F.503 and **F.491**. **F.498** and **F.499** were interpreted as being tanks or sumps rather than water holes/wells. Three square post-holes, **F.501**, **F.502** and **F.503**, appeared to be linked to a former structure associated with this area of pits. These cut the top or edge of the infilled pit **F.497** and all appeared to be modern. Their presence implied the abandonment and backfill of this feature before the final disuse of the site, suggesting consecutive rather than simultaneous use of some of these features.

Whilst at first glance this type of feature doesn't appear to be modern, the nature of these sterile fills and their shape suggests that it probably is. The only 'find' which could ascribe any sort of relative date to these was a single lump of coal; however, this may have been washed into the top of **F.491** and might not reflect the date of its excavation. Apart from being a sump to hold water (or else to dispose of it) another explanation may be that these features were in some way associated with the former agricultural show ground (in use between 1951 and 1965) located within this area of the Clay Farm lands; however, either the features or the site may have an origin which is a good deal older.

Tree-throws

A group of tree throws was examined within the area of quarry pits sampled to the north of ditches **F.305** and **F.306** as they were originally thought to be quarries. Three of these proved to be quite sterile of finds (**F.342**, **F.344** & **F.345**), whilst from the third (**F.343**) a single sherd of pottery (probably Late Iron Age/ Early Roman in date) was recovered.

DISCUSSION

Excavation undertaken along the line of this L-shaped road corridor has revealed an area of flood plain edge with a reasonable density of archaeological activity. This includes valley side drove-ways or tracks, Bronze Age burnt stone pits, Late Prehistoric-Roman outfield paddocks and Roman horticulture as well as gravel and marl quarrying which dates from (at least) the Late Iron Age to the Post-medieval period. As yet, however, there has been no evidence of settlement itself. The large area to the east of the 3rd Terrace may have essentially remained marginal land throughout prehistory and history, with areas of quarrying predominating within the higher parts, patches of woodland and scrub, low intensity grazing on water meadows and large areas of rough land (perhaps at times bounded by large cross-valley enclosures). In the Bronze Age, there may have been a scatter of hunting camps across the floodplain. In contrast, the edge of the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age settlement zone appears to correspond well with the edge of the 3rd Terrace.

The pattern of settlement on the 3rd Terrace and the Chalk can be traced from the presence of crop-marks and evaluation/ excavation evidence along both sides of the Hobson Brook valley northwards from Great Shelford to Trumpington Road (Figure 3). It is worth noting that the relatively archaeologically empty area that lies between the edge of the 3rd Terrace and the Lower Chalk (Chalk Marl) outcrop of the Addenbrookes lands to the east is the area underlain by the 2nd Terrace and Floodplain Alluvium.



Figure 33. Section through post-medieval well pit F. 491

Neolithic

The earliest occupation evidence from Site 3 consists of pits of indeterminate function containing small numbers of Neolithic blade and flake tools and providing evidence of *in situ* flint-working. These were found within a group of features (**F.441** *etc.*) located amongst prehistoric tree throws at the eastern end of Area A and fit well with the picture we already have from the 2004 and 2005 evaluation of the Clay Farm lands (Evans *et al.* 2006). Fieldwalking undertaken within an area less than 100m east of these pits revealed a significant flint scatter which included Late Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic flint-working debris. The juxtaposition of these suggests that we may be looking at the fringes of a Neolithic occupation or activity area, with considerable continuity as well as periods of abandonment and re-use. This area may represent a campsite within a tree-fringed woodland clearing which was returned to on numerous occasions. It is possible that the association of flint and tree throws may simply represent the fortuitous inclusion of scattered flint within later tree bole pits; alternatively, it may be linked to contemporaneous woodland clearance for agriculture.

The presence of flint debris as an inclusion within the fills of later features, such as those located towards the west end of the site (including the quarry pit **F.326** and ditches **F.363**, **F.380** and **F.339**), might reflect the presence of former flint scatters, prehistoric pits or tree-throws since removed. Pits containing small amounts of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint-working debris are ubiquitous on the gravel terraces. Here, the absence of pottery seems to confirm the absence of permanent occupation.

Bronze Age

Early Bronze Age

Whilst the dating of the earliest quarry pits (**F.468** & **F.469**) to the Early Bronze Age is based on tenuous evidence (clearly identified Early Bronze Age flint from this site is rare to non-existent), a better case surrounds the dating of the only confirmed group of Early Bronze Age features, the pit cluster **F.489-F.490** in Area B. The existence of a shallow water hole or well-pit amongst this pit group suggests that conditions were already becoming much wetter on the gravel terrace of the former floodplain by the later Early Bronze Age (*c.* 1600 BC). Such conditions would have been ideal for the siting of *fulacht fiadh* or boiling pits/mounds. The depth of the Site 3 well-pits (up to 0.85m deep) and the presence of contemporary fresh-water molluscs within their base suggest that, when dug, these reached the top of the water-table at approximately the same depth as it is today. The deterioration in climate and subsequent rise in water level probably took place at the beginning of the Bronze Age, coinciding with the movement in focus of occupation away from the 2nd Terrace and towards the this swathe of valley, with the land used for hunting and perhaps also seasonal occupation along the valley edges. Whilst pit clusters of a broadly similar type and age are found along the edge of the eastern Fen margin to the north of Cambridge (Beadsmoore 2005), the recognition and radiocarbon dating of this group on the Clay Farm lands

has proved interesting. Despite the complete, and very characteristic, absence of artefacts (flint, pottery or worked wood, bone or stone), it has been possible to suggest an interpretation of the pits' function as water-collection and cooking-related features.

The purpose of well-pits **F.489** and **F.490** was simply to obtain fresh water on a chosen spot with the minimum necessary effort. The construction of well-pits would remove the need to use skins or pots to carry water; instead a ladle could be used to transfer water to a small boiling or cooking pit, such as **F.496** (0.65m in diameter and 0.3m deep), which lay immediately adjacent to the well-pit. Whilst there was no evidence for the intentional clay-lining of **F.496**, a charcoal-rich clay sediment within it suggests that it may have held water, and also that hot stones were introduced from another pit (such as **F.494** or **F.495**) within which burning was taking place. The low levels of surviving burnt stone suggest either that it has been removed, or more likely that the site was only used once or twice as part of a temporary encampment. Of course, this must be an extremely tentative reconstruction of the function of a well-pit/cooking-pit of this type. Unfortunately, the palaeo-environmental samples that were taken from **F.496** gave few clues about its function or about the nature of the surrounding environment. The examination of a pollen monolith taken from the well-pit peaty sediments might yet provide us with more useful data with regard to the Early Bronze Age environment and occupation of this South Cambridge site.

Middle - Late Bronze Age

Many of the features dating to the Middle-Late Bronze Age on Site 3 have been dated on the basis of their alignment with the securely dated NE-SW segmented ditch **F.314/321/434**. **F.321** contained the remains of a Deveril-Rimbury urn which had been placed within the bottom of a re-cut ditch. This pottery find provided one of the most secure dates for the site, most of the other pottery (from Middle Bronze Age to Roman) being associated with ditch fills which had either been washed-in or been backfilled at a date considerably after their construction. The occurrence of Deveril-Rimbury urns as placed items within features in a non-funerary context is rare in Cambridgeshire (M. Knight *pers. com.*); within the broader Addenbrookes landscape fragments of such urns with cremated bone in them were found at the Hutchinson Site (Evans *et al.* 2004). More significantly, from pit **F.124** on Site 1 of the Link Road came 30 sherds of Deveril-Rimbury pot, the latter probably from the side of an urn that had been broken and distributed within the pit. The urn from **F.321** is an important find from the Site 3 excavation, providing the basis for the dating of some of its most significant features.

The large enclosure ditch, **F.301**, by virtue of the presence of undercut and quarried edges, the number of re-cuts and slowly accumulated fills, appears to have acquired an additional status as a boundary or even as a defensive enclosure into the Later Bronze Age. A very similar scenario occurs within the Holme Field System at Colne Fen, Earith in the re-establishment of a Middle Bronze Age rectilinear field boundary as a major curvilinear enclosure ditch of similarly unknown function (**F.78** and **F.167** in Evans & Patten 2003). The latter ditch had a similarly staggered development, with traces of the original field ditch to one side, but no evidence of a bank or of any bank material within the fills. The situation at Site 3 Clay Farm is somewhat similar: it is presumed that there might have been a bank on the west side (the presence of slump material against the west face of the ditch could indicate an eroding bank, but this

may also relate to quarrying and undercutting on this side), and that this *may* have had a defensive function, although the status of this is far from clear. Re-deposited burnt stone within **F.301** might also be derived from the erosion of a bank, but could equally be derived from material washed in following the disturbance of features within the surrounding landscape. The inclusion of Later Prehistoric (probably Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age) pottery within ditch **F.301** implies the retention of this boundary enclosure and its re-cutting over a period of several hundred years. We can identify the continuation of this same system (**F.301**, **F.351**, **F.476** and **F.511**) in a westerly direction across the modern site-road and into the northern part of Field D.

The continuation of this set of features, corresponding to an enlarged and developed enclosure, can be seen in the crop-mark pattern as well as in the southern Guided Bus Route excavation (CGB:SRC07) undertaken during early Spring 2007 (see Collins Forthcoming). At the latter site, pottery from ditch **F.19**, a large L-shaped feature with an almost identical profile to the 'V' shaped ditch section of **F.511** (Site 3), has provided a range of spot-dates very similar to **F.511**. **F.19** contains Middle Bronze Age pottery from the middle contexts and Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pot from the upper silted-in layers. This appears to confirm **F.511** as a Middle-Late Bronze Age ditch, part of a large square stepped enclosure surrounding an area of paddocks. It may have been open and in use well into the Early Iron Age. Perhaps linked to this are the trackway gullies discovered in the far north-western corner of the site. These might indicate an entrance to this enclosure and its fields and possibly also a driveway to the south-west. In this case we could expect a gap in this re-established ditch beneath the present site-road some 10m beyond the north-west edge of the excavation.

Pit **F.351** was one of the largest prehistoric features examined. Its function remains ambiguous, as does its relationship with ditches **F.476** and **F.511** to the north-west, which was never fully established although it lies approximately on the terminal of **F.511**. Despite this, the position of **F.351** was clearly important: it was situated over both the point where the large enclosure ditches **F.511** and **F.301** underwent a 90° change in direction (NE-SW to NW-SE) and over the point where the smaller enclosure ditches **F.403** and **F.434** underwent a similar change in direction (NE-SW to NW-SE). The importance of **F.351** is emphasized by its size (rather than the nature of its fill) and the presence of a placed item: the complete antler of a mature red deer. The position of this (towards the top of the fill), however, is unlikely to relate to the original construction of the pit.

A reasonable interpretation of the NW-SE aligned field ditches to the east and south of the large enclosure boundary is that they were part of a rectilinear division of paddocks. This is suggested by the presence of re-cut slots, probably cut for upright fencing timbers (see Figures 20 & 21). Individual sections of these could have been removed to allow the movement of stock from one field to another. Site-wide analysis of animal bone from Bronze Age contexts indicates a predominance of cattle (Rajkovaca; *Appendix 10*), although it cannot of course be determined whether all those animals represented were reared on site.

It is difficult to establish the exact chronological relationship of the Middle Bronze Age pits and hearths (and associated burnt stone) with the Middle Bronze Age field system in Site 3. The most probable date for the former (based on the radiocarbon

calibration curve intercepts) is between 1250 and 1300 BC, whilst the occurrence of re-deposited burnt stone and charcoal within the field system ditches suggests that the enclosure is somewhat later. This indicates that a possible extra-mural cooking or feasting area from a Middle Bronze Age settlement precedes the later development of paddocks.

Of particular interest for understanding this possible cooking area were the paired 'cooking pits' found in **F.485** & **F.486**. From one of these (**F.485**) came the only identified piece of pig bone from a Bronze Age feature, something which might suggest a feasting function. Despite its lack of pottery, the excavation and interpretation of this feature was revealing, particularly as the absence of pottery is characteristic of the *fulacht fiadh* (Bronze Age boiling pit) tradition. The presence of a pit with burnt stone and charcoal linked to one without any burning, but containing animal bones and silt, invites the suggestion of their paired use. Particular comparisons can be made with the burnt stone mounds and wood-lined water-filled troughs of the Early Bronze Age; however, the absence of any associated mounds of burnt stone in the Site 3 examples suggests that either a very different technique was employed here, or that these pits were used for a much shorter time. Alternatively these mound(s) may have been completely truncated – they could have been either removed and used for backfilling or redeposited naturally during the Bronze Age. This interpretation is supported by the scale of distribution of burnt stone over this part of the site (an area of about 625m²), much of it still filling open features during the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Additionally, burnt stone mounds could have been lost as a result of plough truncation. The evolution of these, presumably communal, cooking features can be seen in the archaeological record of the East Anglian region. They develop from the burnt flint/ burnt stone waterside mounds of the Beaker/ Early Bronze Age (such as those from the Fen edge at Fairstead in Norfolk; Beadsmoore 2005), to the later Early Bronze Age pit cluster in Area B, the Middle Bronze Age pits in Area A, and finally to the small, shallow clay-lined boiling pits associated with groups of Middle Iron Age roundhouses as excavated at Broom in Bedfordshire (A. Slater *pers. com.*). All of these 'cooking' or 'boiling' features are associated with the use of stone which has been carefully selected for its size (typically <100mm) and lithology (hard sandstones and occasionally dense crystalline igneous rocks).

Later Prehistoric

There is considerable ambiguity over the dating of the NNW-SSE and WSW-ENE field ditches in Area B. These alignments cannot easily be identified with any of the crop-marks or excavated features found during evaluation on this side of the valley. The fill types and forms (along with the very limited evidence of finds) of these ditches are all typical of Late Prehistoric features, yet the closest parallel with this alignment is the rectilinear field pattern which appears in crop-marks just to the south of the 1st to 4th century AD Roman villa complex east of Scotsdale's Nursery, Great Shelford. The villa lies on the eastern side of Hobson's Brook on the chalklands, less than a kilometre from the Area B fields; however, the continuation of the alignment in this direction makes little sense in the absence of other Roman characteristics (such as finds). In addition, a differently aligned and later Early Roman ESE-WNW boundary

ditch (**F.454**) is present just to the north of this, the latter clearly on the Site 3 Roman alignment.

The most likely explanation of these ditches is that they form the edge of a series of Bronze-Iron Age fields extending south of the site on an axial alignment which has turned slightly to the west, reflecting the south - south-eastwards change in the course of Hobson's Brook. The dominant field boundaries would thus be at right angles to the course of the stream. These prehistoric ditches therefore appear to be re-defining (almost exactly) an earlier and more sinuous set of field boundaries.

Iron Age

Apart from very small amounts of pottery deposited within the upper fills of pit **F.351** the site has produced no evidence whatsoever of settlement or activity from the earlier Iron Age. It is therefore surprising that both Early and Middle Iron Age activity was suggested by pottery finds from the southern end of Trench 57 of the evaluation, which was situated west of the Late Iron Age trackway and within the present area of excavation (Evans *et al.* 2006). In addition, north-westwards into Field E, the evaluation trenches did appear to reveal a focus of earlier Iron Age settlement. Moreover, some 600m to the south-west is a landscape dominated by Early Iron Age farming (see Glebe Farm Site 1; Armour 2007). This may indicate that Site 3 fell just outside the enclosed area used for farming during the Early Iron Age. During the Late Iron Age, it appears that there was an extension of the exploitation of lands on this side of the Hobson's Brook valley, both to the north and to the south. This development is primarily for the enclosure of grazing land, which in this case lies either side of (but particularly to the west of) the Late Iron Age track or droveway (**F.300-F.304**).

The route of the trackway hugs the eastern edge of the drier 2nd Terrace and is traceable for at least 350m north of the present site. This is confirmed by the presence of crop-marks which demarcate this double pair of ditches (Dickens 2002). The ditches follow a slightly sinuous outline parallel to the edge of the terrace, in approximately the same orientation as (although cross-cutting) a probably contemporaneous Late Iron Age fieldsystem. The location of some of these ditches was confirmed during the 2005 trench evaluation (Evans *et al.* 2006). The same double-ditched crop-mark was once again picked up just south of Clay Farm (and to the east of Alpha Road), where it was described as following 'one of the ridges of high/hard ground' (Dickens 2002). These trackside ditches were probably dug to ensure drainage, but perhaps also to raise a slight camber and provide a metalled surface (since truncated away). The apparent braiding of these ditched tracks is more apparent than real, the later pair evidently having been superimposed upon and off-set from the other, reflecting either a period of disuse before re-instatement, or a rebuilding of the route during its use as a way of dealing with the hollows and boggy and muddy patches that would have developed.

There is no obvious parallel to the trackway from the archaeology of the Addenbrooke's lands and Clay Farm. The Roman road crosses Hobson's Brook just south of Long Road, and it may be that this was also the shallowest and driest crossing-point of the valley during the Iron Age. Whether or not this ever crossed the valley, it would probably have forged a route heading for the River Cam, linking

fields and pastures, along which cattle could be driven. It might be expected that a similar ditched track or droveway once followed the eastern edge of the Hobson's Brook valley; however, no evidence for such a route has emerged out of extensive archaeological investigations and survey undertaken on the Addenbrooke's and Gog Magog lands.

The existence of a Late Iron Age field system to the south and east of the trackway within the excavation area of Site 3 is only partly supported by excavated evidence. Roughly contemporary Late Iron Age ditches (**F.425** and **F.460**) have been identified at right angles to the trackway at the north end of the site, although neither resemble typical rectilinear field ditches, and neither continue or are enclosed by ditches to the south-east. In fact, both **F.425** and **F.460** show distinct curvilinear elements typical of the pre-Roman Iron Age, and (although fragmentary) are comparable to the Mid-Late Iron Age enclosures on the Addenbrooke's Hutchinson site (Evans *et. al. ibid.*). Part of a slightly later phase ditch (**F.396**) cuts the latter just 30m east of the trackway. This is broadly parallel with the latter, yet lies on an alignment (NNW-SSE) that has been referred to as 'Conquest Period' on the Hutchinson site. The later date of this is emphasized by the truncation of an earlier quarry pit (**F.465**), re-used as a refuse pit for bone. The presence of this feature heralds the more marginal non-agricultural use of this land for gravel and marl extraction.

The growing importance of gravel extraction through the Late Iron Age and into the Early Roman Period is reflected in the rapid modification of the archaeological landscape. This phenomenon suggests a continuity of settlement, but responding to change from the pre-Conquest, through the 'Romanising Period', to the first proper post-Conquest establishment of rural villa settlements. The appearance of immediately pre-Conquest/ Conquest period quarrying within areas formerly laid over to marginal grazing land attests to a new demand for this marl-rich gravel and sand, either for local road/track construction, for the loose mortaring of house floors, or as a flint grit temper for pottery. Whilst it is impossible to be certain of how the gravel was used, the increase in demand appears to anticipate changes in the use of the landscape such as might be associated with the Aylesford-Swarling 'phenomenon', which may either be a regional or Cambridge-specific effect (Evans *et. al. ibid.*).

Late Iron Age quarrying is tightly restricted to the north-west part of Area A, coinciding with the edge of the later Roman horticultural cultivation area (but pre-dating it), although not with the area of the Late Iron Age trackway or field system to the north. The fact that this quarrying respects the trackway suggests that the latter may still have been in use. Two groups of putative Late Iron Age pits were found at the south-east end of this area of quarrying (Figure 8). The differences between phases of quarrying are subtle, based partly on pottery dates (which are few and far between) and partly on the tight grouping of slightly different types of pits within specific areas of this quarrying zone.

It is rather difficult to place in context the single disturbed Late Iron Age cremation found in the north-west part of Area A. With no evidence that this was part of a cemetery, the exact dating of this remains problematic. The fragmentary pottery, although not securely dated, indicates a shortly pre-Conquest date, suggesting a possible Aylesford-Swarling association of the Hinxton type (see Hill *et al.* 1999). A

similar association was inferred at the Hutchison Site, Addenbrooke's, just over a kilometre to the north-east (Evans et al 2006)

Late Iron Age/ Roman

'Romanisation'

Within the limitations imposed by pottery dates it is sometimes difficult to determine the break between pre- and post-Conquest occupation. The Aylesford-Swarling 'phenomenon', is clearly evident in the settlement of this South Cambridge landscape and is followed by the production and distribution of 'Romanising Period' as well as indeterminate Late Iron Age/ Early Roman forms of pottery. With the evidence of material 'overlap', the model of sudden post-Conquest change is becoming increasingly difficult to accept. Roman-influenced artefacts and styles were clearly becoming more prevalent even before full occupation and control of the area had taken effect. This may indicate that hinterland agricultural landscapes and estates were developing and expanding even before the regional administrative and military centres (such as the fort and *vicus* on Castle Hill) were fully established. In this respect, sites like Clay Farm and others within the Addenbrookes hinterland are extremely important in that they provide a growing body of evidence for this early Romanisation.

The most interesting 'feature expression' of the Romanisation process is the establishment on Site 3 (Area A) of a 'Romanised' enclosure (**F.338** and **F.339**), which seems to pre-date the Early Roman phase of use of this site. Here, the main outer perimeter ditch (**F.338**) of what was later an area of horticultural cultivation was constructed during the pre-Conquest Late Iron Age. The ditch was then kept open and maintained during the succeeding Conquest Period (40-60AD). This continuing use is indicated by the continuation of the ditch to the east (as **F.488**) where it forms proto-Roman type enclosure junctions (between **F.488** and **F.407**) which were later overlaid on exactly the same alignment by a north-south Early Roman boundary ditch (**F.438**). The additional construction of an inner cultivation enclosure (**F.339**) during the Conquest Period, defining almost exactly the area of later cultivation, appears to have anticipated the next phase of horticultural use. This might imply that the area was already under cultivation at this point, although the presence of a pit which is likely have been a quarry, rather than a planting, pit in this area may argue against this. What is evident is that the Early Roman (c. 50-80AD) perimeter ditch truncates both the inner and outer earlier enclosures whilst defining almost the same area. Once again, this suggests re-establishment and improvement. Perhaps this Roman style of herb garden or prestigious crop cultivation preceded the fully Roman establishment of local villas.

During this period, gravel and sand quarrying continued within the same zone of Area A, but some 30m to the north-west and away from the area interpreted as a focus of garden cultivation. Quarrying was undertaken at a similar intensity as before (perhaps slightly increased) and probably most likely indicated immediately local rather than valley-wide demand. The location of this consumption probably lay to the west. Although Evans *et. al* (2006) refer to the existence of an emerging Roman settlement

to the south (just to the west of Area B; Site 4), its presence is not indicated by currently excavated features.

Roman Horticulture

The establishment of an area of horticulture upon the well-drained soils of the 2nd Terrace is probably the most significant feature of Roman occupation of this site; however, compared to the level of Roman activity in the surrounding area, the Roman presence here is minor. It is likely that the area of cultivation continued to the south, in which direction the focus of settlement probably lies.

Any extension of north-south cultivation beds beyond the present limits of excavation would, of course, have been south-facing, the plants (assuming that the immediately surrounding landscape was treeless) benefiting from the maximum amount of east-west sunlight. There are, however, other indications which suggest that this area of cultivation was well situated. Only one of the eight or nine 13m long cultivation trenches has terminals at both ends, the remainder being truncated by an east-west ditch which may have been a partition ditch or an irrigation channel. The fact that (where visible) these trenches do not continue on the other side of this suggests that an irrigation channel is by far the most likely interpretation. The dimensions and spacing of the cultivation trenches, along with their siting and the local soil type, would make them ideal candidates for asparagus cultivation.

It appears that cultivation trenches/ beds are not as uncommon as previously thought. Possible asparagus beds have been identified outside the Balkerne gate of Roman Colchester (Alcock 2001), whilst a number of cultivation trenches/beds have been identified within the Cambridge or Fenland area (although little in the way of detailed study or analysis of these features has been carried out). Somewhat confusingly, most of the latter have been interpreted as the ditches associated with 'lazy bed' cultivation of root crops *etc.* Examples described in this way have been excavated at Longstanton (Evans & Mackay 2005b) and at Eye Quarry near Peterborough (Patten 2004). Here, Field Rq was divided by 15 parallel NE-SW ditch segments, all approximately 48m long and on average 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep (*ibid.*). Closer to Clay Farm, 'lazy beds' have been recorded within the environs of Addenbrooke's Hospital on the Guided Busway route (Cessford & Mackay 2004) and at the Bell Language School, where NNE-SSW parallel trenches 0.64-0.6m wide, 0.1-0.13m deep and approximately 3m apart were interpreted as the ditches of raised beds, elevated for warmth and dryness, constructed to improve the yields of root crops (Brudenell 2004). The dimensions of these match the Site 3 beds moderately well, yet there is a fundamental problem with referring to them as 'lazy beds'. Not only are all the trenches at Site 3 equidistant, which is not what one would expect if there were walkways between beds for tending to the plants, but the volume of soil excavated from them would have been quite insufficient for ridging beds of this width. Likewise, the trenches are too deep (assuming a degree of modern truncation), too regular, and show evidence of having been worked in places. Even more importantly, we find planting pits at the ends or just beyond the ends of most of the trenches, an arrangement which suggests the planting of shrubs or herb bushes at the end of each row of plants. The suggestion that the trenches may have been dug for vines rather than rows of asparagus or other vegetables is also not borne up by the archaeological

evidence. No traces of the necessary post-hole supports for vines, particularly beyond the end of each trench, were encountered. Thus the form and distribution of the trenches limits possible interpretation to asparagus cultivation, which has a recorded history going back more than 2000 years. Asparagus was a prized Roman vegetable, well-suited to the British climate.

The Roman technique of asparagus cultivation was recorded in some detail by Cato the Elder, within a text (*De Agricultura*) written c. 160BC. Growing asparagus at this period involved first planting groups of seeds in raised seed beds, covering them thickly with manure and tending the beds carefully for 3-4 years, covering them with straw in the winter to avoid frost damage. In spring they were hoed and weeded; remaining weeds were burnt in the 3rd spring. The shoots were pulled from the 3rd year onwards. The process of pulling up old plants grown from seed and re-planting them within specially prepared trenches began after eight or nine years. These trenches were first well worked and manured, the interval between the roots of asparagus being not less than a foot wide and the backfilled trenches then covered deeply with sheep dung, “best for this purpose as other manure produces weeds” (Cato c.160BC, Section 161). Cato’s account is interesting in that it also reflects modern horticulturists’ recommendations for the propagation of asparagus fairly accurately, as well as providing a parallel for the trenches dug on Site 3. These deeply-dug trenches suggest the presence of well-developed asparagus beds. The technique for growing crowns (old roots) which Cato refers to is described in a document issued by the Horticulture, Forestry and Parks Department of South Dakota University (SDSU 2001). The planting furrow (trench) depth recommended (8-10 inches) is equivalent to the 0.2m depth of trench we find on Site 3, although the 4 ½ feet between rows is a little narrower than the Roman examples. If we assume that crowns were planted a foot apart (as Cato recommends), then the area of cultivation revealed by excavation (e.g. 9 rows 13m long) could have contained upwards of 351 plants. The fairly substantial perimeter ditches such as **F.349** (1.5-2.07m wide and up to 0.46m deep) would have protected the plants from foraging animals, yet the presence of grazing animals such as sheep relatively nearby may have been an advantage if the recommendations for manuring were to be followed.

In the absence of environmental samples from these planting trenches, we can only hazard a guess at the nature of any intercropping herbs or the shrubs grown in the planting pits associated with these beds. In addition to the native crops grown in Britain from Prehistoric times, the Romans introduced a number of new food crops, including parsnips, radishes, endive, lettuce, broad beans and improved varieties of cabbage and carrot (Alcock 2001). Many fruits, both wild and imported by the Romans, may also have been grown. A wide variety of herbs could have been grown, including bay, rosemary and thyme. Whilst many of these would have been used for culinary purposes, they may also have been grown for their medicinal properties (*ibid.*).

The placing of a South Gaulish Samian Dressel 18 dish within the base of the planting trench **F.417** raises some interesting questions. Was this placed at the same time that the asparagus crowns were planted, and if so, was it associated with a libation for good luck and fertility of the future crop, or was it an opportunistic burial of a broken dish connected to superstition and the prevention of bad luck?

This cultivation site, of which perhaps only a fraction has been exposed, shows considerable potential for the study of Roman horticulture. If the land immediately to the south of this is to be examined as part of the planning requirements associated with development, then details concerning irrigation, nursery beds and pathways should be looked for and further sampling for environmental evidence attempted.

Roman quarrying, drainage and field enclosures

The presence of separate clusters of quarry pits with evidence for Early Roman working is typical of quarrying activity on Site 3. Three (or possibly four) clusters of pits form an east-west band across the northern edge of the quarry zone, whilst another small group of pits truncates the edge of the cultivation enclosure (**F.349**). It is notable that these pits correspond with areas of marl (or lime-rich) sand and gravel, implying perhaps that this was being deliberately sought; however, the availability of good quality chalk less than a kilometre to the east suggests that the requirement for this material was immediately local. This might be connected with the putative presence of a small villa or farm somewhere to the west or south of the site.

The amount of gravel, sand and marl being extracted at any given time from Site 3 must have been small. This is particularly noticeable when one compares the volume of Roman extraction with the volumes which would have been removed from Post-medieval quarry pits within the same area of the site. The pits on Site 3 are also small in comparison with most other examples of Roman quarrying carried out within the Cambridge area. For example, on the opposite side of the Hobson's Brook Valley, at the Bell Language School, large irregularly-shaped Roman quarries up to 39m long and 1.34m deep were excavated (Brudenell 2004). The small size of the Site 3 quarry pits may be related to their early date. In many ways they were little different from the Iron Age or Conquest Period quarries which preceded them, although some were sub-rectangular or even square, whereas the earlier pits were round to oval. This may reflect the use of iron-tipped spades in their excavation. Rectangular quarry pits occur in the cluster **F.326-F.327** which has provided the most reliable dating evidence so far (c. 60-80 AD) for a later phase of quarrying carried out within an earlier Conquest Period pit (**F.326**). The duration of Roman quarrying at Site 3 was about 50 years, from c. 50-100 AD (*i.e.* to the very end of Roman involvement with this site). The latest identifiable quarrying was that which took place at the margins of the horticultural area. Some of the pits here post-date the infilled boundary ditch (**F.349**), whilst others pre-date it yet contain recognisably Early Roman finds (**F.466**).

A series of experiments were conducted to test the hypothesis that some of the marl-rich sand removed from the quarry pits could have been fired directly, with or without the addition of some lime, to produce a sort of soft pozzuoli mortar which could be used in wall plaster, flooring, for the laying of tesserae, or as a mortar for tiles or brick. Samples of this mixed lime-rich sand were fired with a blow-torch to mimic kiln conditions. Useable but fairly soft fine mortars were made by mixing it in ratios of 1:1 and 1:4 (burnt deposit: sand) and 4:1:1 (sand: burnt deposit: lime) with a small amount of water. This shows that a one-step manufacture of mortar could have been achieved from the Site 3 quarried material, even if the end product was at best rudimentary.

The eastern termination of the quarrying zone corresponds with the lowest and dampest part of Area A. Parallel to a series of modern drains crossing the site in a NNE-SSW direction, two narrow Roman field ditches (F.400 & F.412) probably represent the earliest attempts at drainage of this site. A ditch of probably similar function at the west end (F.526) appears to pre-date the cutting of the large field or enclosure boundary F.38. This may indicate drainage as part of an attempt at land improvement in advance of the construction of a system of very large rectilinear field enclosures for the purposes of low-intensity pasturage across the valley floor. The size of these enclosures is difficult to determine on the basis of the surviving Conquest Period and Early Roman field ditches encountered within the Site 3 excavation; however, it can be established that they were constructed on an east-west alignment, with pasture strips which may be >100m wide and hundreds of metres long. No independent statistics are available for Early Roman animal bone (domestic) remains, although the combined Iron Age and Roman animal bone assemblage indicates a reduction in sheep/goat and a slight increase in horse and pig. Cows remained the dominant source of meat, and were probably also the dominant grazing livestock (see Rajcovaca; *Appendix 10*).

The sole evidence of Late Roman/ immediately post-Roman activity or occupation on Site 3 is a series of short NE-SW ditches which cut across all Early Roman or earlier features. Based on the ditches' fills and profiles, as well as their orientation (in the direction of slope of the upper gravel terrace), it can only be assumed that these were cut for the purposes of drainage. This implies that this area of land was under some sort of agricultural regime; however, the complete absence of features from the end of the 1st century AD onwards indicates that the focus of settlement had moved elsewhere.

A Roman Perspective

At Site 3 we appear to be on the very margins of the Early Roman settlement area, which (as with the Middle-Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age occupation before it) was mostly confined to the higher 3rd Terrace. During the Early Roman period the Site 3 area incorporated an area of still used north-south trackways (which may have met up with the east-west *Via Devana* just a kilometre to the north), small enclosures put over to horticulture and perhaps also groups of cultivated fields. These may have been connected with small rural farmsteads and Late Iron Age hut types, or the beginnings of small Roman villa estates spaced every few kilometres. Evans *et al.* (2004) discuss the transformation of this area of the Addenbrookes/Clay Farm lands from the immediately pre-Conquest development of the Aylesford-Swarling type through to the development of new rural villas and local pottery kilns, such as those found at the Hutchinson site and Greenhouse Farm. From about 50 AD these kilns were producing what were, in effect, local versions of Roman style platters, dishes, flagons and bowls using Iron Age pottery fabrics and traditional Late Iron Age techniques. This would have been one motivation for the development of small-scale quarrying, others being the construction of stone and wood villas, the firing of bricks and tiles, the metallurgy of existing tracks and the surfacing of new roads. The early building of villas and villa estates in the Roman style, as well as the adoption of Roman agricultural and culinary habits, is supported by the evidence we have here for the growing of asparagus, dating from the Conquest Period itself. Whether these habits preceded the Roman occupation is an interesting question.

Clay Farm Site 3 may represent an area of land division falling between two small villa estates. Certainly, one villa complex ([SAM 4461]) lies less than half a kilometre to the south, yet the implication from analysis of the Site 3 field boundary layout is that this asparagus cultivation is probably associated with another, much closer, settlement situated just to the west or south-west of Area A.

