

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS ON
LAND OFF DRAYTON ROAD,
ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE**

NGR SU 4855 9572 (centred)

On behalf of

Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire

JANUARY 2016

REPORT FOR	Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 1SY
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Summary

In late summer 2014, John Moore Heritage Services undertook an archaeological excavation on land to the east of Drayton Road Abingdon NGR (SU 4855 9572 centred). Four areas were targeted on archaeological features highlighted from the two stage evaluation conducted previously. Palaeolithic mammal bones were recovered from the natural gravels that the later archaeology was cut into. Human occupation of the site was represented by a single Neolithic pit and flints recovered from the topsoil / subsoil, a palaeochannel was dated to the Late Bronze Age, four phases of activities dating to the Early Iron Age were identified together with a limited Roman Presence. Medieval ridge and furrows were present along the site and there were limited activities in the post-medieval.

The Early Iron Age farmstead consisted of one roundhouse associated with a four-post structure within the excavation areas and a developing enclosure system containing various fence lines for livestock control.

The Roman activity within the excavations was limited with the major part in the extreme north-west corner suggesting that the majority of the Roman remains are off site to the north and north-west.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site was located on land to the east of Drayton Road, Abingdon NGR (SU 4855 9572 centred). The underlying geology was Kimmeridge Clay that underlies both the First and Second Limestone Gravel Terraces with Head and younger Coombe Deposits to the east (BGS sheet 253).

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission was granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council (VOWHDC) for a residential development east of Drayton Road south of Abingdon (P12/V2266/FUL). An initial geophysical survey revealed a series of anomalies that was tested by two phases of archaeological field evaluation. The evaluations revealed evidence of Iron Age activity. There was no evidence to suggest any of the archaeological features were demonstrably of equivalent significance to a scheduled monument and therefore a programme of archaeological recording was recommended. The planning application was refused but subsequently allowed after an appeal. The inspector attached a condition requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation in advance of development.

A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by John Moore Heritage Services and agreed with the Oxfordshire Historic and Natural Environmental Team on behalf of VOWHDC.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The development site was situated just to the east of the Sutton Wick SAM (monument number 233986), an area of complex cropmarks (Fig. 3). Other, possibly associated, cropmarks are also evident to the northeast and east of the site; many of which represent barrow cemeteries and enclosures.

A geophysical survey has been conducted across the site (Stratascan 2012). This recorded the potential for limited archaeological features in the east of the development area (Fig. 2).

A first stage (Fig. 2) of archaeological evaluation confirmed suspected archaeological anomalies in four of the trenches (JMHS 2012). Other anomalies across the site were tested in the field and considered to be natural. Near the centre of the field, trenches 18 & 22 contained features which comprised most commonly ditches, pits and postholes, which would fit the character of a prehistoric farmstead. The only dating evidence recovered from the evaluation was mid to late Iron Age pottery leading to the suggestion that a small farmstead with simple outlying fields, marked by ditched boundaries, once occupied this site during the mid to late 1st Millennium BC. The site was probably abandoned during the 1st century BC.

A second phase (Fig. 2) of archaeological evaluation trenching on land off Drayton Road, Abingdon found a number of features across the site with some dated by pottery recovered from the fills to the Iron Age period (JMHS 2014). The majority of Iron Age pottery was

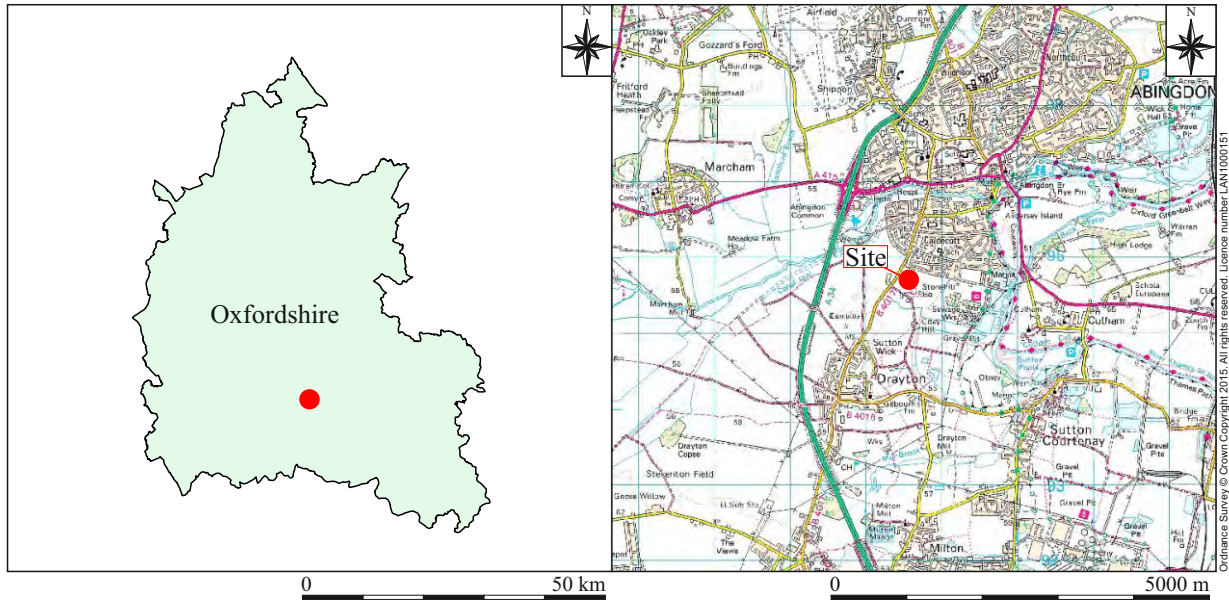


Figure 1: Site location

recovered from two conjoined ditches in the NW corner of the site. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery were also recovered from a continuous ditch which had been cut NE-SW along the west side of the site. A further sherd of Iron Age pottery were recovered from a stake hole adjacent to this feature and one more piece of Iron Age pottery was found in a linear ditch found towards the south of the site. Linear ditches were discovered in eight of the fourteen trenches and in total 15 sections of ditch were identified. At least eight of these sections appeared to be on alignment with ditches in other trenches representing four possible continuous ditches. Towards the east of the site a ditch terminus appeared to align with a ditch terminus found during the first evaluation phase to form a 14m banana shaped ditch. A possible ditch terminus was identified in the NW corner of the site along with three post holes. In total four post holes were identified across the site and seven undated pits. The majority of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the NW and west of the site.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were:

To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular to excavate and record the archaeological features present in the four designated areas.

The research priorities included: an examination of the function and the economy of any settlement and the activities being undertaken within it, analysis of the development of settlement in the area throughout all the periods of activity and occupation, an investigation of the phased evolution, longevity and character of all the periods represented and an analysis of the regional context of the site.

3 STRATEGY

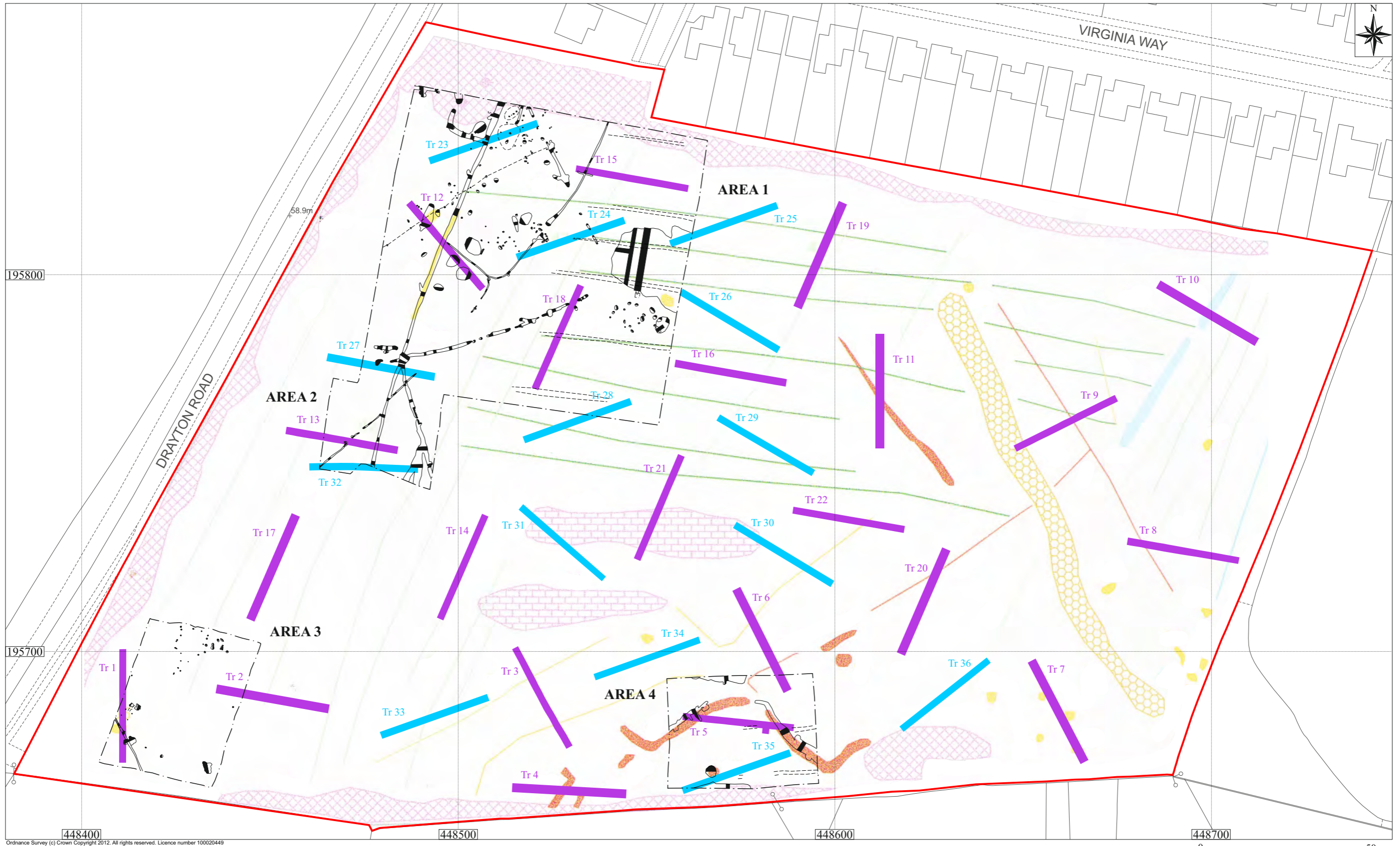
3.1 Research Design

In accordance with WSI (JMHS 2014) approved by OHaNET, JMHS carried out the archaeological investigation of the development area. Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the WSI.