By the end of the 1st century AD, the Early Roman settlement along the west side of the Hobson's Brook Valley appears to have declined or ceased altogether. This may have been a response to the growth of settlement around the Hutchison Site and on the edge of the Gog Magogs, the former associated with the development of the Roman road and the crossing of the Hobson's Brook Valley to the north. The establishment of a cemetery was an indication of a greater sense of permanence at the Hutchison Site. In comparison, Site 3 was becoming increasingly cut-off from nearby centres of trade, production, transport and settlement, as is indicated by the absence of any track across the valley and of occupation activity even on the higher parts of the valley floor. The emerging Hutchinson and Addenbrooke's settlements would have been highly visible from Site 3, acting as a magnets encouraging re-location from the west to the east side of the valley.

Post-Roman

The existence of a medieval phase in the archaeology of this site is debateable: apart from the possibility of limited quarrying activity and cultivation, it seems that there was little occupation of this area between the Roman and late post-medieval periods.

The earliest pottery dates associated with post-medieval land drainage or field boundaries are of the 17th/18th century, although the problem of residuality means that these features may be later, perhaps 19th century, in origin. A similar uncertainty surrounds the dating of the post-medieval quarry pits. These, not unsurprisingly, are much larger and more numerous than the Late Iron Age-Roman pits, and are often much more irregular. They may have occasionally involved the re-working of much earlier pits (*e.g.* **F.430** & **F.436**). Only in one place is there evidence of systematic stepped working of a bed of gravel (**F.319** and **F.320** *etc.*). A series of pits are to be found within the same zone of quarrying activity, in all probability working the same beds of marl-rich gravel. Typically, these are separated from the earlier quarrying, perhaps due to the thin deposits having already been exhausted in those areas.

The complex of intercutting and potentially once water-filled pits (Group 26) at the west end of Area B remains an enigma. Despite thorough excavation (>50% sample), no dating evidence in the form of finds or any clear typology of feature was revealed. The size and type of sterile fill may indicate machine-cut features, particularly in the case of the square 'tanks'. The single find from the infill of these was a lump of coal associated with a washed-in burnt horizon near the top. Given the depth and shape of the tanks, their function may have been linked to land drainage; alternatively they may have provided a water source, possibly for animals. The most likely date of the tanks is 19th (or possibly 20th) century, although an earlier date for their origin is possible. They may be associated in some way with the 1950s-60s agricultural show held within this area of the Clay Farm lands.

More modern features have been identified at the north end of Area A, which may also be associated with the late 20th century agricultural showground. These include square brick-lined barbecue pits now filled with charcoal, refuse pits filled with ironwork and broken glass bottles and jars, and various anomalous pits and trenches. Little is known of the nature of the agricultural shows, although aerial photographs show the areas of land involved (the event has been referred to as a ‘Royal Agricultural Show’ by Mr. Pemberton, the landowner of Clay Farm). In addition to the showground-related features, hundreds of metres of clay drainage pipe were found within, typically narrow, 19th to early 20th century land drains (trenches) which criss-crossed Area A in all directions. This reflects a considerable effort at land improvement within an area prone to a seasonally high water-table.

CONCLUSIONS

- No direct evidence for *in situ* settlement was found within Site 3 of the Link Road route on Clay Farm. Most occupation activity, in the form of pit groups, field boundaries for paddocks, large enclosure ditches, cultivation trenches and quarries, was confined to the slightly higher 3rd Terrace of the Hobson’s Brook valley, implying that denser archaeology and settlement may have lain to the north and west.
- A minor Neolithic presence, in the form of pits with small amounts of flintwork and flint-filled tree-throws, was picked up across the whole site. The presence of prehistoric woodland is suggested by concentrations of tree-throws at the eastern end of Area A.
- Early Bronze Age features were limited to a single pit cluster located in the lower part of the site (Area B). This provided an interesting association of deep (well) pits and shallower, charcoal-rich and stone-filled pits, perhaps equivalent in function to burnt stone mounds.
- A more visible Middle Bronze Age presence is indicated by segmented field ditches associated with a rectilinear NW-SE aligned series of fields or paddocks, which may originally have been separated by wooden fencing. One ditch segment produced the remains of an apparently placed Deveril-Rimbury urn. Still more significant was the presence of a substantial enclosure ditch dug along the same field alignment at the north-west end of the site. This appears to have been re-cut on several different occasions, continuing into the Late Bronze or even the Early Iron Age. The same ditch system was picked up during the Guided Bus Route excavation to the east. The reason for the deepening and re-definition of these ditches remains unclear; however, the junction of the NW-SE and NE-SW branches was associated with a massive Middle-Late Bronze Age pit, the fill of which contained Post-Deveril Rimbury pottery and a placed red deer antler. This area is also associated with burnt stone pits. One of these showed an interesting arrangement of paired pits, which appeared to show evidence for cooking.
- There is no sign, on Site 3, of the Early Iron Age or Middle Iron Age settlement that is visible on Site 1. The earliest identifiable Iron Age activity is a Late Iron Age trackway (consisting of pairs of trackside ditches) which crosses the north-western corner of Site 3, heading northwards and following

the eastern edge of the 3rd Terrace. Contemporary with this are the traces of a field/enclosure system which lies just to the east of this line, whilst some of the earliest quarry pitting has been identified within the same general area. Late Iron Age archaeology includes both pre-Conquest and post-Conquest landscape developments, such as the construction of a sub-rectangular cultivation enclosure at the extreme north-western end (SW corner) of the site, as well as a re-establishment of this and the construction of a series of enclosures to the east on what is now a recognisable Early Roman alignment. This implies a considerable degree of continuity between the Late Iron Age (Aylesford-Swarling type) and earliest Roman occupation of the valley, and parallels what has already been found at the Hutchinson and other Addenbrooke's sites. This is also evident in the localised continuity in quarrying activity: Late Iron Age, Conquest period and Early Roman quarry pits can clearly be identified. The dating of these, however, relies on changing pottery styles, the exact chronology of which remain open to interpretation.

- The digging of north-south 'asparagus bed' type trenches within the cultivation enclosure is a recognisably Roman development. The form of these corresponds surprisingly well to the descriptions of asparagus cultivation provided to us by Cato *c.* 160 BC. Good dating evidence for these features was supplied by the placing of a broken Samian dish within the bottom of one of the trenches, probably sometime between 60 and 80 AD. The accompanying planting pits seem to indicate the cultivation of herbs or carefully tended vegetables in association with the asparagus, whilst irrigation/ drainage of the beds also seems to have been an accompanying feature. The cultivation enclosure appears to be aligned on a much larger field system of large paddocks which extends both to the north and east as far as the damper lands of the floodplain edge in Area B. The ditches include larger field boundaries as well as drains. A distinct phase of Roman quarrying is identifiable within the marl-rich sand beds outcropping within the quarry zone, some of the quarry pits being well dated through pottery finds.
- Roman activity in the Site 3 area all but ceases before or after 100 AD. Apart from some rather ambiguous evidence for medieval to early post-medieval quarrying and agriculture, there is little evidence for land use until the 19th century, when there is extensive digging of land drains and, at some point, further quarrying within the same part of Site 3.
- Modern (20th century) features include barbeque pits, rubbish pits and drains associated with a 1950s-60s agricultural showground on Clay Farm. Possibly associated with these was a rather enigmatic group of pits/tanks (some of which may have been water-filled) in Area B. These may have been for animals.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Nick Armour (CAU Site Director) and the excavation team of up to nine Site Assistants who worked on this project for about 3 months. Alison Dickens was CAU Project Manager. Donald Horne undertook the surveying work, Dave Webb the photography, whilst Andy Hall and Jane Matthews supervised graphics. Individual graphics and site plan digitisation was undertaken by Bryan Crossan. Jo Appleby proof-read and corrected the final version. Mike Davies of Cambridgeshire County Council's Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery team monitored progress for the client, whilst Andy Thomas (CAPCA) monitored the archaeology.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alcock, J.P. 2001. *Food in Roman Britain*. Stroud: Tempus.
- Anderson, K. and Evans, C. 2004. *The Archaeology of Clay Farm, Trumpington: Preliminary Investigations*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 669.
- Appleby, G. 2004. *Glebe Farm, Trumpington: An Archaeological Desktop Assessment*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 631.
- Armour, N. 2007. *Addenbrooke's Link Road, Glebe Farm, Trumpington, South Cambridge: The 2007 Investigations*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 802.
- Beadsmoore, E. 2005. *Fairstead, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, An archaeological investigation*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 687.
- Beedham, G.E. 1972. *Identification of the British Mollusca*. Amersham: Hulton.
- Brudenell, M. 2004. *Land Adjacent to the Bell Language School, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation*, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no.646.
- British Geological Survey. 2002. Saffron Walden Solid & Drift 1:50000. *Geological Map Sheet 205*.
- Cato the Elder. c.160 BC. *De Agricultura*. Translated from the Latin by Hooper, W.D. & Ash, H.B. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press (Originally published 1934). Available from http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cato/De_Agricultura/L*.html.
- CAU. 2007. *Method Statement and Safety Plan for Archaeological Investigation at Sites on the Addenbrooke's Access Road, Cambridge*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit.
- Cessford, C. & Mackay, D. 2004. *Cambridgeshire Guided Busway: A Series of Archaeological Evaluations*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no.591.
- Collins, M. Forthcoming. *Cambridge Guided Bus Route: Excavation at Clay Farm, South Cambridge*.
- Dickens, A. 2000. *The Cambridge Rapid Transit System: A Desktop Assessment*, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 361.
- Dickens, A. 2002. *Clay Farm Trumpington, Cambridge. An Archaeological Desktop Assessment*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no.506.
- Dickens, A. 2006. *Written Scheme for Archaeological Investigation at sites on the Addenbrooke's Access Road*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Dobney, K. & Reilly, K. 1988. A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* 5(2): 79-96.

Evans, C. 2002 *The Archaeology of the Addenbrooke's Environs: A Desktop Essay*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no.497.

Evans, C., Mackay, D. & Webley, L. 2004. *Excavations at Addenbrooke's Hospital: the Hutchinson Site*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 609.

Evans, C. & Mackay, D. 2005a. *Addenbrooke's 2020, Cambridge Archaeological Evaluation Fieldwork*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 671.

Evans, C. & Mackay, D. 2005b. *Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: A Village Hinterland*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 696.

Evans, C., Mackay, D., & Patten, R. 2006. *The Archaeology of Glebe & Clay Farm, South Cambridge: The 2005 Evaluation*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 708.

Evans, C. & Patten, R. 2003. *The Holme Fieldsystem: Excavations at Colne Fen*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 527.

Hill, J.D., Evans, C. & Alexander, M. 1999. The Hinxton Rings – A Late Iron Age cemetery at Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, with reconsideration of northern Aylesford-Swarling distributions. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 65: 243-274.

Hillson, S., 1999. *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*. University College of London: Institute of Archaeology.

Palmer, R. 2002. *Aerial Photographic Assessment, Clay Farm*. In Dickens 2002: 23-32

Patten, R. 2004. *Bronze Age & Romano-British Activity at Eye Quarry, Peterborough: Phase 3*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report no. 633.

Graep, D.F. & Burrows, R. 2001. Growing Asparagus. *South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Extension Extra* 6009: 1-4.

Silver, I. A. 1969. The ageing of domestic animals. In D. Brothwell and E.Higgs (eds.). *Science in archaeology, 2nd edition*. 283-301. London: Thames and Hudson.

Schmid, E. 1972. *Atlas of animal bones*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Spence, C. 1990. *Archaeological Site Manual*. London: Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London.

Soil Survey of England and Wales. 1983. *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 4: Eastern England (1:250,000)*.

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Von den Driesch, A. 1976. *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1. Cambridge Mass.: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

Appendix 1

Lithics Emma Beadsmoore

A total of 245 (3819g) flints were recovered from Site 3. 60 (650g) of these are worked, 4 (39g) are worked and burnt and 181 (3130g) are just worked. The flints are listed by type and context in Table 1.

Evidence for the earliest phase of activity at the site identifiable from the flint is provided by assemblages recovered from two pits, **F.441** and **F.442** as well as material residual in later features. A Neolithic edge-used blade was amongst the mostly chronologically non-diagnostic flint recovered from **F.441**, whilst Neolithic waste flakes and single and opposed platform cores were found with unworked burnt flint in **F.442**. A tree throw, **F.381**, also yielded a single Neolithic edge used flake.

Additional evidence for Neolithic activity was provided by residual material that had been inadvertently incorporated into later features. A Neolithic core rejuvenation flake was recovered from **F.461** and Neolithic flakes from **F.326** and **F.339**. **F.380** yielded a Neolithic edge used flake, whilst a Neolithic retouched blade and core rejuvenation flake were recovered from **F.363**.

Evidence for less systematic flake production/core reduction was also recovered from Site 3. **F.301** yielded nine flints, including expediently manufactured, potentially Middle/Late Bronze Age, waste flakes. Possible Middle Bronze Age flakes were also recovered from **F.314**, whilst **F.351** yielded over 80 flints that are potentially broadly contemporary with the feature. The majority of the flints from **F.351** are chronologically non-diagnostic unworked burnt chunks; the remaining material was expediently manufactured from unprepared platforms with no obvious concern over the morphology, a characteristic of flint working from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. The remaining material from the site is chronologically non-diagnostic.

The flint recovered from Site 3 provides evidence for Neolithic activity. The material was deposited in features. Two pits and a tree throw yielded Neolithic flint working waste and tools, whilst Neolithic residual material was also recovered from several later features. Flint was also utilised in the Middle/Late Bronze Age. Several features yielded expediently manufactured flint characteristic of flint working from the Middle Bronze Age onwards.

Feature	chip/chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	core rejuvenation flake	irregular core	single platform core	opposed platform core	core fragment	core and retouched tool	end scraper	end and side scraper	edge used flake	edge used blade	miscellaneous retouched blade	unworked burnt chips/chunk	Totals
301			4	1												4	9
302	1			2													3
303																3	3
304	2		1	1												2	6
314	1		1	1													3
321																39	39
323																1	1
326			1														1
336																3	3
339			1														1
341																1	1
348			4	1													5
349						1										1	2
351	1	2	7	2					1							68	81
352			2													2	4
357																1	1
363			1	1											1	18	21
372																1	1
376																2	2
379			1													2	3
380			1			1				1			1				4
381													1				1
407			1														1
416																1	1
423											1						1
428																1	1
429																4	4
438			1														1
441			1											1		15	17
442	2		2				1	1								6	12
450			2														2
453			1														1
461			1		1												2
468												1					1
507																3	3
508																1	1
301/351																2	2
Sub totals	7	2	33	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	181	245

Table 1 – Flint types and contexts

Appendix 2

Prehistoric Pottery Matt Brudenell

114 sherds (897g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from a total of 19 contexts (mean sherd weight 7.9g). The pottery dates from the Neolithic through to the Roman conquest (Table 1). Most sherds were small and abraded, although three contexts yielded larger fragments of single vessels. Based on the total number of different rims and bases, the assemblage contained a minimum of 9 vessels. As diagnostic forms were rare, most sherds are assigned to phase on the basis of their fabrics, these having been cross referenced with the large assemblage of pottery from the near-by Addenbrooke's Hutchison Site (Evans *et al.* 2004). For the purposes of this report, sherds under 1g have not been analysed or recorded. Figures may therefore differ to those in the catalogue.

Fabrics:

F1: Very common medium-coarse moderately well sorted calcined flint.

F2: Common coarse-very coarse poorly sorted calcined flint and moderate medium quartz sand.

Q1: Common-very common fine-medium sub-angular-rounded quartz sand.

Q2: Moderate fine medium sub-angular-rounded quartz sand.

S1: Very common-abundant medium-coarse shell.

S2: Common poorly-sorted medium shell and sparse coarse-very coarse shell. Soft fabric.

G1: Moderate medium-coarse poorly-sorted grog. Soft silky texture.

G2: Moderate medium-coarse poorly-sorted grog and moderate-common fine-medium sub-angular-rounded quartz sand.

Feature	Context	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	MSW	No. vessels	Suggested date
300	3002	3	11	3.7	1	LIA (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
301	3009	11	13	1.2		Later prehistoric (c.1100 BC - 50 AD)
302	3014	2	17	8.5	1	LIA (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
303	3016	1	3	3		LIA (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
304	3018	5	29	5.8	1	Conquest period (c.40-60 AD)
321	3252	24	315	13.1	1	MBA (c. 1500-1100 BC)
335	3120	4	31	7.8	1	Conquest period c.40-60AD
338	3633	1	7	7		Later Iron Age (c.350-50AD)
341	3136	3	8	2.7	1	LIA (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
351	3332	3	6	2		LBA/EIA (c.1100-350 BC)
378	3275	1	1	1		Later prehistoric (c.1100 BC - 50 AD)
407	surface	5	37	7.4		LIA (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
425	3468	32	135	4.2	1	Conquest period c.40-60AD
425	3834	1	145	145	1	LIA (c. 50 BC-50 AD)
428	3740	2	9	4.5		Later Iron Age (c.350-50AD)
465	3604	1	1	1		Later Iron Age (c.350-50AD)
467	3754	10	96	9.6	1	Conquest period c.40-60AD
-	3300	2	11	5.5		Later Iron Age (c.350-50AD)
-	3398	3	22	7.3		Neolithic

Table 2 - The quantified prehistoric pottery.

The earliest pottery from the site was recovered from context [3398] and comprised three sherds of coarse flint-gritted Neolithic pottery (Fabric F2). The only other context to yield earlier prehistoric pottery was **F.321** [3252], which contained the complete profile of a small Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urn, decorated with an applied boss 4cm below the rounded rim (Fabric S2). The urn had a slightly

convex profile and was 16cm high with a rim and base diameter of 13cm. Around 30% of the vessel was intact and all but one of the sherds were refitted (Figure 34).

A small quantity of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) pottery was also recovered from the site. Three flint-tempered sherds (Fabric F1) were found in **F.351** context [33320]. All were small and abraded, suggesting that they could be residual. A fourth sherd of flint-tempered PDR pottery was recovered from **F.300** context [3002] (1 sherd, 1g). This is certainly residual, as it was found alongside Late Iron Age pottery.

Four contexts yielded sherds with dense sandy fabrics typical of Later Iron Age 'Plain Ware' assemblages from southern Cambridgeshire (Fabrics Q1 and Q2, dating c.350 BC-50 AD). These included a total of six handmade sherds (28g) from **F.338** context [3635], **F.428** context [3740] and **F.465** contexts [3604] and context [3300]. Other sandy wares belonging to the same ceramic tradition were recovered alongside Late Iron Age grog-tempered and shell-tempered ceramics (Fabrics G1-2, and S1); some of these displayed vertical combing on the body or rilling around the shoulder (examples from the surface of **F.407** and **F.304** context [3018]). A few of these sherds may have been wheel-turned, although in most cases this was difficult to identify because the material was so fragmented. The best example of a Late Iron Age 'Belgic' vessel came from **F.425**, context [3834]. This contained a single large fragment of cordoned-necked bowl with a rounded rim. The bowl was handmade in a dense sandy fabric (Fabric Q2) and had a rim diameter of 15cm (22% intact).

The latest prehistoric pottery from the site probably dates to the period immediately before and after the Roman Conquest *i.e.* 40-60 AD. This 'conquest period' pottery is transitional between 'classic' Late Iron Age pottery and 'true' Early Roman pre-Flavian ceramics and is sometime referred to as 'Romanizing'. The ceramics are wheel-turned and often made in hard, dense sandy fabrics (Fabric Q1). These sherds occur alongside Late Iron Age handmade material in **F.335** context [3120] and **F.304** context [3018], but occur exclusively in **F.425** context [3468] and **F.467** context [3754]. The latter feature contained 10 refitting sherds from the base of a wheel-turned bowl. This had evidently broken at the shoulder, but may have been trimmed to form a dish.

Appendix 3

Roman Pottery and Tile Katie Anderson

The site yielded 155 sherds, weighing 1471g and representing 3.02 Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs). All of the pottery was examined and details of fabric, form, decoration, usewear, EVE and (where possible) date were recorded. Pottery was recovered from 20 different features and consisted predominately of small and abraded sherds, with a small number of exceptions.



Figure 34. Reconstructed Middle Bronze Age Deveril-Rimbury urn from ditch F. 321



Figure 35. Gaulish Samian Dressel 18 bowl [3440] from F. 417

Assemblage Composition

A limited range of vessel fabrics were identified within the assemblage and for the purposes of this report it was not deemed important enough to conduct detailed fabric analysis, although it would be recommended for any further work on the assemblage. Four basic fabric groups were identified, three of which are most likely to have been locally made, while the fourth group was imported. The most commonly occurring fabric types were greywares, which consisted of 54 sherds, weighing 567g (34% of the assemblage). All of these sherds were early Roman in date. Oxidised wares were also well represented, with a total of 51 sherds weighing 308g. These sherds were dated as Late Iron Age/Early Roman. The third category comprised ‘proto-greywares’ and refers to sherds which are ‘Romanising’, in that they have characteristics which are both Late Iron Age and Roman in tradition. A small number of imported wares were noted, comprising two South Gaulish Samian vessels, both Dressel 18 forms and one of which (from F. 417), when refitted, was more than half complete (see Figure 35). Both of these vessels are early Roman in date and are the only evidence for non-local production.

Ft	No.	Wt(g)	EVEs	Date
314	2	13	0.09	LIA/ER
326	4	56	0	ER
328	1	81	0.07	Romanising
337	4	8	0	ER
348	3	13	0	Romanising
349	2	20	0	LIA/ER
370	5	22	0	ER
374	1	1	0	LIA/ER
380	5	116	0.95	ER
384	37	306	0	ER
386	1	31	0	Romanising
387	4	12	0	LIA/ER
402	5	44	0	ER
417	17	374	0.58	ER
418	6	64	0.1	Romanising
425	38	150	0	LIA/ER
426	2	28	0.23	ER
427	6	9	0	LIA/ER
438	1	27	0	Romanising
467	11	96	1	Romanising
TOTAL	155	1471	3.02	/

Table 3 – All Roman pottery by feature.

A small number of vessel forms were identified within the assemblage. Jars were the most commonly occurring, with a total of 49 sherds, weighing 605g and representing a minimum of five vessels. The forms consisted of two necked, beaded jars, one bifid rim, one everted rim and one flat, beaded rim, all of which are mid 1st century AD in date. 18 sherds from two dishes were collected, which were (as discussed above) from South Gaulish Samian Dr18 vessels. There were also single examples of a collared platter and one possible lid. Unfortunately, due to the relatively small size of the

assemblage and the condition of the sherds recovered, there is little opportunity for comparative analysis between vessel fabrics and forms.

Feature **326** contained four sherds from two contexts. The first, [3089], contained two oxidised sandy body sherds and one small rim sherd from a South Gaulish Dr18. The lower context, [3090], contained one sherd from a proto-greyware jar. This implies a slight stratigraphic sequence, although it is possible that the material is all residual, based on the small size and abraded condition of the sherds.

38 LIA/ER sherds, weighing 150g were recovered from Feature **425**. 32 of these were from a single vessel, an oxidised sandy jar. There were also three sherds from a greyware jar and a further three from a proto-greyware vessel. A different slot across this feature recovered a handmade LIA vessel, thus making the date of this feature slightly ambiguous.

Feature **384** contained 37 sherds weighing 306g, of which 36 sherds (291g) were from a single vessel, a sandy greyware jar dating to the early Roman period. The sherds were all body sherds, and although some could be refitted, they did not provide any more information about the exact form of the vessel. Within this feature there was also one further sandy greyware sherd (15g), from a separate vessel, but also dated early Roman.

Three pieces from a single tile, weighing 143g were recovered from Feature **338**. The pieces were from a box flue tile, with combing on the exterior, and are made from a coarse sandy fabric with common red iron ore. Unfortunately the tile does not allow a more precise date than 'Romano-British'; however, since all the pottery recovered was Early Roman, the date for this is almost certainly the same.

Discussion

The pottery in this assemblage was all Late Iron Age and Early Roman in date, with the two types often occurring alongside one another. Although in some cases this is a result of the stratigraphy, it seems more likely that these types of pottery are contemporary with one another, with handmade occurring alongside wheel-thrown vessels. The presence of these two types of pottery suggests an immediate post-conquest date, which it may be assumed is approximately 43-50/60AD; however, in this area of eastern England, it is possible that handmade wares and Romanising vessels were still being used until (and possibly into) the Flavian period (69-96AD).

More precise dating of the pottery is made difficult by the lack of identifiable vessel forms; however, the presence of the two South Gaulish Samian vessels is a useful tool. Interestingly, the half complete vessel from Feature 417 is not an 'early' example of a South Gaulish Dr18, since the dish has deeper sides than are normally found on the earliest examples of this vessel type (Monteil *pers comm.*). Therefore a date of 60-100AD is suggested, which may be improved upon if the stamp can be identified and paralleled. This vessel is the latest dating evidence on site and thus raises the possibility that the whole assemblage is nearer to 60-70AD in date than *c.* 40-60AD. It seems unlikely that this one vessel had been deposited years after the rest of the material on the site, especially since the evidence from the site indicates relatively short-lived occupation. Therefore, the most likely explanation is that the

Samian vessel is contemporary with the rest of the pottery, thus pushing the date of the assemblage from the immediate post conquest period to c. 50-80AD. This makes this assemblage potentially very important when considering the issues of Romanisation in the area of Cambridgeshire.

The assemblage is fairly typical of a domestic repertoire from a small rural site of this date. It is dominated by locally made coarseware vessels, with jars outnumbering other vessel forms; however, the presence of the two Samian vessels and one sherd from a probable platter does suggest the site had access to non-local vessels; the small quantity is likely to be a reflection of the function and status of the site.

A further area of this site had been previously excavated (Collins *forthcoming*), which revealed a pottery assemblage of the same date and containing the same types of material as this site. This is of course not unexpected, but it does support a view that occupation was relatively short lived.

There is a great deal of evidence from the Addenbrooke's environs, dating to the same period as this site, in particular the large Hutchinson Site located approximately 1.5km to the northeast. The Hutchinson site had evidence of an extensive settlement as well as early Roman Pottery kilns, suggesting that during this mid-late 1st century AD period, the site was thriving (Evans and Mackay 2004). It therefore makes an interesting contrast with Site 3 which, although very different in terms of size and function, was at some point occupied at the same time. The presence of the kilns makes this situation more interesting, as it is possible that the kilns were producing wares at the same time as Site was occupied (c. 50-70 AD), thus the lack of kiln products in this assemblage raises important questions about the nature of production and supply to the area as a whole.

Further evidence of LIA/ER activity in the vicinity includes a rich early Roman cremation located some 875m to the north, showing that there was some wealth in the area (Anderson in Evans *et al.* 2006). This contained three Terra Nigra vessels and three Samian vessels as well as an amphora (Anderson 2006).

While the difference in pottery between these sites is most probably due to differences in site function, the Site 3 assemblage (although small) still has an important role to play in the understanding of the site and the area as a whole during the transition from the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period. It is as part of this larger landscape that this site and assemblage are of most use.

Appendix 4

Post-medieval pottery (spot dates) Andy Hall

<301> F.305 [3024] x1 sherd 19th century willow-pattern china

<302> F.305 [3026] x2 adjoining sherds of willow-pattern china dated to the first half of the 19th century

<297> F.305 [3022] x2 abraded sherds of GRE (17th/18th century)
all from a NW-SE aligned Post-medieval field ditch

- <423> F.404 [3379] x5 sherds of abraded GRE (18th/19th century), x1 sherd of white china (19th century), x1 complete Wedgwood 'Basalt Ware' pottery jug handle (19th century) all from a SW-NE aligned Victorian drainage ditch and land drain
- <336> F.350 [3159] x2 adjoining sherds of terracotta flower pot (19th/20th century) from the top of a Post-medieval quarry pit
- <359> F.372 [3230] x2 abraded sherds of white china (first half of 19th century) from a large pit of uncertain function with a Post-medieval and 19th century fill.

Appendix 5

Metalwork Grahame Appleby

Nine pieces of metalwork (eight iron, one copper alloy) were recovered from archaeological contexts during excavation and metal detecting. With the exception of the horseshoes, and nails, the material is largely undiagnostic and unremarkable, although the pin fragment may have been part of a dress fitting of a cremated individual found at Site 3.

Copper Alloy

<561> F. 341 [3136]. Small slightly bowed fragment of rod with roughly square cross-section. Surface is pitted, possibly burnt, and the object has split irregularly along its longitudinal axis, exposing the interior metal; this has a veneer of corrosion products/salts adhered to it. Dimensions: 32mm, diameter 2mm. Possible brooch or hairpin fragment. Recovered from cremation residue. Probably Late Iron Age/Roman.

Iron

<353> F. 349 [3210]. Two refitting fragments of a narrow iron strip, slightly thicker along one edge (4mm). Corroded and delaminating. Dimensions: length 52mm, width 22mm, thickness 2-4mm, weight 11g. Possible blade. Found with two unidentifiable triangular pieces of iron with similar surface patina and corrosion (weight 5g). Recovered from feature containing early 1st century AD Roman pottery.

<552> F. 336 [3123]. One half of horseshoe, with bulges and *in situ* nails. Dimensions: length 113mm, weight 101g. Medieval or post-Medieval.

<553> F. 372 [3230]. Bowed tapering shank/fragment of a slightly corroded square cross-sectioned nail/rod. Length 53mm, weight 5g. Recovered from ditch. Post-Medieval.

<554> F. 406 [3379]. Two iron nail fragments, both heavily concreted. The longer (broken) possesses a tapering triangular head. Dimensions: length 64mm, weight 9g. Smaller nail has possesses a flat head. Dimensions: 44mm, weight 7g. Recovered from 19th century ditch.

<555> F. 413 [3440]. Spherical/tear-drop shaped iron lump, with concreted surface and evidence of a broken square cross-sectioned shaft/stem. Dimensions: diameter 17mm, weight 4g. Possibly heavily corroded nail head. Undiagnostic.

<556> F.349 [3495] Substantially complete horseshoe. The shoe is heavily concreted and delaminating. Dimensions: length 114mm, weight 217g. Found with a heavily concreted curved fragment of iron, possibly from another horseshoe (length 74mm, weight 48g), and a small heavily corroded and delaminating triangular fragment of iron (length 26mm, weight 6g). A transverse break shows this piece to originally have been a thin piece of metal *c.* 2mm thick. Horseshoes, although occasionally known from Roman contexts, did not come into common use until *c.* 1000 AD. These fragments are thus probably intrusive.

<557> F.450 [3522]. One half of a horseshoe, corroded and delaminating. Dimensions: length 122mm, weight 101g. Found with a curving thin tapering piece of concreted and delaminating iron. There are no obvious perforations for nails and thus this may be part of an agricultural implement rather than a horseshoe fragment. Dimensions: length 54mm, weight 32g. Recovered from 19th century ditch fill.

Appendix 6

Burnt stone Simon Timberlake

Sample description by feature

<371> **F.321** [3252]

Approx. 130 small pebbles or heat-fractured fragments of larger pebbles collected from the uppermost dark grey-black charcoal-rich clay silt fill of a Middle Bronze Age ditch. Over 80% of the assemblage is of non-local sandstone pebbles (including Millstone Grit and Upper Carboniferous sandstones), with another 5% of exotic limestones (mostly Lower Palaeozoic and Carboniferous Limestone), 2-3% igneous rocks, some volcanics (pyroclastic) and far-travelled metamorphics. All of these could have been collected from the terrace gravels or perhaps from local moraine deposits; however, burnt flint is conspicuous by its absence, thus a very high degree of selection of stone must have been practised. The size of the used (fractured) stone is typically within the range 25-50mm, the largest (unfractured) stone pebbles being a maximum of 70mm diameter

<371> **F.321** [3252]

Approx. 15 small pebbles or heat-fractured fragments of pebbles from above Middle Bronze Age ditch. More than 90% of these are of non-local sandstone (Triassic, Millstone Grit and Upper Carboniferous sandstones) or quartzite (Bunter) pebbles, with only a very few examples of local (but probably originally glacially transported) carstone, a very few percent being limestones (Carboniferous Limestone etc.), and a small number of igneous rocks (e.g. granite) and pyroclastic sediments (only 1-2%). Typically the two size ranges of burnt stone fragments encountered lie between 40-60mm (mean 45mm) and 10-30mm (mean 25mm), the larger size range forming more than 75% of the assemblage.

<307> **F.352** [3050]

x11 heat fractured sandstone pebbles or fragments, and one of dolerite. Original pebbles approx. 50-70mm diameter. From a pit of unknown function and date, but with otherwise little indication of burning, or even re-deposition of charcoal or burnt residues.

<293> **F.304** [3018]

Five small fragments of heat-fractured stone recovered from an orange-yellow brown sandy silt fill of a Late Iron Age trackside ditch, into which they had almost certainly been redeposited. These consist of non-local sandstone and quartzite collected from the river gravels or moraine. Between 20-50mm diameter.

<267> **F.301** [3008]

Five fragments of burnt (reddened) and sooted sandstone grit (Millstone Grit) and quartzite and one of limestone. Average 50-60mm diameter. From the fill of a large and possibly Middle Bronze Age ditch

<275> **F.301** [3009]

Two small fragments of burnt and reddened sandstone.

<344> **F.301** [3198]

Three small fragments of burnt micaceous sandstone and one broken quartzite pebble (Bunter?)

<295> **F.301** [3019]

Pinkish burnt sandstone, possibly Carboniferous or Devonian.

<414> **F.301** [3336]

Parts (x3) of a large piece of heat fractured rock with open cracks (possibly resulting from quenching in water). Rock type local to Eastern or Southern England and of Cretaceous or Jurassic origin. Up to 110mm diameter. An unevenly shaped rock, not waterworn.

<513> **F.301** [3728]

Two pieces of burnt sandstone.

<346> **F.363** [3201]

One fragment of heat-fractured fine grained quartzitic sandstone pebble. From a probable Middle Bronze Age ditch.

<421> **F.351** [3339]

Three heat-fractured but unbroken sandstone pebbles (50-70mm diameter). From fill of large LBA or possibly earlier pit.

<401> **F.351** [3334]

Two fragments of a chertified limestone pebble (possibly Lower Palaeozoic) with mould of brachiopod fossil. 35mm fragment size.

<392> **F.351** [3332] Slot 85

Pale sandstone (25mm diam).

<410> **F.351+ F.301** [3335]

One piece of fractured fine grained quartzitic sandstone pebble (60mm diameter) from same layer infill.

<405> **F.351+ F.301** [3335]

One piece of fractured fine grained quartzitic pebble (50mm diameter) from same layer infill.

<496> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3661] ditch

Some 23 pieces of heat fractured stone including several unbroken pebbles. Fragment size typically c.50mm diameter, except for unbroken pebbles (approx.100mm). About 90% of these consist of well cemented sandstones, micaceous sandstones and quartzitic sandstones, alongside one quartzite. Four pieces of dark black limestone/chert.

<493> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3659]

About 48 pieces including six large pebbles which are up to two thirds complete (90-150mm), the remainder being between 50-60mm diameter. >90% are sandstones and quartzitic sandstones, one of largest perhaps being Palaeocene/Cretaceous ('sarsen'), but possibly including Carboniferous/Devonian sandstones. Exotics include amygdaloidal basalt.

<495> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3660]

Nine large (40-70mm diameter) lumps of heat-fractured sandstone and quartzite, probably originally from pebbles or rough angular 'cobbles' up to 100mm diameter. Sandstones and quartzites include Bunter (quartzite) pebbles, orthoquartzitic gritstones, sarsens.

<495> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3660] bag 2

Some 11 fragments of sandstone and quartzite pebbles, some considerably reddened from fire, also with soot stains. Size fragments typically c.50mm diameter.

<490> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3658] ditch

31 fragments, all (approx.90%) composed of a variety of different sandstones (some metasediments, others with remains of fossils) plus a single large cobble of dolerite and three pieces of the same type of volcanic tuff. Average size about 50mm diameter.

<497> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3662] ditch

94 fragments of burnt and cracked rock, >95% of which are of sandstone with just one or two examples of Bunter pebble (quartzites). Amongst the sandstones are probable Jurassic forms, Carboniferous Millstone Grit, Coal Measures sandstones, Old Red Sandstone and possible Torridonian meta-

sandstones. Amongst other exotics is a single pebble (90mm) of andesite(?), andesitic tuff, trachyte. Typical size fraction is about 50mm.

<505> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3664] ditch

13 pieces of fire-cracked and broken rock. All of various types of sandstone, from sub-rounded to well rounded cobbles (part-broken cobble up to 90mm, but with fragments approx. 50mm).

<503> **F.351 (=F.511)** [3663]

Four pieces of cracked rock; sandstone except for one of probable andesitic tuff (perhaps Lake District origin?). Fragments (three) 50-60mm.

<507> **F.476** [3675] + [3676]

Eight small and large fragments of burnt and fire-cracked pebbles from an earlier ditch into which ditch F.351 (=F.511) had been cut (on the same alignment). All these were of sandstone except one of reddish chert.

<506> **F.476** [3674]

Two burnt sandstone pieces (largest is approx. 70mm).

<288> **F.303** [3016]

Four heat-fractured fragments of sandstone and one of white vein quartz, of average diameter 35mm. From a probable Late Iron Age ditch fill, but may be redeposited.

<328> **F.336** [3123]

One fragment of quartzitic sandstone plus one fragment of fine grained sandstone, possibly both heat-fractured. Associated within mixed-up fill of what may be a small Roman-Medieval quarry pit.

<320> **F.325** [3086]

Small heat-fractured fragment of a small pebble of coarse grained quartz grit (maybe originally Millstone Grit or else Lower Palaeozoic).

<377> **F.379** [3276] Slot 87

Some 210 fragments of heat fractured stone from the single fill of a 2m long (0.79m wide) rectangular shaped 'burnt stone pit' feature. This feature is sub-parallel to pit F.493 which is very similar. Perhaps earlier than Late Bronze Age.

Rock types consist of more than 95% non-local sandstones and quartzites, most of which are probably of Carboniferous derivation, but with some Jurassic/Cretaceous types and some Bunter Pebble quartzites. Vein quartz pebbles (Palaeozoic?) make up several percent, along with rare limestone, an Ordovician pumice tuff (N.Wales?), some weathered basalt or dolerite, granite pebbles and a single example of a hornblende rich gneiss (possibly Scottish/Scandinavian origin). Quite typical exotic erratic assemblage, but with preferential selection of sandstone lithic types.

Largest (almost complete) fractured pebbles are approx. 70mm diameter, while the average (mean) diameter of heat-fractured fragments is around 35mm. Could be interpreted as two size fractions, on average of about 35mm and 50mm diameter.

<373> **F.379** [3276] Slot 86 (1st bag)

Up to 113 fragments of heat fractured rock consisting of some 80% sandstones (Carboniferous, Devonian and Jurassic?), 15%+ quartzite (e.g. Bunter pebbles) and more exotic types including a weathered diorite, granodiorite, vein quartz and a probable Carboniferous Limestone (chert). Largest fragments are approx. 60mm, smallest are 30mm.

(2nd bag)

Approx 100 fragments of which 85% are sandstones or quartzitic sandstones, 10% are quartzites (incl. Bunter pebbles), and only the remaining 5% other, including diorite, vein quartz and Carboniferous Limestone chert. Heat fractured size fraction approx. (50mm+ diameter) about 60%, with smaller (av. 35mm diameter) 40%.

<381> **F.380** [3278]

Two pieces of rock; a micaceous quartzite pebble and a heat fractured piece of gritstone (45mm diameter) from the fill of a Roman ditch.

<388> **F.380** [3321]

Piece of brown chert. Fractured 25mm size.

<455> **F.428** [3478]

Two pieces of fire-cracked stone from fill of a probable IA ditch; both pieces of quartzitic sandstone (50-70mm).

<470> **F.434** [3574]

32 fragments of complete or near complete fire-cracked pebbles or roughly rounded glacial erratic cobbles. 95% are of sandstone (incl meta-sandstones such as possible Torridon), but with a single pebble of mica schist (Scottish origin?) and several small fragments of a Lower Palaeozoic volcanic tuff. Most appear to be of the larger size fraction (70-100mm), suggesting a limited amount of use and re-use in heating water before being discarded. From a probable Middle Bronze Age segmented ditch.

<531> **F.444** [3889]

Some 11 fragments of burnt rock, all of sandstone, and typically 30-40mm diameter. These had been rapidly backfilled into a shallow pit or tree throw, possibly during the prehistoric period.

ENVIRO. Sample NO. 89 **F.486** [3763]

116 fragments of burnt and cracked stone from charcoal-rich silt layer as fill of this probable Bronze Age 'cooking pit' The latter is connected to another oval-shaped pit F.485, with which it seems to be related, but which has little or no stone or charcoal, but more animal bone. The size fraction of stone fragment is pretty consistent (range 60-18mm), the average (mean) throughout the pit being about 30-35mm diameter, this also being the commonest visible size. The burnt stone content of the layer is about 40%, non-burnt stone about 10%. Some 50-60% of the burnt material is of sandstones, another 15-20% being quartzite pebbles (e.g. Bunter). In total, sandstones/quartzites are approx.75% of the whole. Three stones of vein quartz, some grey and red cherts, volcanic tuffs, and two pieces of flint make up the rest.

This pit probably has the most consistent size fraction of all burnt stone assemblages, and is also the most '*in situ*. looking'.

ENVIRO Sample NO.90 **F.485** [3767]

Very little large stone (>gravel size) recovered from the silt. Only two samples picked out of bulk sample, one barely burnt Also contains a completely intact sandstone pebble and one unburnt piece of flint.

Discussion

Although a variety of different lithologies are represented within the assemblage of burnt stone, sandstones and quartzites make up between 75% and 97% of the material used. Differences between features may just reflect the way these were sampled, or may reflect a more careful selection of cobble erratic types from the gravels for the purposes of cooking. Either way, it seems that sandstones were preferred. The other stones collected included some of the less common igneous rocks (dolerites, quartz porphyrys and andesites etc.), and sometimes volcanics, limestones and cherts. Flint was conspicuously avoided.

The most *in situ*. evidence for burnt stone was found within the Bronze Age 'cooking pit' **F.486** and, to a lesser extent, within the two pits **F.379** and **F.493**. Quite interestingly, an examination of both partly burnt and completely burnt assemblages suggest that the selected raw material consisted mostly of geologically re-worked pebble quartzite (Bunter pebbles) and round to sub-angular clasts of different sandstone erratics (from Eocene/Cretaceous to Precambrian age). These were most probably collected from the floodplain gravels within the immediate vicinity, the

latter possibly extracted from quarry pits, or else from quarrying within some of the large linear ditches. Typical diameters of collected cobbles seem to have been between 60mm and 120mm; on burning (and perhaps quenching in water) these produced fragments with an average size of between 40 and 60mm diameter, although there is evidence of a smaller size fraction (20-35mm) which suggests that this burnt stone may have been re-used within the cooking hearths. This smaller fraction predominates within [3763] of **F.468**, whilst much larger fractured cobbles were found within the fill of **F.493**. The presence of parallel paired burnt stone pits (**F.379** and **F.493**) is interesting, as are the linked ‘cooking pits’ **F.485** and **F.486**. Further study of the environmental evidence and the nature of the fills of these pits may yet spread some light on how they functioned.

Appendix 7

Worked stone Simon Timberlake

<467> **F.453** [3814] Slot 170 a cobble utilised as a hammer stone (crushing).

A large (140x110x80mm) and heavy (approx. 1kg) cobble of a pale coloured quartzitic sandstone used only at one end for pounding (crushing). The worked area is visible as flattened facet (60x45mm wide) which under higher magnification reveals a surface of pitting, the latter suggesting this was used to crush something with coarse sand (quartz) grains in it. Uncertain date, but possibly Bronze Age.

<308> **F.352** [3050] A small (85mm x 70mm x 35mm) sandstone pebble found (redeposited?) within the fill of a Roman quarry pit. One of the flat faces of this has been used for grinding, the slightly polished and ground surface suggesting its use as a rubbing stone, perhaps in conjunction with a small saddle-quern. Subsequently the stone appears to have been burnt, as evidenced by the bleaching and the pink to red fired patches. If the firing is related to the burnt stone pits, then the worked stone may be Middle Bronze Age or still earlier. Its lithology is of fine grained orthoquartzitic cemented sandstone, perhaps a ‘sarsen’ of basal Tertiary or Lower Cretaceous origin transported here (from Southern England) as a glacial erratic.

Appendix 8

Burnt and worked clay Simon Timberlake

<274> **F.301** [3009]

x1 fragment labelled as burnt clay but of a dark grey reduced type shelly fabric, thus possibly a fragment of unidentifiable prehistoric pottery.

Associated with animal bone, a small amount of Later Prehistoric pottery (350 BC – 50 AD), burnt stone and charcoal within the middle to upper fill of a Middle to Late Bronze Age defended enclosure ditch

<399> **F.351** [3334]

x8 small fragments of burnt clay or daub, now fairly well abraded, and of a brick-red colour.

This came from one of the upper layers of a large Middle to Late Bronze Age pit within which was found a complete red deer antler.

<540> **F.301** [3891] a surface find (after stripping of topsoil and sub-soil)

x32 fragments of a moderately well preserved poorly-fired *clay loom weight*, four fragments of which are large, with the outline of the central perforation preserved. The loom weight is a flattened bun-shape, approx. 70mm diameter and about 65mm high, with an internal perforation of about 18mm. The fabric is sandy with inclusions of grog and very occasionally sharp broken flint; the kneaded clay

would also have been made up with organic matter. The exterior (and interior) varies from a brick red to a buff colour changing to a mid to dark grey at one end indicating more reducing conditions in the firing, possibly also burning at this point. The fractured loom weight is probably two thirds complete (in terms of surviving fragments). It wasn't weighed.

This artefact is certainly typical of Early Iron Age contexts. Here it may be anything from Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in date given the later contexts of some of the infill/backfill of this re-cut Middle-Late Bronze Age ditch.

Appendix 9

Human remains (cremated bone) Natasha Dodwell

A small quantity (114g) of cremated human bone was recovered from a shallow, heavily truncated and disturbed cut, 0.13m deep (F.341). Small areas of the cut edge were red/pink in colour suggesting contact with heated material. All bone >5mm was extracted and analysed and the finer residues scanned for identifiable fragments. The bone fragments were predominantly white, indicative of high pyre temperatures, with occasional grey/black pieces. The fragments were generally small, with 72% being recovered in the 5-10mm mesh and the largest fragment measuring 32mm long. The majority of the identifiable fragments are upper and lower limb shafts but thin, gracile skull fragments and teeth were also recovered. The size/robustness of the elements suggests that these cremated remains derive from an older subadult/adult. The bone fragments were mixed with redeposited natural, charcoal fragments and burnt stones. Three small fragments of Iron Age pottery and a fragments of copper alloy ?pin were also recovered. Because of the degree of truncation and disturbance, the exact nature of the deposit is uncertain; it could be a deposit of redeposited pyre debris or a disturbed unurned or even urned burial.

Appendix 10

Animal bone Vida Rajkovaca

Introduction

An assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the Addenbrooke's Link Road site during excavations carried out in 2007. The quantity of animal bones recovered totalled 1797 fragments. Following zooarchaeological analyses of the material, this report suggests patterns of exploitation and use of both domestic and wild animals on the site. Faunal remains were hand collected: the material from bulk soil samples was not included. The majority of faunal remains were from Bronze Age contexts, with smaller a sub-set from Late Iron Age, Early Roman and Roman features. Three main sub-divisions based on chronology of the material have been created in order to study the site.

Method

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. Ageing of the assemblage employed fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969). 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, Cambridge) and the Zoology Museum, Cambridge. Measurements were according to the criteria of von den Driesch (1976). Taphonomic criteria, including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering, were also recorded when evident.

Preservation

Bone preservation was variable across different parts of the site. The bone assemblage showed very mixed overall preservation: of 75 contexts involved in the analysis, only three showed good preservation and 23 were identified as demonstrating ‘quite good’ preservation. This indicated bones with minimal or no weathering or bone damage. In contrast, 22 contexts demonstrated ‘moderate’, 19 ‘quite poor’ and only four contexts were poorly preserved. Four contexts showed mixed preservation. This equates to a total number of 1126 fragments with quite good or good preservation, compared to only 671 fragments with bone damage or signs of weathering. The material was thus very well preserved in terms of weathering, but highly fragmented.

Results

Species representation

In total 1797 fragments were analysed from the site, with 891 (50.6 %) identifiable to element and 474 (27%) further identified to species (Table 4). Of the identifiable elements the overwhelming majority were assigned to domestic mammals. Of the domesticates recovered, cattle were by far the most abundant within the context of both NISP (390 specimens) and MNI (six individual animals) (Table 4; Table 5). This was followed by ovicaprids with 71 fragments (MNI: 5) and red deer with 24 fragments (MNI: 1). Horse (NISP: 10) and pig (NISP: 8) both had MNI counts of only one individual animal. Finally, six fragments were identified as deer but not determinable to species. Deer has an MNI count of two individual animals.

Species	NISP	% NISP
Cow	390	76.6
Sheep/Goat	71	14
Red Deer	24	4.7
Horse	10	2
Pig	8	1.6
Deer/species unidentified	6	1.1
UUM	96	11 ($\Sigma=871$)
ULM	180	68 ($\Sigma=265$)
UMM	73	27.5 ($\Sigma=265$)
USM	12	4.5 ($\Sigma=265$)
UUB	2	-

Table 4 - Species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 509. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for USM, UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM).

Species	MNI	% MNI
Cow	6	37.5
Sheep/Goat	5	31.25
Red Deer	1	6.25
Horse	1	6.25
Pig	1	6.25
Deer/species unidentified	2	12.5

Table 5 - Species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

Bronze Age features (16 features, 954 fragments)

The Bronze Age phase provided the largest quantity of fragments, but not the greatest number of features. The dominant species was cattle, which is typical for the period (Table 3).

The overall preservation was quite good in terms of weathering. On the other hand, material was highly fragmented. Fragmentation has greatly affected both butchering analysis and the species identification. A large sub-set, totalling circa 2000 fragments were smaller than 5mm and therefore subject to analysis.

Species	NISP	% NISP
Cow	218	74.6
Sheep/Goat	55	18.8
Red Deer	13	4.5
Horse	1	0.4
Pig	1	0.4
Deer/species unidentified	4	1.3
UUM	101	23 ($\Sigma=438$)
ULM	116	68 ($\Sigma=224$)
UMM	84	27.5 ($\Sigma=224$)
USM	22	4.5 ($\Sigma=224$)
UUB	2	-

Table 6 -Bronze Age Species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 292. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM).

Species	MNI	% MNI
Cow	3	33.3
Sheep/Goat	3	33.3
Red Deer	1	11.1
Horse	-	-
Pig	1	11.1
Deer/species unidentified	1	11.1

Table 7 - Bronze Age species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

F. 301 (a large Middle-Late Bronze Age enclosure/defensive ditch) and **F. 351** (a related substantial Late Bronze Age pit on a Middle-Late Bronze Age alignment), provided the largest quantity of bone from this chronological phase, contributing a combined total of 736 fragments. The ditch appears to be the most substantial feature on the site and has been re-cut and quarried extensively. This is where the fragmentary portions of a single large and complete (adult) red deer antler were found lying together within one of the upper fills ([3334]; see Figures 17 & 18). In the same feature, context [3335], another antler fragment was recovered. This fragment has a slight palmate shape to it and it was hard to determine which part of the antler it represents, but with the aid of Hillson (1999:7), it appears that this fragment most likely represents the top end/crown of a mature red deer stag. Amongst the other species found in these two features are domesticates; cattle is the most abundant. The sheep/goat portion of the assemblage does not constitute a significant proportion of the overall fragment count and does not appear to have provided a significant contribution to the diet (Table 6). Horse elements were evidenced by a single loose tooth. Two fragments were identified as elements of birds, but these were not determinable to species (Table 6).

The other features/samples are rather small in size and again include cattle, sheep/goat, horse, pig and red deer. **F. 508** was a quarry pit truncated by the large Late Bronze Age pit **F. 351**, possibly indicating that any sheep/goat bones recovered in this pit derived from **F. 351**. The percentage of limb bone fragments recovered is quite small when compared to the number of loose teeth. These bones may have been modified and used as tools and are therefore more likely to be dispersed away from the site; however, due to the level of fragmentation evidenced on the site we cannot rule out the possibility that the low limb bone count is due to taphonomic processes. The individual animals fell within a wide age range from juvenile to adult and no 'senile' individuals were present.

Late Iron Age-Roman features (22 features, 742 fragments)

Cattle bones are usually second to ovicaprids on Iron Age sites; however, this is not the case on this site (Table 8; Table 9). The dominant species was once again cattle and it is worth noting that there was a proportionally large number of horse elements, probably indicating the growing importance of horse as a traction animal. The other, smaller domesticates like sheep/goat and pig are also present (Table 8).

Species	NISP	% NISP
Cow	165	81.7
Sheep/Goat	8	3.9
Red Deer	11	5.5
Horse	9	4.5
Pig	7	3.5
Deer/species unidentified	2	0.9
UUM	98	26.3 ($\Sigma=372$)
ULM	143	92.8 ($\Sigma=154$)
UMM	10	6.5 ($\Sigma=154$)
USM	1	0.7 ($\Sigma=154$)

Table 8 - Late Iron Age-Roman species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 202. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM).

Species	MNI	% MNI
Cow	2	33.3
Sheep/Goat	2	33.3
Red Deer	-	-
Horse	1	16.7
Pig	-	-
Deer/species unidentified	1	16.7

Table 9 - Late Iron Age-Roman species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

The feature which provided the largest number of fragments was **F. 465**. This was a pit dug into a series of earlier pits (**F.468 & F.469**) close to the south-west ends of ditch **F.463** (and **F.364**), and truncated by them. The cutting of F.465 appears to be the third and final phase of pitting in this area. The pit was possibly originally dug as a quarry pit for gravel, left open for a period of time (indicated by the basal slumping), then used as a refuse pit for animal bone ([3603]), followed by gradual backfilling using the surrounding natural. The feature accounted for 349 fragments. The preservation within this feature is good and most of the bones were measurable.

The predominance of cattle bone suggests that they were the most economically significant domestic animal being exploited for both meat and secondary products (milk, traction). One unfused cow radius indicates the presence of young animals on the site, suggests that animals were bred locally. Sheep would also have been used as a multipurpose animal, for wool, milk and meat. The horse fragments are slightly better represented than in the Bronze Age (Table 7; Table 8). Ageing data indicates that most domesticates were maintained into adulthood.

The high fragmentation of the assemblage has certainly affected recovery of small mammals. Therefore, it is of importance to mention an ischial fragment of pelvis (F.465/ [3603]) undeterminable to species. It can be assumed that this is a wild species of either a large rodent or a small carnivore.

As a result of the good overall preservation, a small number of bones showing signs of butchering were identified from Iron Age features. One cow radius was affected by butchering on its joint using a fine blade. The position of the cut indicates that its function was to disarticulate the body of the animal before further processing.

Post Medieval, Victorian and Modern features (4 features, 19 fragments)

It was decided to discuss these features within one group as they are more likely to differ from the prehistoric ones in terms of number and species represented (Table 10). The table below shows poor species representation.

Species	NISP	% NISP
Cow	1	100
Sheep/Goat	-	-
Red Deer	-	-
Horse	-	-
Pig	-	-
Deer/species unidentified	-	-
UUM	9	-
ULM	9	-
UMM	-	-
USM	-	-

Table 10 - Post-Medieval, Victorian and modern species frequency by NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens)

Key: USM, UMM & ULM = Unidentified Small, Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unidentified Fragment.

Species	MNI	% MNI
Cow	1	100
Sheep/Goat	-	-
Red Deer	-	-
Horse	-	-
Pig	-	-
Deer/species unidentified	-	-

Table 11 - Post-Medieval, Victorian and modern species frequency by MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals)

F. 372 is a large pit of uncertain function, possibly medieval or post-medieval in origin with the top fill containing pottery dating from the 19th century. Animal bones were all recovered in the same fill ([3230]). This fill is interpreted as being a late re-cut of an earlier possible medieval/post-medieval pit, perhaps for the purposes of adding a land drain and to level the area for farming. Only one unidentified large mammal tooth has been found in the Victorian drainage ditch **F. 406**. One cow tibia was found in **F. 491**, which is a large pit or a water hole of uncertain date and probably modern.

Conclusion

Although this was a relatively small assemblage, it holds promise for future research. Firstly, a Bronze Age assemblage with numerous bones of domesticates could be promising, if not for any other reason than for its quantity. In the case of bigger assemblages, it is possible to approach the material more thoroughly and analyse it in depth as well as give more complete answers. Secondly, the presence of red deer stag on the site creates the potential for research about the environment, geology and geography of the region.

Although the Bronze Age and Late Iron Age-Roman sub-samples are both typical assemblages, they demonstrate potential for future research in the area. In the same area (ALR07, site 1, Iron Age), an intriguing palmate antler, a possible fragment of moose (*Alces alces*) antler (*c.f.* Seetah report ALR07-site 1), was recovered. Future research should thus be more focused on the environmental aspects of zooarchaeological analyses.

Finally, it is important that future research provides material for the analysis of toothwear, metric and fusion data. Clarifying age structures and kill patterns would give us a better understanding of the use of domestic animals.

Appendix 11

Assessment of Bulk Environmental Samples Anne de Vareilles

Six bulk soil samples and two cremations were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The flots were collected in a 300µm aperture mesh and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors and scanned for the presence of archaeological plant macro-remains and mollusca. Sorting and identification of macro-remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the G. Pitt-Rivers laboratory, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for flora and Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All environmental remains are listed in Tables 12 and 13.

Preservation

The quantities of charred plant remains and molluscs varied considerably between samples. The preservation of burnt grain is average with quite a high proportion of puffed and distorted caryopses, making identification to species difficult. The blind burrowing snail *Ceciloides acicula*, intrusive rootlets and modern seeds seen in all the charred samples are indicative of bioturbation, through which macro-remains may have been lost and/or displaced.

Results and Discussion

Cooking pits **F.485** [3767] and **F.486** [3763]; Water-hole **F.489** [3784]; Quarry pit **F.335** [3120], and Ditches **F.301** [3009] and **F.454** [3500]:

Plant macro-remains

Apart from the two cooking pits the features contained very little charcoal. Two cereal grains were retrieved from **F.486**, along with two pieces of chaff which could suggest that cereal processing waste and/or grasses, reeds or sedges were used as kindling. Context [3784] of the possible watering-hole **F.489** did not contain any waterlogged seeds, although its snail assemblage is indicative of a wet environment (see below).

Mollusca

The variation in snail concentrations between samples may be a reflection of different rates of infilling or localised changes in soil chemistry. All assemblages, however, fit within a general picture of a damp, shady (for snails) though probably mostly open environment. It would appear that the ground remained moist and had a good coverage of grasses or other low meadow/grassland plants. The possible water-hole **F.489**, the quarry pit **F.335** and ditch **F.454** also contained fresh-water snails. Both juveniles and adults were found, suggesting that the species were not simply washed in but that features contained fresh water, at least seasonally. Supporting this

interpretation is a fresh-water snail that withstands drying: *Anisus leucostama*, which was the most common species in both the water-hole and the ditch. These features seemed to have remained very damp, even when the water level fell below the soil line.

Cremation **F.341** and spread of burnt animal bone **F.376**:

Surprisingly, **F.376** contained practically no charcoal. **F.341**, on the other hand, contained lots of charcoal as well as three or four cereal grains, four wild plant seeds (which may have been included along with the fire wood) and a little evidence for the burning of grass, reeds or sedges. The grains may have been an unintentional addition, along with some straw for kindling; it is difficult to explain their presence, especially as they are so few and as none were uncovered from any of the burial contexts at Site 1. The molluscs were few, but agree with the general picture of a damp environment seen from the other features.

Conclusion

Evidence for the storage and processing of cereals on site is very poor and specific functions cannot be assigned to individual features. The various labels given to features, such as 'cooking pit' or 'water-hole' must remain ambiguous.

The cremation and animal bones do not appear to have been burnt *in situ*, and it seems that each was treated differently. Whereas fuel from the pier was deposited along with the body in **F.341**, many bones but very little charcoal were recovered from **F.376**.

Unlike Site 1, where the complete absence of molluscs suggests a bare soil surface, Site 3 seems to have supported a damp grassland/meadow type of environment.

Sample number	90	89	94	86	91	61	75-79	60
Context	3767	3763	3784	3009	3500	3120	3136	3257
Feature	485	486	489	301	454	335	341	376
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Q. Pit	Cremations	
Phase/Date	B.A.?	B.A.?	B.A.?	B.A. to I.A.?		L.I.A.	Late I. Age?	
Sample volume - litres	9	5	9	5	6	8	45	15
Flot fraction examined - %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cereal Grains								
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i> - Barley grain		1					1	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – Wheat grain							1	
<i>Hordeum</i> / <i>Triticum</i> (embryo) – Wheat or Barley grain (detached embryo)				1 (1)				
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment		1					2	
Wild Plant Seeds								
<i>Rumex conglomeratus/ obtusifolius/ sanguineus</i> – Dock seeds							2	
<i>Galium aparine</i> – Cleavers seed							1	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> – Elder seed							1	
Charcoal								
>4mm	+	b	-				b	
2-4mm	+	c	+	-		-	d	
<2mm	++	d	++	a	+	+	d	-
Twig charcoal		+						
Vitrified		+		-		-	+	-
Parenchyma	-			-		-		
Culm node – grass/reed stem node		7					1	
Fragments of small roots		2					7	
Fragments of pot sherds							-	
2-4mm charred Bone fragments		+					+	
<2mm charred Bone fragments							b	
Intrusive modern seeds	P			P		P	P	P
Intrusive modern rootlets	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Table 12 – Archaeo-botanical (macroplant) remains

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-25, 'a' 25-50, 'b' 50-100, 'c' 100-500, 'd' >500 items. P = presence

Sample number	90	89	94	86	91	61	75-79	60
Context	3767	3763	3784	3009	3500	3120	3136	3257
Feature	485	486	489	301	454	335	341	376
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Q. Pit	Cremations	
Phase/Date	B.A.?	B.A.?	B.A?	B.A. to I.A.?		L.I.A.	Late I. Age?	
Sample volume – litres	9	5	9	5	6	8	45	15
Flot fraction examined - %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fresh water Mollusca								
<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> (operculum)			+ (-)		b (-)	+ (-)		
<i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i>					b			
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>			b			b		
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>			+					
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.			++		+			++
<i>Planorbarius corneus</i>			++		++	-		
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>			a		c	++		
<i>Anisus vortex</i>			+					
<i>Anisus leucostama</i>			c		d	+		-
<i>Hippeutis complanatus</i>			+		++			-
Bivalvia: <i>Pisidium</i> sp.						-		
Damp / Shade loving species								
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> / <i>minimum</i>	-	-	c	+	a	c		++
<i>Succinea</i> sp.			+			a	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> / <i>lubricella</i>	-	-	++	-	a	a	++	
<i>Columella edentula</i>	-	-				++	+	
<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i>	-	-	c	-	b	d	++	
<i>Vertigo pusilla</i>	+		+		++	c		
<i>Clausilia</i> sp.	-					++		
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-							
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> / <i>pulchella</i>	++		b		b	c	a	+
<i>Oxychilus</i> / <i>Aegopinella</i>			++			b		
Open country species								
<i>Lauria</i> / <i>Pupilla</i>			++		++			+
Catholic species								
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.					-			
<i>Helix</i> sp.					+	-		
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	++		c	-	c	c	a	+
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> –Blind burrowing snail	++	+		+	a	++	++	b

Table 13 – Molluscan (snail) remains

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-25, 'a' 25-50, 'b' 50-100, 'c' 100-500, 'd' >500 items. P = presence

Appendix 12

Radiocarbon dating Simon Timberlake

Introduction

A number of bagged charcoal samples were collected from secure contexts within features for possible radiocarbon dating. This option was sought as it soon as it

became clear that there was a dearth of pottery evidence from a site with a very large number of features. Whilst animal bone could also have been used, at least two of the features chosen for dating had little in the way of organic remains, and one contained no bone whatsoever.

Method

Samples of charcoal and charcoal-rich sediment were collected from individual contexts exposed within freshly cleaned sections. This was either collected as a block cut out of the section, or (where the thinness of suitable material dictated) as a spread within the context. The location(s) of these were first recorded and drawn on the archive sections, after which they were packed as 'bulked samples' within doubled poly-grip bags (a minimum of 200g damp charcoal-rich sediment was collected per sample). Within the Finds Prep room (CAU) the larger charcoal pieces (where visible by eye) were hand-picked using tweezers, cleaned in water, and air dried, whilst other sediments poorer in charcoal were washed through Endecott sieves with water and the residues (1-2mm fraction) scanned under a low magnification binocular microscope. The wood charcoal, carbonised plant fragments and seeds were extracted with tweezers, dried and then bottled. In view of the small sample sizes and the need for standardisation Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating technique was chosen and samples were sent to Beta Analytic in Miami, Florida, USA for analysis.

Results

Four samples were submitted for dating. These included 8g dried charcoal from amongst the burnt stone in the 'cooking pit' **F.486** [3763]; <1g of charcoal, carbonised seeds and cereal grain from a 'dark earth' filled pit **F.489** [3784] in Area B; 4g of charcoal from amongst burnt material within the backfill of a large prehistoric ditch **F.301** [3728] and 4g of charcoal hand-picked from the section of ditch **F.511** [3662]. These gave the following results:

Beta-234684 ALR07S3AF301 **3010 +/-40 BP** Cal BC 1380 to 1120 (95% prob)

Beta-234685 ALR07S3AF351 **3070 +/-40 BP** Cal BC 1420 to 1250 (95% prob)
Cal BC 1240 to 1220

Beta-234686 ALR07S3AF486 **3030 +/-40 BP** Cal BC 1410 to 1200 (95% prob)

Beta-234687 ALR07S3BF489 **3300 +/-40 BP** Cal BC 1670 to 1490 (95% prob)

Conclusions

The dates from **F.301** and **F.511** ('F.351') relate to the accumulation of burnt stone and hearth debris within the area either side of these partly open and infilled ditches, and subsequently the period of final backfill which followed the original cutting, use, and re-cut of these features. These dates thus reflect the period of use of the adjacent burnt stone and 'cooking' pits (such as **F.376**, **F.379**, **F.486**) rather than the actual date of the cutting of the ditches; however, the two events may be contemporary,

given the now firm Middle Bronze Age pottery dates from a ditch (**F.321**) on this same NE-SW ditch/ field system alignment.

The charcoal dates from **F.486**, one of a related pair of ‘cooking’ pits containing what are believed to be *in situ*. deposits relating to the function of the pit(s) rather than just to later backfill/infill, are considered to be fairly representative of the true date of this feature. The calibration range clearly places this (and by inference the other ‘burnt’ features) in the Middle Bronze Age, and also confirms the chronological relationship between this group of features and the suggested Middle Bronze Age field system which is indicated by ditches such as **F.321**. This has returned more or less exactly contemporaneous MBA (Deveril Rimbury) pottery dates.

Dispersed charcoal present within the peaty ‘dark earth’ fill of the deep pit **F.489** on the lower ground within Area B (at the far south-east end of the excavations) probably quite accurately reflects the date of its digging and the use of this group of associated pits. Indications of the rate of sedimentation and contemporary water-level suggest that these were all fairly rapidly infilled features, probably used over a short duration and infilled with material related to associated activities, for example the burnt stone from hearths. Similar isolated pit clusters, associated with water and burnt stone and found on ground close to the edges of flood plains, marshes or fens, have commonly returned Early Bronze Age dates. The calibration range suggests a date later in the Early Bronze Age, perhaps even one immediately preceding the Middle Bronze Age settlement and field enclosure just to the north-west, thus providing a rather neat picture of landscape development.

Appendix 13

Site 3 feature descriptions

F.300 The westernmost of a group of four straight NNE-SSW aligned parallel shallow ditches that helps to define the re-established course of what could be a Late Prehistoric trackway crossing the SW part of the site (Area A). The ditch can be traced over a distance of at least 60m. At the south end it either terminates adjacent to the NW corner of the enclosure ditch (**F.338/F.349**) which surrounds a series of Roman cultivation trenches, or alternatively the continuation of **F.300** to the south has been truncated away. The course of **F.300** is now difficult to detect where it crosses and then follows the earlier ditch **F.301**. **F.300** was encountered within two of the excavation slots (Slot 62 and Slot 61) where it was between 1.1m and 1.5m wide and 0.31-0.45m deep with a rounded ‘V’ to ‘U’ shaped base. Ditch cut [3000] (Slot 61)/[3251](Slot 62)) enclosed two fills: a basal orange-brown silty sand ([3001]/[3250]), and a main fill ([3002]/[3249]) consisting of a light brown silt with flint pebbles, occasional charcoal, animal bone. Some abraded sherds of dark grey pot were collected from close to the surface. Most of this was identified as being Late Iron Age (50 BC-50 AD) in date, although some clearly residual sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pot were also present.