3.2 Methodology

The archaeological investigation at Drayton Road in Abingdon was carried within the structure of a three-stage programme of works. First stage of work covered a predetermination archaeological field evaluation completed in 2012. A second stage evaluation was completed in early 2014. The main excavation of areas of the development area covered the third stage of fieldwork.

The main excavation consisted of four areas (Fig 1), Area 1, 80m x 80m, was located in the north-western corner of the development land. Area 2, 30m x 25m, adjoined Area 1 to the southwest. Area 3, 30m x 40m was located in the southwest corner of the development land.



Key Site boundary Archaeological interventions Medieval furrow Limit of excavation
 Phase 1 trench location
 Phase 2 trench location

Figure 2: Stages of archaeological investigation



Key
[Red line] Site boundary [Dashed line] Limit of excavation [Shaded area] Archaeological features

0 100 m

Figure 3: Overall site plan with cropmarks

Area 4, 30m x 40m was located midway along the southern boundary of the development land.

The ground reduction of the areas was undertaken under archaeological supervision by a 15 tonne 360 excavator equipped with a toothless 2m wide bucket, and two 7 tonne dumper trucks that transported the spoil to the spoil-heaps.

The topsoil and subsoil were stored separately on two large spoil-heaps along the southern boundary of the development area, in-between Areas 3 and 4. The spoil-heaps were maintained and compacted at regular intervals.

Ground reduction began with Area 3, then Areas 1 and 2, finally Area 4. Ground reduction took place in mostly warm, dry conditions and lasted for approximately six weeks.

The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand and planned. All archaeological deposits and features revealed were then manually cleaned and excavated, and recorded at an appropriate level. Archaeological features had written, drawn and photographic records made of them, and all deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) (current at the time of work) and the principles of MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).

Human remains discovered were recorded in plan and full excavated. A Ministry of Justice licence No. 13-0192 under Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 was obtained. Exhumation and post-excavation treatment was carried out in accordance with published guidelines (McKinley & Roberts 1993; Brickley & McKinley 2004).

All finds and artefacts were collected, cleaned, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in WSI, analysed by specialists and retained.

All variation to procedures specified in WSI were consulted and agreed with Hugh Coddington Principal Archaeologist of OHaNET, who regularly visited the site.

Archaeological excavation and recording of features was carried out by a team of archaeologists comprising one project officer, one project supervisor and up to ten site assistants under the overall direction of company director John Moore MCIfA.

The compilation of the archive was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standards (CIfA 2014).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field Results

All features were assigned with individual context number. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in the round brackets () show feature fills or deposits of material and numbers in **bold** indicate group numbers for various features.

During the archaeological investigations 2139 single context numbers were assigned to 318 features, 281 plans of features were created then added to a digital plan of site and 413

sections were recorded. Sixty-one features were dated, mostly to the Early Iron Age, but ranged from Late Neolithic to Roman periods.

4.2 General deposits

The lowest deposits encountered during the archaeological investigation were layers of Summertown-Radley second-terrace fine sands and gravels of light yellowish to mid brown colour (1000). Within this layer various semi-articulated and fragmented fossilised animal bones were recovered. These gravels formed a band orientated northeast / southwest across the site and the underlying Kimmeridge clay was exposed in the south-eastern corner of Area 1. Various glacial features, such as ice-wedges were recorded in Area 4.

Overlying the archaeological features cut into the natural deposits was a 0.6m – 0.2m thick layer of subsoil (1001), a mid-brown silty clay, that increased in thickness westwards and the topsoil, a mid-grey silty clay (1002), which was 0.3m – 0.2m thick.

4.3 Palaeolithic Period

There were fragmented fossilised bone from large mammals and molluscs present in the natural gravels in Area 1 (Fig. 4) that were deposited by an active palaeochannel in the Pleistocene (See 5.8). Three ice wedges present in Area 4 are likely to be of a similar date.

Ice wedge **2123** (Fig. 4) was orientated northwest – southeast, and was an irregular linear in shape and had two hand dug interventions excavated through it. The ice wedge was 26m long, up-to 2.9m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.70m and had moderate to steep slopes. It was filled by very clean sterile deposits of light grey / brown sandy silts with rare gravel inclusions.

Ice wedge **2124** (Fig. 4) was orientated northeast – southwest, had an irregular linear shape and had two hand dug interventions excavated through it. The ice wedge was 13m long, 1.2m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.5m and had moderately sloping sides. It had the same type and sequence of fills as ice wedge 2123.

Periglacial feature 2089 (Fig. 4) was orientated east – west and extended northwards under the baulk of Area 4. It was 7.7m long, 2.1m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.15m, where a solidified layer of tufa was present. It was filled by a sterile light grey / white friable tufa, (2088).

Various fossilised disarticulated and semi-articulated bones were present in the limestone gravels in Area 1, and a concentration of these were recovered from the north-western area of Area 1 (Fig. 4) Two interventions, 1406 and 1502, were cut into the natural gravels where semi-articulated bone was present, the fossilised bone of large mammals was very fragmentary making species identification difficult, however a limb bone from (1405) was identified as from a straight tusked elephant.

Further fossilised bone and a mollusc sample was collected from the surface of the gravels by Bob Eels, of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society (see 5.8). These included; a Hippopotamus tooth, a Bison tooth, a fragment of Red deer antler and an Elephant / Mammoth limb bone. A ten litre sample of gravels was collected and processed, recovered aquatic molluscs together with a small amount (9.16%) of land snails.

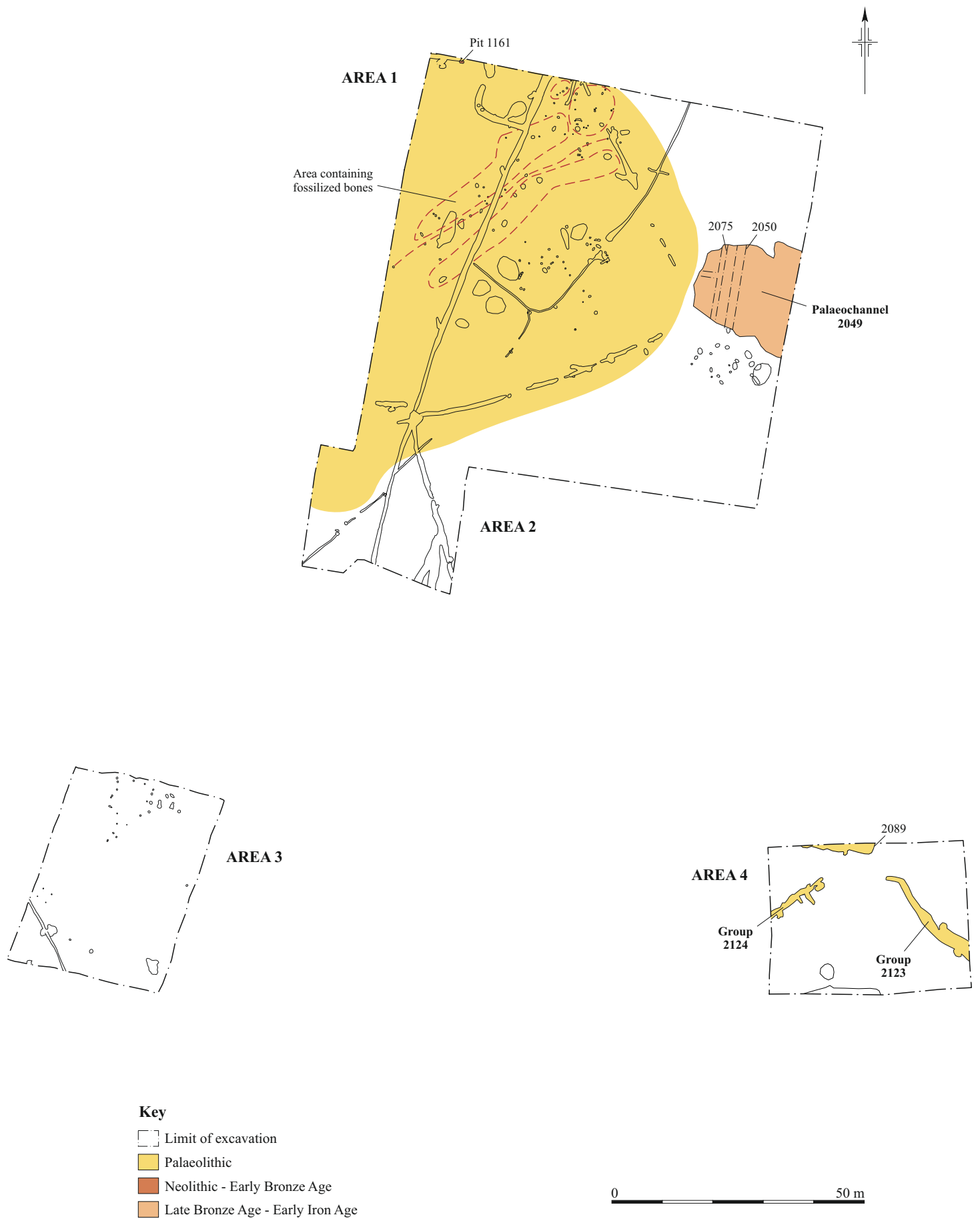


Figure 4: Plan of Palaeolithic, Neolithic - Early Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age phases

4.4 Neolithic / Early Bronze Age (2500 to 1600 BC)

The Late Neolithic / Early Bronze age represents the earliest phase of activity within the investigated areas. Dated to this period was a single small pit 1161, in the north-western corner of Area 1 (Fig. 4 & 5. S.1). The pit was sub-oval in plan, 0.8m long, 0.5m wide and 0.09m deep, with gentle sloping sides and a flat base. The single fill (1160) of the pit was a dark brown silty clay with occasional small gravel inclusions, and contained six wall fragments (4g.) of a sandy grog tempered ware, which could equally be from a Beaker or Early Bronze Age vessel.