F.301 A major NE-SW aligned ditch which can be traced for approximately 60m across the south-west portion of the site. This abuts an earlier but related SSE-NNW

aligned pit and/or ditch, **F.351**, at approximately 90° to it, the latter close to the western edge of the excavation. The ditch (in places between 2 and 3.5 m wide and up to 1m deep) is amongst the most substantial features on site and has been re-cut and extensively quarried (particularly along its western edge). As a result, the nature of the cuts and fills are complex and quite difficult to distinguish in some places from the natural. In order to determine this, as well as its relationship with the overlying ditches (Ditch Group1), slots were cut through **F.301** in 10 different places.

At its southern extremity (Slots 60 and 97) **F.301** gradually changes alignment over 10-15m to a N-S direction, giving it a curvilinear shape. At this point (Slot 60), the ditch is referred to as **F.363**, although a justification slot cut some 5m to the north of this proves this to be exactly the same feature as **F.301**. The cut ([3192]) is steep at this point (steeper on the quarried-out and irregularly hollowed west face than the east) with a flattish base. This is a very similar profile to that witnessed over most of the length of the feature, except for at its northern end (Slot 62), where no quarrying has taken place and the typical 'V' shaped cut [3003] is revealed. Within Slot 60 (**F.363**), fills [3195]-[3201] consist of lenses of re-deposited and slumped sands, silts and gravel (containing few finds) alongside more gradually accumulated loams (silts), one of which forms a darker grey-black organic soil with some peat and charcoal. Finds from these more gradually accumulated fills include burnt and cracked flint, some pieces of crude struck Middle Bronze Age flint and animal (bovid) bone and teeth. Rather similar fills were recorded in section within Slots 97 and 144. Slot 144 consisted of a half-section through **F.301** with a dark soil layer ([3728]) containing larger amounts of charcoal and dumped burnt stone (suggesting a close proximity to the site(s) of burning).

To the north of this Slot 61, cut at the widest point of the ditch, revealed a complex sequence of slump fills and washed-in sands, a ditch re-cut [3354], and the same darker grey sandy-silt loam [3019] and charcoal-rich organic loamy soil [3009] layers. The latter contained burnt stone, flint (including expediently manufactured MBA/LBA waste flakes) and a few poorly preserved sherds of grey-black coarseware pot. This has been dated to the Later Prehistoric period (1100BC-50 AD). Above this a second or third re-cut of the ditch contained a light to dark grey orange-brown sandy silt with flint, possibly the remnants of an accumulation of agricultural soil. Slot 179 revealed a heavily quarried section, again one with a complex fill ([3404] – [3421]) consisting of slumped and washed-in sediments and a series of backfilling dumps using material excavated from the ditch (perhaps originally to construct a bank along the west side). Overlying this, the equivalent dark loam or sandy silt layers ([3047] and [3048]) contained only a small amount of animal bone, and were interpreted as being slumped-in topsoil accumulating along the SE side.

Some 20m to the north of this, the section through Slot 62 revealed a somewhat similar but simpler stratigraphy to Slot 61, with a 'V' shaped re-cut [3005] infilled with dark grey sandy silt or loam [3009] from which small amounts of animal bone, some grain (charred wheat or barley) and pottery were recovered. The northern terminus of ditch **F.301** was identified within Slot 85 (and the edge of the cut defined), but not excavated. A small 'sausage-shaped' ditch (**F.509**) had in fact been added onto **F.301** as an extension of this feature; this circumvented and abutted (but did not cut) the related pit **F.351** immediately to the west. The relationship of this approximately contemporary feature (**F.509**) to the field ditch **F.403** (the latter part of

a Middle Bronze Age ditch system dated by virtue of the pottery found in **F.321**) suggests that the original cutting of **F.301** was slightly later, but in broad terms was of the same phase as this. The Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery dates and Middle Bronze Age C14 date from [3009] (3010 +/- 40yrs BP [1380-1120 Cal BC]) from the re-cut fills of **F.301** supports the idea of an early construction date (Middle-Late Bronze Age) for this large 'defensive' boundary or settlement ditch.

F.302 One of the NNE-SSW aligned shallow ditches between ditches **F.300** and **F.303**. Probably part of the same pair of trackway ditches as **F.304**, with which it is broadly parallel, and of fairly similar dimensions. Feature 302 was recognized within excavation Slots 61 (at its southern limit), 179, 62, 86, 140 + 175, yet varied greatly in width over its entire length (between 0.37m to 1.05m); however, this appeared to be consistently shallow (0.11m – 0.18m) with a gently rounded 'U-shaped' profile. The ditch cut [3013] (equivalent to [3266] in Slot 62) typically contained a single fill consisting of a yellow to brown-grey silty sand with stony inclusions [3014] ([3265] in Slot 62), but otherwise generally devoid of finds; however, some residual Neolithic pottery was recovered from [3398] in Slot 179 cut through the middle of the trackway, whilst a section through this at its northern end (Slot 140) recovered a small amount of crudely struck Middle Bronze Age type flint, some animal bone and two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery (50 BC-50 AD) [3014]. Probably therefore this was one of the trackside ditches of a possible Late Iron Age trackway. This ditch is offset slightly to the east of **F.300/ F.303**, though the exact stratigraphical relationship with the latter remains uncertain.

F.303 A NNE-SSW aligned shallow ditch, possibly one of a pair (**F.300** and **F.303**) within a sequence of braided trackways. Sections show the same feature within excavation slots 61, 179, 62 and 87. Moreover, these indicate a ditch of similar profile but greater width than **F.302**, especially towards its southern end (here 0.8 m (Slot 61) and 1.1m (Slot 62) wide), yet this runs sub-parallel to it, diverging northwards. The single ditch fill [3016] (equivalent to [3267] within Slot 62) is similar to fill [3014], **F.302**, and appears to be a naturally accumulated silt, devoid of finds except some slumped/washed-in burnt stone in Slot 87, almost certainly from the prehistoric burnt stone pit (**F.379**) which this cuts. **F.303** may cut **F.302** just north of Slot 179, though this relationship is uncertain. It also seems that this merges with ditch **F.304** south of Slot 61. The latter appears to be a reasonable indication of trackway braiding. A small amount of Late Iron Age (50 BC-50 AD) pottery was recovered from fill [3016] in Slot 62. Late Iron Age?

F.304 One of a group of four NNE-SSW aligned shallow ditches, possibly one of a pair (**F.302** and **F.304**) within a sequence of braided trackways. Of fairly consistent width (0.45m – 0.5m) and depth (0.25m) and pretty straight over its entire length, this is detectable over a greater distance (up to 70 m), and was seen in section (from south to north) within Slots 144, 61, 179, 62 and 63. With shallow but fairly steep sides and a flattened 'U' shaped profile, this contained a single fill [3018] (equivalent to [3269], [3271]. [3402]); a yellow to grey-brown sandy silt with chalk and flint gravel and pebbles devoid of finds except for a small amount of animal bone and some grey-black grog-tempered coarseware pot from [3018] (Slot 61), as well as further Late Iron Age pot, flint and burnt stone in Slot 63. The former pot has since been identified as Conquest Period (c.40-60AD), suggesting the continuation in use of at least part of this trackway into the Roman Period (if only just), the southern end presumably

having fallen out of use much earlier on following the Late Iron Age construction of the cultivation enclosure. At its southernmost end (Slot 144) four fills [3718] – [3721] consisting of fine sands, sandy gravel, and a sandy silt were recognised, at this point cut by a pit dug for gravel (**F.466**).

F.305 One of a pair of straight linear ditches (with **F.306**, 3m apart) which cross the middle of the western part of the site in a NW-SE direction from north to south. These were sampled approximately every 25m (Slots 64-67). **F.305** was the wider of the two. At the west end (Slot 64) this consisted of a cut 1.32m wide, 0.37m deep with moderately straight edges and a sharp break of slope into a slightly concave linear base [3023] containing a single fill of mixed dark grey and brown silty sand, gravel and charcoal [3022] from which fragments of clay (tobacco) pipe stem and some sherds of 17th/18th century pottery were recovered, whilst from the middle (Slot 65) and towards the east end (Slot 66) the cut [3027] was both wider (1.8m) and deeper (0.54m), the fill here consisting of a mid brown silty sand ([3024] and [3026]) with occasional pot. Amongst this was identified some 19th century willow pattern china. At its eastern end (Slot 67) the ditch edges were more disturbed, and the feature itself significantly narrower (0.85m) and shallower (0.4m). The two ditches cut both the quarry pits as well as the other groups of ditches which cross the site in a N-S direction. Probably a 17th -19th century (post-medieval) field ditch.

F.306 A much narrower (0.64-0.74m) and shallower (0.1-0.17m) ditch with straighter and much more regular, but gradual (gently) sloping sides, leading to a linear concave base [3029] (= [3033]). This contained a single fill which proved to be of a fairly uniform composition over its entire length (Slot 64 to Slot 67); a moderate mid-brown silty sand with occasional gravels from which no finds were recovered. Still lying still *in situ* within the bottom of the eastern end of the ditch were the narrow clay pipes of a field drain. The function of the ditch was thus clear, and the date of it probably 19th century. It seems likely that ditches **F.305** and **F.306** were related and perhaps contemporary.

F.307 A shallow NE-SW aligned ditch gully which cuts across the extreme W corner of the site, a short distance from the parallel ditch **F.308**. At least 15m (+) long, 0.46m wide and 0.21m deep with moderate sloping concave sides leading into a flat linear base [3038]. The southern edge of this had been partly destroyed, apparently by modern agricultural activity. The enclosed fill was of a firm mid-brown grey silty sand [3037] from which some animal bone was recovered. Uncertain dating, but on the basis of its alignment, a Middle-Late Bronze Age rather than an Iron Age date seems likely.

F.308 A shallow (0.19m deep) and narrow (0.6m wide) ditch parallel to **F.307**, and approximately 1-2m to the east of it. Partly disturbed by modern ploughing. A linear cut [3040] with moderately uneven sides breaking sharply into a concave base, the latter filled with an iron-stained mid grey silty sand [3039] devoid of finds. Sectioned by Slots 70 and 71. Within the latter, a single post-hole (**F.312**) cuts the eastern side of the ditch, close to the western edge of the excavation. Probably a naturally filled shallow ditch, the alignment of which suggests a Middle-Late Bronze Age date

F.309 A short (5m) section of a NE-SW oriented shallow (0.3m deep) and narrow (0.37m) ditch or gully which could have been subject to modern truncation, the

northern continuation of which may be **F.311**. Less than 5m to the east of **F.507** and **F.508** this appears to be on a very slightly different alignment, more or less parallel to **F.301**. The linear cut has steep concave sides and a concave base [3042], and is filled with a mid-brown grey silty sand [3041], a natural accumulation similar to that within **F.307**. Uncertain date, but the alignment suggests this is Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.310 A short (5m) surviving section of a NE-SW aligned 0.24m wide ditch which has been truncated (or perhaps a segmented ditch). This lies a short distance to the east of **F.311**, close to the western edge of the excavation. A linear cut with steep concave sides and a concave base [3048], this has been filled with a naturally accumulated grey silty sand [3047]. A gully of possible Middle-Late Bronze Age date (based only on alignment).

F.311 A 5-10m long section of ditch which appears to be a segment, though may well be one end of a truncated ditch, of which the other end is **F.309**. A linear cut [3042] with steep concave sides breaking into a linear concave base. The base rises towards a terminus at the eastern end. Contains a naturally accumulated grey brown silty sand devoid of finds. A drain or gully of uncertain date, this still appears to be on the Middle-Late Bronze Age alignment.

F.312 A sub-circular post-hole (0.3m x 0.25m) and 0.18m deep, with near vertical straight sides and a concave base filled with a moderately compact mottled pale yellow-grey clay [3049], but devoid of finds. Probably robbed out and backfilled, though of uncertain age.

F.313 One of a small group of short ditch segments of varying orientation close to the southern limit of excavation, not necessarily chronologically related. **F.313** is a 7m+ section of a NNE-SSE oriented shallow ditch (0.15m deep and 0.7-1m wide) with gently sloping sides and a rounded base [3054]. This contained a thin basal sandy silty gravel [3055] and a primary fill consisting of grey silty sand with flint pebbles, burnt flint and occasional charcoal [3056], though otherwise devoid of finds. Maybe part of a truncated ditch. Possibly prehistoric.

F.314 A 6-7m long segmented ditch on a NE-SW axial alignment (approximately similar to **F.301**); one of at least three segments (**F.314**, **F.434**, & **F.321**) heading beneath the western edge of the excavations. **F.314** was up to 1.25m wide and 0.42m deep with a 'V' shaped profile, regular sides (slightly steeper on the NW than on the SE side) and a flattish concave base. Contains two fills consisting of a dark brown grey and slightly mottled sandy silt with angular flint, chalk flecks, charcoal inclusions and mollusc (snail) remains [3052] and an overlying dark grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal. Animal bone and worked flint including flakes characteristic of the Middle Bronze Age period were recovered from both layers, and burnt stone from the top. The upper fill [3051] contained a sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pot, which it is suggested might be intrusive. The ditches were on a slightly different alignment to most others on site. Probably Middle Bronze Age.

F.315 Possible terminal (or truncated end) of a very shallow (0.07m deep and 0.8m wide) ENE-WSW aligned ditch section which lies close to the southern edge of the excavations. The ditch has gently sloping sides with an evenly rounded bottom [3057] and contains a single fill of grey-brown sandy silt devoid of finds (except for a small

amount of burnt (reddened) flint. May be related to the adjacent ditch **F.316**. Could be prehistoric, but age uncertain.

F.316 A small section (4-5m) of NNE-SSW aligned ditch extending just beyond the margins of the excavated area. Possibly curvilinear, this cuts the north side of an irregular gravel-filled tree throw. Approximately 0.6-0.7m wide and 0.23m deep, the gently rounded 'U' shaped ditch [3059] contained two fills: a compact angular flinty gravel and sand [3060] at its base, with a primary fill of grey-brown sandy silt with a small amount of burnt flint [3061]. Possibly prehistoric, although the alignment of this is more closely related to the Roman orientation.

F.317 A short and narrow (1.3m x 0.45m), yet deep (0.7m) rectangular-lozenge shaped cut. It was broadly E-W aligned, spade-cut ([3062]) and with vertical sides which tapered towards the base. The fairly loose chalky sandy silt and humic fill [3063] appeared to be fairly modern. The feature was half-sectioned and a small amount of reddened burnt flint (which was clearly re-deposited) and a single piece of red tile were recovered from the fill. The purpose of this cut could not be ascertained. Possibly post-medieval.

F.318 A small oval-shaped shallow pit (1.3 x 0.87 x 0.28m deep) with gently sloping concave sides and a gently rounded base [3069] with three fills: a compact light grey silty sand containing tiny fragments of burnt flint and charcoal [3070], a mottled orange-yellow-grey sand with gravel and flecks of charcoal [3071], and finally an upper fill consisting of a grey brown sandy silt and some burnt flint [3072]. A single piece of animal bone was recovered from [3071]. The form of the pit along with its fills have the appearance of being prehistoric, yet the dating of this remains uncertain.

F.319 One of a line of quarry pits running approximately N-S. A slot was cut through this NE-SW aligned sub-oval shaped pit (approximately 1.8m long, 2m wide and up to 0.4m deep) at its southernmost end. The total length of the pit is more than 5m. At this southern point (Section 368) the pit had shallow to moderately steep concave sides and an uneven irregular base [3066]. This cut contained five fills; these consisted of a basal layer of moderately compact mid to dark grey sandy clay with inclusions of rare small gravel [3122], a compact light to mid grey sandy clay with patches of yellow mottled sand and rare small size gravel [3096], a moderately compact mid grey silty sand, mottled yellow, with a clear basal boundary [3095], a mid grey silty sand with occasional gravels [3065], plus an uppermost fill of mid grey brown silty sand, rare gravel and with a diffuse basal boundary [3064]. At its northern end the pit cut [3191] had moderately steep and slightly concave sides with a gradual break of slope into a concave rounded base. Here the pit contained only two fills: a lower one [3190] which was the same as [3065], and an upper one [3189] similar to layer [3064]. This northern slot was considerably shallower (0.18m), whilst the elongate pit at this point was also a lot narrower (slot length 0.85m, width 1.55m). As a whole the feature appeared to be the southernmost of four intercutting pits. The quarry was worked towards its shallower end within a dipping layer of material. The infill contained layers of mixed soil and excavated spoil [3095], clay rich material slumped in from the SE side (probably as excavated spoil) [3096], the remaining fills representing a gradual infilling and silting up phase, the material becoming paler over time (from dark grey to mid brown). Probably post-medieval.

F.320 A similar (sub-oval) shaped but smaller pit (0.65m long, 1.65m wide and 0.3m deep) within the same line of quarry pits running NE-SW. The south end of this cuts the slightly earlier pit (**F.319**). The slot section here revealed a pit with moderately steep sloping concave sides a fairly clear break of slope leading into a sub-oval, slightly concave base [3068]. As with the northern end of **F.319**, this contained only two fills: a moderately compacted mid grey brown silty sand containing rare gravel [3133], this being overlain by a compact mid grey silty sand with occasional gravel and with a clear basal boundary [3067]. The pit fills appear to have accumulated naturally following the abandonment of the quarry pits. The latter seem to have been dug from south to north following a 'sought after' bed of material. Post-medieval?

F.321 Continuation of the segmented ditch sequence (with **F.314** & **F.434**); a section >7m long with a 'U' shaped profile, steeply sloping sides and a rounded base [3074] (similar to [3575]). Slot 90 sampled the south butt end; here the lower fill [3073] consisted of a light grey mottled silty sand containing stone and occasional degraded bone (the bottom was heavily bioturbated), with an upper fill [3072] of medium grey sandy silt containing stone and much animal bone. Some 5m to the north the same fills were sampled within another section (Slot 91). Here the basal layer consisted of a mid brown clay silt with stones [3253], the upper layer being a very dark grey-black clay silt with frequent burnt stone and charcoal. Quantities of animal bone plus 39 pieces of struck flint pieces characteristic of expedient MBA flint working were recovered from this along with 24 adjoining sherds of a Middle Bronze Age pot (part of a Devil Rimbury urn of which 30-40% was complete). The associated pottery sherds were found sitting upright at the interface of the middle and upper layers, suggesting that a fragmented urn had been deposited within the bottom of what appeared to be a re-cut ditch. Middle Bronze Age.

F.322 A small (0.85m long, 1.07m wide) and moderately shallow (0.35m deep) sub-rectangular shaped pit at the NE end of a line of quarry pits. In section this features moderate to steeply concave sides with a well-defined break of slope into an irregular concave base [3076]. This contained two fills: a lower fill of moderately compact mid grey clay silt with rare gravel inclusions and a sharply defined basal boundary [3077], and an upper fill consisting of a mid brownish grey clay silt with occasional lenses of gravel [3075]. Both fills appear to have accumulated naturally, the slightly mixed content of the upper one indicating a changed or mixed source of material similar to that which infills part of the more southerly pit **F.319**, perhaps reflecting surrounding surface disturbance. Post-medieval?

F.323 One of a series of intercutting pits, probably the result of quarrying, this was sub-circular in outline and fairly shallow (1.65m long, 1.2m wide and 0.36m deep) with moderate to steep sloping sides, a moderate upper and gradual basal break in slope which led into an irregular concave base [3080]. This is truncated on its south edge by **F.325**, as well as by **F.324**, and on top this is partially truncated by modern ploughing. Contains two fills: a lower layer consisting of a compact purple to grey fine sandy silt [3079] (complete with a light iron pan mottling towards its base and frequent small to medium-sized stone inclusions <40mm in diameter), and an upper layer of compact mid brown sandy silt [3078] with a distinct iron pan mottling and occasional small to medium-sized pebbles <20mm in diameter. Burnt stone, but no other finds were recovered from this layer. The upper layer was homogenous with that infilling the top of the other intercutting pits (**F.324** & **F.325**). Of uncertain date, but

may be of the same age as the group to the south (**F.386** *etc.*), thus Late Iron Age/Roman.

F.324 A poorly defined and only partially visible pit cut into the fill of **F.323** *etc.* Sub-circular, approximately 0.29m wide and 0.25m deep, a small percentage of the cut for this is visible where it has been dug into the natural 'chalky' deposit (marl layer). The pit cut has a sharp top break of slope (at surface), near vertical upper sides, a moderate break of slope leading into moderately steep lower sides, then finally a moderate basal break of slope with a flat base [3084]. The three fills consist of a slump layer, a light grey chalky silt [3083] lying up against the northern side of the pit, a basal fill [3082] consisting of a very fine dark grey purple silt with iron pan mottling towards its base, and a primary fill [3081] consisting of a mid brown silt similar if not identical to that of **F.323** [3078]. No finds were recovered. Assumed to be a quarry pit, though perhaps also intended as a rubbish pit. The exact extent of this feature was unknown. Date uncertain, but the use may be Late Iron Age/Early Roman.

F.325 A small to medium-sized oval-shaped shallow pit (1.9m long, 0.98m wide and 0.18m deep), with a well-defined though irregular cut into the underlying chalky deposit. This included moderate breaks of slope throughout, leading into an irregular concave base [3087]. The pit cuts **F.323**, and in turn is cut by **F.324** on its north and north-western edges. Contains two fills: a basal fill of compact light grey chalky silt with pronounced dumps of redeposited/ degraded chalk with a diffuse interface in between [3086], and a primary fill of brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, a slightly diffuse orange sandy mottling, and pronounced bioturbation [3085]. Some burnt stone was recovered from the basal layer, but otherwise there were no finds. A quarry pit, probably Late Iron Age to Roman.

F.326 Includes a small group of quarry pits which includes this large shallow rectangular feature (3.85m long, 2.8m wide and 0.25-0.5m deep) with gently sloping sides [3092]. Into the southern half of this a deeper, probably sub-circular/oval shaped pit had been dug [3091], the latter being up to 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep. The basal fill within both these cuts appeared to be contemporary, and consisted of a pale mid grey clay to fine smooth silt [3090]. From this a sherd of 'proto-greyware' or Romanising pot (incorporating both Late Iron Age and Roman tradition) was recovered. Above this lay a further two fills: a brown grey silty clay containing some fine gritty gravel plus some larger stone inclusions [3089], and an uppermost fill consisting of a mid brown very fine gritty silt [3088]. Some sherds of Early Roman pottery (South Gaulish Dressel 18) dating to the mid to late 1st century AD were recovered from the middle fill [3089], whilst from the surface layer [3088] came a few post-medieval finds. A single redeposited worked flint (secondary flake) of possible Neolithic date was also recovered. It seems pretty certain therefore that this quarry pit, along with the others with which it is associated, has Late Iron Age/Roman origins, and perhaps was worked through into the Early Roman period. The post-medieval disturbance close to the surface relates to its limited re-use.

F.327 A much smaller sub-rectangular shaped pit (1.7m long, 1.6m wide and 0.2m deep) which appears to be abutting **F.326**; this has gently sloping sides and a flattish base [3094]. Contains a single fill of brown grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions (flint), and similar to layer [3089] in **F.326**. No finds were recovered, but the fill and pit are probably of the same date, perhaps therefore Early Roman.

F.328 An elongate oval-shaped pit (2.65m long, 0.93m wide and 0.14m deep), aligned approximately NNE-SSW, with a well-defined cut into a 'chalky' layer, except at its eastern end, where the cut is into gravel, the latter having resulted in pronounced weathering. The pit cut [3100] has moderate breaks of slope throughout, resulting in a shallow bowl-like profile with three fills: a slump deposit consisting of mottled orange grey sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded stones (<40mm diameter) [3099], a basal fill of wind blown sand (mottled orange grey silty sand) containing some redeposited natural and chalk particles [3098], and finally, an overlying primary fill consisting of a compact fine light purplish grey silt with distinct evidence of mottling and inclusions incorporating discreet lumps of chalky natural [3097]. A single sherd of 'proto-greyware' (Romanised) pot was recovered from the basal fill of the pit. By inference, a quarry pit of very Late Iron Age/Early Roman date.

F.329 A NW-SE aligned oval-shaped and medium-sized pit (2.4m long, 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep) with square edges and fairly steep sides, with a moderate break of slope at the top and a gradual break of slope at the base, leading into a flattish and very slightly concave base. The pit contained two fills: a lower main fill of a firmly compacted mid brown grey clay silt with moderate amounts of chalk clasts, rare stones and some occasional fragments of broken shell [3102], and an upper capping layer of buried soil which consisted of a soft and loosely compacted mid brown clay silt with no inclusions or finds [3101]. One of a group of three similar and possibly intercutting features, all probably quarry pits. Appears to be truncated by later farming activity. An undated pit, but probably Late Iron Age (by association with other pits).

F.330 A medium-sized oval-shaped quarry pit similar to that above (2.7m long, 1.5m wide and 0.39m (max.) deep. With a NW-SE alignment, the feature was excavated in the south-west quadrant only. The pit had steep sides with a concave and slightly undulating base [3107], and contained three fills: a basal slump fill of a mid orange brown silty clay with chalky and stone inclusions along its western edge [3106], a lower main fill consisting of a moderately compacted mid brown grey clay silt with rare chalk and stone inclusions and a lens of yellowish-grey chalky material [3105], and an upper fill of a very fine light to mid grey clay silt with orange brown mottled patches throughout [3104]. There were no finds. Pits **F.329** and **F.330** adjoin, although they appear to be contemporary. Undated, but probably Late Iron Age.

F.331 A similar oval-shaped quarry pit with no finds. The area extent of this could not be seen, although its maximum visible depth was approximately 0.38m (excavated in the SE quadrant). The pit had moderately sloping sides and an irregular undulating base [3111]. Contained a primary slump fill of brown-grey clay silt [3110], a secondary slumping fill of orange brown clay silt along the western edge [3109], and a main fill of moderately compacted mid grey clay silt [3109]. There were no finds. Undated, but probably Late Iron Age.

F.332 A small circular pit (1.13m wide and 0.08m deep) containing a single fill and no finds, possibly a quarry pit. The cut for this was shallow with gently sloping sides [3113], the pit having a flattish but slightly undulating base. This contained a lightly compacted brown grey clay silt with occasional flecks of chalk throughout [3112], but no finds. Possibly of similar date to pits **F.329-F.331**; however, this was one of a group of seven small circular to oval shaped quarry pits located close to, and cut by,

the post-medieval ditches **F.305** and **F.306**. At least one of this group of pits (**F.335**) appears to date from the Late Iron Age. Probably Late Iron Age.

F.333 A medium-sized (1.22m diameter and 0.25m deep) circular pit, probably a quarry pit, located a few metres to the north of **F.332**, its north-eastern edge cut by the field drain ditch **F.306**. **F.333** was half sectioned. It had fairly steep sides with a moderate upper break of slope and a gradual basal break of slope into a concave bowl-shaped base [3115], the latter quite carefully cut. The fill consisted of a mottled mid brown clay silt with white and orange patches throughout. This included some rare small stones and a moderate amount of chalky inclusions [3114]. No finds were recovered. This appears to have been severely truncated by farming activity – originally this may have been much deeper. No date, but almost certainly contemporary with **F.334**, **F.335** *etc.* Probably Late Iron Age.

F.334 A medium-sized, very shallow, oval-shaped pit (approximately N-S aligned), most likely a quarry pit. The 2.3m long and 1.5m wide pit was quarter sectioned on the eastern side, the cut [3117] for this having gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope at top and bottom leading into a flattish but slightly undulating base (0.14m deep max.). The single fill consisted of a mid brown clay silt with orange mottling containing rare flecks of chalk [3116], but typically, contained no finds. Probably Late Iron Age.

F.335 A circular medium-sized pit (minimum 2.1m wide and 0.4m deep), probably a quarry pit, first sampled in its SW quadrant, then half-sectioned. The pit cut a slightly earlier quarry pit **F.382** on its north side. Pit **F.335** had near vertical sides which featured a sharp top, moderate middle, and gradual bottom break of slope, the latter leading into a slightly concave (almost flat) base [3121]. The pit contained four fills: a slump fill consisting of a mid brown orange sandy silt with occasional stone and chalky flecks [3281] along its southern edge, a lower basal fill [3120] consisting of a mid grey clay silt with occasional gravel-size stones and rare medium-size stones, chalk fleck inclusions, and frequent mollusc shells (small snails), a middle fill [3119] consisting of a mid grey brown clay silt with rare chalk flecks and small stones (plus a lens of orange redeposited natural between this and [3120]), plus an upper main fill [3118], the latter consisting of a type of buried soil common across the site – a soft, loose mid brown clay silt with occasional small stones, chalk flecks and frequent mollusc shells (small snails). The basal fill of the pit [3120] contained four small sherds of what were originally identified as Late Iron Age pot, now re-identified as Conquest Period (40-60 AD). It was believed these could have been deposited naturally during the silting up of the pit, rather than being directly backfilled. The presence of many snail shells suggests that standing water was still present after the feature had been used and abandoned for some time. Environmental samples suggest that these were freshwater species indicative of semi-permanent standing water. Most probably this was an Iron Age rather than a Roman feature.

F.336 A sub-circular to irregular shaped pit (possibly up to 5m in diameter) sampled by a single excavation slot (1.6m long, 1.3m wide and 0.27m deep). The feature is partly cut into by other pits, and itself cuts the chalky layers with a clean, well-defined edge with very little evidence of weathering. The pit cut [3125] has a moderate break of slope at the surface leading into a moderately steep slope, and then a gentle break of slope into a slightly concave base. Contains two fills: a lower fill [3124] of light

purple grey sandy silt containing frequent angular pebbles (<10mm), and an upper fill [3123] of compact light purple grey silt with infrequent sandy mottling, but frequent rounded and angular stones (<60mm). Includes some burnt stone, some pieces of struck but unworked flint (possibly of Middle Bronze Age origin) as well as fragments of iron, including part of a medieval or early post-medieval horseshoe. The pit would seem to have been dug as a quarry. The feature is post-Roman and may well be medieval or early post-medieval in date.

F.337 A shallow circular pit of approximately 2m diameter and between 0.15 and 0.2m deep located on the north-eastern edge of this pit group. The cut had gently sloping sides leading into a flat base [3128], with a small and slightly deeper hollow along the west edge in the SW corner. Cut into chalk and sandy natural. Contains two fills: a basal layer [3127] consisting of redeposited natural, a combination of sand, gravel (<80mm), and a little dark grey silt. A very loose fill, this contained a small number of chalk inclusions. The upper fill layer [3126] consisted of a dark brown grey silty sand with frequent stone inclusions (of varied sizes <80mm). A sherd of pot identified as Early Roman (type) was recovered from the above layer. Probably Early Roman in date.

F.338 Part of a large (1.6m wide by 0.3-0.4m deep) NNE-SSW ditch which changes direction after 10m (turning 90°) and follows a WNW-ESE direction for another 40-50m, a section which is later re-cut by **F.349**. These ditches enclose a parcel of land containing a number of N-S cultivation trenches located within the south-western corner of the site (Area A). **F.338** has fairly gently sloping sides: concave on the west side with a fairly sharp upper break of slope and gentle lower break of slope, a flattish-gently concave undulating base, and a steeper, slightly convex east side with a sharp lower and more gentle upper break of slope [3202]. At the south end close to the excavation's edge (Slot 60) the ditch contains three fills: a lower light brown-grey silty sand with grit and small chunks of broken and weathered flint [3203], a main fill [3204] consisting of a dark grey silt with similar amounts of weathered flint out of which came some burnt flint plus a small amount of animal bone and some bovid teeth, and an upper fill [3205] of mid grey (mottled) silts. Within sample Slot 121 cut at the change in angle of the ditch and its junction with **F.349** (a later ditch than **F.338** which cuts and then follows the course of the former), we also see the truncation of an earlier possible quarry pit (**F.464**) as well as the presence of an overlying metallated gravel surface (**F.466**), the latter feature also cut by **F.349**. At this point the cut of the ditch is quite uneven, and only the basal fill [3633], consisting of a firm mid brown-grey sandy silt with occasional angular flint gravel inclusions, is visible. A single sherd of Later Iron Age (350BC-50AD) pottery was recovered from the stamped surface of the quarry pit floor (**F.464**) which underlies this ditch fill [3633]. From its position here it was difficult to determine whether or not this came from the earlier or the later feature. Further east of Slot 121 it could not be determined whether all of the ditch and ditch fill of **F.338** has been replaced by **F.349**. Late Iron Age.

F.339 A very shallow (0.9-0.15m deep), narrow (0.33-0.36m wide), long (27m) and straight ENE-WSW ditch which cuts both the cultivation trenches and the surrounding enclosure ditches (**F.397** & **F.349**) on an unusual alignment. This consists of two separate segments: one at the far western end of the site (= **F.373**), a ditch which appears to cut the edge of **F.349** then terminate somewhere in the middle of it, and an eastern segment which terminates just beyond the north end of the cultivation trench

F.416 and eastwards beyond the limit of the enclosure boundary (**F.349**). The ditch profile is pretty similar along its length (sampled in four separate slots): ‘U’ shaped with moderate to steep sides and a rounded base, with a sharp upper and gentle lower break of slope, and a barely perceptible gradient from west to east. This contained a single fill which varied from a medium to dark grey to bluish compact silty sand with angular flint gravel, very occasional flecks of charcoal, and evidence for bioturbation [3218]/[3236]/[3576] and [3234] (Slot77, **F.373**). At its east end where **F.339** cuts **F.349**, pieces of animal bone and a struck flint (a secondary flake of Neolithic working) were recovered, though here these finds may be redeposited from the fill of the earlier trench. Elsewhere, the ditch fills appear to be devoid of finds. The ditch is probably Late Roman to post-Roman. Interpreted as being a ditch cut for drainage purposes, which naturally silted up over time.

F.340 A shallow and medium-sized sub-circular quarry pit (at least 1.5m wide, 1.2m long and 0.15m deep) sectioned by means of a NE sample quadrant. The cut for the pit consisted of a gentle sloping sides with a gradual top and bottom break of slope and a flattish base [3135]. This contained a single fill of light grey brown clay silt with moderate amounts of chalk fleck inclusions and small root-holes. No finds were recovered. Appears to be part of the same group of pits as **F.335**, and most probably contemporary, thus Late Iron Age.