125 flints were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil spoil heaps by Bob Eels of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, of which 25 were of a Mesolithic and / or Neolithic date and these included various blades, a leaf shaped arrowhead and a polished flint axe fragment.

4.5 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (9th to 6th centuries BC)

This is the first main phase of activity on the site during the prehistoric period. It was represented by the deposition of materials and use by livestock of the western bank of a palaeochannel that would have fed into the river Thames.

Palaeochannel **2049** (Fig. 4) was located along the eastern side of Area 1, and cut into the natural gravels, sub-oval in shape, and continued eastwards under the baulk of the site. The palaeochannel had two north - south interventions excavated across it, one hand excavated slot 2075, a 'T' shaped trench and a machine dug slot 2050 (Fig. 6). The palaeochannel was cut by two east – west medieval furrows and post-medieval field drains. The fills of the palaeochannel produced the largest assembly of pottery on the site, dating from the 8th to 7th centuries BC.

Intervention 2075 (Fig. 5. S.2 & S.3) was 'T' shaped 1m wide, 16m long north – south, 4m long east – west and up-to 0.6m deep. It had shallow sloping sides with an undulating base and along the western edge of the palaeochannel the sides were very uneven, possibly resulting from trampling by animals and contained four main fills.

The two lower fills were a dark grey clay with frequent small gravel inclusions and fragments of brush wood (not retained); fill (2074) was 3.6m wide x 0.4m thick and a 40L bulk sample <17> was taken and processed. Lower fill (2076), was 1.18m wide x 0.24m thick and a 40L bulk sample <18> was taken and processed (see 5.7 below).

Above these, middle fill (2073) and (2079) are the same deposit, a dark grey clay with moderate amounts of gravel inclusions, 11.8m wide x 3.4m long and up-to 0.28m thick, fill (2079) formed part of the trample layer overlying the disturbed natural along the western edge of the channel (Plate 1.). Then upper fill (2072) and (2078) again, are the same deposit, a dark grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions, 11.8m wide x 2.1m x 0.26m thick and were truncated by the two furrows 2071 and 2064.

Intervention 2050 was a north – south slot excavated under close archaeological supervision by the machine, then the sections cleaned by hand. The slot was 2.3m wide x 17m long and up-to 0.5m deep, with moderately sloping sides and undulating base and contained eight fills.



Plate 1. Trample layer in base of Palaeochannel 2049

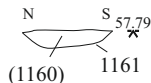
Four fills formed the lowest fills; fill (2057) was a dark grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions, 2.58m wide x 0.14m thick. Fills (2051, (2052) and (2053) were all a grey gravel rich sand, (2051) was 4.6m wide x 0.3m thick, (2052) was 1.7m wide x 0.14m thick and (2053) was 1.2m wide and 0.16m thick.

Overlying fills (2057) and (2051) was a grey silty clay with sparse amounts of gravels (2058) that was 4.2m wide x 0.34m thick and was cut by a furrow. Also overlying (2051) was a dark grey clay with moderate amounts of gravel inclusions (2056) that was 1.8m wide x 0.22m thick. Overlying (2056), (2052) and (2053) was a dark grey clay with occasional gravel inclusions (2054) that was 5.5m wide x 0.56m thick. Upper fill (2055) was a dark grey clay with no inclusions, 2.5m long x 0.22m thick and was cut by a furrow.

The finds recovered from these deposits included pottery (see 5.1), 314 fragments of animal bone (see 5.5) and ten pieces of flint (see 5.3). The largest and most significant of the ceramic deposits is from the palaeochannel (Group **2049** 2075) and is composed of 194 Early All Cannings Cross sherds from 30 vessels (1662g.). The majority are from two of the four horizons with pottery (2073: 99 sherds, 923g; and 2078: 63 sherds, 349g.), which are united by refitting fragments from several vessels. Smaller groups of sherds were recovered from the primary silts (2074; 30 sherds, 382g.) and one of the upper horizons (2072); two sherds, 8g.). The sherds from each of the deposits are in similarly variable condition and approximately 95% are small (<5cm. across) suggesting exposure to different levels of attrition prior to final burial, consistent with a possible origin in a domestic midden.

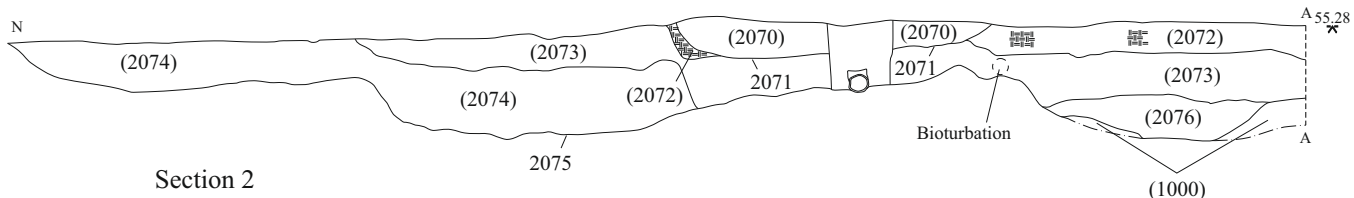
The differing amounts of finds from each of the two interventions through the palaeochannel could be due to intervention 2075's proximity to the edge of the channel.

Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age pit 1069

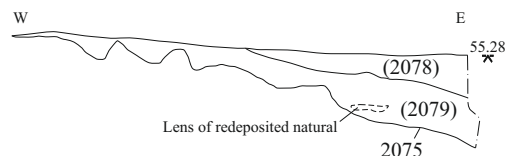
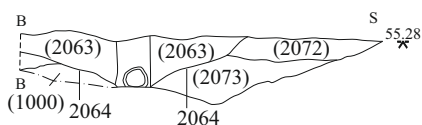
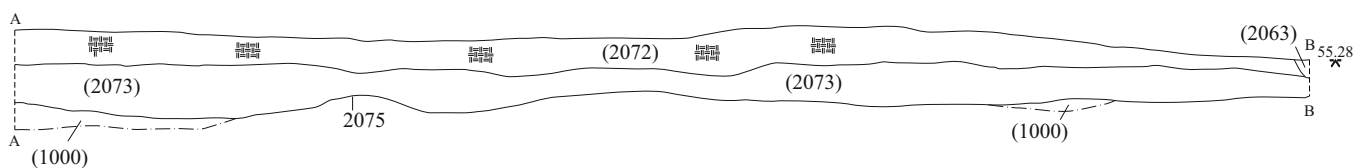


Section 1

Palaeochannel 2049



Section 2



Section 3

Key:

- Limit of excavation
- Clay



Figure 5: Late Neolithic / Early Iron Age pit and Late Bronze Age Palaeochannel

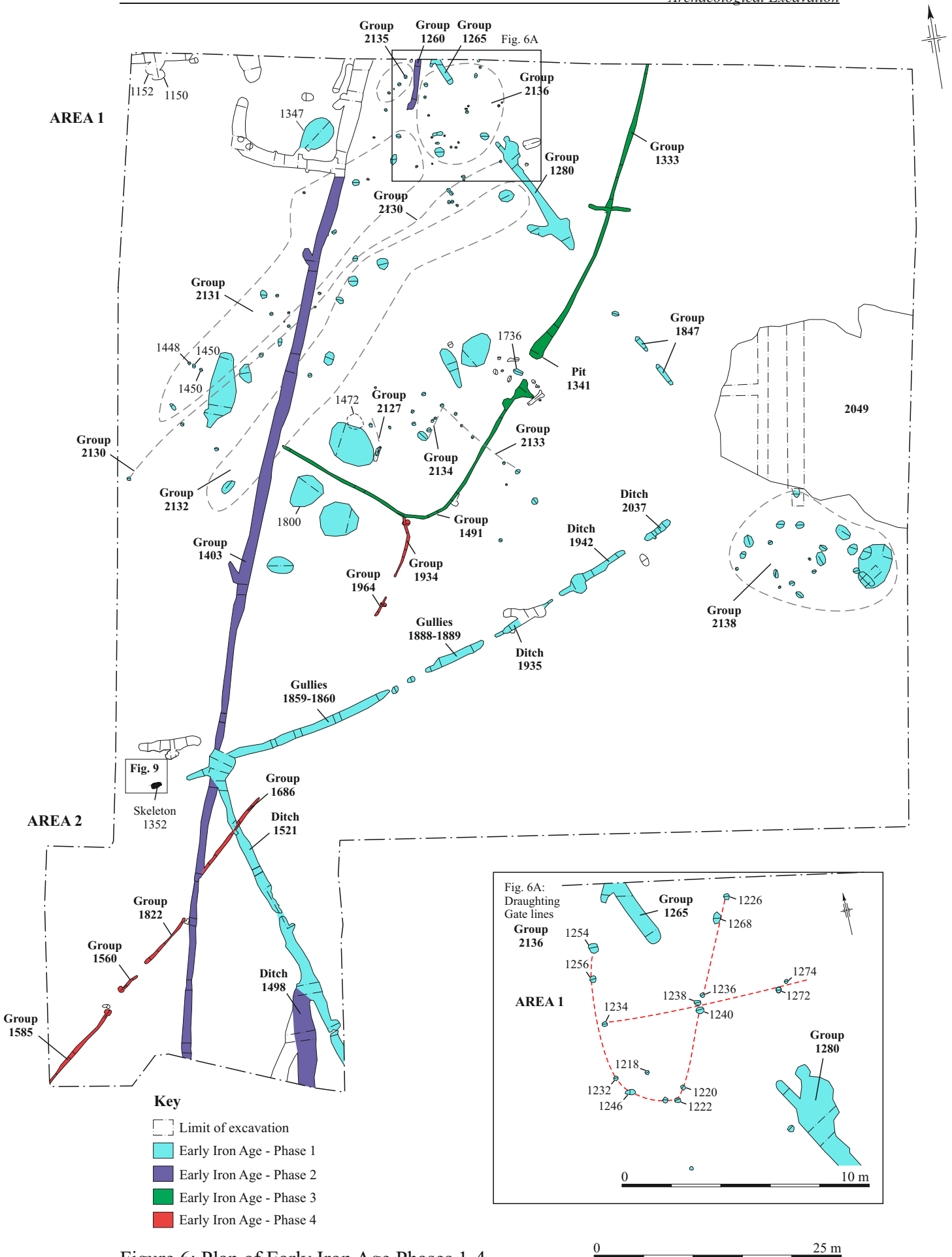


Figure 6: Plan of Early Iron Age Phases 1-4

4.6 Early Iron Age (8th to 6th Centuries BC)

Phase 1

The first phase of Early Iron Age activity on the site is represented by the rectangular field system comprising shallow long stretches of ditches together with segmented ditches that enclosed various pits and postholes. These formed a single roundhouse, various fence-lines, pit clusters and the continued use of the palaeochannel in Areas 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 6).