F.341 The truncated remains of a cremation contained within a poorly defined cut, probably that for a small pit (0.5m long, 0.3m wide and approximately 0.13m deep). This was found within the north-western sector of the site, immediately to the west of **F.306**, a post-medieval ditch. The eastern edge of the cut [3145] has been badly truncated. The cut is shallow with gently sloping sides and a gradual break of slope. This contained a single fill of natural sand and gravel mixed with charcoal, small fragments of bone, three small sherds of hand-made pottery, and a single fragment of glass (the latter was found during surface cleaning of the feature and may have been introduced following plough disturbance). One chunk of struck but unworked flint was found. Part of a slightly bowed fragment of copper-alloy rod was recovered from the washed cremation residues. This was identified as a possible brooch or hairpin fragment. The accompanying pottery has since been identified as Late Iron Age (50 BC-50 AD), but on account of their size, it now seems unlikely that these sherds represent the remains of a cremation vessel. The cremation appears to have been deposited within a feature associated with *in situ* burning (burnt stone, charcoal and ash) which may have been located on slightly higher ground, as a result of which it has been badly damaged and dispersed. Plant macro remains recovered from this indicate cereal grains and wild plant seeds, suggesting these may have been included unintentionally alongside straw as kindling material. The lack of secure association between the pottery and the contents of the cremation means that it has not been possible to clearly distinguish between a Late Iron Age and Roman date. Provisionally this feature has been assigned to the Late Iron Age phase.

F.342 One of a cluster of small (possible) tree throws, dug to determine whether or not these features were quarry pits. An irregular oval-shaped feature, which was exceedingly shallow (1.4m long, 0.65m wide, and approximately 0.02m deep) with a slightly uneven but flat floor. A number of root holes were identified within its base. This contained a single fill, almost a surface spread, which consisted of a medium

grey mottled sandy silt with some large stone inclusions (approximately 10% > 50mm diameter) and occasional gravel. Of indeterminate date.

F.343 A very shallow oval-shaped feature, almost certainly a tree throw. This had a very irregular shape, with shallow gently sloping sides and a flattish base with root holes; approximately 0.7m long, 0.45m wide, and up to 0.06m deep [3140]. The single fill [3139] of this spread/fill was identical to [3137], the only difference being that it contained a single sherd of pottery. The pot cannot now be located, though it seems likely that this was also of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date.

F.344 A slightly larger tree throw (at least 0.9m in width but only 0.07m deep), irregular but vaguely oval in shape, and aligned NNE-SSW. This also had gently sloping sides and a flat base with a small number of root holes in its base [3142]. The single fill [3141] was once again almost identical to [3137] in **F.342**. Undated.

F.345 A larger tree throw, part of the same group of features described above, approximately 1.25m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.1m deep. This had gently sloping sides with an irregular base [3144], plus a single fill identical to [3137]. Undated.

F.346 A length of ENE-WSW aligned ditch between 10-15m long, 0.5-0.9m wide and 0.35m deep that has been sectioned (Slot 88) approximately 6m to the west of the Late Iron Age **F.300-F.304** and Middle Bronze Age **F.301** ditches, all of which this appears to cut. Towards its southern end (terminus) this cuts an earlier pit (**F.347**) along its south-east edge. The ditch has steep sides and a flat base [3147] with a single fill consisting of a mid brown sandy clay with mottled sand plus gravel inclusions with rare to moderate amounts of charcoal [3146]. From this two pieces of struck flint were recovered, but these were considered to be residual. May be late Roman or post Roman in date.

F.347 A small sub-rounded shallow pit (0.23m in diameter, 0.16m deep) with steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a concave base [3149], this containing a mid brown sandy silt with stones and flecks of charcoal [3148], but apart from that, no finds. The northern edge is truncated by ditch **F.316**. The flints recovered from the latter, however, were probably residual, thus there is no real evidence for a prehistoric date. May be late prehistoric or Roman.

F.348 A possible quarry pit just to the south of **F.328** and to the west of the tree throws **F.344** and **F.345** etc. This appears to be cutting a patch of (natural) silt. Shallow (0.19m deep) and oval-irregular shape in outline, orientated NNW-SSE and half-sectioned in this direction; this was approximately 2.1m long and 1.3m wide and had gently sloping sides and an uneven base disturbed by tree roots. The pit cut [3157] contained a single fill consisting of a medium grey mottled (with red to orange-brown patches) sandy clay with numerous (approximately 15%) stone inclusions (<80mm) which was heavily bioturbated. From this came five pieces of redeposited worked flint (4 secondary flakes and one tertiary flake) of possible Neolithic origin. The fill contained a single sherd of 'proto-greyware' or 'Romanising period' pot. The latter probably dates the quarry pit to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

F.349 A 50-60m long ditch of rather similar dimensions (1.5 – 2.07m wide and 0.3-0.46m deep) to **F.338** which forms an identical/ sub-parallel boundary to the same area of N-S cultivation trenches as **F.338**. The ditch begins some 2.5 - 3m to the east of **F.338** and follows a similar alignment (but a little closer to a N-S orientation) joining (and cutting) the latter where this changes direction. The cut of the ditch close to the western edge of the excavation (Slot 60) possesses a similar gently sloping profile to that of **F.338**, but here is less clearly 'U' shaped, with a steeper east side and a gently concave' flattish base [3206]. This contains three rather similar fills to **F.338**; a basal brown-orange gritty sandy silt with chalk fragments and round flint pebbles [3207] overlain by a light-dark grey sandy silt with broken and also burnt flint and some mollusc [3209], a yellow to light grey sandy silt with mottled dark orange-yellow lenses of sand towards the edges [3208], and finally, a dark grey more organic silt with pebbles and traces of charcoal [3210], the latter containing small amounts of bone. As this approaches the change in angle of the ditch (Slot 121), the base of ditch **F.349** becomes shallowly bilobate, with both east [3617] and west [3618] cuts, each containing thin basal fills of sediment, but with no real evidence for any substantial re-cut. Instead there appeared to be a single fill throughout: a compact mid-brown to grey sandy silt with occasional gravel and some pebbles of patinated (weathered) flint and occasional burnt flint [3616]. Finds included some 18 pieces of animal bone, a Neolithic type core rejuvenation flake and some struck flint pieces, and two sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery plus fragments of iron work. Although two of these metal fragments may be part of a blade, and thus conceivably Roman, the remaining items are horseshoes (one complete [3495] and one partial). Both these are of later (Medieval or post-medieval) type, suggesting that the position of these finds here is intrusive, perhaps associated with an animal burrow or an as yet unrecognized later quarry pit.

Eastwards of this point the continuation of **F.349** for another 35m has been sampled in ditch slots 68, 69 and 84. Here similar ditch profiles were recorded, though in places with a steeper north face and a slightly more uneven base and sides caused by slumping and bioturbation ([3155]+ [3217]) and up to five discreet fills ([3150] – [3154] + [3126]-[3127], [3129]-[3132]). The latter were interpreted as being part slump, part silting-up, and part deliberate backfill. No pottery was recovered, but there was animal bone from one of the lower (but not basal) contexts.

At its far western end ditch **F.349** cuts what appears to be the edge of the westernmost N-S cultivation trench (**F.467**). Its possible northern terminus can be seen (mostly truncated away) in the base of Slot 148. Out of the fill [3709] of **F.349** at this point came a sherd of Early Roman pot plus some animal teeth and bone. The pot was similar, however, to a beaker base recovered from trench **F.467**, thus may have been disturbed from this layer; however, the fact that the enclosure cuts **F.467** suggests that **F.349** must at least be Early Roman in date. This same ditch also cuts an earlier shallow perimeter ditch (**F.397**) inside the later enclosure; however, **F.397** may be the same as **F.467**. The dimensions of **F.397** are small (<0.5m wide and shallow), the course of at least part of it having been truncated away during machining, and most of the western edge removed during the digging of **F.349**. Ditch **F.349** is Early Roman in date.

F.350 A medium-sized oval-shaped pit (2.47m long, 1.9m wide and 0.22m deep), with steep to moderate sloping sides and an irregular bottom [3158]. For the most part

concave, the base is convex in places. The single fill [3159] consisted of a soft mid grey sandy silt with a darker band (perhaps rich in charcoal) towards the base of the north section, with a lighter grey sand on the south side, some patches of yellow sand, flint stones and gravel and a single example of burnt (degraded) stone. The only pot recovered from this was modern. This suggests a degree of modern disturbance, although the original cut and fill of the pit may be older. **F.350** truncates the Middle-Late Bronze ditch **F.421**; however, there appears to be no good dating evidence for the pit itself. Perhaps Roman or else post-medieval. A quarrying function seems most likely.

F.351 What appears to be a large roughly circular pit, sampled first by means of a small quadrant dug along its NE edge (in order to establish its relationship to **F.509**), but later sectioned across its eastern end. This revealed a semi-circular cut [3340] of fairly symmetrical outline, with a slope of between 20 and 60° (top half convex, bottom half concave), a slightly irregular (uneven surface), and a flattish to concave base. Approximately 5m wide and 1.15m deep at its eastern end, the exact dimensions of the whole feature remain uncertain (but would be at least 7m+ long). Attempts at following the edges of the pit westwards were not conclusive, thus Slot 140 into what was originally referred to as the 'ditch section' of **F.351** some 10-15m to the west of here, may well in fact be the cut of a separate feature. If, however, these are connected, then **F.351** cannot be a pit, but instead must be a much-widened terminus of an abutting SSE-NNW ditch. The pit contained a number of lower fills ([3880]-[3880] + [3339]) representing a silt build-up, probably one that accumulated at the same time as that within the other two ditches. Overlying this were a unique series of upper fills ([3876]-[3879]) plus a number of sandy silts [3332]-[3335]. The latter are also to be found covering the top of **F.509** and **F.351**, suggesting that both these features were left partially open, and then filled up together. Pieces of a single large and complete (adult) red deer antler were found lying together, presumably as placed, within one of these upper fills [3334]. From the same layers came a large amount of burnt stone and some burnt flint, nine pieces of fired clay, animal bone and a single piece of pot from [3333] and [3332]. Both of these have been dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, a date which may reflect the final abandonment of the feature or its subsequent silting up; however, the worked flint recovered from this was broadly contemporary with the Middle-Late Bronze Age. The top of this feature has been partly disturbed by modern ploughing. Probably a Late Bronze Age pit.

F.352 A small sub-rectangular shaped pit (1.8m long, 1.8m wide and 0.2m deep) with a slightly amorphous looking cut, possessing moderately steep sides with sharp upper and lower break of slope leading to a flattish, slightly uneven base [3160]. This contained a single fill which consisted of a mid to dark grey clay silt containing frequent grit but with little stone or flint gravel inclusions (<10%). Two redeposited lint flakes (secondary flakes) of possible Neolithic origin were recovered. Early Roman?

F.353 A small sub-circular to oval-shaped pit (2.1m long, 1.5m wide and 0.4-0.5m deep), part of a tight grouping of similar pits (**F.352-F.355**). Has moderately steep straight to concave sloping sides and a rounded concave base [3168]. Contained six fills, starting with a redeposited marl and sand lying within a depression in the base at the south end [3166], a basal pit fill similar to this but not as fine, and more obviously silty and gritty [3165], a lens of sandy marl-rich weathered material (possibly a slump

deposit) wedged against the south side of the pit [3167], an overlying grey clay silt with little if any stone (a waterborne silt) [3164], a mid grey clay silt with occasional flint pebbles [3163]. Finally, the uppermost fill consisted of a mid brown-grey clay silt with some orange mottling and occasional flint pebbles [3162]. This contained no finds, yet the nature of the fills suggested a pre-modern date unlike those of the other quarry pits. Possibly Early Roman.

F.354 A medium-sized shallow sub-rectangular pit (2.6m long, 2m wide and 0.2m deep) with gentle to moderate sloping, straight to slightly convex sides, leading into an irregular/ uneven to flat base. This contained a single fill of mid to dark grey fine clay silt containing some grit but very little stone [3167]. No finds were recovered, although both the form and fill of this were reminiscent of early types of quarry pit. Early Roman?

F.355 A small very shallow sub-circular pit (1.5m diameter, and 0.1-0.15m deep) with moderately steep concave sides and a well-defined basal break of slope, and irregular (convex to concave) uneven to flat base [3172]. This contained a single fill (similar to the above) consisting of a mid grey gritty clay silt with some evidence of mixing [3171]. This appeared to be the basal deposit of a very shallow truncated feature. Clearly a pre-modern quarry pit, but with no real indication of date. Perhaps Early Roman.

F.356 A 13m+ long cultivation trench cut by ditch **F.439** at its southern end. Any continuation beyond this point seems doubtful, the south terminus probably lying within the area now occupied by the ditch. Approximately 0.5 - 0.63m wide over much of its length, and between 0.07 and 0.22m deep (truncated), the feature was sampled by means of two slots (Slots 72 and 111). In general terms the trench was deeper towards the SE end, the profile changing from steep to moderately sloping sides with a gradual basal break of slope and a concave 'U' shaped base. The profile of the latter appeared quite irregular along its length. The single fill varied from a moderately compact dark brown-grey sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions and larger stones [3173] to a soft and friable light grey brown medium sand with frequent inclusions of gravel [3556]. In places this forms a rather diffuse edge with the natural. No finds were recovered. Possibly Early Roman (50-80AD).

F.357 A c.13m section of trench truncated at its southern end by ditch **F.439**. This was sampled at its mid point (Slot 73) where the ditch was approximately 0.47m wide and between 0.13 and 0.2m deep, conforming to the typically steep-sided 'U' shaped profile, though more steep to the west, with a gradual break of slope and a concave base. The fill at this point consisted of a moderately compacted uniform dark brown grey sandy clay with occasional gravel and larger stones [3175], yet devoid of finds. At its northern terminus sampled in Slot 159 (alongside the planting pit **F.517**) the ditch profile was similar, but slightly wider (0.5m) and deeper (0.3m) with near vertical sides and a slightly flatter and more rounded base. This contained three fills, the uppermost one [3175] being more or less the same as above, but here containing occasional burnt flint pebbles, a middle layer consisting of a compact light grey-yellow-orange sandy silt with gravel inclusions and ash and burnt stone [3780], and a lower layer of sand and gravel containing large round to angular flint pebbles [3781]. This lower gravel layer may have been placed intentionally to aid drainage. No finds

were recovered apart from a single piece of unworked struck flint and a bovid tooth (layer [3175]). Early Roman.

F.358 A 5-6m+ section of cultivation trench in two broken segments. In Slot 74, one end of the 0.64m wide and 0.11m deep trench was examined; there was clear evidence here of the fairly typical moderately steep sides [3178], although the base was difficult to see at the point where this cut three earlier features. The fill at this point consisted of a moderately compact dark grey sandy clay with flecks of orange sand and occasional small stones and gravel. The trench was picked up again in Slot 177. Here the trench cut [3178] was about 0.6m wide and up to 0.4m deep. This took the form of a typical steep-sided 'U' shaped ditch profile, although this widened and also shallowed significantly southwards. The fill at this point consisted of a compact medium to dark grey sandy silt (significantly more humic in nature) with occasional flint gravel and rare fragments of decomposed burnt stone and decomposed particles of red earthenware tile [3870]. The basal layer consisted of a soft and loose medium-coarse light grey to yellow sand with gravel (redeposited natural) [3871], perhaps lain for the purposes of drainage. In section, trench **F.358** can be seen to cut a fairly large planting pit (**F.362**) dug into the site of a former quarry pit (**F.506**). The latter is also cut by another silted-up pit (**F.505**) of uncertain function. No finds were recovered. Early Roman.

F.359 A 7m long cultivation trench of similar dimensions (0.4m by 0.14m deep) sampled by a single slot (Slot 75). 'U' shaped profile with steep sides, a gradual break of slope and a flat base [3180]. The depth of the feature varied across the section with the southern end being shallower than the north. Contained a single fill of compacted mid grey sandy clay with flecks of orange sand and occasional gravel. No finds. Early Roman.

F.360 A small circular pit (0.43m diameter and approximately 0.5m deep) located beneath the north end of cultivation trench **F.358**. This is heavily truncated by a series of later features: firstly by another small pit immediately to the south-east of this (**F.361**), then by a later and much larger pit (**F.362**) which cuts all the earlier features, and which then is cut itself by trench **F.358**. The pit cut [3182] has steep sides and a slightly concave rounded base with a gradual break of slope. This contains a single fill [3181] consisting of a dark brown and friable sandy clay with occasional medium-small size stones (<30mm). No finds, but by relationship this is probably Early Roman in date. Probably a planting pit.

F.361 A small circular pit (>0.5m diameter and 0.55m deep) located beneath the north end of cultivation trench **F.358**. This is truncated by another small pit (**F.360**) and then by a much larger pit **F.362**. The pit cut [3184] is defined by moderate-gradual sloping sides with a gentle bottom break of slope leading to a flattish base. This contained a single fill consisting of a moderately compacted dark brown sandy clay with occasional stones (<20mm diameter). No finds, but by relationship with the cultivation bed is probably Early Roman in date. Probably a planting pit.

F.362 A sub-circular pit (1.5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep) with irregular sides cut by the northern terminal end of cultivation trench **F.358**. The feature cut [3188] has moderately steep sides and an irregular partly stepped concave base with an asymmetric profile. The bottom of trench **F.358** truncates the base of this pit. The

single fill consists of a compact light grey to yellow (mottled) sandy silt with medium-sized flint gravel with occasionally coarser flint towards the base [3186]. The latter is similar to the fill of **F.358**, but without finds. Probably a planting pit which just pre-dates the digging of the cultivation trench. Early Roman?

F.363 (= **F.301**) See Slot 60 at south end of ditch **F.301**.

F.364 An 8m long moderately wide (0.95-1.10m) and shallow (0.13-0.24m deep) curvilinear ditch on a NNE-SSW alignment which veers off in a NW-SE direction at its narrower (0.3m wide) and much shallower rectangular northern end. At this point the end of the ditch is truncated by the southern terminus of another irregular ditch **F.481** which follows this same NW-SE alignment northwards. The feature has been sampled in two slots. The profile of the ditch cut [3194] at its southern terminus (Slot 89) is 'U' shaped, with a steeply sloping west side, sharp surface break of slope and gentle basal break of slope, with concave sides and base, and a less steep eastern side. Some 5m to the north of here at the point where **F.364** cuts pits **F.465**, **F.488** and **F.469** and ditch **F.463**, the ditch section (Slot 127) is characterised by gently sloping sides and an uneven base [3578]. The single fill within these slots consisted of a mid grey clayey [3193] to sandy silt [3579] with some gravel and rarer burnt stones and charcoal. No finds were reported. Uncertain date: this could still be pre-Roman Iron Age, or even very Early Roman in date.

F.365 An irregular shaped pit (3.23m long, 2.02m wide and 0.19m deep) with a NE-SW orientation and steep to moderately steep sloping sides, a gradual top break of slope and a sharp to imperceptible bottom break of slope, the latter developing into an uneven base, with a depression in its north-western quarter [3212]. The feature contained a single fill [3213], a soft to moderately compact mid grey sandy silt with greyish brown streaks. The fill becomes sandier towards the base. Contains occasional angular stones and flints (<40mm). The pit was truncated by a modern N-S orientated field drain. The feature shares many similarities with the adjacent pit **F.366**; however, no finds were recovered. The superficial resemblance between the two quarry pits, in contrast to the neighbouring Iron Age and Early Roman quarries, suggests a later, possibly even a post-medieval date.

F.366 A small sub-rectangular pit with irregular sides (0.66m long, 0.51m wide and 0.10m deep). The top break of slope has been modified away, the sides moderate to gently sloping, and the bottom break of slope more sharply defined. The pit has an irregular N-S orientated base [3214], whilst the single fill [3215] consists of a mid grey to mottled orange silty sand, more orange towards the base, with occasional sub-angular stones and flints (<30mm). One of a series of similar quarry pits. Post-medieval?

F.367 A smallish oval-shaped pit located just to the east of the former group of pits (1.45m long, 0.84m wide and 0.12m deep). Fairly irregular in outline, the profile of the pit revealed a gradual top break of slope, gently sloping concave sides, a gradual bottom break of slope leading to an irregular (both convex and concave) base [3221]. The pit held a single fill of soft mid-light brown grey silty clay with banded bedding, small and large stone inclusions [3220], and evidence of occasional disturbance by ploughing. No finds were recovered. Most likely a quarry pit, possibly Early Roman (see **F.370**).

F.368 A medium-sized sub-circular to oval-shaped pit (1.28m long, 0.98m wide and 0.06m deep), probably a quarry pit, and similar in many respects to **F.367**. This had a gradual top break of slope, gently sloping concave sides, and a gradual bottom break of slope leading to an irregular (convex and concave) base [3223]. Contained a single fill [3222] which was the same as [3220]. Perhaps Early Roman.

F.369 A medium-sized pit (1.6m long, 1.7m wide and 0.17m deep), sub-circular in outline, with a similar pit profile to **F.368** (**F.369** cut [3225]) and a single fill [3224]. Contemporary with **F.368** and **F.367**, perhaps Early Roman.

F.370 A large pit of very irregular shape (approximately 5.5m long, 2.2m wide and 0.28m deep) with a pit cut profile consisting of a gradual top break of slope, very gently sloping and irregular (slightly concave) sides, and a gradual bottom break of slope leading to an irregular (convex to concave) and relatively flat base [3227]. This contained a single fill [3226] identical to [3220] (**F.367**). From this came a single sherd of Early Roman pottery. The feature was interpreted as being one of a series of quarry pits of varying shallow depths, perhaps dug in consecutive sequence, with a single fill throughout. Probably Early Roman.

F.371 A smallish pit (1.03m long, 1.31m wide and 0.1m deep), irregular-oval shaped in plan, with an imperceptible top break of slope, irregular gently sloping concave sides, and a gradual bottom break of slope, the latter leading into a concave and relatively flat base [3229]. As with **F.369** and **F.370** this contained a single fill exactly the same as [3220] (**F.367**). Early Roman?

F.372 A large and very elongate WNW-ESE aligned pit with a total length of about 14m which has been sampled by means of two slots. The western terminus formed a semi-circular section in plan, 1.37m long (to end of section), 2.94m wide, and approximately 0.15m deep. The earliest cut [3233] pit profile consisted of a gradual top break of slope, stepped concave sides, a sharp bottom break of slope and a concave base. This contained the original fill; a compact mid dark brown to grey silty clay with a slightly mottled banded boundary and frequent stone inclusions [3232]. This was then re-cut by [3231]. The later cut [3231] was to some extent similar, but deeper (0.4m), and contained a secondary fill consisting of a soft mid to dark brown top soil, massively bedded, with various inclusions of stones and masonry [3230]. The latter fill contained pottery sherds dating to the first half of the 19th century, along with animal bone and other finds. This included a single piece of redeposited flint, a struck but unworked flint piece. This was interpreted as being a late re-cut of an earlier possibly medieval/post-medieval pit, perhaps for the purposes of adding a land drain and to level the area for farming. At the east end of the feature a further slot was cut. This revealed a similar section (but here rectangular in plan), with an identical cut and re-cut of the pit and similar fill contexts. Similar 19th century finds were recovered from the upper fills. Post-medieval, perhaps 19th century.

F.373 SEE **F.339**

F.374 A large sub-circular to irregular shaped pit of uncertain dimensions, but at least 1.5 m and possibly up to 6-7 m in diameter, sampled in its SE corner (Slot 84). This was located adjacent to, and truncated the edge of the enclosure ditch

F.338/F.349. The feature was interpreted as a shallow quarry pit excavated for sand and gravel. The limited sections reveal a possible oval-shaped pit up to 0.3m deep with moderately sloping straight sides, a gradual break in slope both at the base and the top, and a flattish slightly concave base [3244]. The pit contained two fills: a lower compact light blue grey silty sand [3243] with inclusions of coarser sand and occasional medium (up to 50mm diameter) angular gravel (most of this sorted towards the base of the feature), plus an upper fill of a well mixed soft friable silty sand with rare angular flint gravel (less than 1cm diameter) and a higher organic content [3242]. A small rim sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pot was recovered from this upper layer. The latter could have been redeposited within the possibly deliberately backfilled upper layer of the pit [3242], but it is also possible that the quarry does not long post-date the construction of the similarly dated cultivation enclosure (**F.349**). A suggested Early Roman date.

F.375 A large (4.75m long, 2.2m wide and 0.43m deep) sub-oval to irregular shaped pit with fairly gently sloping sides, a gradual break of slope at top and base, and a slightly concave base [3256]. This was sectioned and excavated on its eastern side. The single pit fill contained a compact mid grey-brown fine sandy silt, with patches of orange mottling throughout, rare inclusions of shell, and occasional gravel-sized stones [3255]. No finds were recovered from this. The pit may have been used for quarrying lime (marl layers within the gravel); one of these layers appears to have been re-cut into along the step which forms the northern edge of the pit. Uncertain date, but probably not a modern quarry.

F.376 An oval-shaped pit (0.75m long, 0.37m wide and 0.13m deep) located just to the south of the Middle Bronze Age/ Late Bronze Age ditch **F.511** and to the west of the Late Iron Age trackway ditch (**F.300**). This contained fragmented burnt animal bone. In section the cut [3268] consisted of moderately steep straight sides with a sharp surface and gradual basal break of slope, the latter leading into a concave base, the western end of which is a lot shallower. The cut contained a single fill consisting of a fine soft clayey silt with occasional rounded and sub-angular gravel inclusions (<50mm), frequent small (<50mm) fragments of burnt (calcined) animal bone and charcoal, some un burnt or partly burnt bone, and a number of lenses of dark brown mottled silt, some rare chalk, and some patches of yellowish sand [3257]. The fill of the pit seems to have been formed by deliberate backfilling, the pit having been dug originally as a shallow feature, following which the remains of a hearth along with the bone (either from a feast or from a pyre) were deposited within it. A dark lens within the fill may represent the remains of the burnt wood and ash. It is possible that some of this burning took place *in situ*, or else over the pit. Two pieces of struck but otherwise unworked flint piece, both typical of expedient Middle Bronze Age and later flint working were the only finds recovered. The form of this burnt deposit and the absence of any Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery perhaps suggests an earlier origin, perhaps Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.377 A medium-sized and fairly circular pit (minimum 2.2m diameter and up to 0.5m deep) which has been truncated on its NW side by the post-medieval field ditch (**F.306**). Situated within a group of probable quarry pits, most of which are of similar size and shape, and probably contemporary. The pit has moderately sloping sides with a moderate top and more gradual basal break of slope, with a very slightly concave base. [3264]. This contained five fills: a basal fill [3263] on the west side consisting of

a mixed mottled orange brown to grey sandy silt, sterile, without inclusions or finds (possibly a slump deposit), a lower middle fill of a light brown grey sandy silt [3262], a main middle fill extending to the base on the NE side which consisted of a fairly compact mid brown-grey clay silt [3261] with occasional small-medium stones and inclusions of chalk (flecks), a slump fill [3260] of light orange brown sandy silt with stones and root-holes overlying [3261] along the NE edge, and finally a main upper fill consisting of a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional stones. No finds were recovered from any of the fill contexts. The feature had been truncated by more modern farming activity, and may originally have been deeper. The quarrying may have been for lime, since the beds here are within a marly deposit. Perhaps Late Iron Age.

F.378 A large sub-oval, slightly irregular shaped (east-west aligned) pit up to 3.92m long, 1.77m wide and 0.21m deep, with gradual to steep sloping sides, a machined away top break of slope and a variable bottom break of slope, and an irregular base full of evenly distributed bumps and depressions [3273]. Within this were two fills. The lowermost was soft to moderately compacted mid grey sandy silt with occasional flints and stones (<40mm), rare charcoal and mollusc (snail) shells [3275]. The fill then becomes more sandy towards the edges, and also becomes a bit paler and more yellowish in colour. An occasional chalk rich gravel (<30mm) is also visible within this, the latter evenly distributed throughout the fill. The upper fill consists of a homogenous soft reddish brown sandy silt with rare stones and flint (<30mm), possibly the remains of a sub-soil [3274]. A single sherd of Later Prehistoric (1100 BC-50 AD) pot was recovered from the least disturbed contexts within the basal fill [3275]. **F.378** was one of several pits with an uncertain, but most probably a quarrying, use. The lower fill points towards a slow accumulation of silts deposited perhaps within standing water with vegetation; however, the upper layer is almost certainly part of a former topsoil. Once again this suggests pits left open after they had been dug and left following their disuse. A rather similar explanation has been offered for pits **F.350**, **F.365** and **F.366**, possibly all of them early quarries for lime as well as gravel. Probably Late Iron Age.

F.379 An elongated NW-SE aligned and near rectangular-shaped pit (2m long, 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep) located within the same area as pit **F.351** and ditch **F.511** and on roughly the same alignment. The cross-sectional profile of this takes the form of a wide 'U' shaped trench with gentle to moderately steep sides and a gradual top and bottom break of slope leading into a slightly concave to flattish base [3277]. This contained a single fill consisting of a light to moderately compact dark grey sandy silt containing very frequent burnt stones, much charcoal, and the occasional burnt flint. One piece of struck flint (secondary flake) was recovered, but this may be Neolithic or Bronze Age in date. The burnt and cracked stones largely consisted of sandstone with some other relatively hard rocks included. From the two slots cut to sample the pit a total of 440 fragments of burnt stone were collected (227 pieces from Slot 86 and 213 pieces from Slot 87). It remains uncertain whether this stone was burnt *in situ*, there being no evidence that this was the case; however, **F.379** lies just to the north-east of another similar sort of feature which is full of burnt stone (**F.493**), as well as to the ditches **F.301**, **F.511** and pit **F.351**, all of which have similar types of burnt stone within their fills. Those dated from their associated charcoal by C14 have all returned a Middle Bronze Age date of between 1120 and 1420 Cal BC. This suggests that a

good deal of burning/ cooking activity must have been taking place within the same general area at some point during the latter period.

F.380 A wide (1.1m) and fairly shallow (0.3-0.38m deep) WNW-ESE ditch >10m long with steep sides and a flattish-concave base ([3279] + [3323]) and a square ended stepped butt end at its eastern terminus. This contained fills of mid grey clay silt containing *c.*10% gravel and occasional charcoal ([3279] and [3322]) overlying a basal layer of weathered material. Some redeposited burnt stone and worked flint were recovered from the upper 15cm of [3322], whilst some sherds of Early Roman pot came from the ditch terminus [3279]. The worked flint included an edge used blade, a core retouch tool, core and secondary flakes of probable Neolithic origin (redeposited). An Early Roman date is suggested both by the characteristic alignment, ditch profile, and by the pottery

F.381 A probable tree-throw, up to 1m+ in diameter. This had a very uneven base and sides. The fill [3280] consisted of a moderately compacted blue grey sandy silt, within which was an area of purplish grey clay silt with frequent charcoal. The outer parts of the tree throw fill consisted of an orange grey mottled sand. A single piece of worked flint (an edge used flake of probable Neolithic date) was recovered from amongst some of the darker patches of fill, suggesting that the feature was a lot older than the quarry pits. Neolithic?

F.382 A medium-sized (at least 1.7m wide and up to 0.5m deep) circular pit, this had been truncated both on its south side by quarry pit **F.335**, and on its north side by the post-medieval field ditch **F.305**. The full extent and shape of this therefore could not be determined. Nevertheless, this appeared to have steep almost vertical sides and a fairly flattish base, similar to **F.335**. The three fills were likewise similar. These consisted of a lower basal fill of mid grey clay silt with occasional gravel and chalk inclusions [3284], a middle fill [3283] consisting of a grey-brown clay silt with small and medium stones, chalk flecks and frequent mollusc (snail) shells, and an upper fill consisting of the same buried soil – a soft mid brown clay silt with shells [3282]. No pottery was recovered, but the relationship with **F.335** indicates that this is an inter-cutting and marginally earlier quarry pit. Late Iron Age.

F.383 A small rectangular shaped pit (1.47m long, 1.02m wide and 0.18m deep) with steep sides, the top break of slope machined away, the bottom break of slope imperceptible, with a relatively flat base, sub-rectangular in outline [3288]. The fill of this consisted of a moderately compacted mid to light grey mottled orange sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded to angular stones and flint (<40mm). No finds. Probably a quarry pit dug then left open to silt up. This had been quarried into orange sand and patches of gritty lime marl. It had been truncated on its north-west corner by a modern pit. Possibly Early Roman.

F.384 The western terminus of a WNW-ESE ditch on exactly the same alignment as **F.397**, and which also respects ditches **F.402** and **F.401**, both of which must be earlier. Up to 3m of this ditch can be seen within the excavated area. A one metre long slot through this cut a metre east of the rounded terminus reveals a width of 0.46m and a depth of 0.17m, the ditch cut [3287] consisting of steeply sloping concave sides, an abrupt top break of slope and a well-defined basal break of slope leading into a slightly concave to flattish base. This contained a single fill of mid grey brown friable

silty sand with inclusions of fine chalky gravel and small-medium angular flint. This contained a significant number of snail shells plus a large amount of Early Roman pottery which was recovered from the south-western corner of the excavation slot. The latter (33 sherds) were found laid one on top of the other, apparently all part of the same broken and collapsed vessel. Probably part of an Early Roman enclosure pre-dating **F.349**.

F.385 A medium-sized oval-shaped pit (2.5m long, 1.04m wide and 0.37m deep), possibly a quarry pit. This had steep concave sides and a clear step towards the centre, with a well-defined break of slope leading into a sub-oval concave base [3296]. A further re-cut had steep concave sides, stepped to the south, and a sub-oval concave base [3292]. Contained three fills: a moderately compact mid brown clay sandy silt with a sharp basal boundary [3295] overlain by a mid grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions [3291]/[3294], and an upper fill consisting of a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional yellow sandy mottled patches and stone inclusions [3290]/[3293]. The fills appear to have accumulated slowly, except for [3295], the latter at least in part a slump deposit. The pit truncates the edge of pit **F.386** to the south. Possibly Late Iron Age/Roman in date.

F.386 A similarly sized (2.95m long, 2.1m wide and 0.26m deep) well-shaped sub-oval pit with steep concave sides and a sharp basal break of slope leading into a nearly flat base [3299]. Contains two fills: a moderately compact mid grey sandy silt with rare yellow sandy mottling and inclusions of small to medium-sized stone [3298], and an upper fill of mid brown grey silty sand with rare stones and a diffuse basal boundary [3297]. These appear to have formed gradually by silting up. The basal fill contained a single sherd of 'proto-greyware' ('Romanised period') pot and a piece of animal bone. Probably a Late Iron Age/Roman quarry pit.

F.387 Another shallow sub-oval quarry pit (3.1m long, 1.48m wide and 0.16m deep) with moderately sloping concave sides with a well-defined basal break of slope, the latter leading to an uneven sub-oval base [3302]. This truncated the edge of the pit which lay immediately to the south of it (**F.388**). **F.387** contained two fills: in the base a loosely consolidated pale yellow grey mottled sand with common small to medium-sized stone inclusions [3301], and above this a moderately compacted mid grey sandy silt with much rarer yellow sandy mottling and stones [3300]. The deposits at the base consisted of mixed 'natural' and infill, whilst the upper layer had been formed by natural accumulation. From the latter layer came a single sherd of red oxidised ware (Late Iron Age/Early Roman) pot suggesting a Phase date.

F.388 A smaller but similarly shallow sub-oval quarry pit (1.37m long, 1.31m wide and 0.1m deep) with shallow straight edges and a well-defined basal break in slope leading to an uneven sub-oval base [3304]. The pit contained a single fill of a moderately compact mid grey sandy silt with rare stone inclusions [3303], but with no finds. The northern edge appears indistinguishable from [3300], the pit evidently having been naturally silted up over time. Probably Late Iron Age/Roman in date.

F.389 A medium-sized oval-shaped pit (2.62m long, 0.75m wide and 0.3m deep) aligned roughly NW-SE, the edge of which has been heavily truncated along its south side by the post-medieval field ditch and drain (**F.305**). The pit had steep straight edges leading to a well-defined basal break of slope and a flattish sub-oval base, and

then a second step and sharp break of slope leading to a lower base some 0.08m lower [3307]. The pit contained two fills, the lower consisting of a compact dark grey sandy clayey silt with rare mottling and occasional small to medium-sized stone inclusions [3306], and above this a mid brown grey sandy silt with rare sandy mottled patches and occasional small to medium-sized stone inclusions [3305]. No finds were recovered. The more varied lower fill suggested a combination of different activities contributing to the infilling of the pit. Possibly Late Iron Age/Roman date.

F.390 Part of the same group of quarry pits, a very shallow, small to medium-sized oval-shaped pit (2m long, 1.56m wide and 0.1m deep) with gently sloping concave sides and a gradual break of slope leading to a slightly concave sub-oval base [3316]. This appeared to cut pit **F.389**. Contains a single fill consisting of a moderately compact mid grey silty sand with occasional yellow sandy mottled patches and rare small-medium-sized stone inclusions [3315]. No finds recovered. Probably a naturally and gradually infilled (silted-up) pit. Late Iron Age/Roman in date.

F.391 A shallow medium-sized quarry pit (2.95m long, 1.58m wide and 0.28 m deep), oval-shaped and aligned (alongside **F.389** and **F.390**) in an NW-SE direction. The sub-oval pit cut has shallow to moderately sloping concave sides with a gradual basal break of slope leading into a concave sub-oval base [3314]. Contains two fills: a lower moderately compacted mid grey silty sand with occasional sandy mottling and occasional small to medium-sized stone inclusions [3313], and an upper mid grey brown sandy silt, massively bedded, with occasional small-medium stone inclusions [3312]. No finds. Both fills appear to have been naturally and slowly accumulated. Late Iron Age/Roman?

F.392 A small shallow sub-rectangular shaped quarry pit (1.2m long, 0.65m wide and 0.1m deep) with gently sloping concave sides and a gradual (basal) break of slope into a concave sub-oval base [3311]. This contained a moderately compacted mid-grey brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium-sized stone inclusions [3310], but without any finds. Appears to have filled naturally and gradually with local material. Late Iron Age/Roman?

F.393 A medium-large sub-circular to oval shaped pit (approximately 2.5m diameter and 0.37m deep) with steep sides; more steeply cut on the south side than the east, with a distinct basal and sharp upper break of slope, and a slightly concave flattish base [3320]. Sampled only at one end. This contained three fills: a basal mid grey sandy silt with angular gravel inclusions and lenses of yellow sand [3319], a mid grey brown compact silty sand with occasional lenses of yellow sand and mottling throughout [3318], and an upper fill of loose mid brown silty sand with frequent mollusc (snail) shell towards its base [3317]. Both the upper two layers appear to be deliberate backfill, the basal one formed by slumping and silting up. Two pieces of modern tile within this probably the result of surface disturbance, and may have been derived from a nearby field drain. This truncates the edge of pit **F.374** which in turn cuts ditch **F.349**. Otherwise these quarry pits are fairly similar. Probably a pit post-dating the enclosure ditch **F.349**, and possibly Early Roman in date.

F.394 An irregular shaped N-S aligned sub-circular feature, part of a moderately large re-cut quarry pit, up to 2.6m long by 2.5m wide and 0.47m deep. Cut [3326] oversteps and truncates an earlier cut [3329] and fill, effectively forming a series of

conjoined circular features. Pit cut [3329] is broadly symmetrical in its profile, with moderately steep sides and a relatively sharp top and bottom break of slope leading to a rounded concave base. It contained two fills: a lower, moderately compact mid grey clay silt [3328] with slightly mottled bedding and occasional stone inclusions (which, however, had a clear basal boundary and was truncated by the re-cut [3226]), and an upper fill consisting of a compact orange grey silty clay with mottled bedding and stone inclusions [3327]. The re-cut pit [3326] was similarly shaped, and also contained a primary and secondary fill, the lower being a moderately compact light grey clay silt with variably sized stones and a sharp basal boundary, whilst the upper fill consisted of a light grey-brown mixed topsoil and silty sediment [3324], the latter with elements of massive bedding, occasional stone inclusions, plus evidence of surface plough damage. None of the fills of this re-cut pit produced any finds. The earlier quarry cut (worked for sand and gravel or marl) appears to have been backfilled with some of the material removed during its formation, whilst the later re-cut seems unlikely to have been backfilled, but instead naturally silted up with a topsoil infill resulting from the subsequent agricultural use of the land. Undated, but by virtue of shape, size and association, these are probably post-medieval.

F.395 A medium-sized quarry pit (2.32m long, 2.04m wide and 0.34m deep) with a circular though slightly irregular outline and slightly stepped concave sides, the latter moderately steeply sloping with a sharp top and bottom break of slope and a concave base [3331]. The single pit fill consisted of a moderately compact light brownish grey clay silt with massive bedding, moderate amounts of stone inclusions, and some evidence for plough truncation. This shows certain similarities with the upper fill of the re-cut pit **F.394**. Although there were no finds or other sorts of dating evidence, the proximity to **F.394** suggests a generic link between the two. Post-medieval?

F.396 A c.25m long ditch, the probable northward continuation of **F.463** which cuts ditches **F.425**, **F.410** and **F.460**, and which is itself a re-cut of ditch **F.429** of which only a short length (approximately 3.5m) survives. **F.396** is also truncated by ditch **F.424** at its northern end (Slot 181). At its southern butt end the ditch has a wide (0.85m) almost symmetrical 'U' shaped section [3348] approximately 0.2m deep with a massive single fill consisting of a mid grey sandy silt with occasional stones [3347]. Some 5m further north (Slot 186) the ditch possessed moderately sloping (east) to steeply sloping (west) concave sides which merged gradually with an uneven concave base [3463]. This contained two fills, a compact mid grey silty sand with occasional stones [3462] which overlies a compact grey brown silty sand [3498], both naturally accumulated and completely devoid of any finds. At this point it seemed that the ditch could have been a re-cut for the earlier and altogether much smaller ditch (**F.429**) which lay on its west side and roughly upon the same alignment. A series of ditch sections through **F.396**, **F.424** and **F.360** are recorded within Slot 181. At this point **F.396** is a wide 'U' shaped ditch 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping concave sides and a flattish base ([3692] + [3700]) and a fill of compact light grey silty sand with occasional stone ([3691] + [3699]), but no finds. A short distance to the south Slot 184 revealed a similar wide 'U' shaped ditch with a flat concave bottom [3749] and a similar type of fill [3748]. At this point **F.396** cuts what appears to be a large ancient tree throw (no feature number), a feature which also pre-dates ditch **425**. Ditch **F.396** is of uncertain date. Whilst this appears to be later than ditches **F.410** (Middle Bronze Age?) and **F.425** (Late Iron Age), it is still much closer to the axial

alignment of the Late Iron Age 'trackway' (Ditch Group 1) than it is to the Roman field system.

F.397 A narrow and quite shallow ditch (much truncated) which encloses the area of N-S cultivation trenches, and apparently the earlier enclosure boundary which pre-dates **F.349** and **F.338**. Almost completely truncated away on its western side by ditch **F.349**. Here it approximately follows the line of the latter ditch and could even be a continuation of the same feature as the similarly truncated cultivation trench **F.467**. **F.397** is first recognized on the east side of Slot 60, then is picked up in the judgemental Slot 158 just to the north of this. Here the ditch is only 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep, with straight to steep concave sides and a rounded/ flattish concave base [3758]. The fill is of a compact light grey to yellow silty sand [3759] overlying a layer of clay silt or redeposited natural [3760]. The ditch was changing direction at this point, and almost immediately it is truncated away, its absence between here and Slot 79 perhaps a result of excessive machining, the course of it marked only by a few surviving patches of grey silt. The ditch is marginally wider (0.67m) but still shallow (0.15m) at this point (Slot 79), thereafter it continues as a well-defined linear feature on a WNW-ESE alignment to a terminus upon one segment at Slot 117; however, the same feature may continue beyond this as **F.384**, the western terminus of which is to be found 1-2 metres east of **F.402** (in which case the total ditch length would be over 35m). No finds were recovered. Appears to be an earlier enclosure ditch or boundary, either Late Iron Age-Roman or else Early Roman in date; the pottery dates for **F.384** favour the latter.

F.398 An elongate oval segmented linear feature approximately 0.7-0.8m wide. Possibly part of a re-cut of ditch **F.400** at its northern end, yet shallower (0.15-0.18m deep) than the latter and detectable over a distance of only a few metres. Contains a mixed light to mid-brown grey sandy silt with occasional stones [3343]. No finds. Probably of similar date to **F.400**. Early Roman?

F.399 A small shallow circular pit (0.83m wide and 0.2m deep) with moderately sloping sides and a gently concave base [3346] which contains a single fill of light brown grey sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions [3345]. This is cut by **F.400** on its western side, whilst **F.398** also probably ends within this same feature (as it cannot be seen in section). No finds were recovered. Probably of similar date to **F.400**.

F.400 A ditch traceable for at least 70m across the middle part of the site (Area A), possibly truncated away at its southern end. The ditch lies in the lowest and dampest part of the site and coincides with a number of sub-parallel post-medieval (19th century) field drains. This suggests that it may also have been dug originally as a drainage ditch. A 'U' shaped ditch 0.7-0.9m wide and up to 0.35m deep with fairly steep sides and a slightly concave base ([3374] + [3378]) and up to three fills consisting of soft mid orange-brown to grey sandy silts with only a small amount of stone ([3371] – [3377]). Has a well-defined southern terminus. Sectioned in three slots, the feature produced no finds, yet appears to conform with the Early Roman alignment.

F.401/ F.415 An ENE-WSW aligned ditch in two separate segments (**F.401**- 10m long; **F.415**- 7m+ long) separated by a gap of little more than a metre. The outline of the ditch is linear to curvilinear in plan and is of variable width (0.7 – 1.05m wide)

and depth (0.05 – 0.35m deep). The typical profile in section consists of irregular but moderately sloping sides, a sharp upper and more gradual lower break of slope, and a flattish bottom [3357]/ [3390]/ [3447], the latter being uneven in places due to plough disturbance. The shape of the most obvious ditch terminus [3445] (**F.401**, Slot 103) was recognisably square-ended. The ditch fill(s) varied from single to triple fills ranging from a mottled mid orange to grey to light brown fine sand and gravel [3356]/ [3387], a coarse grey-brown sand and gravel [3388], then finally a layer of coarse pebbles and sandy gravel [3389]. At its southern extremity, **F.415** contained a single fill of soft light brown-grey fine sand with frequent angular gravel inclusions [3446]. No finds were recovered. The ditch fill(s) appeared to consist of slumped-in material and natural silt accumulated over time. The feature cuts the cultivation trench **F.419**, **F.402** and **F.338**. Perhaps Late Roman or post-Roman in date, dug at the same time and for similar reasons as **F.339**.

F.402 A short length (<5m) of NNE-SSW aligned ditch (visible within excavated area) which meets ditch **F.349/F.388** at approximately 90° and partially truncates it. Sampled in two slots, the linear ditch was between 0.9 and 1.1m wide and 0.33-0.35m deep with a steep-sided ‘U’ shaped profile close to the junction with **F.349** [3359] which then changed to a ‘V’ shaped profile [3365] southwards. Contained a single fill which varied from a light to dark grey sand and gravel, some of this quite disturbed by ploughing. Six sherds of Early Roman pottery were recovered from the less disturbed base of the ditch fill [3364] (Slot 92). Almost certainly a ditch dug contemporary with (but slightly later) than the later enclosure **F.349**. This may have been constructed to enable the partition of two different areas of cultivation trenches. Early Roman.

F.403 A 6m long segment of narrow north-south ditch (possibly the northward continuation of ditches **F.420/F.421**) which is truncated at its north end by the ‘sausage ditch’ **F.509** (possibly a Middle-Late Bronze Age feature) which in turn cuts ditch **F.301** and the large pit **F.351**. The rapid disappearance of ditch **F.403** southwards may in part be a result of modern truncation (machined away during excavation). A 0.5m long slot cut through this ditch just to the south of the point of its northern truncation revealed a shallow (0.07m deep) ditch 0.27m wide with very gradual sloping sides and a slightly concave base [3363]. It seems likely that most of the upper part of the ditch had been truncated by ploughing and machining. The single fill consisted of a moderately compact mid brown grey silty sand with patches of orange mottling and occasional small stones (but no finds). Despite the absence of pottery, the latest date for this based on its relationship with the other features would place this in the Middle to Late Bronze Age; however, based on its relationship with **F.509**, a Middle Bronze Age date seems possible.

F.404 A shallow, wide sub-circular pit (approximately 1.99m diameter and 0.2m (max.) deep) with a moderately steep slope to the west, more gently sloping to the east, with a moderate upper break of slope (west), gentle (on the east), with a gentle basal break of slope and a slightly concave base [3367]. This contained a single fill of lightly compacted, fine mid brown grey sandy silt with some patches of orange mottling, gravel sized stones and rare chalk flecks [3366], but without finds. Whilst this might be a tree throw, the lack of roots suggests otherwise. Possibly the result of quarrying. This might be cut by pit **F.405** along its south-western side. Uncertain date.

F.405 An elongated oval-shaped pit approximately 3.5m long, 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately sloping sides and with a gentle break of slope top and bottom, and a slightly concave base [3370]. This contained two fills consisting of a lower mid to dark brown-grey soft fine sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions [3369], and an upper fill of soft to lightly compact yellow-grey fine sandy silt with occasional gravel [3368]. Finds were absent from both layers. The pit cuts **F.404** along its north corner. Uncertain date and function, but this may be the result of quarrying. Uncertain date.

F.406 A 40m long straight section of 'modern' NE-SW aligned ditch complete with clay drainage pipes in its base. The ditch profile is 'U' shaped with a lip along its northern edge, on which side it was also slightly undercut [3381]. This contained two fills: a medium purple brown silty clay with occasional stone [3380], and a re-cut of the same ditch with an orange-brown sandy clay with frequent stones and evidence of bioturbation [3379]. This contained the *in situ* fragments of 19th century clay tobacco pipe plus pieces of brick and iron nails and a 19th century Wedgwood 'basalt ware' pottery handle. At its south end this cut ditch **F.488** (Slot 95), whilst further east it bisects ditch **F.438/F.435**. Victorian.

F.407 A 40m long ENE-WSW ditch on approximately the same alignment as **F.488**, but not connected to it. Instead this curves to the north at its western end beneath the ditch junction of **F.488** and **F.438**, almost opposite and alongside the change of direction of **F.488**. Effectively this forms a mirror image to the latter, but instead the northerly projection of this (adjacent to the western side of **F.438**) terminates after just a few metres. It is cut by, and therefore pre-dates, **F.438**. Of slightly variable width (0.7 – 1.25m), but of shallow depth (0.22-0.25m deep), **F.407** has gently sloping sides and a concave but undulating base along most of its length ([3541]/ [3543]/ [3777]). Sampled within 3 slots (Slot 122/ 123/ 138). The ditch segment within the middle (Slot 123) is re-cut along its northern side [3545]. The single fill consisted of a soft mid grey-brown sandy silt with patches of yellow mottled sand, occasional flint gravel and rare chalk ([3540]/ [3542]/ [3736]). Some worked flint (a secondary flake) plus 14 sherds of Late Iron Age (50 BC-50 AD) pottery and some animal bone were recovered as surface finds along the outcrop of the ditch. Late Iron Age/Roman.

F.408 An irregular shaped sub-rectangular pit (approximately 2.5m long by 1.5m wide) located at the north end of the site just to the west of ditch **F.396**. This had a vaguely 'U' shaped cross-sectional profile consisting of a moderately steep concave slope to the south-west and a stepped convex slope to the north-east, the latter with a sharp basal break of slope leading to a slightly concave flattish base with a more gradual break of slope returning on the south-west [3386]. Contained two fills: a basal massively bedded fill of dark grey sandy silt with occasional gravel [3385], and an upper fill consisting of a mottled sandy silt with occasional gravel [3384]. No finds were recovered and no date for this has been suggested. During excavation this was referred to as being a pit of 'unidentified function', although it seems possible based on its profile that this is a quarry pit. Undated.

F.409 A very large pit located at the westernmost end of this southern group of quarry pits, immediately to the west of **F.319** and **F.320**. Similarly this is broadly aligned in a NE-SW direction and is irregular to oval in shape, and has been sampled from the west side by a 2m wide slot some 3.5m long. The actual dimensions of the pit based on its determined edges suggests a feature >10m long and 7.5m wide. The

section itself indicates a shallow (0.15m deep) cut with near vertical sides and an imperceptible top and sharp bottom break of slope with a relatively flat concave base [3397]. Only one fill was detected. This consisted of a friable yellowish brown fine sand, massively bedded, with a moderately frequent assortment of differently sized stone inclusions, and a well-defined basal boundary [3396]. Up to 10% of the feature was sampled, but no finds were recovered. This would appear to be a quarry pit dug to strip off a much shallower layer of material in this area; however, there appears to be no obvious discernable pattern to the pit(s), and no clear indication of possible date. The top of the feature had been lightly truncated by ploughing. Probably post-medieval.

F.410 An approximately 5m long segment of ditch which extends eastwards beyond the NW edge of the excavations. This is on a similar NW-SE alignment exactly parallel to ditches **F.420/F.421**, but approximately 55m to the north. The ditch here was sampled by means of two slots less than 5m apart. Slot 183 at the west end revealed a 'U' shaped ditch [3392] + [3395], approximately 0.3 - 0.4m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep, which in one of the sections revealed two distinct adjacent fills: a mid grey sandy silt [3394] overlain by a dark grey sandy silt with occasional gravel [3393], and in the other a single fill of light grey sandy silt containing some 10% of small gravel [3392]. At the southern extremity of this ditch segment, at the point where this seems to be truncated by the later NNE-SSW oriented ditch **F.396**, Slot 184 revealed a ditch with a similar 'U' shaped profile 0.38m wide and 0.35m deep with rounded concave sides and base [3437]. This contained a single fill of mid grey sandy silt with occasional stones, but with no finds [3746]. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.411 A flat-bottomed post-hole (0.5m x 0.6m x 0.6m deep) which cuts through the east side of ditch **F.363 (F.301)** in Slot 97. Modern.

F.412 A shallow (approximately 0.15m deep) linear ditch of varying width (0.7-0.9m wide) which has very gently sloping sides and a concave base ([3424] to [3430]) with termini at both ends. This was sampled in four slots and was followed over a distance of about 20m. Contained a single fill: a lightly compact light brown grey silt with occasional orange mottling and small-medium-sized stones [3423]/ [3425]/ [3427]/ [3429], but with no finds. Probably related to ditch **F.400**. Early Roman.

F.413 Not assigned.

F.414 A large, almost completely circular pit (approximately 4m diameter) which has been sampled in its NE quadrant, the slot (1.68m long by 1.88m wide) indicating a maximum depth of up to 0.44m towards its centre. Has moderately steep convex sides (steeper on the east side than the north), slightly stepped in places, with a gradual top and bottom break of slope, and a relatively flat to undulating base [3443]. This contained two fills: a lower compact mid brownish grey laminated or bedded sandy clay with few stone inclusions [3442], and an upper soft yellowish brown fine sand with massive bedding, small stone inclusions, and a clear basal boundary [3441]. The presence of animal bone in [3442] and fragments of clay pipe (tobacco pipe) stem in [3441] would seem to imply a post-medieval date. If this was indeed a quarry pit, then its form is distinctly different enough to be distinguished from some of the other examples for which a Late Iron Age or Roman date has been suggested. Probably post-medieval.

F.415 See **F.401**.

F.416 An approximately 12m long trench with terminals at both ends, sampled in a 1m slot (Slot 104) at its northern extremity. Typically the trench profile consists of steep sides with a sharp upper and lower break of slope and an irregular concave (rounded) base. In plan the northern terminal is sub-rectangular in shape, whilst the average width of trench is smaller (0.44-0.5m wide) and the base much more shallow (0.11m). The trench contains two fills, the uppermost consisting of a compact mid blue grey sandy silt with occasional mottled yellow sandy patches and inclusions of medium to coarse pebbles [3488], the lower consisting of a very narrow horizon of pale grey blue clay [3489], the latter interpreted as a waterlain deposit (the layer above has been interpreted as a slowly accumulated ditch silt). Some burnt flint was recovered from the uppermost layer together with a single piece of struck but unworked flint. Otherwise the very limited sampling of this produced no finds whatsoever. Early Roman (1st century AD).

F.417 A 12m section of trench, the southern end of which was not exposed within the excavated area. Sampled in two slots (Slots 105 & 109). The 1m long slot at the northern terminus (Slot 105) consisted of a 0.58m wide and 0.21m deep cut [3459] with moderately sloping sides, a sharp upper and gradual lower break of slope, and a rounded concave base. The trench at this point contained a uniform fill of compact mid grey brown fine sand with large numbers of flint gravel inclusions. Several loose sherds of Samian pottery lay scattered over a small area at surface, whilst on excavation, the entire base of a fractured Samian dish [3440] had been deposited, one half on top of the other, on the floor of the trench. This was part of a South Gaulish Dressel 18 dish. The use of this here in Southern Britain may be as late as 50-80AD, suggesting a deposition date in the latter half of the first century. Towards the south end of the trench, Slot 109 revealed a narrower (0.37m wide) and much shallower (0.04m) cut [3494] with a very irregular base due to ploughing. Here the fill consisted of a soft mid grey silty sand with occasional medium and coarse gravel inclusions [3493]. Beyond this point the feature had been almost entirely truncated away, possibly some of it having taken place during the course of machining. A few 'stains' of fill survived where the plough had dragged the ditch down deeper. Early Roman (1st century AD).

F.418 A cultivation trench sampled by two slots. The northern terminus of this (Slot 106) was up to 0.61m wide but only 0.09m deep, with steep parallel sides and a gradual upper break of slope on the west side and a gradual to steep break of slope on the east side, with concave sides and a rounded but irregular base [3533]. At its termination this was cut by a tree throw. The single fill consisted of a firm mid brown silty sand with gravel and a few pebble and cobble inclusions [3532]. At its southern end close to the edge of excavations a 1m slot (Slot 110) revealed a rather similar profile, but instead this was slightly 'V' shaped and irregular, up to 0.42m wide and 0.17m deep [3467], the single fill consisting of a compact mid blue grey silty sand with moderate inclusions of a medium angular gravel, more sorted towards the base, with rare flecks of charcoal [3466]. Six sherds of Late Iron Age pottery with a distinctive Romanising influence were recovered from the base of this fill, along with one animal tooth. It was considered that the increase in gravel concentration towards the base may have been for the purposes of drainage. Early Roman (1st century AD).

F.419 A 5m long section of trench truncated at its south end by the NE-SW oriented ditch **F.415**. This was the easternmost identified trench within this cultivation plot. Sampled at its northern terminus by Slot 107. Here the trench was 0.64m wide and 0.15m deep with moderately sloping concave sides, a sharp upper break of slope on the NW side and gradual upper break of slope on the SE side, a gradual lower break of slope, and a rounded irregular base [3461]. This contained a single fill of mid grey brown silty sand [3460] with small pebble to cobble size inclusions (mostly within the base of the feature) and evidence of plough disturbance. A single piece of coal was found in the base of the trench, along with some charcoal. Early Roman (1st century AD).

F.420 A short (3m) segment as part of a of a long (>150m) segmented ditch sequence (**F.420-423**, **F.461-462**, **F.403**) which crosses Area A from west to east on a NW-SE axial alignment, parallel to a similar sequence (**F.410**, **F.428**, **F.477**) 50m to the north. Ditch **F.420** lies some 5m to the west of the termination of segment **F.421**, and is between 0.3-0.4m wide and probably shallow (<0.2m deep). The segment was sampled within a 1m slot (Slot 182) cut through the eastern terminus of this ditch. Context descriptions and sectional information for this are not available, yet it appears that the ditch had a 'U' shaped profile [3449] and a single fill [3448]. The axial alignment suggests a possible Bronze Age origin relating to an early field system or series of enclosures, whilst the specific relationship of **F.403** with ditches **F.509** and **F.301** to the north suggests that this could be as early as the Middle Bronze Age, but for certain Middle-Late Bronze Age in date. This is at odds slightly with the discovery of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery within the parallel ditch to the north (**F.428**); however, the presence of the latter might just reflect the re-use of these fields and the existence of similar alignments.

F.421 A separate ditch segment (approximately 30m long) which forms the continuation of the alignment of **F.420** eastwards in a straight line. This was examined in two slots. Some 20m east of the western terminus the ditch section was examined in Slot 151. Though fairly well truncated, the cut here was still clearly quite narrow (0.42m wide), shallow (0.14m), and with moderately sloping sides, a moderate basal break of slope, and a concave base [3733]. This contained a single fill [3732] consisting of a mid brown-grey sandy silt with stone, rare charcoal flecks, but without finds. Some 15m to the east another section was cut at the eastern terminus (Slot 152); here the ditch was only 0.37m wide and shallower (0.10m) with very gently sloping sides and a concave base, thinning towards the butt end [3735]. Here the fill consisted of a mid-grey to orange silty sand with occasional small stones and chalk. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.422 The ditch segment east of **F.421** has been cut-off at its western end by the edge of the excavation. It has been sampled here (Slot 135) close to the excavation edge as well as at its eastern terminus (Slot 134) some 25m distant. Slot 135 provided the least truncated section through this ditch, revealing what the original profile of the feature may have been like over much of its length: a much deeper (0.33m) though still relatively narrow (0.64m wide) 'U' shaped cut with fairly steep sides and a moderate top and basal break of slope with a concave base [3596]. Such a profile was likened to that of a post-hole. It has been suggested that this may have contained a wooden beam or series of upright planks (a palisade), the latter perhaps forming a

boundary or even the fence of an animal pen. The cuts for all of these segmented ditches were to some extent similar to this. The single fill of [3595] contained a mid-brown grey clay silt with occasional small stones, yet it was devoid of finds. The ditch section to the east of this (Slot 134) was similar though smaller (0.45m wide and 0.16m), and almost certainly the result of truncation. The fill [3593] of this was similar to [3595]. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.423 A 35m long ditch segment with its western terminus some 6-7m east of **F.462**. This was sampled by slots at its western terminus (Slot 131), some 10m to the east (Slot 130), and at its east end (Slot 129). The ditch section [3588] was shallowest in Slot 131 (0.21m wide and 0.12m deep) at which point it contained a single fill of light brown grey mottled clay silt and occasional stones [3587] from which were recovered four crudely struck worked and burnt flints. The middle slot (Slot 130) was deeper (max. 0.47m wide and 0.23m deep) with a similar fill [3585] from which one struck flint (an end scraper) was recovered. The eastern terminus (Slot 129) was of broadly similar dimensions (0.39m wide and 0.28m deep) though the profile of this was of a steep 'U' shape with a well-defined 'trample' either side of a potential post hole/beam slot [3584]. Seven very crudely struck flints were recovered from this fill [3583]. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.424 One of a pair of small E-W aligned 'U' to 'V' shaped curvilinear intercutting ditches which follow the same route across the northernmost corner of the site. In most respects this is very similar to **F.460** except that it cuts the latter as well as the N-S ditch **F.396**. Ditch **F.396** on the other hand cuts **F.460**. **F.424** is moderately wide (0.55-0.7m) and shallow (0.4-0.1m), deeper at its narrower eastern end than the wider west end. The predominantly 'U' shaped cut [3453]/[3457]/[3694] *etc.* has stepped to sloping concave sides and a concave base with multiple ([3450]-[3456]) to single ([3561]+[3563]) fills consisting of a variety of compact mid to dark grey sandy silts from which no finds were recovered. Most probably Late Iron Age.

F.425 A 28m+ long NW-SE ditch on a similar orientation to the Iron Age long segmented ditch (enclosures), and approximately parallel to (and a few metres distant to the south of) **F.428**. At its west end this appears to cut an earlier and quite extensive tree throw (or irregular pit) which was not sampled. Of variable width (0.57-3.63m wide) and depth (0.2-0.85m deep), the ditch has gentle to steep concave ('U' shaped) sides and a concave to flattish base ([3828], [3835] and [3469]) with fills which vary from a single layer of mid grey clay silt (with 10% gravel) [3468] to multiple fills consisting of compact mid grey to mid orange sandy silts with occasional stones and molluscs ([3825]-[3831]). Some of these fills contained small amounts of animal bone, whilst the rim of a Late Iron Age HM bowl [3824] was recovered from one of the upper fills [3825] of this ditch at its westernmost end (Slot 400) close to the limits of excavation. Meanwhile some 32 sherds of Conquest Period pottery (40-60AD) were recovered alongside bone from the ditch fill sampled within Slot 119. The latter may, however, be associated with the intercutting ditch section **F.426** which is more obviously Late Iron Age/Roman. The alignment of ditch **F.425** was at 90° to the Group 1 Late Iron Age trackway ditches.

F.426 A short section of ditch or a ditch fragment which lies against the north side of ditch **F.425**. The position of this approximately meets the alignment of any possible continuation of ditch **F.380**. The exact relationship of **F.426** with **F.425** was uncertain

even though it was exposed within a recorded section (Slot 119); however, **F.426** had a different 'V' shaped profile to **F.425**, being steeper [3473] and with a fill consisting of a mid to dark grey clay silt with 10% coarse gravel and up to 0.2m of weathering at its base [3472]. Pottery was also recovered from this which is Early Roman in origin, suggesting perhaps that **F.426** is a later cut or re-cut. Conquest Period pottery linked to [3468] in **F.425** may in fact originate from this feature sampled within the same slot (Sl.119). This conforms with the suggested date (Late Iron Age).

F.427 A short section of ditch or a pit (3m long) which lies alongside ditch **F.425** to the north and to the west of **F.426** (Slot 119). Rounded and slightly bowl-shaped (1m wide and 0.24m deep), the relationship of this with **F.425** is uncertain. This could be the remains of the butt end of a ditch. Contains a mid to dark grey silt with up to 10% coarse flint gravel [3470]. No finds, but possibly the same date as **F.426**. Late Iron Age/Roman.

F.428 A 33m+ segment of a ditch sequence incorporating **F.410**, **F.458**, **F.477** and **F.478**, the westernmost end having been truncated by a large tree throw as well as by ditch **F.396**. Eastwards ditch **F.428** widens out, and in Slot 119 the profile becomes a combination of a basal 'U' shape and an upper 'V' shaped cut [3475], 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep, the fill [3474] consisting of a light to mid grey clay silt with up to 10% flint gravel and a layer of coarse flint pebbles in the base. Small fragments of animal bone were also recovered. Approximately 10m south of this Slot 120 revealed a ditch section with a rather more pronounced 'V' shaped profile, but less steep on the south side than the north [3479], the fill here being somewhat similar to that in Slot 119, but with at layer of coarse angular flint on the base, and at least three pieces of burnt bone and some burnt stone [3478]. The eastern section of Slot 120 clearly shows the partial truncation of **F.428** by the later ditch **F.459** which runs parallel to this along its southern edge. The east end of the ditch terminates just west of the line of ditch **F.400** and a series of modern field drains. At this point Slot 155 revealed a very shallow 'U' shaped ditch section (only 0.2m wide and 0.08m deep) with very gently sloping concave sides [3471], the latter containing a single fill of light bluish grey silty sand containing small stones and gravel concentrated in its base [3470]. A chunk of Middle Bronze Age struck flint (unworked piece) plus two fragments of Late Iron Age pottery (350 BC-50 AD) were recovered from this layer. This dating evidence appears to be at odds with that which implies this was part of a Bronze Age field system and earlier alignment. It is possible therefore that this section south of the ditch junction at Slot 120 could be a Late Iron Age re-cut of an earlier Middle-Late Bronze Age ditch (a configuration which is also suggested by the base plan).

F.429 A NNE-SSW ditch of which only about 3.5m survives (or is recognizable). This has been truncated by ditch **F.396** which follows the same alignment, and which also appears to be a re-cut. The rounded western terminus of **F.429** is visible just beyond where these ditches cut **F.425**, and this has been sampled in Slot 186. The linear ditch cut [3465] has moderately steep straight edges with a clear basal break of slope into a flat base. The single fill consists of a compact light grey silty sand with patches of fine yellow sand and occasional small-medium size gravel. Four chunks of struck but unworked flint (possibly Middle Bronze Age type) were recovered from this along with some burnt stone. Of probable similar date to **F.396**, thus perhaps Late Iron Age.

F.430 A very large sub-oval to sub-rectangular shaped shallow pit (10m long, 4m wide and approximately 0.37m deep), possibly a quarry pit, located within an area otherwise fairly empty of features which lies to the north of **F.372** and the main concentration of pits. A 1m by 2m slot was cut at the mid-point along its eastern edge; the pit profile here revealed a gently sloping concave side to the west, and an irregular slope (convex to concave) to the east, with a very uneven (convex to concave) base. This contained two fills of approximately equal depth; these consisted of a lower compact mid grey sandy silt, massively bedded with rare stone inclusions and a clear basal boundary [3486] and an upper fill of a soft and friable dark brown fine sandy silt with rare stone inclusions and a clear basal boundary [3485]. This upper fill was distinctly different to the lower one and here was interpreted as being post-medieval based on the presence within this of some fragments of clay tobacco pipe. The variations present within the lower and possibly earlier fill may be the result of its formation under much wetter conditions. Perhaps a post-medieval quarry.