A number of these post built structures and pit clusters have been postulated partly on the basis of ceramic evidence and partly on the basis of spatial analysis / orientation. It is stressed that the structures described are only one possible interpretation extrapolated from a mass of largely undated postholes and pits (see below).

Segmented ditch enclosure

The segmented ditch enclosure (Fig. 6) was orientated northwest – southeast / northeast – southwest and consisted of thirteen lengths of ditches / gullies of varying lengths that formed a rectangular enclosure with a large gap in the southeast corner, immediately adjacent to palaeochannel **2049**. It enclosed various postholes and pits, some of which formed fence-lines allowing for management of livestock within the enclosure

Ditch group **1265** (Figs 6 & 7. S.4 & S.5) had two hand dug interventions, 1261 and 1263 (Table 1) excavated through it. The ditch was orientated northwest – southeast, 3m long, up-to 0.8m wide and up-to 0.14m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown sandy clay with sparse amounts of gravel and contained no finds.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1261	Ditch terminus	1	0.56	0.08	NW-SE linear	SE terminus of ditch, filled by 1262, a dark brown sandy clay
1263	Ditch	0.6	0.8	0.14	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1264, a dark brown sandy clay

Table 1. Ditch group 1265

Ditch group **1280** (Figs 6 & 7. S.6-S.10) had five hand dug interventions, 1278, 1281, 1770, 1772 and 2097 (Table 2) excavated through it. The ditch was orientated northwest – southeast, 13.4m long, up-to 1m wide and up-to 0.2m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and contained two sherds (9g) of Early Iron Age pottery in (1279) and 29 fragments of animal bone from sample <19> (2095). The ditch cut tree-holes 1287, 1813 and 1816.

Ditch group **1847** (Figs 6 & 8. S.11-S.14) consisted of two short lengths of ditch which were continuous before cleaning and four hand dug interventions, 1839, 1841, 1843 and 1845 (Table 3) were excavated through the ditches. The ditches were orientated northwest – southeast, originally 12m in length, up-to 0.56m wide and up-to 0.14m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid-grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions and contained no finds.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1278	Ditch	1	0.7	0.2	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1279, a dark brown sandy clay
1281	Ditch terminus	0.6	0.4	0.1	NW-SE linear	NW terminus of ditch, filled by 1282, a dark brown sandy clay
1770	Ditch terminus	1	1	0.2	NW-SE linear	SE terminus of ditch, filled by 1771, a dark brown sandy clay
1772	Ditch	1	0.64	0.15	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1773, a dark brown sandy clay
2097	Ditch	1	0.8	0.2	NW-SE linear	Filled by 2096, a brown silty sand, 2095 a dark brown sand

Table 2. Ditch group 1280

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1839	Ditch terminus	0.5	0.4	0.1	NW-SE linear	NW terminus of ditch, filled by 1840, a grey silty clay
1841	Ditch terminus	0.5	0.36	0.07	NW-SE linear	SE terminus of ditch, filled by 1842, a grey silty clay
1843	Ditch terminus	0.5	0.56	0.14	NW-SE linear	NW terminus of ditch, filled by 1844, a grey silty clay
1845	Ditch terminus	0.5	0.46	0.1	NW-SE linear	SE terminus of ditch, filled by 1846, a grey silty clay

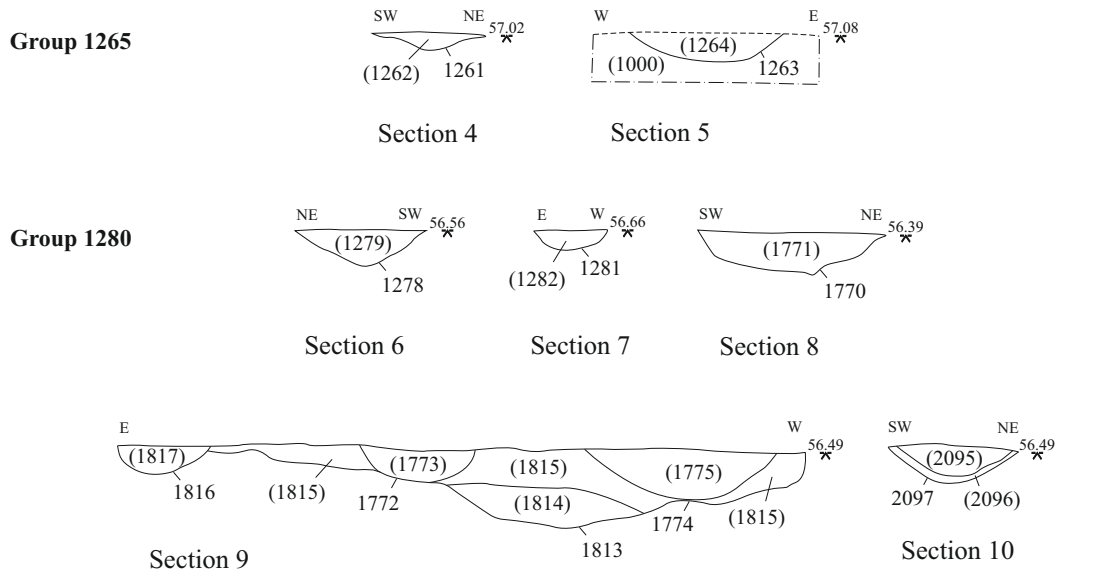
Table 3. Ditch group 1847

Ditch group **2037** (Figs 6 & 8. S.15 – S.17) had three hand dug interventions, 2025, 2033 and 2035 (Table 4) excavated through it. The ditch was orientated northeast – southwest, 3.2m long, up-to 0.6m wide and up-to 0.06m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions and contained no finds. Two postholes, 2027 and 2029 were cut through the fill along the north-western edge of the ditch, and a further two postholes, 2023 and 2031 cut along the south-eastern edge of the ditch.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
2025	Ditch terminus	1	0.5	0.02	NE-SW linear	SW terminus of ditch, filled by 2026, a brown silty clay
2033	Ditch	0.4	0.6	0.06	NE-SW linear	Filled by 2034, a brown silty clay
2035	Ditch terminus	0.8	0.4	0.06	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 2036, a brown silty clay

Table 4. Ditch group 2037

Ditch group **1942** (Figs 6 & 8. S.18-S.20) had three hand dug interventions, 1937, 1939 and 1941 (Table 5) excavated through it. The ditch was orientated northeast – southwest, 8m long, up-to 0.9m wide and up-to 0.17m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions and contained no finds. The ditch was truncated in slot 1939 by tree-hole 1944.



Key:
□ Limit of excavation

0 ————— 2 m
Scale of all sections

Figure 7: Phase 1 segmented ditch groups

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1937	Ditch terminus	1	0.7	0.1	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 1936, a brown silty clay
1939	Ditch	1.3	0.9	0.17	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1938, a brown silty clay
1941	Ditch terminus	0.8	0.6	0.08	NE-SW linear	SW terminus of ditch, filled by 1940, a brown silty clay

Table 5. Ditch group 1942

Ditch group **1935** (Figs. 6 & 8. S.21-S.25) had four hand dug interventions, 1912, 1916, 1922 and 1953 (Table 6) excavated through it. The ditch was orientated northeast – southwest, 7m long, up-to 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a brown silty clay and contained one sherd (17g) of Early Iron Age pottery from (1952). The ditch cut through posthole 1914 in slot 1912 and tree-hole 1918 in intervention 1916 and was cut by posthole 1920. The ditch was also cut by pit group **1949** in slot 1953.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1912	Ditch terminus	1	0.5	0.1	NE-SW linear	SW terminus of ditch, filled by 1913, a brown silty clay
1916	Ditch	0.5	0.4	0.1	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1917, a brown silty clay
1922	Ditch terminus	0.65	0.45	0.01	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 1923, a brown silty clay
1953	Ditch	1	0.9	0.12	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1952, a brown silty clay

Table 6. Ditch group 1935

Ditch groups **1888** and **1889** (Figs. 6 & 8. S.26-S.28) comprised a ditch that had been re-cut along its length, where **1888** cut **1889**. It had three hand dug interventions, 1874 / 1876, 1878 / 1880 and 1882 / 1884 (Tables 7 and 8) excavated through them. The ditch and re-cut were orientated northeast – southwest, 7.5m long, up-to 0.9m wide and up-to 0.08m deep, both ditches had moderately sloping sides and flat bases. The ditch and re-cut were filled with very similar fills, a brown silty clay with moderate amounts of gravel inclusions, containing no finds.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1876	Ditch terminus	1.3	0.6	0.08	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 1875, a brown silty clay
1878	Ditch	1	0.45	0.06	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1877, a brown silty clay
1882	Ditch terminus	1	0.75	0.12	NE-SW linear	SW terminus of ditch, filled by 1881, a brown silty clay

Table 7. Ditch group 1888

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1874	Ditch terminus	1.3	0.2	0.03	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 1873, a brown silty clay
1880	Ditch	1	0.25	0.06	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1879, a brown silty clay
1884	Ditch terminus	1	0.5	0.1	NE-SW linear	SW terminus of ditch, filled by 1883, a brown silty clay

Table 8. Ditch group 1889

Ditch groups **1859** and **1860** (Figs. 6 & 9. S.29-S.36) comprised a ditch that had been re-cut along its length, where **1859** was re-cut along its length for 10.80m by **1860**. In total they had seven hand dug interventions, 1485, 1489, 1648, 1855 / 1857, 1861 / 1863 and 1865 / 1867 (Tables 9 and 10) excavated through them. The ditch and re-cut were orientated northeast – southwest, 22.5m long, up-to 1.1m wide and up-to 0.18m deep, both ditches had moderately sloping sides and flat bases. The ditch and re-cut were filled with very similar fills, a grey /brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions that contained one sherd (6g) of Early Iron Age pottery and human skull (1404) in (1484). Ditch **1860** cut natural feature **1887** situated at the junction of **1403** and was cut by phase 2, north - South ditch **1403**.