F.431 A small pit associated with the north end of cultivation trench **F.416**, almost abutting its terminus, but not quite. A distorted circular feature 0.5m x 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep, the cut [3492] is elongated on its east side and moderately steeply sloping to the north; this has a stepped profile with a flat to concave base. The single fill consists of a mid blue grey friable silty sand with occasional inclusions of medium to coarse pebbles, particularly at the edge and towards the base. The fill is slightly mottled due to plough disturbance of the natural along its edge. Possibly a post-hole connected with the lines of cultivation, but most likely a planting pit. Almost certainly Early Roman.

F.432 A small heavily truncated pit associated with the north end of cultivation trench **F.417**. Approximately 0.35m diameter and 0.05m deep, the cut [3497] for this was circular and had gentle sloping sides, an imperceptible basal break of slope and a gently concave base. The single fill consisted of a compact mid brown-grey sandy clay with occasional inclusions of medium-sized pebbles, particularly towards its base. Possibly a post-hole connected with the lines of cultivation, but most likely a planting pit. Almost certainly Early Roman.

F.433 A circular pit approximately 2.75m in diameter and 0.12m deep. Located at the north end of the site in between ditches **F.425** and **F.396**. This was half-sectioned on the south-west side; the cut [3531] for the pit had moderately steep concave sides with a well-defined basal break of slope leading into an uneven sub-circular base. The single fill consisted of a compact mid grey silty sand with occasional small to medium-sized stone inclusions with a clear basal boundary. This appears to be a natural infill. Heavily truncated by plough disturbance and crop rooting. Probably a quarry pit, but of uncertain date.

F.434 A short SW-NE ditch segment (3.88m), part of the same sequence of features as **F.314** and **F.321**, 1.06m wide and 0.88m deep. Slot 125 was cut through the western butt end revealing a 'U' shaped ditch with straight sides and a rounded base with gradual breaks of slope [3575] containing two fills: a mid grey reddish-brown mottled sandy silt [3573] over a mid reddish brown silty sand containing irregular shaped and some burnt rounded stones [3574]. The latter also contained a small amount of animal bone. Probably Middle Bronze Age.

F.435 Essentially the continuation of **F.438** northwards. The ditch here is both narrower (<1m wide) and shallower (0.35m), with a 'U' shaped profile consisting of steep straight sides merging with a flat base through a gradual break of slope. Fills consisted of a lower layer of dark grey silty clay [3628] from which a basal sherd of Early Roman (Romano-British) pottery was recovered, and overlying this, a mid yellow-grey silty clay with rare stones. Early Roman?

F.436 A medium to large (approximately 3.5m long, 2m wide and about 0.22m deep) east-west aligned sub-rectangular to oval-shaped pit which lies to the east of **F.372**. A 1m by 2.4m slot was cut through the centre of this feature, revealing a pit with gently sloping and straight to concave sides, stepped towards the south, with in most places a clear basal break of slope leading into an irregular flat base [3536]. This contained two fills: a lower layer of soft mid grey clay silt, with mottled yellow sand and rare small to medium-sized stone inclusions [3535], and an upper fill [3534] consisting of a soft mid brown sandy silt, massively bedded with rare small to medium-sized stone inclusions, and a sharp basal boundary. Although no finds were recovered, the upper fill appeared to be quite modern, suggesting a much later phase of silting up or of re-excavation (an analogous situation to **F.430**). The original pit would appear to have been a quarry, almost certainly post-medieval.

F.437 A 2-3m long sub-oval shaped pit which lies adjacent to, yet with no obvious clear-cut relationship to pit **F.436**. A small slot (0.75m long by 0.75m wide) cut into the side of this revealed a pit with gently sloping, shallow concave sides (maximum 0.15m deep), an imperceptible basal break of slope, and a sub-oval flat to concave base [3539]. This contained two fills: a lower soft mid grey clay silt with lenses of yellow mottled sand, rare small to medium-sized stone inclusions, and a sharp basal boundary [3538], and above this a soft mid brown sandy silt with rare stone inclusions and a diffuse basal boundary [3537]. These were similar in most respects to the fills of **F.436**, the pit probably having been formed in the same way (as a quarry), with a similar sediment history. Post-medieval?

F.438 A 55m long straight section of ditch visible from the south to north sides of the excavation, between 1.1 and 1.85m wide and up to 0.5m deep, with moderately steep sides but with a gentle upper and lower break of slope and a rounded concave to slightly flattish base [3651]. Excavated in four slots. A slight kink in the otherwise straight alignment of **F.438** at the junction of the ditches (**F.488**, **F.407**, **F.462** and **F.438**) may reflect the re-cut of the ditch turn of **F.488** southwards. Ditch **F.438** contained one to two fills consisting of light to mid brownish grey silty sand with about 40% fine-medium flint pebbles and lenses of yellow clay [3656], occasionally with the addition of a more stony basal layer [3649], and changing towards the south end (Slot 124) where the fill consisted of a dark grey clay silt, with 10% flint gravel [3546]. From this end of the ditch some worked flint (a secondary flake) and some human bone was recovered from the mid to lower part of the profile. This was interesting in that this end of the ditch lies close by (and goes through) the garden in which two Roman bracelets (presumably part of burial assemblages) were found at the end of the 20th century. The ditch fills within the area of the ditch junction (Slot 133) produced a single sherd of Early Roman ('Romanising period') pottery, some animal bone and some oyster shell [3771]. All of the upper layers within these ditches crossing at the junction were covered with a thin layer of silt. The continuation of

ditch **F.438** northwards of the modern field drain ditch (**F.406**) has been referred to here as **F.435**. Part of an Early Roman field system.

F. 439 A NW-SE linear ditch at the south end of the cultivation trenches, parallel to **F.338/F.349**, and possibly forming a southern boundary to the enclosure. Width varies from 0.51-0.89m and depth 0.2-0.26m, with moderately sloping concave sides with a sharp upper break of slope, gradual lower break of slope, and a rounded to flattish base [3560]. Fills vary from a single fill consisting of a mid grey brown to mid orange brown sandy silt with some gravel and mollusc shells [3554], to two fills (Slot 111), the lower one a mid grey silty sand with patches of mottled orange sand and pebbles. These were interpreted as the product(s) of initial slumping followed by natural silting up and then plough scrape. No finds were recovered. The ditch cuts cultivation trenches **F.356** and **F.357**, although its relationship to the others remains unknown, this not being exposed within the excavated area. Uncertain date – it would appear that this is Early Roman as it relates to the enclosure and conforms to the alignment.

F.440 A shallow NW-SE ditch which lies parallel to **F.439** and little more than a metre to its south. This is cut by a modern (and much deeper) field drain on its south side, such that the original dimensions remain unclear; however, this was at least 0.08m deep and 0.4m wide, with very shallow sloping concave sides and a flat base. The single fill consists of a compact mid grey brown silty sand with inclusions of fine gravel [3571]. This suggests silting up over time. No finds were recovered. The ditch may or may not be contemporary with **F.439**. Early Roman?

F.441 A sub-oval shaped pit (2m long, 1.25m wide and 0.21m deep) part of a small group of pits located to the north-east of the ‘Roman’ ditch junction (**F.438/F.488**). Pit with a shallow ‘U’ shaped profile, with gentle sloping sides and a well rounded but slightly uneven flat to slightly concave base [3606]. This contained a single fill of orange to mid grey clay silt with up to 5-10% flint gravel [3605]. Finds consisting of burnt flint and some worked flint were recovered from the upper part of the pit. Amongst all this was a nicely worked edge used blade (Neolithic) picked up from close to the surface. An earlier prehistoric pit of uncertain function. Probably Neolithic.

F.442 Another oval-shaped pit of similar type located some 10m to the north-east of **F.441**, and aligned N-S. This had a similar well-rounded ‘U’ shaped profile, although the south-west side was a little steeper and straighter, the north-west side being more gently sloping and in places slightly convex [3608]. The pit was deeper (0.35m) with a pronounced hollow in its base. The fill layer [3607], a mid grey clay silt with 5-10% flint gravel and spots of manganese staining in its upper profile, was similar to that of **F.441**. Six examples of worked flint (2 chips/chunks, 2 secondary flakes, 1 irregular core, and 1 opposed platform core), all diagnostic of Neolithic flint working within the immediate vicinity, were recovered from the upper part of this pit. Although possibly natural, both the pit profile and the flint working waste suggest an earlier prehistoric date and function. Neolithic?

F.443 A much smaller circular to oval shaped pit (0.5m diameter and 0.12m deep) with a similar profile (consisting of a shallow ‘U’ shaped cut with a well rounded base [3610]) and fill [3609]. No finds were recovered from this, but the similar form

suggested a prehistoric pit of similar, but unknown function. Neolithic-Early Bronze Age?

F.444 An irregular shaped shallow pit (4m long, 2.5m wide and < 0.2m deep) or possibly a large tree throw which has been truncated along most of its western side by ditch **F.481**, and then in its centre by a later pit or tree-throw. This has short steeply sloping concave sides, the upper break of slope of which has been machined away, though the lower break of slope is still moderately well-defined [3890]. The pit features an uneven flat bottomed base which is convex to concave in places. The two fills consist of a lower mid grey sandy silt [3889] containing a fair amount of burnt and cracked stone (sandstone), and an upper fill [3888] of dark grey black sandy silt from which a very limited amount of animal bone (including one tooth) was recovered. The most likely interpretation of this feature was that this was a still open shallow feature into which had been washed or else dumped the remains of burnt and cracked sandstone from former prehistoric cooking hearths nearby. This may have taken the form of a surface spread of material present within this north-west sector of the site. The deposition of this is likely to date from the Middle Bronze Age or later.

F.445 Not assigned.

F.446 Not assigned.

F.447 Not assigned.

F.448 Not assigned.

F.449 Not assigned.

F.450 A ditch in segments (or else truncated in places) which can be traced for over 40m. Sampled in five different places, **F.450** cuts **F.452** and **F.453** and **F.510**, but in turn, this is cut by several modern drainage ditches. At its eastern terminus this is 0.53m wide and 0.11m deep; a shallow 'U' shaped profile with gently sloping sides, an imperceptible upper and lower break of slope and a gently rounded flattish base [3503]. The fill at this point consisted of a soft mid-grey brown clay silt with occasional stone inclusions [3502]. Further west at the junction with **F.453** (Slot 168), the same ditch is 0.64m wide and deeper (0.34m); here it has a more prominent 'U' shaped profile with a slight convex slope on its south side, concave to the north [3526]. To the west of here a break in the ditch sampled within Slot 163 may either be a later truncation or else a split within the feature which has temporarily divided the base into two. The ditch becomes wider (0.9m) and shallower (0.22m), with a distinct stepped appearance, yet still with gently sloping concave sides and a prominent rounded base [3505]. Further west (Slot 164) this is wider still (1.05m) and shallower (0.19m), with gently sloping concave sides and a slightly round but generally quite flat base [3509]. This truncates an earlier and shallower ditch **F.510** on its south side, the latter following a somewhat undulating course which appears to be cut out east of this point by **F.450**. At its western end (Slot 167) the ditch is more substantial (up to 1.4m wide and 0.31m deep) with gentle to moderate sloping concave sides and a concave base [3524]. Here it is overlain by at least 0.3-0.35m depth of topsoil (a dark yellow sandy silt [3521]), and beneath this an upper sub-soil fill consisting of mid-yellow to orange mottled silts [3522] from which a number of modern artefacts were

recovered (including clay tobacco pipe, iron fragments and animal bone). Below lay the main ditch fill [3523] which appeared to be equivalent to [3502]. From the latter some bone was recovered along with some worked flint (two secondary flakes of possible Neolithic origin). The larger area of silts [3522] overlying this may well represent a later pit fill or tree throw, the latter appearing to cut the earlier ditch. Uncertain date, but probably of the Late Prehistoric period.

F.451 A short length of ditch (>20m long) on an approximately parallel alignment to **F.450**, sampled at both ends. At its eastern terminus (Slot 165) this was 0.62m wide and 0.11m deep with gently sloping sides, imperceptible top and bottom breaks of slope and rounded base [3511]. This contained a fill of soft light yellow-grey silty sand with occasional stone inclusions [3510]. At its western end (Slot 166) the ditch was wider (1.12m) though of similar depth (0.16m deep), and slightly more asymmetric in profile; however, from the upper part of the ditch fill were recovered some sherd(s) of pot and some burnt flint. Unfortunately, the sherds were subsequently mislaid, thus no positive identification of these has been possible. In the absence of this and any other coinciding alignments within Areas A and B, it has only been possible to ascribe a Late Prehistoric date to these features. Ditches **F.451**, **F.450** and **F.510** are later than the NNW-SSE ditches **F.452** and **F.453**.

F.452 A ditch traceable for over 40m running along adjacent and parallel to **F.453**, which crosses and truncates **F.452** in several places. Between 0.46 and as much as 1m wide, and between 0.19 and 0.22m deep, the profile of this is broadly 'U' shaped and symmetrical with a sharp upper break and imperceptible lower break of slope, concave sides and a rounded bottom [3795]. This contained a single fill which appeared to be more or less identical to that within the neighbouring and parallel ditch **F.453** (a soft mid-brown grey clay silt with massive bedding and occasional stone inclusions [3794]). This was picked up in sections exposed within three sample slots (Slot 168, Slot 169 and Slot 170). The alignment of this is unusual, and cannot be matched with any others. Uncertain date, but probably Late Prehistoric. The fact that this (system of field ditches) is cut by an Early Roman ditch suggests that it may be earlier.

F.453 This could be followed over a distance of about 55m from north to south across the excavations of Area B. At its northern end it was sampled in Slot 172 at the junction with ditch **F.454** which was evidently later than this and truncated it. The width of this northern segment of feature (removed by truncation some 10m south of the excavation edge) was about 0.85m, with its depth only 0.17m. The ditch profile at this point was a very shallow 'U' shape with gentle sides and a flattish concave base [3823], the fill being fairly typical of this ditch; a soft mid-brown grey silt with occasional stone inclusions [3822]. Some 12m to the south, Slot 168 has sampled the junction of **F.452** and **F.453** with the later SW-NE ditch **F.450**. At this point **F.453** is 0.7m wide and 0.32m deep with a 'U' to 'V' shaped profile and slightly asymmetric (steeper on the west side than the east), with a sharp upper and gradual bottom break of slope, and a narrow rounded base [3797]. The fill [3796] at this point was the same as [3822]. Further south within Slot 169 **F.453** has been joined by **F.452** (where this departs from the line of **F.453** and thus is no longer cut by it). The ditch here is of similar width (0.7m) but shallower (0.21m), with a gently rounded symmetrical 'U' shaped profile and a gradual upper and imperceptible lower break of slope and a concave to rounded base. The fill [3806] at this point was the same. The sections

within Slot 170 (some 25m to the south of Slot 169) indicated a ditch of about 0.6-0.95m wide and between 0.21 and 0.54m deep. This was still 'U' shaped, although it varied from a symmetrical to an asymmetrical profile depending on where these sections were taken within the 2m long slot. At its north end ditch **F.453** had a steep and slightly convex eastern side, a narrow concave base and a gently sloping concave westerly side [3817]. The fill at this point consisted of a soft dark grey brown silty clay with a few small stone inclusions [3816]. At the south end of the slot there was a re-cut into ditch **F.453** close to the intersection with **F.452**. A single find of a cobble hammer stone (utilised at one end) came from [3814] along with some worked flint (a secondary flake of possible Neolithic origin). This would seem to indicate a prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age date for both ditches (given the similarity in fills and alignment), although their orientation at 80-90° to **F.450** and **F.451** suggests that these ditches are part of the same field/ enclosure system, the dating of which cannot be narrowed down any further than their being Late Prehistoric. South of Slot 170 ditch **F.453** veers off to the west (at approximately 90°). The ditch was not sampled beyond this point.

F.454 An ESE-WNW ditch which can be traced over a distance of 70m across the northern end of Area B. This may well be a continuation of ditch **F.487**, and shows certain similarities to the latter. The ditch was sampled in three slots, two at the west end (Slots 161 and 172) and another some 35m to the east (Slot 171) The width of the ditch varied between 0.59m and 0.7m and the depth between 0.12 and 0.17m. Its cross-sectional profile was 'U' to 'V' shaped with concave moderately sloping sides, a sharp top break of slope, imperceptible bottom break of slope, and a rounded concave base [3501]/[3819]/[3821]. The single ditch fills uniformly consisted of a soft yellow-brown sandy silt with a mottled lamination and with frequent inclusions of fresh-water mollusc (snail) shells [3500]/[3818]/[3820]. The ditches were interpreted as being 'drains' containing standing or slow-moving water. No finds were recovered apart from some bone from the fill of Slot 171. Probably Early Roman (based only on alignment).

F.455 Not assigned.

F.456 Not assigned.

F.457 Not assigned.

F.458 A 10m long section of a NW-SE aligned ditch which seems to run parallel to and then (probably) merges with ditch **F.428** in the region of Slot 120. The exact relationship here is obscured by the cut of a possible post-medieval pit **F.459**. The western terminus of ditch **F.458** would have been picked up in the end of one of the former Clay Farm evaluation trenches. The cut was small and shallow (0.7m wide by 0.12m deep) with a stepped profile [3477] and contained a fill of mid-dark grey clay silt with up to 10% gravel. Possibly a ditch which is part of a later Iron Age field system (**F.425**) that coalesces with the earlier Bronze Age ditch alignment. This therefore maybe the reason for the Iron Age pottery find within Slot 155 located to the south of this junction between the two ditches (**F.428** and **F.458**). Late Iron Age?

F.459 A round pit (1.4m wide, 0.3m deep and of unknown length) with shallow sloping upper edges which cuts ditches **F.428** and **F.458** at the point of junction (Slot

120). Contains a single fill of dark grey sandy clay silt – this seemed ‘modern’ on digging. No finds, but could be post-medieval.

F.460 The other ditch of the above pair. This is cut by **F.424** and also by the N-S ditch **F.396**. The ditch at its maximum is approximately 1.27m wide and between 0.4m and 0.6m deep (at its western end) with a ‘V’ to ‘U’ shaped irregular stepped to more gently sloping profile with concave sides and base ([3550] to [3690]) and typically with two to three fills of compact mid to light grey sandy silt with stone ([3548] *etc.*) and occasional animal bone [3689]. Unproven, but probably Late Iron Age, contemporary with the construction of the trackway.

F.461 A ditch segment separated from **F.423** by little over a metre. The eastern continuation of this disappears beneath the SE end of the excavations. This was sampled by a single slot in its western terminus (Slot 128). This revealed a shallow ‘U’ shaped ditch profile (0.45m wide by 0.18m deep) with moderately sloping sides (slightly sharper on east side and more concave on the west [3582]) which contained two fills, the upper one consisting of a lightly compacted soft orange brown silty sand with occasional stones [3580], the lower a light grey-brown silty sand containing two worked flints [3581]. The latter included a secondary and core rejuvenation flake, both of Middle Bronze Age type. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.462 A c.15m segment of ditch up to 10m east of the eastern terminus of **F.422**, and clearly on the same alignment. This was sectioned in three places. The westernmost slot (Slot 133) was cut on the intersection of this with two putatively Roman ditches (a large N-S (NNE-SSW) and a large E-W (WNW-ESE)). These clearly truncate and post-date the former; however, at this same point the western terminus of ditch **F.462** may have been removed by truncation, since it appears to correspond with the position of the junction. The ditch profile at this point was ‘U’ shaped with gently sloping sides and a concave base, the ditch cut being 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep [3592] (= [3799]), the single fill consisting of a pale white to light grey brown silty sand (mottled yellow) with stones and rare flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered. This same area was later re-examined within a 4m² justification slot, and a similar conclusion was drawn. Some 5m to the east of this Slot 132 provided a rather similar section through the ditch; however, this showed signs of a re-cut, based both on the changes in profile and dimension ([3590] = 0.42m wide and 0.08m deep, and [3598] = 0.57m wide and 0.11m deep) plus slight differences in the fills [3589]. The south-western terminus of the ditch (sampled within Slot 147) was partly obscured by a tree throw; however, what could be seen of this suggested a rather similar shallow ‘U’ shaped profile to the cut [3708], and a fill similar to [3589]. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.463 An 11m long NNE-SSW ditch cut by **F.364** and which appears to be on a slightly more westerly axial alignment. To the north of Slot 143, **F.463** seems to have been truncated, either by machining or else as a result of former cultivation. A projection of this therefore would connect up with ditch **F.396** some 20m to the north. The latter appears to be on a similar orientation and is of similar dimensions. Typically this was around 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep (Slot 127), but was smaller (0.2m wide and 0.1m deep) both towards its irregular shaped southern end (Slot 142) and truncated north end (Slot 143). The ditch section (Slot 127) was rounded and ‘U’ shaped with moderately sloping concave sides and an east to west sloping base

[3599], but at its south end this base became more uneven and the sides more angular. The irregularities in the base were suggested as being pick or mattock marks, indicating perhaps a more modern date; this appears to be the most recent of this group of associated features. The single fill ranged from a soft mid grey sandy silt with rare flint and flecks of charcoal [3599] (Slot127) to a mid orange grey silty sand with fragments of chalk and flint [3684] (Slot 142). No finds. Of uncertain date, but quite possibly not much later than the end of the Late Iron Age.

F.464 An irregular shaped cut of what appears to be an early quarry pit underlying the change in angle of the enclosure ditch **F.338** and its junction with **F.349** excavated within Slot 121. The pit is approximately 3.5m+ long, 2m+ wide and 0.5m deep (on a NW-SE orientation) and has a very irregular and pitted floor. A small area of quarry pit floor with about seven pick or stake holes (**F.475**) in it lies close to the corner of the east and south-facing sections (S.387). These pick holes as well as a number of small hollows in the floor have been infilled with a discontinuous layer (<0.1m) of compact light grey to yellow silty sand mixed with a fine gravel [3631]. From the top of this layer stamped into the hollows of the floor (or from the basal layer of **F.338** above it) came a single sherd of Later Iron Age (350 BC-50 AD) pot and a bovid tooth. Overlying this was a discontinuous (max. 0.15m thick) lens of a soft light grey yellow medium sand with occasional medium to coarse flint pebbles [3632], the latter interpreted as an initial accumulation of loose sand and gravel; a phase of silting which took place before the disused quarry pit was incorporated into the line of the enclosure ditches. Against the NE edge of the pit a further wedge of light grey-yellow variegated sands and silts with fine (pea-grit) gravel and bleached flint [3635], the whole of this penetrated by root-holes, was interpreted as a mixture of washed-in and slumped-in material derived from the quarry sides. This was cut and overlain by the ditch fills (**F.338** and **F.349**) and the gravel fill of a Roman quarry pit (**F.466**). Late Iron Age?

F.465 A pit dug into a series of earlier pits (**F.468** & **F.469**) close to the south-west ends of ditch **F.463** (and **F.364**), and truncated by them. The cutting of **F.465** appears to be the third and final phase of pitting in this area. A sub-oval pit 1.7m long by 1.34m wide and 0.53m deep which is orientated NW-SE, with a rounded end. In profile the cut [3601] for this pit has straight sides and is moderately steep to the west, with a sharp lower break of slope, and stepped to the east with a gradual lower break of slope; both leading into an irregular (uneven) base. This contained three fills. The basal fill [3604] consisted of a friable orange-yellow sand which was banded, becoming greyer upwards as it merged with [3603]. Several small pieces of very soft and fragile pottery identified as being Late Iron Age (350BC-50AD) were found well sealed within this layer [3604]. Overlying this was a soft dark grey sandy silt, with rare inclusions of flint and stone pebbles (<30mm) and rarely burnt stones [3603]. This same layer was characterised by the presence of large amounts of animal bone (food debris), the latter including those of cow, pig and sheep and possibly goat. A single worked flint (Bronze Age/Iron Age) was recovered from this same layer. The upper fill [3602] consisted of a compact yellow-orange medium grain sand with occasional angular flint and rounded pebbles (<30mm), moderate amounts of rounded chalky gravel, and patches of whitish yellow sand in clean patches (50-100mm diameter), and rare coarse (20-60mm) pebbles. This upper layer also contained some animal bone. The pit may originally have been dug as a quarry pit for gravel, left open for a while (indicated by the basal slumping), then re-used as a refuse pit for animal

bone [3603]. This was followed by gradual backfilling using the surrounding natural. Most probably earlier Late Iron Age.

F.466 An irregular shaped cut into the surface of the ditch fill of **F.338** at the point where the latter changes direction. An area of approximately 3m long and 2m wide, with an irregular and quite ill-defined base at about 0.3-0.4m depth [3644]. This feature has largely been infilled with a compact mid-brown sandy clay packed with medium to coarse (<5mm) angular flint, much of it broken [3634]. This layer appears to have been stamped down, perhaps to form a gravelled metallated surface, although the exact nature of this layer is far from clear. The shape of the final spread of gravel is now much distorted, in particular where it has been cut through by ditch **F.349**, leaving a small residual area of gravel on the inside corner of the ditch. The bulk of this remains on the outside corner, and thus forms what is now a quite subtle visible feature around the north-western edge of the enclosure. The purpose of this gravel spread or fill is uncertain; however, it might once have provided a firm bridge across the infilled or backfilled ditch. Alternatively, and much more likely, this represents quarrying. The only finds from this layer were two adjoining pieces of Early Roman possible Tegula or box flue tile. This suggests that this feature is Early Roman; it post-dates the first use of this enclosure, but pre-dates the later enclosure (**F.349**) and the last use of these cultivation beds.

F.467 The westernmost cultivation trench cut by the enclosure ditch **F.349**; however, **F.467** appears to cut the inner enclosure ditch **F.397**, therefore it perhaps post-dates it. Trench **F.467** is one of a series of parallel trenches of similar length and dimensions, all aligned approximately N-S (in fact NNE-SSW). **F.467** is at least 5m long, 0.47-0.57m wide and 0.14-0.15m deep and consists of a 'U' shaped trench with near vertical, sub-parallel sides with a sharp upper break of slope (probably severely truncated) and a rounded base. Contains a single fill consisting of a compact light to mid bluish brown or grey silty sand with fine pebble and some larger cobble inclusions [3611]/ [3620]. Large numbers of degraded animal bone and teeth fragments plus a number of sherds of 'proto-greyware' Romanising (Late Iron Age/Roman tradition) pottery were recovered from the top of [3620] within Slot 137, the latter apparently disturbed by ploughing. Subsequently, the bottom of an Early Roman pot or beaker [3754] was found towards the base of the trench within Slot 113, very close to the point where this had been cut by the enclosure ditch **F.349**. This appeared to be a 'placed' item, similar to the Samian bowl deposited within **F.417**. The cultivation beds thus appear to be Early Roman, yet also include "earlier" types of Iron Age pottery, perhaps implying a greater duration to their use.

F.468 A sub-oval pit located close to the south-west end of ditch **F.463** (and **F.364**) and truncated by it. One of pits (**F.468** and **F.469**) which may be related. The pit is of fairly irregular shape and is orientated NW-SE, 3.55m long by 1.6m wide and up to 0.5m deep. The sides of the pit are concave, with the upper break of slope machined away and the bottom break of slope almost imperceptible, the base of the pit being flat and sloping to the south-east [3622]. The two fills consist of a basal layer [3624] of friable orange yellow sand with rare flint and stones (<10mm) and occasional patches of coarse rounded chalk gravel, and an upper fill [3623] consisting of a soft greyish orange pebbly sand with frequent stones and flint and rounded pebbles of chalk. From this upper layer came the single find of a worked flint - an end scraper (possibly Early Bronze Age). Both **F.468** and **F.469** were interpreted in the field as being some sort of

quarry pit, perhaps for gravel, thus part of (perhaps) the neighbouring groups of quarry pits **F.337** and **F.371**. The gravel-rich fills of these pits made them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding gravel. The unusually loose nature of the basal fill of the pit [3624] could perhaps be put down to later animal burrowing activity, alternatively this could be part of the process of deliberate backfilling. There seemed to be no evidence here, at least in the early stages, of open and abandoned pits and the natural slow accumulation of silt. Probably Late Prehistoric (Bronze Age or Iron Age) quarrying.

F.469 The southern one of a pair of possible quarry pits (**F.468** & **F.469**), sub-rectangular to irregular in shape, rounded end to the north-west and pointed to the south-east, up to 3.65m long, 3.05m wide and 0.62m deep. Has moderately steep sides, with a straight slope on the east, very slightly concave on the west, with the top break of slope machined away, the bottom break of slope gradual eastwards and imperceptible westwards, the base of the pit being relatively flat to the north-west and sloping towards the south-east [3626]. The latter surface being uneven in places and extensively truncated due to animal activity (burrowing). There appeared to be one fill, the context being almost identical to [3623] in **F.468**. Another worked flint (end scraper tool) was recovered from this fill. The two pits appear to be contemporary; the likelihood therefore is that this is a Bronze Age or Iron Age gravel pit.

F.470 A large sub-rectangular to irregular shaped pit (5.5m long, 3.42m wide and approximately 0.22m deep), probably a quarry pit, part of a large group of similar features (**F.319-F.322**, **F.394-F.395**, **F.409**, **F.414**, and **F.471-F.473**) located within the area in between the cultivation bed enclosure and the post-medieval field ditches. The sampled NW quadrant of this pit revealed a sub-rectangular cut in plan view with moderately sloping but irregular concave sides and base [3637] and a single fill consisting of a mixed topsoil containing lumps of weathered redeposited natural (chalky marl) and pebbles within a mottled yellow grey sandy silt [3636]. No finds were recovered. The fill shows evidence for considerable disturbance, suggesting that this feature, or at least the re-working of it, may be quite modern. Post-medieval?

F.471 A sub-circular to oval-shaped small quarry pit (2.72m long by 1.68m wide and approximately 0.2m deep), this had rounded corners with shallow irregular sides leading to a rounded but quite irregular base through an imperceptible basal break of slope [3639]. The single fill consisted of a mid yellow grey sandy silt with patches of orange brown mottled sand and occasional small angular stones [3638]. No finds were recovered. Of uncertain date, but possibly post-medieval (associated with the latter).

F.472 A sub-circular small quarry pit, 1.62m long by 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep. With rounded corners (in plan), the E-W section through this revealed a steep straight south side to the pit and a shallow and straight north side leading into a well rounded concave base. The single fill [3640] was almost identical to that of [3638] in **F.471**, suggesting a similar infill history. No finds were recovered. Uncertain date, possibly post-medieval.

F.473 A rather similar sized quarry pit (2.2m long, 1.5m wide and 0.15m deep), but more oval-shaped with rounded corners. The shallower pit had a slightly more symmetrical profile than **F.472**, with gentle sloping sides and an imperceptible basal break of slope leading to a rounded concave base. The single fill was also similar to

that in **F.472** and **F.471** [3638], suggesting a similar origin and infill history. Post-medieval?

F.474 (N.B. equivalent to **F.407**). This is the north-western terminus of ditch **F.407** to the west of **F.438**. With a rounded end, convex sides and a concave base [3655]. Contains three fills: a basal layer [3654] consisting of a compact brown grey silty sand with small angular gravel and about 20% fine and medium pebbles, [3653] a light to mid brown grey silty sand with >30% medium pebbles and gravel, and [3652] a compact brown grey silty sand homogenous at top but lower down mixed with rare small gravel and fine pebbles onto a clear basal boundary. No finds, but from contextual information and relationships with **F.407** this was considered to be Late Iron Age/Roman in date.

F.475 A small group of about seven surviving ends of pick (tool) or stake holes cut into the marl gravel (natural) floor of the above quarry pit (**F.464**). These show no particular pattern, but together these form a rough circle or oval shape about 0.3-0.5m diameter, within which each of these cuts are approximately sub-circular to sub-rectangular in shape and between 50-200mm in diameter and 10 cm deep. These have been lumped with the quarry pit cut [3630], whilst the hollows in this feature have all been infilled with the stamped sandy silt [3631]. Late Iron Age?

F.476 An earlier ditch along the same alignment as **F.511** and pre-dating it; truncated by the latter on its eastern side, but at least 1.4m wide and 0.83m deep, with a steeply sloping west edge and probable flat base. Discovered during the excavation of **F.511**. The infill consists of silty sands [3677]-[3674] with small amounts of burnt stone and bone [3677], these inclusions suggesting that the ditch was open during the same period of backfill/silting-up which post-dated the formation of the burnt stone features. The ditch maybe contemporary or earlier than pit **F.351**, and thus is probably Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.477 Two segments of ditch (both the same feature) marked the continuation of this same ditch sequence. The westerly one of these was sampled towards its mid point (Slot 191) some 10-15m east of **F.428**, and on exactly the same alignment. Here the ditch section [3682] was deeper (0.25m wide and 0.21m deep), moreover this had a pronounced 'V' to 'U' shaped profile, steeper and straighter on its south side than on the north, with a fill of light blue-grey silty sand and gravel [3681], but no enclosing finds. The easterly segment was sampled in Slot 145. Here the ditch was very shallow, the profile here being 'V' shaped rather than 'U' shaped (0.21m wide and 0.09m deep) with slightly concave sides and a rounded base [3704]. The fill was similar to that encountered in Slot 191 and there were no archaeological finds. The NW-SE aligned ditches could not be traced beyond the eastern termination of this segment.

F.478 Despite the different alignment (NNE-SSW), this short (5m long) segment of ditch which lies at approximately 85° to **F.477** but just a metre or so from its eastern terminus, shows certain generic similarities. This suggests it could form part of the same segmented ditch field enclosure; a shallow and fairly symmetrical 'U' shaped cut (0.25m wide and 0.25m deep) [3076] containing a similar fill of blue grey silty sand with a pebble base [3705]. No finds were recovered.

F.479 A large quarry pit sampled by means of a slot in its south-east edge. Of uncertain dimensions, but at least 3.5m diameter. This cuts earlier pits (*e.g.* **F.323**). Most probably post-medieval.

F.480 A sub-circular feature, approximately 0.5m in diameter and 0.26-0.4m deep cut into the base of the cross-cutting ditch **F.373** (=F.339) where this extends just beyond the western perimeter of the enclosure ditch **F.349**. Referred to during excavation as a post-hole, but probably a planting pit. The cut [3714] has vertical sides and an irregular base, with an undercut (possibly an animal burrow) on the north side. The fill appeared to be the same as that of the ditch [3234], therefore perhaps later Roman or post-Roman in date.