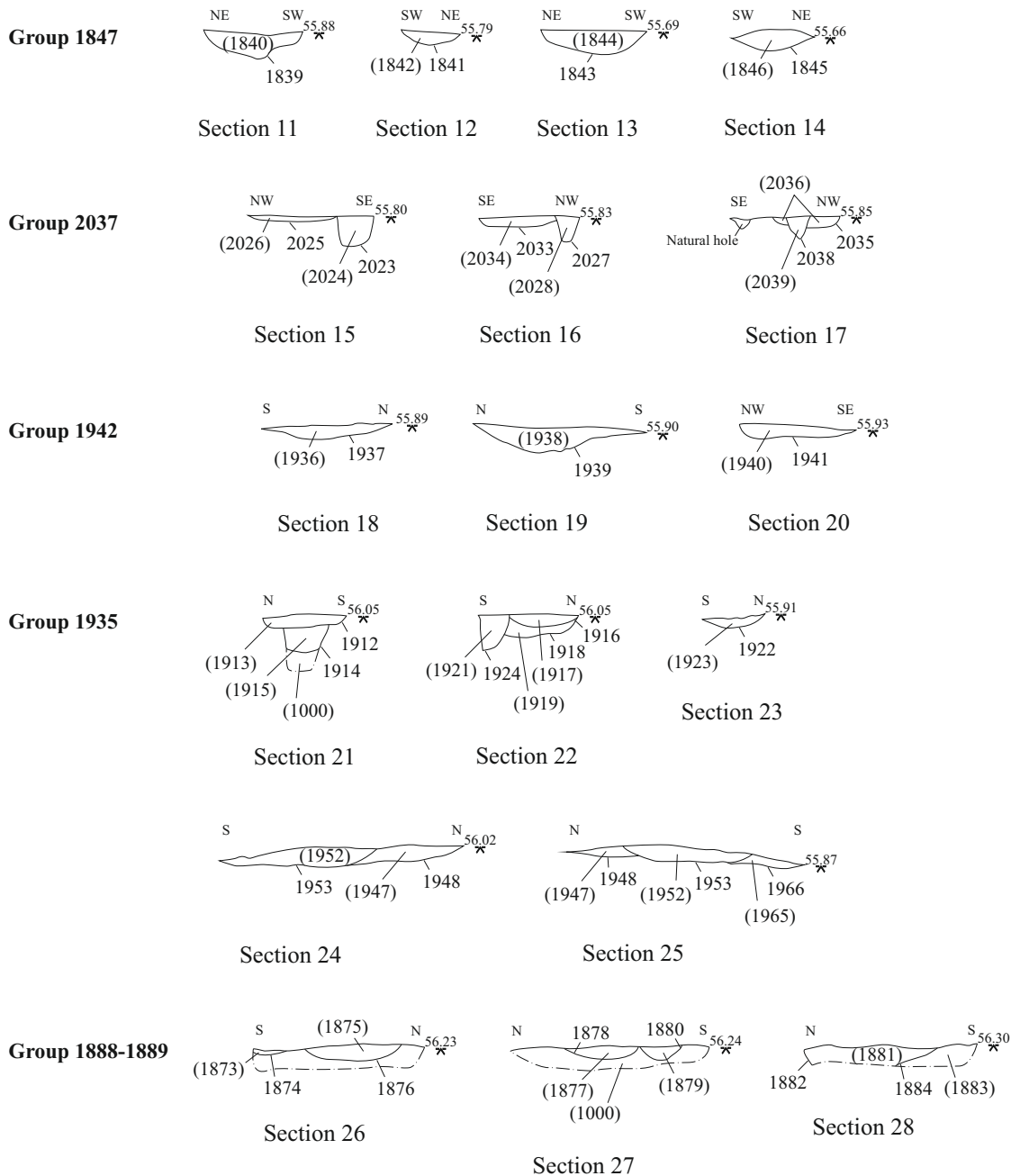
Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1857	Ditch terminus	1	0.3	0.06	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 1858, a grey / brown silty clay
1863	Ditch	1	0.32	0.14	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1864, a grey / brown silty clay
1867	Ditch	1	0.16	0.12	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1868, a grey / brown silty clay

Table 9. Ditch group 1859

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1485	Ditch	1	1.1	0.2	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1484, a grey / brown silty clay, 1490, a brown silty clay
1489	Ditch terminus	1.8	0.8	0.18	NE-SW linear	SW terminus of ditch, filled by 1488, a grey / brown silty clay
1648	Ditch	1	0.74	0.18	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1649, a grey / brown silty clay
1855	Ditch terminus	1	0.5	0.12	NE-SW linear	NE terminus of ditch, filled by 1856, a grey / brown silty clay
1861	Ditch	1	0.64	0.16	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1862, a grey / brown silty clay
1849	Ditch	1	0.6	0.2	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1848, a grey / brown silty clay
1865	Ditch	1	0.55	0.16	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1866, a grey / brown silty clay

Table 10. Ditch group 1860

Ditch group **1521** (Figs 6 & 9. S.37-S.45) had ten hand dug interventions, 1494, 1517, 1519, 1522, 1524, 1536, 1738, 1780, 1834 and 1836 (Table 11) excavated through it. The ditch was orientated northwest / southeast, 31m in length, up-to 1m wide and up-to 0.2m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a grey / brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions that contained one sherd (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery from (1833). The ditch was cut by natural feature 1499, phase 3 Gully **1686** phase 2 north – south ditches **1498** and **1403**.



Key:
 Limit of excavation

0 2 m
 Scale of all sections

Figure 8: Sections 11 - 28

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1494	Ditch	1	1	0.2	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1495, a grey / brown silty clay
1517	Ditch terminus?	2.5	0.8	0.1	NW-SE linear	NW terminus of ditch, filled by 1518, a grey / brown silty clay
1519	Ditch terminus?	1	0.84	0.1	NW-SE linear	SE terminus of ditch, filled by 1520, a grey / brown silty clay
1522	Ditch	1	0.8	0.04	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1523, a grey / brown silty clay
1524	Ditch	1	0.66	0.11	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1525, a grey / brown silty clay
1536	Ditch	1	1	0.14	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1537, a grey / brown silty clay
1738	Ditch	1	0.7	0.12	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1739, a grey / brown silty clay
1780	Ditch	1	1	0.3	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1781, a grey / brown silty clay, 1806, a yellow / brown clay
1834	Ditch	1	0.85	0.2	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1833, a grey / brown silty clay
1836	Ditch terminus	0.4	0.6	0.28	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1835, a grey / brown silty clay

Table 11. Ditch group 1521

Phase 1 Posthole and Pit groups within the Segmented Ditch Enclosure

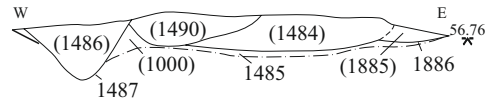
Tentatively placed in this phase, on the basis of sharing this early northwest – southeast / northeast – southwest orientation are the various lines of pits and postholes forming fence lines. It is suggested that the fence line groups (**2130**, **2131**, **2132**, **2133**, **2134**, **2135** and **2136**) were utilised as livestock pens and for the control/ movement and management of livestock within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1 (Fig. 6).

Posthole group **2130** (Figs. 6 & 10. S.46-S.48) formed a northeast – southwest fence line within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1 (between the two numbers 2130 on Fig. 6). It extended for a length of 50m and consisted of sixteen postholes of varying sizes (Table 12). Two of the postholes 2095 and 1458 were securely dated to the 8th – 6th centuries BC and the rest of the postholes were undated.

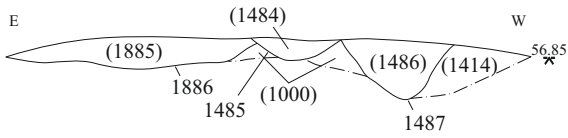
Posthole 1295 was situated near the north-eastern end of the fence-line and was 0.33m wide, 0.32m long and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1296), containing one fragment of animal bone, two pieces of flint and one sherd (9g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Posthole 1297 was situated next to posthole 1295 and was 0.3m wide, 0.4m long and 0.09m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1298), containing two fragments of animal bone and one flint flake. Posthole 1458 was situated towards the southwestern end of the fence line and was 0.4m wide, 0.48m long and 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown – grey sandy silt, (1457), containing one sherd (8g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1482 was situated midway along the fence line and was 0.54m wide, 0.6m long and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark grey sandy silt, (1481), containing one flint flake

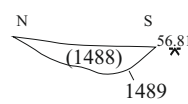
Groups 1859-1860



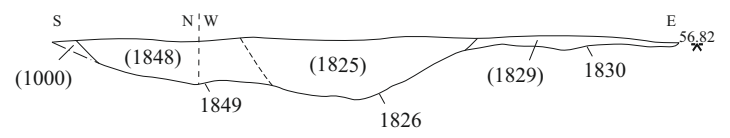
Section 29



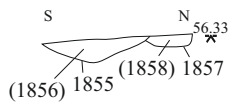
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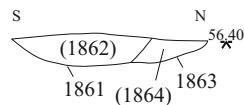
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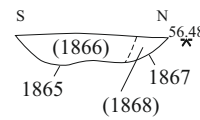
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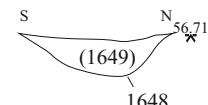
Section 33



Section 34

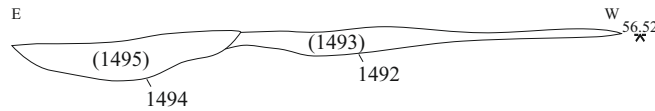


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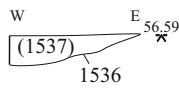


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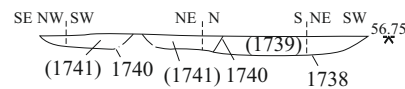
Group 1521



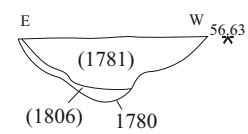
Section 37



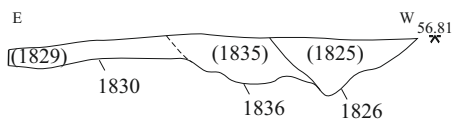
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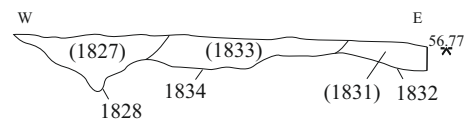
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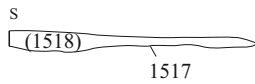
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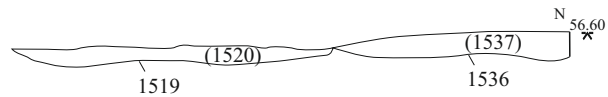
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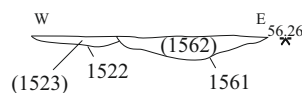
Section 42



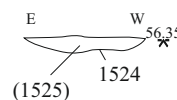
Section 43



Section 43



Section 44



Section 45

Key:

□ Limit of excavation



Figure 9: Sections 29 - 45

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1283	Posthole	0.34	0.41	0.15	Circular	Filled by 1284, a dark brown silty clay
1285	Posthole	0.2	0.22	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1286, a dark brown silty clay
1291	Posthole	0.26	0.26	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1292, a dark brown silty clay
1293	Posthole	0.27	0.27	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1294, a dark brown silty clay
1295	Posthole	0.32	0.33	0.18	Circular	Filled by 1296, a dark brown silty clay
1297	Posthole	0.4	0.3	0.09	Oval	Filled by 1298, a dark brown silty clay
1438	Posthole	0.44	0.66	0.2	Oval	Filled by 1437, a dark brown-grey silty clay
1442	Posthole	0.48	0.32	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1441, a mid brown-grey silty sand
1458	Posthole	0.48	0.4	0.22	Circular	Filled by 1457, a dark brown-grey sandy silt
1460	Posthole / Pit	0.98	0.48	0.07	Oval	Filled by 1459, a mid brown-grey sandy silt
1482	Posthole	0.6	0.54	0.14	Circular	Filled by 1481, a dark grey sandy silt
1535	Posthole	0.21	0.25	0.13	Circular	Filled by 1534, a dark brown-grey sandy silt
1553	Posthole	0.48	0.31	0.1	Oval	Filled by 1552, a dark brown-grey sandy silt
1592	Posthole	0.2	0.26	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1593, a mid brown-grey sandy silt
1594	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1595, a mid brown-grey sandy silt
1695	Posthole	0.26	0.28	0.14	Circular	Filled by 1696, a dark brown silty clay

Table 12. Posthole group 2130

Pit and posthole group **2131** (Figs. 6 & 10. S.49-S.52) was made up of a scattering of various pits and postholes situated directly northwest of the route of fence line **2130** within the segmented ditch enclosure and consisted of six pits and twelve postholes of varying sizes (Table 13). One pit 1187 was securely dated to the 8th – 6th centuries BC, with the rest of the pits and postholes undated. Within this group were three postholes, 1448, 1450 and 1452 that formed a short 1.5m long possible fence line on a northwest / southeast orientation (Fig. 6).

Pit 1187 was situated midway along the route of this group and was 0.74m wide, 0.64m long and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1186), containing one sherd (4g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit 1208 was situated directly northeast of pit 1187 and was 0.4m wide, 1m long and 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and concave base. It was filled by a dark brown clay (1209), containing three fragments of animal bone.

Posthole 1214 was situated in-between pits 1187 and 1208 and was 0.18m wide and 0.14m long with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by, a dark brown clay, (1215), that contained one fragment of animal bone. Pit 1248 was situated at the north-eastern end of the group and was 0.88m wide, 0.98m long and 0.15m deep, with moderately sloping sides and concave base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1249), with one fragment of animal bone.

Pit and posthole group **2132** (Figs. 6 & 10. S.53-S.55) is made up of a scattering of various pits and postholes (Table 14) situated directly southeast of the route of fence line **2130** within the segmented ditch enclosure and consisted of twelve pits and nine postholes. Three pits, 1464, 1466 and 1774 were securely dated to the Early Iron Age, with the rest of the pits and postholes undated.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1187	Pit	0.64	0.74	0.22	Circular	Filled by 1186, a dark brown clay
1202	Posthole	0.38	0.4	0.09	Oval	Filled by 1203, a dark brown clay
1208	Pit	1	0.4	0.12	Sub-oval	Filled by 1209, a dark brown clay
1214	Posthole	0.14	0.18	0.11	Circular	Filled by 1215, a dark brown clay
1224	Posthole	0.24	0.24	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1225, a dark brown clay
1226	Posthole	0.14	0.14	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1227, a dark brown clay
1230	Posthole	0.2	0.22	0.12	Circular	Filled by 1231, a dark brown clay
1248	Pit	0.98	0.88	0.15	Sub-oval	Filled by 1249, a dark brown clay
1276	Pit	0.75	0.7	0.2	Sub-circular	Filled by 1277, a dark brown clay
1448	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1447, a brown-grey sandy silt
1450	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.09	Circular	Filled by 1449, a brown-grey sandy silt
1452	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.09	Circular	Filled by 1451, a brown-grey sandy silt
1454	Pit	1.5	0.86	0.28	Oval	Filled by 1453, a dark brown-grey silty clay
1456	Pit	0.7	0.48	0.08	Oval	Filled by 1455, a brown-grey sandy silt
1533	Posthole	0.42	0.6	0.15	Oval	Filled by 1532, a brown-grey sandy silt
1539	Posthole	0.32	0.32	0.12	Circular	Filled by 1538, a brown-grey sandy silt
1607	Posthole	0.25	0.28	0.12	Circular	Filled by 1606, a grey-brown sandy silt
1693	Posthole	0.27	0.32	0.2	Circular	Filled by 1694, a dark brown silty clay

Table 13. Pit and posthole group 2131

Pit 1464 was situated midway along the route of this group and was 0.62m wide, 0.9m long and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown-grey silty sand, (1463), and contained some moderately sized heat affected quartzite pebbles, three flint flakes and two sherds (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit 1466 was situated next to pit 1464 and was 0.78m wide, 0.88m long with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay, (1465), that contained two flint flakes and one sherd (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit 1774 was situated at the north-eastern end of the group was cut into treehole 1813. The pit was 1.1m wide, 1.7m long and 0.27m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1775), containing five sherds (7g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1289	Posthole	0.18	0.18	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1290, a dark brown clay
1299	Posthole	0.2	0.22	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1300, a dark brown clay
1301	Pit	0.7	0.62	0.11	Sub-oval	Filled by 1302, a brown clay
1303	Posthole	0.36	0.36	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1304, a dark brown clay
1305	Posthole	0.24	0.24	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1306, a dark brown clay
1307	Posthole	0.22	0.24	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1308, a brown silty clay
1309	Pit	1.25	1.5	0.25	Sub-oval	Filled by 1310, a dark brown silty clay
1311	Pit	0.52	0.48	0.12	Oval	Filled by 1312, a dark brown clay
1440	Pit	0.62	0.72	0.18	Circular	Filled by 1439, a grey-brown silty sand
1462	Pit	0.3	0.46	0.06	Oval	Filled by 1461, a brown-grey silty sand

1464	Pit	0.9	0.62	0.18	Oval	Filled by 1463, a dark brown-grey silty sand
1466	Pit	0.88	0.78	0.25	Oval	Filled by 1465, a dark grey silty clay
1468	Pit	1.18	1.11	0.24	Circular	Filled by 1467, a brown-grey sandy silt
1476	Pit	1.44	1.22	0.2	Sub-oval	Filled by 1475, a dark brown-grey sandy silt
1529	Posthole	0.32	0.28	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1528, a yellow-grey sandy silt
1531	Posthole	0.2	0.22	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1530, a dark grey sandy silt
1542	Pit	0.88	0.74	0.18	Oval	Filled by 1540, a dark grey silt and 1541, a mid brown silty clay
1545	Pit	0.92	0.6	0.22	Oval	Filled by 1543, a dark grey silt and 1544, a mid brown silty clay
1697	Posthole	0.25	0.25	0.11	Circular	Filled by 1698, a dark brown silty clay
1716	Posthole	0.23	0.22	0.15	Circular	Filled by 1717, a dark brown-grey silty clay
1774	Pit	1.7	1.1	0.27	Oval	Filled by 1775, a dark brown silty clay

Table 14. Pit and posthole group 2132

Posthole group **2133** (Figs. 6 & 10. S.56-S.60) formed a northwest – southeast fence line within the segmented ditch enclosure in area 1. It extended for a length of 16m and consisted of eight postholes of varying sizes (Table 15). Four postholes were securely dated to the Early Iron Age, with the rest of the postholes undated.