F.481 An irregular shaped ditch, slightly curvilinear, which continues the NW-SE alignment followed by the northern end of **F.364**; however, this truncates **F.364**, and is clearly later. The section of ditch is approximately 17m long, broadening out from about 0.45m width at its southern terminus to approximately 1.7m wide towards its northern end where it truncates a large pit, **F.444**, then curves round on a north-south alignment, ending in a narrow (0.5m wide) terminus. The ditch was sampled at its southern end (Slot 149) where this was very shallow (0.06m deep), and probably quickly dug, with gently sloping convex sides and a machined away top break of slope, and imperceptible bottom break of slope, the base of this being flattish and rather uneven [3715]. The shallow fill of this at this point consisted of a moderately compacted mid grey sandy silt with occasional flints (<30mm) and round stones (<10mm) plus rare pieces of charcoal. At its northern end (Slot 150) the profile of the ditch is much wider (1.2m) and up to 0.18m deep. At this point it was 'U' shaped with nearly symmetrical steeply concave sides, an uncertain upper break of slope (now machined away), but surviving lower breaks of slope which were more gradual, almost imperceptible in places. The base here was flattish but uneven, largely due to disturbance caused by animal burrowing. This affected much of the middle section of the ditch, whilst the north-eastern terminus itself was much shallower, with straight sloping sides to the north, and an even steeper straight side to the south. At this end the fills consisted of a lower layer [3731] of moderately compact mid grey sandy silt with occasional flints and stone (<4cm), but with a much more stony layer (consisting of clasts 50-100mm diameter) sitting in the base, some of these having the appearance of having been weathered out, along with the sand matrix, suggesting a period of time in which this ditch had been left open and exposed. Overlying this a layer of moderately compacted orange to mid grey sandy silt [3730] had been deposited, the latter containing spots of orange sand, occasional stone or flint (<5cm), and rare pieces of charcoal. Whilst the lower fill contained a single piece of animal bone, from the upper fill came three pieces of burnt stone, suggesting some human contribution to the gradual infilling of the ditch. Given the slope and direction of this ditch away from the slightly earlier ditches to the south of this (**F.364** and **F.463**), the possibility remains that this acted as some sort of drain between the latter and the two pre-existing pits to the west (**F.482** and **F.444**). Though still relatively late as a feature compared to the various pits and ditches which it truncates, an end Late Iron Age to Early Roman date remains possible.

F.482 An oval-shaped pit approximately 0.8m diameter, but only 0.1-0.13m deep, truncated on its east side by ditch **F.481**. Has moderately steep concave sides which have become irregular where these have been burrowed into by animals, the upper

break of slope since machined away, the lower breaks of slope being imperceptible on the south-east and gradual on the north-eastern sides [3736]. The single fill of this consists of a moderately compact brownish grey sandy silt with rare stones and flint (<40 mm) and occasional iron pan. Up to 70% of this has been disturbed by animal burrowing. The fill of this pit is very similar to that within the large pit (F.444) located just to the north-west of and also truncated by ditch F.481. The limited presence of mollusc (garden snail) shell suggests that the pit had been left open and was damp but not water-filled, before becoming silted up. The function of this seems uncertain, it may have been quarrying. Probably Late Iron Age, but an earlier phase of pitting.

F.483 A circular feature, approximately 0.84m diameter and 0.36m deep, located between cultivation trenches F.356 and F.416. Has gentle to moderately steep concave sides and exhibits a 'U' shaped profile, the upper break of slope on the NNE side is sharp, with that on the SSE side being gradual, and with an imperceptible basal break of slope and a rounded base. Contained a single fill of compact mid blue grey silty sand with mottled orange patches and inclusions of occasional flint pebbles up to 30 mm diameter [3752]. This was similar to the fill in some of the cultivation trenches; however, no finds were recovered. The most likely interpretation is that this is a planting pit contemporary with that of the trenches. Early Roman?

F.484 A sub-ovoid pit (0.8m long, 0.45m wide and approximately 0.3m deep) located less than 1m north of the terminus of cultivation trench F.357. A pit cut with near vertical sides, a sharp top and bottom break in slope, and a flattish concave base [3757]. This is also slightly undercut on the north side and is asymmetric in profile. Contains two fills: a basal layer consisting of soft mottled light grey-yellow to orange fine sand with abundant fine gravel inclusions and chalky fragments plus occasionally larger (<50mm) flint pebbles [3756], and an upper fill consisting of a compact light brown grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles [3765]. No finds were recovered. Possibly a planting pit for a shrub or herb, probably contemporary with the use of the cultivation trenches. Early Roman.

F.485 One of two inter-connected sub-oval shaped pits (F.485 & F.486) which appear to be coeval and perhaps functionally related. Both are approximately the same size and lie end to end on the same ENE-SSW alignment. The cut for F.485 is sub-circular to oval in plan with rounded corners to the north and squared corners on the south side (1.7m long, approximately 1.2m wide and 0.58m deep). On the east side of the section the upper break of slope has been machined away whilst the actual side of the pit is gently to moderately steeply sloping with an almost imperceptible bottom break of slope, the latter leading into a sloping concave to flattish base [3765]. Opposite this, a sharp basal break of slope stood at the foot of the steeply sloping west side of the pit, whilst at the top of this another well-defined break of slope formed the step-off or platform (connection) between the two pits. F.485 contained two distinct fills; up to the level of this step and towards the western end of the pit this consisted of a firm dark brown clay silt and sand with inclusions of medium to small size pebbles and a basal concentration of stones and some mixed animal bone (some of it well preserved) [3767]. The upper fill consisted of a light to dark brown grey silty sand with occasional stones (both angular and rounded), some fine pebbles and gravel, occasional charcoal, and some flecks of orange mottling [3766]. On the step between the two pits rested another small accumulation of stone. Very little burnt

stone and almost no burnt flint or bone was recovered from either of the two fills. The association of this lower fill [3767] with the western side of this pit could suggest that this included unburnt but perhaps also some processed material transferred from one pit (F.486) to the other. The latter pit has been dated to the Middle Bronze Age, thus by implication this one should be as well.

F.486 An oval-shaped pit (1.4m long, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep), one of a pair of interconnected and inter-related pits **F.485** and **F.486**. The longitudinal profile of this pit is broadly 'U' shaped, with a gradual upper break of slope on the east side (the step between **F.485** and **F.486**), an imperceptible basal break of slope leading into a straight to slightly concave sloping side, a rounded concave base, and moderately steep concave western side with a slightly better defined upper break of slope [3765]. The fills of this appear only slightly more complex. Resting on the floor of the pit was a thin layer consisting of a compact light bluish grey silty clay [3764]. This deposit was located immediately beneath the deposit of black silt and burnt stone, whilst the basal boundary of this was clear and well-defined. The 'burnt' layer [3763] sat as a concave lens up to 0.15m deep infilling the hollow of this feature. It consisted of a dark black silty matrix within which was a layer of pebbles, the latter consisting of some 70% stones (including 30% burnt sandstone fragments) plus some angular and rounded flint (small to medium-sized pebbles). Alongside this were frequent pieces of charcoal plus some smaller fragments of animal bone, most of this located in between the fragments of burnt stone. The uppermost fill [3762] consisted of a compact light to dark brown grey silty sand which contained rounded-angular stones, small to medium-sized pebbles (40%), frequent inclusions of small (fine) gravel, and occasional fragments of charcoal. The arrangement of fills partitioned between **F.485** and **F.486** is interesting, the thick layer of burnt stones and charcoal within the base of this pit suggesting that the hot stones had been placed here. Possibly therefore this was part of a cooking (roasting) pit arrangement, although the use of these for boiling cannot be ruled out. A Middle Bronze Age date seemed most likely, the latter confirmed through C14 dating of the charcoal recovered from a bulk sample (3030 +/- 40 yr BP [1410-1200 Cal BC). Some useful environmental evidence relating to these features has also been obtained. From **F.486** came cereal grains along with bits of chaff suggesting that cereal processing waste along with grasses, reeds and sedge were being used as kindling.

F.487 A 0.95m wide and 0.29m deep ditch exposed within the base of the excavation trench which forms the NW extension to Area B. Only 2 m of this was exposed and a section cut in a 1m long slot. This had a slightly 'V' shaped profile with moderately steep and straight sides and a narrow concave base [3770]. Contained a single fill of pale grey silty sand mixed with an iron-stained reddish sand with common inclusions of small to medium-sized flint gravel and occasional flecks of charcoal [3769]. No finds were recovered. On the Roman alignment, probably Early Roman.

F.488 A medium-sized ENE-WSW aligned ditch (>1.1m wide and 0.32m deep) with moderately steep to gentle concave sides and a concave base [3775]. Contains a single fill of mid grey silty sand with common small to medium-sized flint gravel, rare charcoal flecks and a small amount of animal bone ([3774]/ [3382]). A small amount of Late Iron Age pot came out of fill [3382] (Slot 95); however, the ditch alignment was approximately 'Roman' in orientation. It was thought therefore that **F.488** may well be a continuation of the Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch **F.349/338** which

enclosed an area of horticultural trenches (Group 14) in the far south- western corner of the site. In fact, the alignments of both sets of ditches matched up exactly. Significantly, **F.488** was cut at right angles by a ditch of rather similar dimensions (**F.438**), again on the Roman alignment, but from which Early Roman pottery was recovered. Excavation carried out at the junction of these two ditches appeared to show the eastern end of **F.488** turning south at 90° along exactly the same alignment as **F.438**, but pre-dating the latter, which then cuts in over the top. Thus **F.438** will have almost, if not entirely removed the easterly change in direction of **F.488**. This change of direction in **F.488** matches fairly closely the same 90° turns witnessed on **F.349** at the opposite end of the site, and thus very characteristic of the Late Iron Age/Roman enclosures. The date of this therefore is most likely to be end Late Iron Age continuing into the Early Roman period.

F.489 A large sub-oval pit (3.4m long, 2.2m wide and 0.78m deep) lying adjacent to a very similar feature **F.490**. This had moderate to very steep sides with a gentle upper break of slope, a convex north side with a moderately well-defined basal break of slope leading to a flattish then narrow hollow concave base, and on the south side, a slightly stepped slope, straight to slightly convex in profile, but with a sharply defined basal break of slope [3788]. This contained three fills. The basal layer [3787] consisted of a wedge of pale grey silt mixed with redeposited natural yellow orange sand and gravel interspersed with occasional fragments of charcoal, the latter forming a slump deposit against the side of the lower north-eastern half of the pit. Overlying this was another thicker layer of sediment [3786] also deposited from the same side. This consisted of a mid to dark grey silty clay containing frequent small lumps and flecks of charcoal as well as abundant mollusc (snail) shells. There were also common to occasional inclusions of small to medium-sized gravel and some larger chunks of flint. Above this lay a small wedge of pale grey silt mixed with redeposited orange sand and fine gravel [3785] which appears to have slumped in from the shallower southern side of the pit, and then above this the main upper fill of the pit consisting of a dark grey black clayey peat [3784] with inclusions of flint gravel, moderately large quantities of burnt stone (mostly sandstone), occasional charcoal, animal bone, and abundant amounts of mollusc (snail) shell. The latter fill almost looked like a re-cut in section. No dateable finds such as pottery were recovered, though a bulk sample was collected from the main fill of the pit [3784] for the purposes of C14 dating. Charcoal extracted from this provided a later Early Bronze Age date of 3300 +/-40 yrs BP (1670-1490 Cal BC). A bulk environmental sample together with a monolith for pollen analysis were also collected from the same horizon. The *mollusca* included fresh-water snail species which indicated the presence of permanent or semi-permanent water. Although not as deep as the adjacent pit **F.490**, pit **F.489** might also have been dug with the similar intention of collecting water, used either as a watering hole for animals or perhaps for some sort of cooking function.

F.490 A large circular pit, 2.4m in diameter and up to 0.85m deep, with a near symmetrical 'U' shaped profile, very steep concave sides with a wide lip and sharp upper break of slope and gradual bottom break of slope (on both sides) leading to an almost flat base sloping gently from the north side to a central depression [3791]. This contained four fills. The basal fill on the north side consisted of a wedge of redeposited silt, sand and gravel forming a slump deposit identical to [3787] in **F.489**, whilst overlying this and infilling the depression in the bottom of the pit was the same dark silty clay [3786]. The upper two layers, however, were unique to this pit; [3790]

consisted of a mid grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and charcoal, mollusc shells (snails) and a single animal bone, whilst the uppermost fill [3789] consisted of a darker grey black clayey peat which contained the occasional inclusion of gravel, a fair amount of burnt stones, mollusc (snail) shells and charcoal. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the age of **F.490** will almost certainly match that obtained for **F.489**. Identified as being a possible watering hole for animals or even as a cooking pit, although the latter may well have been a secondary use of this. Early Bronze Age?

F.491 A moderately large (3.9m long, 3.7m wide and 1.03m deep) sub-circular pit or well/watering hole, part of a tight cluster (within a <6m radius) of associated and intercutting sub-circular to rectangular pits or ‘tanks’ cut into the natural at the south end of Area B. The well-defined cut of **F.491** consisted in its upper part of a wide rim (0.75m width) of very gentle sloping edge, then a moderately pronounced break in slope which takes the form of rounded convex step, the latter becoming a steep concave slope which defines the lower part of the pit, this breaking gradually into a sub-circular uneven to concave base [3520]. This contained six fills. The basal layer [5219] consisted a soft friable mid grey brown silty sand, banded but with frequent stone inclusions (40%). This was interpreted as slumps of material entering from the south side, possibly from the excavated material dumped on the pit edge. The overlying context [5218] was a soft mid grey brown sandy clay, massive with occasional stone inclusions. This was interpreted as being a more of a mixture of slumped material, including a tip of stones fallen in along the west side. Above this was a thin lens [5217] consisting of a compact pale brown silty clay, massively bedded with some rare small to medium-sized stone inclusions, a layer interpreted overall as representing a small wash of clayey material. Above this was yet another layer of soft mid grey brown silty clay with small-medium-sized stones [5216], one which was quite thickly developed and present across both sections cut through the pit fill (SW-NE and E-W). The latter was interpreted as being a more gradual accumulation of silty material washed in, this attested to by the evidence of lamination. Another quite thickly developed fill [5215] which consisted of a soft mid grey silty clay with rare stones and lenses of clay covered most of the area of the pit apart from that on the far eastern side (the area of the upper step). This appeared to be an even slower accumulation of silt material from a different source; one with a greyer colour and barely any stones. The uppermost or main pit fill [5214] consisted of a thick ponded deposit of soft mid brown grey silty clay, mottled due to the presence of sand and clay laminae, but with occasional stones and charcoal. The latter in places was associated with small and widely dispersed patches of burnt material, the latter indicating either burning *in situ*, or else the presence of burnt material washed in a short distance from the edges of the pit. On the north side of **F.491** the same (or a similar) charcoal layer [3867] was picked up in the top (south) end of NW-SE section cut through the junction of **F.491** with an earlier square to rectangular pit **F.503**, much of which the latter had truncated. This ‘burnt’ layer formed a thin but distinctive and discontinuous horizon; thin wispy lenses which contained degraded charcoal, ash, traces of burnt reddened clay and some rare lumps of coal, the presence of the latter indicating a post-medieval date for the final infill. In the absence of finds from pit **F.491**, this has implications as regards the latest date of its final silting-up. Whilst the general appearance of this feature would seem to imply an early date, the complete absence of animal bone and pot is very unusual within a prehistoric/ Roman of this size, bearing in mind its 25% sample. The lack of any sort

of modern cultural debris is similarly strange. Because of this, another quadrant was rapidly excavated following recording, primarily to re-sample this feature for finds; however, nothing further was discovered. The pit clearly post-dates the earliest square-shaped pit (F.503). It would seem most likely therefore that the whole cluster of pits are probably 'modern', although no firm date for any of this can be given. Post-medieval.

F.492 A narrow and shallow sub-circular feature (0.51m long, 0.58m wide and 0.08m deep), too small to be a post-hole, was located some 10m to the south of the burnt stone pits F.485 and F.486. With very gentle sloping concave sides, an almost imperceptible break(s) of slope, and a rounded concave base, the cut [3839] for the feature had the appearance of a very shallow pit of indeterminate function, yet not obviously directly associated with any burning activity. Some truncation appears to have taken place. The fill consists of a soft mottled mid grey brown with yellow sandy silt and considerable inclusions of burnt stone [3838]. No finds, but on the above criteria pre Iron Age, and most probably Middle Bronze Age in date.

F.493 An elongated NW-SE aligned pit which in plan view is sub-circular with rounded corners on the east side, sub-rectangular on the west side, and which in profile has gently sloping sides with gradual top and bottom break of slope and a slightly concave to flat base [3841]. This contained a single fill consisting of a compact mid to dark brown silty sand containing up to about 75% small to medium-sized pebbles – the sub-rounded to rounded stones making up 60%, the smaller fraction being flint gravel. Inclusions of burnt stone were common (some of the larger ones near the base) along with frequent charcoal [3840]. This was interpreted as a roughly cut pit which may itself have been used to heat up the stones, or else acted as a repository for the spent ones. To some extent this matches the content and possible use of F.379. The pit connects with the Late Iron Age trackway ditch F.302 on the west side, the relationship between the two not being 100% clear; however, it seems most likely that it is the ditch which is cutting the pit. The presence of this same stone within the lower fills of the Middle-Late Bronze Age ditches (F.301 *etc.*) suggests that both of these features (F.379 and F.493) might be of an equivalent or still earlier date. The dating of F.486 by inference dates this to the Middle Bronze Age

F.494 A small circular pit (0.85m diameter and 0.22m deep) which truncates the rather similar feature F.495. This appears to be just one of a small cluster of related but differently sized pits (F.489, F.490, F.494, F.495, F.496). A shallow 'U' shaped pit of rather similar profile to the others with moderately steep sloping concave sides, imperceptible upper and lower breaks of slope and a rounded concave base [3850]. Contains two fills consisting of a basal layer of mid grey clay silt mixed with reddish orange oxidised sand, occasional small gravel, charcoal and snail shell inclusions [3849] overlain by a darker grey clay silt with rare fine gravel, occasional charcoal and some mollusc (snail) shells [3848]. No dateable finds were recovered, although both the infilling sediments and type of pit are very similar (if not identical in some respects) to that of the prehistoric pit F.489. Early Bronze Age?

F.495 Another small circular pit (0.65m diameter and 0.29m deep) which has been truncated by F.494 around its northern edge. 'U' shaped with significantly steeper sides than F.494, with a convex to straight profile down the northern side of the cut, but with a concave southern side [3853]. This contained two fills: a main lower fill

consisting of a mid grey silty clay mixed with reddish orange sand with occasional small gravel and mollusc (snail) shell inclusions and some flecks of charcoal [3852]. The thinner upper layer consisted of a darker grey black clayey peat with nothing but occasional gravel inclusions [3851]. Same date as **F.489**. Early Bronze Age?

F.496 A small circular pit lying on the edge (just to the north-west) of this same cluster of pits (0.65m diameter and 0.3m deep) with an exact 'U' shaped profile with almost vertical but slightly concave sides and a flat base [3855]. This contained a single fill of dark grey black peaty clay with rare small gravel inclusions and a high density of fine charcoal flecks and small burnt stones [3854]. There were no other finds. The different pit shape and infill, the latter representing a single phase of use, would seem to imply a slightly different function of this pit to the rest. Most likely this was some sort of cooking or boiling pit. Same date as **F.489** (Early Bronze Age).

F.497 A square pit which truncates another similar rectangular feature to the north. This lies just to the west of **F.491**, thus the exact relationship of this to the former could not be ascertained; however, the intercutting nature of this group of sub-rectangular pits (**F.497**, **F.499** and **F.498**) would seem to suggest that all of these are later than the original cutting and use of pits **F.503** and **F.491**. This relatively large pit (2.2m square and up to 0.37m deep) with approximately 90° rounded corners had, unusually, gentle to moderately sloping sides, with an upper sharp break of slope and an imperceptible lower break of slope leading into a rounded concave base. The single fill consisted of a very soft mid brown grey clay silt with yellow-orange sand plus inclusions of lumps of light blue and light grey yellow clay [3798]. Evidently a quite mixed fill, seemingly modern in character. It was suggested that this may have been a feature associated with relatively modern agricultural use, either as a sump or to hold water for animals. An alternative explanation was that this might be associated in some way with the former agricultural show ground (1951 – 1965) located within this area of Clay Farm grounds. Post-medieval (modern).

F.498 A 2m by 2m square pit, one of the series of intercutting pits which form a 'L' shaped block aligned NNW-SSE by WNW-ESE. This appears to pre-date both the cutting of **F.497** and **F.499**, but post-dates pit **F.491** and **F.503**. The edge of the cut and fill of this was picked up on the north side of the central slot sampling the relationship between this, **F.503** and **F.491**; however, none of the contexts within **F.498** were recorded. It was noted that these were similar to those of **F.497** and **F.499**, and apparently post-medieval (modern).

F.499 Another similar square shaped cut which was sectioned within the middle of this series of intercutting pits defined by the 'L' shape of **F.497** and **F.498**. The E-W limits of **F.499** could not be determined, although this was of the same N-S dimensions (approximately 2m) as both **F.497** and **F.498**. The area determined within the sample slot (2.1m wide and 0.71m deep) suggested a rectangular feature with rounded corners/edges, a sharp upper break of slope, straight sides, a near vertical face on the north side but steep and slightly undercut (concave to convex) on the south, with a sharp basal break of slope on each side turning into a flat, slightly uneven base. This contained five fills: a lower basal lens of compact light grey yellow coarse sand and pebbles [3804], a thicker fill of soft mid grey clay and fine sand with frequent small-medium pebbles and flint gravel covering the entire base of the cut [3803], a soft mid brown yellow clay sand with frequent flint pebble inclusions

[3802], an overlying mid grey brown clay silt up to 0.25m thick with some inclusions of clay, soil and a lens of charcoal-rich material on top [3801], and finally, an upper quite shallow lens-like fill in the top which consisted of a soft mid-brown grey clay silt mottled with an inclusion of light grey white clay [3800]. As with **F.497**, the feature was interpreted as being modern, perhaps a sump or 'tank-like' hole to hold water or perhaps a drain. Possibly associated with the agricultural show ground. Post-medieval (modern).

F.500 A small 'modern' post-hole, perhaps one associated with pit **F.497**, and located just to the south of it. Square to rectangular in shape with vertical straight sides and a square flat bottom (0.3m long, 0.24m wide and 0.22m deep), this contained two fills: a lower loose mid grey brown fine sand [3857] and an upper fill consisting of a soft mid yellow brown silty sand containing a number of moderately large cobbles (80-100mm diameter) [3856]. Almost certainly associated with two other post-holes (**F.501** and **F.502**) which cut, therefore post-dated the large square pits (**F.497** and **F.503**). Post-medieval (modern).

F.501 A similar shaped post-hole; square, 0.26m wide and 0.22m deep [3861] with fills consisting of a mid grey brown clay silt [3860] and an upper soft dark grey brown clay silt with some gravel [3859]. This cut the centre of the fill of pit **F.497**, but was not properly excavated. Post-medieval (modern).

F.502 A similar square post-hole; 0.26m wide and 0.23m deep with a fill of loose mid grey brown sand [3863] overlain by a soft grey brown silty sand [3862]. This cut the west side of a square pit inserted into, and truncating, the top of pit **F.497**. Post-medieval (modern).

F.503 A square deep pit (approximately 2.6m long, 0.7m wide and 0.95m+ deep) cut into the north side of **F.497**. This was not fully excavated, but its probable depth was revealed only in the side of a 1m x 1m test pit cut through the middle. Only a small area of the north side of was encountered in section, this was straight and steeply dipping (at approximately 75-80°) to the south [3866]. The pit contained a single fill consisting of a soft mid brown grey silty sand (fine sand) with frequent small and medium-sized gravel in bedded lenses dipping at approximately 25° towards the centre of the feature [3865]. The relationship of this central pit to all the others within the pit cluster was important. Undoubtedly **F.503** was the earliest feature, cut by **F.491** to the south and then by **F.497**, **F.498** and **F.499** to the north. Nevertheless, its approximately square outline which is so similar to that of **F.497** would seem to suggest that there may not after all be that much time difference between the digging of each. A post-medieval date has been suggested; however, the feature could be earlier. Both the depth of this and the perceived steepness of the cut would support the notion that this could have been a shallow well or water hole. The water table at this particular point was high, the feature remaining submerged after excavation.

F.504 Not assigned.

F.505 A naturally silted-up pit (approximately 4m by 2m wide and 0.35m deep) which is located towards the northern terminus of the cultivation trench **F.358**. This may either be earlier or later (cutting) than the trench, the fill of this being almost identical with the latter, thus difficult to differentiate; however, the feature more

clearly cuts pit **F.362** which in turn cuts quarry pit **F.506**. The cut seems to be ovoid/ellipsoid in plan and shallow 'U' shaped in x-section, this has gentle but unevenly sloping sides with a gradual basal break of slope and a rounded to flat base. The 'loamy' fills consist of basal compact light grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of a fine-medium sub-angular flint gravel [3873] and an upper pale grey sandy silty clay with occasional yellow mottled patches, rare gravel inclusions, and root holes [3874]. A pit of uncertain function, this may have been dug for the quarrying of soil or for the removal of a shrub or small tree. Contemporary with or just pre-dating the digging of the cultivation beds. Early Roman (post-50 AD).

F.506 A large irregular shaped pit of uncertain dimensions, though >2m diameter (only one side is exposed). The pit has moderately steep concave sides with a flattish and slightly concave but irregular base [3883]. The floor of this has also been cut by animal burrows. This contained a single fill of loose light yellow-orange medium to coarse sand and gravel (redeposited natural) [3872] which contained no finds. Almost certainly a quarry pit dug for sand and gravel which was then backfilled at an early date. This may be Late Prehistoric or Early Roman, but either way this indicates a phase of quarrying which pre-dates the use of this area for cultivation sometime during the 1st century AD. The backfilled quarry has been cut by up to two pits and a cultivation trench. Late Iron Age or Early Roman.

F.507 A small oval-shaped quarry cut (approximately 2.1 x 1.9 x 1m deep) with steep sides 60-75° and a concave base cut into the south-west terminus end of the 'sausage ditch' **F.509**. This cut [3885] contained a fill [3884] consisting of dark blue-grey compacted sandy clay with small stones and a large boulder of cemented 'natural' (chalk marl?). A small amount of bone, burnt stone and one unworked flint chunk. Probably contemporary with **F.509**. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.508 A small (0.65m diameter) and shallow (0.75m deep) circular quarry pit with steep sides (70-80°) and a flattish base which has been partly truncated away by pit **F.351**. The feature was infilled with a dark blue-grey sandy silt [3887], rather similar to that within quarry pit **F.507**. Bone and single pieces of burnt flint and MBA-LBA type struck flint were recovered from this. Middle-Late Bronze Age?

F.509 A short (5m long) section of ditch on the same NE-SW axial alignment as **F.301** (which it abuts at the south end), but off-set to the east by approximately 0.5m. This introduced off-set was presumably to circumvent the eastern edge of the large circular pit or ditch terminus **F.351**. The ditch was approximately 1.5m wide at its undisturbed northern end, with evenly steep sides, a narrow (<0.2m wide) base and neat 'V' shaped profile. Here the cut [3338] had partly truncated away the upper edge of the earlier pit which lay to the west. By contrast, the southern half was up to 2m wide, with hollowed-out quarried sides (**F.507** *etc.*) providing an irregular shaped x-section, the latter further complicated as a result of its truncation by a modern NE-SW oriented trench. The ditch fills consisted of an upper dark grey sandy silt [3334] separated by a stony layer ([3335]) from a mid grey sandy silt [3336], both of which contained animal bone, small amounts of burnt stone and charcoal. These layers are also common with the adjacent pit **F.351**. In many respects these also seem equivalent to contexts [3009] and [3019] *etc.* within ditch **F.301**, confirming similarities in both their genesis and mode of infill. Middle-Late Bronze Age.

F.510 A curvilinear ditch which can be traced for at least 15m eastwards from Slot 167 to Slot 164. Narrow (0.27m) and quite shallow (0.07m), vaguely 'U' shaped in profile with gently sloping sides and a sharp top and imperceptible bottom break of slope. This was only visible in section in the east-facing section of Slot 164 where this had been severely truncated by the edge of **F.450**. The fill consisted of a loose mid-grey brown silty sand with occasional stone inclusions [3507]. No finds were recovered, yet its form and orientation suggested a late prehistoric date. The general alignment however, can only be ascribed to the Late Prehistoric period.

F.511 A large 'V' shaped ditch with a NNW-SSE axial alignment contiguous with the rounded east end of pit **F.351** (which possibly could also be the butt end of this ditch) and at 90° to the alignment of ditch **F.301** was slot sampled close to the western edge of the excavations (Slot 140). At this point the ditch was up to 3m wide and 1.34m deep. On the western side of this there appeared to be a still earlier ditch (**F.476**) which was shallower with homogenous and ill-defined fill(s). In this case **F.511** could be truncating it or else be a re-cut. The ditch sides here were steep with a sharp basal break of slope and a 1m wide flat base [3673]. The lower fill layers consisted of waterlain deposits composed of grey-orange sandy clays and silts ([3672]-[3665]) with molluscs (freshwater snails). These layers were overlain by slump deposits, mostly from the east side where there may once have been a bank ([3664]). The upper part of the section consisted of a series of generally dark backfills variously rich in charcoal and burnt stone ([3663] – [3658]). The burnt stone and charcoal provide evidence for burning relating to the contemporary 'cooking pits' and spreads of burnt stone prevalent within the neighbourhood of this ditch (**F.485**, **F.379** & **F.493**). Charcoal associated with these burnt stones [3662] has been radiocarbon dated to the Middle Bronze Age (3070 +/- 40 yrs BP [1420-1250 Cal BC OR 1240-1220 Cal BC). Although not dating the actual ditch construction or use, the re-deposition of large amounts of unweathered burnt material from still exposed burnt stone spreads/ pits nearby makes it likely that these are broadly contemporary. Similarly the alignment (matching that of similar ditches proven by crop-marks and recently by open area excavation to the west (See Collins *forthcoming*) is clearly Bronze Age. Apart from this, only a tiny amount of flint but no pottery was recovered. Given the similarity of this ditch to **F.301**, a Middle-Late Bronze Age date is suggested.

F.512 Not assigned.

F.513 Possibly part of a parallel sequence of segmented ditches. This single 15m length of an approximately 0.3-0.4m wide NW-SE linear ditch was originally noted during the base planning of the site some 22m north of **F.421**. The outline of this later became obscured and lost during the flooding and subsequent silting which took place in this low-lying area, and as a result this was never sampled. Middle-Late Bronze Age?

F.514 A small quarry pit (probably <1m diameter). It is uncertain whether or not this was sampled, though it appeared to be unexcavated. Uncertain date.

F.515 Not assigned.

F.516 Not assigned.

F.517 A small (0.5m long, 0.3m wide by 0.1-0.15m deep) oval-shaped pit dug through the butt end of cultivation trench **F.357**. The profile of the cut is slightly asymmetric, shallower with a convex slope and stepped base on the west side, steeper and concave on the east side, with a narrow rounded base [3782]. The base of this hole (below the floor of the cultivation trench) is filled with a light grey brown to yellow orange sandy silt containing a mixture of coarse flinty gravel and chalky silt with rootlet holes and a thin line of dark grey humic silt just above the base. This also contains rare flecks of red (burnt) or decomposed tile or brick [3783]. Probably a planting hole contemporary with the Roman cultivation (Early Roman?).

F.518 A large irregular shaped quarry pit > 5m diameter which cuts the edge of the **F.349/F338** Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure ditch, but which is itself cut by two smaller possible Early Roman quarry pits, **F.376** and **F.393**. Not excavated. Probably the first of a sequence of intercutting Early Roman quarry pits, though probably post-dating the period of cultivation within the adjacent enclosure.

F.519 An oval-shaped quarry pit approximately 4m long by 2.5m wide located in between cultivation enclosure ditches **F.397** and **F.349** and truncated by both of them. Possibly Late Iron Age (immediately pre-Conquest), this pre-dates the cultivation. Not dug.

F.519 A medium size (approximately 4m by 3m diameter) sub-circular to oval-shaped quarry pit, the edges of which are just truncated by the Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditches **F.349** and **F.397**. Not excavated. Probably a Late Iron Age quarry pit.

F.520 An irregular to oval-shaped small quarry pit, approximately 3m long by 1.5m wide; part of a group of unexcavated and undated pits just to the north of enclosure ditch **F.349/F.338**. Probably post-medieval in date.

F.521 A similar sized and shaped but slightly smaller quarry pit to **F.520**. This lies adjacent to the above, and is part of the same group. Probably post-medieval in date.

F.522 A large and very irregular-shaped quarry pit, approximately 8m long and 4m wide. Part of the same group of pits as **F.520** & **F.521**. Unexcavated and undated, but probably post-medieval.

F.523 A medium-sized oval-shaped quarry pit, approximately 5.5m long and 2m+ wide. Unexcavated and undated, but probably post-medieval.

F.524 A medium to oval-shaped sub-rectangular pit <2m long, part of an intercutting string of quarry pits **F.319**, **F.320** & **F.524**, several of which have been sampled, yet remain undated. This example is unexcavated, but is probably post-medieval.

F.525 A large sub-rounded to oval-shaped quarry pit (7m x 4.5m approximately) which lies adjacent to pit **F.479**. This was not properly excavated, but was very briefly machine-sampled, though not bottomed, and remains undated. It appears to be >0.5m deep. Although the cut was not looked at in detail, this seems to have a fairly typical quarry infill. The large pit size and grouping suggests a post-medieval date.

F.526 A long (>50m) sinuous ditch (0.5m to 1.5m wide) parallel to **F.407** and approximately 90° to **F.438** which cuts it at its north end. It also abuts (and is truncated by) a modern drainage ditch which runs exactly parallel to it on its north side. Not excavated or sampled, but probably Late Iron Age/Roman or Early Roman in date.

F.527 On oval/ pear-shaped rounded pit, probably a quarry pit, associated with pit group incl. **F.520**, **F.521** *etc.* Dimensions approximately 5m long and 3m wide, but of unknown depth. Not excavated. Probably post-medieval, though adjacent to Roman quarry pits **F.393** and **F.374**. Close to enclosure ditch **F.349**.