Posthole 1668 was situated next to posthole 1869 at the north-western end of the fence line and was 0.34m wide, 0.58m long and 0.19m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1669), that contained two sherds (6g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1672 was situated midway along the fence line and was 0.19m in diameter and 0.09m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1673), containing two sherds (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1720 was situated towards the south-eastern end of the fence line and was 0.28m in diameter and 0.08m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1721), containing three sherds (27g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Posthole 1726 was situated at the south-eastern end of the fence line and was 0.16m wide, 0.42m long and 0.06m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1727), containing one flint flake. Posthole 1869 was situated at the north-western end of the fence line and was 0.25m in diameter and 0.12m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1870), containing one fragment of animal bone and three sherds (5g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Posthole group **2134** (Figs 6 & 10. S.61 & S.62) formed a northeast – southwest fence line within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1. It extended for a length of 5m and consisted of three postholes and one pit (Table 16). This fence line adjoined fence line group **2133** to form a 'T' shape in plan. No secure dating came from any of the features; however where this group adjoins group 2133 posthole 1668 was dated to the Early Iron Age.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1666	Posthole	0.23	0.23	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1667, a dark brown silty clay

1668	Posthole	0.58	0.34	0.19	Oval	Filled by 1669, a dark brown silty clay
1670	Posthole	0.17	0.17	0.12	Circular	Filled by 1671, a dark brown silty clay
1672	Posthole	0.19	0.19	0.9	Sub-circular	Filled by 1673, a dark brown silty clay
1718	Posthole	0.6	0.42	0.13	Oval	Filled by 1719, a dark brown silty clay
1720	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.08	Sub-circular	Filled by 1721, a dark brown silty clay
1726	Posthole	0.42	0.16	0.06	Oval	Filled by 1727, a dark brown silty clay
1869	Posthole	0.25	0.25	0.12	Circular	Filled by 1870, a dark brown silty clay

Table 15. Posthole group 2133

Posthole 1662 was situated midway along the fence line and was 0.32m wide, 0.29m long and 0.13m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1663), containing one fragment of animal bone. Posthole 1664 was situated next to 1662 and was 0.28m in diameter and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1665), containing one flint chip.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1660	Posthole	0.58	0.36	0.19	Oval	Filled by 1661, a dark brown silty clay
1662	Posthole	0.28	0.32	0.13	Sub-circular	Filled by 1663, a dark brown silty clay
1664	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.14	Circular	Filled by 1665, a dark brown silty clay
1684	Pit	0.68	1.28	0.27	Oval	Filled by 1691, a dark brown silty clay, 1685, a brown silty clay

Table 16. Posthole group 2134

Posthole group **2127** (Figs 6 & 10. S.63 & S.64) formed a northeast – southwest short fence line and consisted of three postholes and extended for a length of 3.5m (Table 17). It was situated 4m to the northwest of posthole group 2134 within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1. All three postholes were securely dated to the Early Iron Age.

Posthole 1654 was situated at the north-western end of the fence line and was 0.26m wide, 0.27m long and 0.11m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1655), that contained one sherd (5g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1682 was situated in the middle of the fence line and was 0.28m wide, 0.44m long and 0.18m deep with steep sides and concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1683), containing 21 small fragments of animal bone from sample <12> and one sherd (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1687 was situated at the southwestern end of the fence line and was 0.31m in diameter and 0.07m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1688), containing 24 small fragments of animal bone from sample <10 / 11> and one sherd (1g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1654	Posthole	0.27	0.26	0.11	Circular	Filled by 1655, a dark brown silty clay

1682	Posthole	0.44	0.28	0.18	Oval	Filled by 1683, a dark brown silty clay
1687	Posthole	0.31	0.31	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1688, a dark brown silty clay sample 10/11

Table 17. Posthole group 2127

Posthole group **2135** (Figs. 6 & 10. S. 65 & S.66) formed a slightly curvilinear northeast – southwest fence line within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1. It extended for a length of 4m and consisted of five postholes (Table 18) that possibly extend beyond the northern bank of site. One posthole was securely dated to the Early Iron Age, the rest of the postholes were undated.

Posthole 1206 was situated midway along the fence line and was 0.27m wide, 0.33m long and 0.2m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by, a dark brown silty clay, (1207), containing one fragment of animal bone. Posthole 1212 was situated at the north-eastern end of the fence line and was 0.3m in diameter and 0.17m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1213), containing one sherd (1g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1206	Posthole	0.33	0.27	0.2	Circular	Filled by 1207, a dark brown silty clay
1210	Posthole	0.29	0.26	0.2	Circular	Filled by 1211, a dark brown silty clay
1212	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.17	Circular	Filled by 1213, a dark brown silty clay
1242	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.03	Circular	Filled by 1243, a dark brown silty clay
1244	Posthole?	0.24	0.1	0.03	Sub-oval	Filled by 1245, a dark brown silty clay

Table 18. Posthole group 2135

Posthole group **2136** (Figs. 6 & 10. S.67) was situated within a 7.5m wide entranceway in-between segmented ditches **1265** and **1280** in Area 1. It comprised of sixteen postholes (Table 19) arranged within one of the entrance ways of the enclosure and could possibly form a drafting gate system to move / manage livestock. It had three central posts, 1236, 1238 and 1240 with the other postholes located c. 4m away arranged in an arc from the southwest around to the east. One posthole was securely dated to the Early Iron Age, the rest of the postholes were undated.

Posthole 1272 was situated east of the central postholes and was 0.2m in diameter and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1273), containing two sherds (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1218	Posthole	0.16	0.16	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1219, a dark brown silty clay
1220	Posthole	0.1	0.12	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1221, a dark brown silty clay
1222	Posthole	0.24	0.17	0.08	Oval	Filled by 1223, a dark brown silty clay
1226	Posthole	0.14	0.14	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1227, a dark brown silty clay
1232	Posthole	0.18	0.17	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1233, a dark brown silty clay
1234	Posthole	0.35	0.16	0.11	Oval	Filled by 1235, a dark brown silty clay
1236	Posthole	0.26	0.3	0.03	Sub-circular	Filled by 1237, a dark brown silty clay
1238	Posthole	0.28	0.2	0.04	Sub-circular	Filled by 1239, a dark brown silty clay
1240	Posthole	0.3	0.23	0.06	Oval	Filled by 1241, a dark brown silty clay
1246	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.12	Circular	Filled by 1247, a dark brown silty clay
1254	Posthole	0.25	0.3	0.22	Sub-circular	Filled by 1255, a dark brown silty clay
1256	Posthole	0.22	0.22	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1257, a dark brown silty clay
1268	Posthole	0.4	0.28	0.06	Oval	Filled by 1269, a dark brown silty clay
1270	Posthole	0.27	0.25	0.16	Circular	Filled by 1271, a dark brown silty clay
1272	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.22	Circular	Filled by 1273, a dark brown silty clay
1274	Posthole	0.13	0.13	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1275, a dark brown silty clay

Table 19. Posthole group 2136

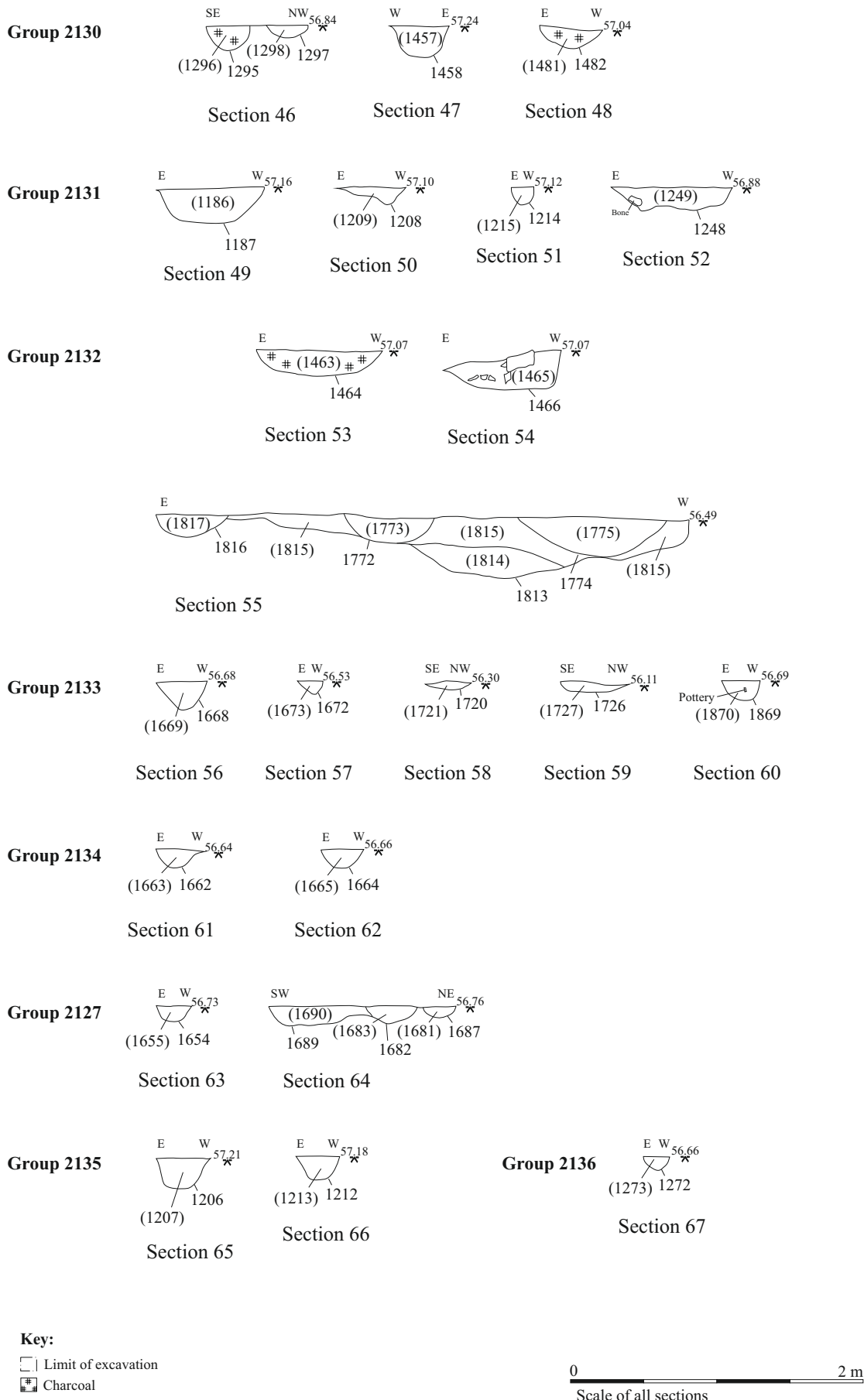


Figure 10: Sections 46 - 67

Phase 1 Dated Single Pits and postholes within the Segmented Ditch Enclosure

Again tentatively placed within this phase are various dated single pits, postholes and a large storage pit / waterhole, together with a scatter of large tree throws, located within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1.

Large pit 1347 (Figs. 6 & 11. S.68) was situated in the north-western corner of Area 1, Bounded to the east by Phase 2 Early Iron Age ditch **1403** and then later enclosed in the Roman period by rectilinear enclosure **1172** and **2125**. The pit was oval in shape, 3.2m wide, 2.9m long and 1.7m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with 22 separate fills (Table 20), the lower seven fills consisted of various redeposited natural sands and gravels eroded from the feature sides or up-cast from the digging of the pit and contained no finds. There then was a period of stabilization allowing the formation of three silt and clay layers (1511) that contained three fragments of animal bone and two pieces of flint. There was then a layer of redeposited natural gravels (1508) that entered the pit from the north-eastern side and contained 46 fragments of animal bone. There was a second period of stabilization allowing the formation of five silt and clay layers; the upper layer (1507) contained two flint flakes and two sherds (14g) of Early Iron Age pottery. The excavator suggested a re-cut of the upper area of the pit by 1805, that contained a sequence of alternating charcoal rich fills (1504) and (1506) overlain by redeposited natural gravels (1505), and then a final charcoal rich fill (1512). Fill (1506) contained two flint flakes, fill (1512) contained one flint chip, 31 fragments of animal bone, with a further sixteen recovered from samples <13> and <14> and three sherds (5g) of Early Iron Age pottery. The pit was then capped with a heavy clay (1348) sealing the pit; this contained a cow skull placed on the base of the fill before the clay was deposited.

Intercutting pits 1150 and 1152 (Figs 6 & 11 S. 69) were located in the north-western corner of Area 1 and were cut by Roman east – west ditch **1168**. Pit 1150 was cut by pit 1152, it was oval in shape, 0.45m wide, 1.3m long and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1149), that contained two sherds (16g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit 1152 was oval shaped, 1.35m wide, 2.2m long and 0.1m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1151), that contained seven fragments of animal bone and one sherd (1g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Pit 1341 (Figs. 6 & 14. S.99) was cut by the southwestern terminus, 1336, of phase 3 enclosure gully **1333**. The pit was oval in shape, 0.68m wide, over 0.95m long and 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark grey / brown silty clay that contained two fragments of animal bone and six sherds (46g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Posthole 1736 (Figs. 6 & 11. S.70) was situated 2m southwest of pit 1341. The posthole was 0.24m wide, 0.44m long and 0.23m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1737), that contained one sherd (10g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Pit 1472 (Figs. 6 & 11. S.71) was cut into the northern edge of tree throw 1784 located within the central area of the enclosure. The pit was oval in shape, 1.46m wide, 0.9m long and 0.2m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark grey / brown sandy silt, (1471), that contained one flint flake, six fragments of animal bone and one sherd (7g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Context	Description	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Notes	Finds
1348	Mid-brown clay with gravels	1.4	3.1	0.5	Upper fill of pit	Animal bone
1503	Brown silty clay	1.3	1.7	0.1	Fill of pit	
1512	Dark grey silty clay, charcoal rich	0.5	0.75	0.08	Fill of pit	Pottery, Flint, Animal bone, Samples 13, 14
1505	Yellow-brown gravels	1	1	0.1	Redeposited natural	
1504	Dark grey silty clay, charcoal rich	1	1	0.12	Fill of pit	
1506	Dark grey silty clay, charcoal rich	1	1	0.1	Fill of pit	Flint, Sample 15
1805	Possible re-cut of pit	1.4	2	0.8	Re-cut?	
1507	Grey-brown silty clay	1.4	3.2	0.45	Fill of pit	Pottery, Flint
1744	Brown silty clay	0.2	0.2	0.02	Fill of pit	
1742	Dark brown silty clay	1	1.45	0.14	Fill of pit	
1743	Yellow-brown silty sand	0.6	1.2	0.12	Fill of pit	
1745	Dark brown sandy clay	0.6	0.8	0.1	Fill of pit	
1508	Yellow-brown gravels	1.4	2.7	0.2	Redeposited natural	Animal bone
1509	Dark brown sandy clay	0.5	0.5	0.06	Fill of pit	
1510	Brown-black silty clay	0.7	0.7	0.06	Fill of pit	
1511	brown sandy silt	0.7	1.7	0.4	Fill of pit	Animal bone, Flint
1746	Yellow-brown sandy gravels	0.7	0.6	0.1	Redeposited natural	
1747	Mid-brown sandy clay	0.7	1.2	0.1	Redeposited natural	
1748	brown sandy clay	0.5	0.65	0.06	Redeposited natural	
1749	Brown-yellow sand	0.5	0.45	0.06	Redeposited natural	
1750	Yellow-brown sandy gravels	0.7	1.2	0.3	Redeposited natural	
1751	Yellow-brown sand	0.7	0.9	0.08	Redeposited natural	
1752	Yellow-brown sandy gravels	0.7	1.8	0.3	Redeposited natural	
1347	Cut of Pit	2.9	3.2	1.7	Oval shape pit	

Table 20. Pit 1347

Tree throw 1800 (Figs 6 & 11. S74) was one of seven large tree throws; 1446, 1784, 1890, 1892, 1901 and 1903 within the central area of the segmented ditch enclosure. It was oval in shape, 2.95m wide, 4.8m long and 0.38m deep, with shallow sloping sides and an uneven base. It contained four fills of which, (1801), had five flint flakes and six sherds (11g) of Early Iron Age pottery. One sherd of pottery of the same date, together with one fragment of animal bone was recovered from deposit (1445), from treehole 1446. This could indicate the deliberate clearance of trees within the segmented ditch enclosure during the Early Iron Age.

Phase 1 Posthole and pit groups in Areas 1, 2, and 3

Pit and posthole group **2138** (Figs 6 & 11. S.75-S.78) was situated next to the southern bank of palaeochannel **2049** in Area 1 and consisted of a scattering of five pits and two postholes (Table 21). Four of the pits contained moderate amounts of small to large heat affected local quartzite pebbles that occur naturally in the gravels on site. Two of the pits were securely dated to the Early Iron Age and the rest of the features were undated.

Pit 1364 was situated 3m south of the palaeochannel and was 0.5m wide, 1.02m long and 0.18m deep with steep to moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1365), with burnt stone and one flint blade. Pit 1407 was situated 6m south of the palaeochannel and was 0.9m wide, 0.5m long and 0.04m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1408), containing one sherd (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery and one (residual) sherd (4g) of Early Bronze Age pottery.

Pit 2110 was situated less than 1m south of the palaeochannel and was 0.4m wide, 0.5m long and 0.26m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1209), that contained sparse amounts of small burnt pebbles and seven sherds (56g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit 1411 was situated 6m south of the palaeochannel and was 0.4m wide, 0.64m long and 0.08m deep with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1412), containing burnt stone and two fragments of limestone quernstones.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1364	Pit	1.02	0.5	0.18	Oval	Filled by 1365, a dark brown clay with burnt stone, 1413, a brown clay
1366	Pit	0.9	0.6	0.16	Oval	Filled by 1368, a brown clay, 1367, a dark brown clay with burnt stone
1380	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1381, a dark brown clay
1382	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1383, a dark brown clay
1407	Pit	0.5	0.9	0.04	Oval	Filled by 1408, a dark brown clay
1411	Pit	0.64	0.4	0.08	Oval	Filled by 1412, a dark brown clay with burnt stone
2110	Pit	0.5	0.4	0.26	Circular	Filled by 2109, a dark brown clay with burnt stone

Table 21. Pit and posthole group 2138

Roundhouse posthole group **1102** (Figs. 12 & 11. S.79-S.83) (Plate 2) consisted of eighteen postholes (Table 22) with twelve forming a 9m diameter ring of posts and two postholes, 1080 and 1094 forming a possible porch on the southern side of the roundhouse. There were no features present within the interior of the post ring and there were two double postholes suggesting repairs / modifications to the roundhouse whilst it was in use. Three postholes 1085, 1011 and 1007 situated just outside the ring of posts may represent modifications to the structure. A group of four postholes 1082, 1084, 1089 and 1091 situated directly southwest of the porch may represent a windbreak or winnowing area associated with the roundhouse. The roundhouse was situated next to the northern baulk in Area 3. Three postholes were securely dated to the Early Iron Age, the rest of the postholes were undated.

Posthole 1007 was situated in the north-western extent of the post ring and was 0.3m wide, 0.4m long and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark grey silty clay, (1008), that contained two pieces of flint and five sherds (15g) of Early Iron Age

pottery. Posthole 1011 was situated next to posthole 1007 and was 0.3m in diameter 0.23m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay, (1012), containing one sherd (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1068 was situated in the eastern extent of the post ring and was 0.52m wide, 0.56m long and 0.38m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay, (1067), that contained 16 pieces of worked flint, small fragments (90.4g) of fired clay and fifteen small fragments of animal bone from sample <2>.

Posthole 1080 was situated in the southern extent of the post ring and was 0.14m in diameter and 0.06m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, (1079), containing one sherd (1g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Posthole 1087 was situated next to posthole 1068 and was 0.46m in diameter and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a brown silty clay, (1088), that contained four pieces of flint and two small fragments of animal bone from sample <4>.

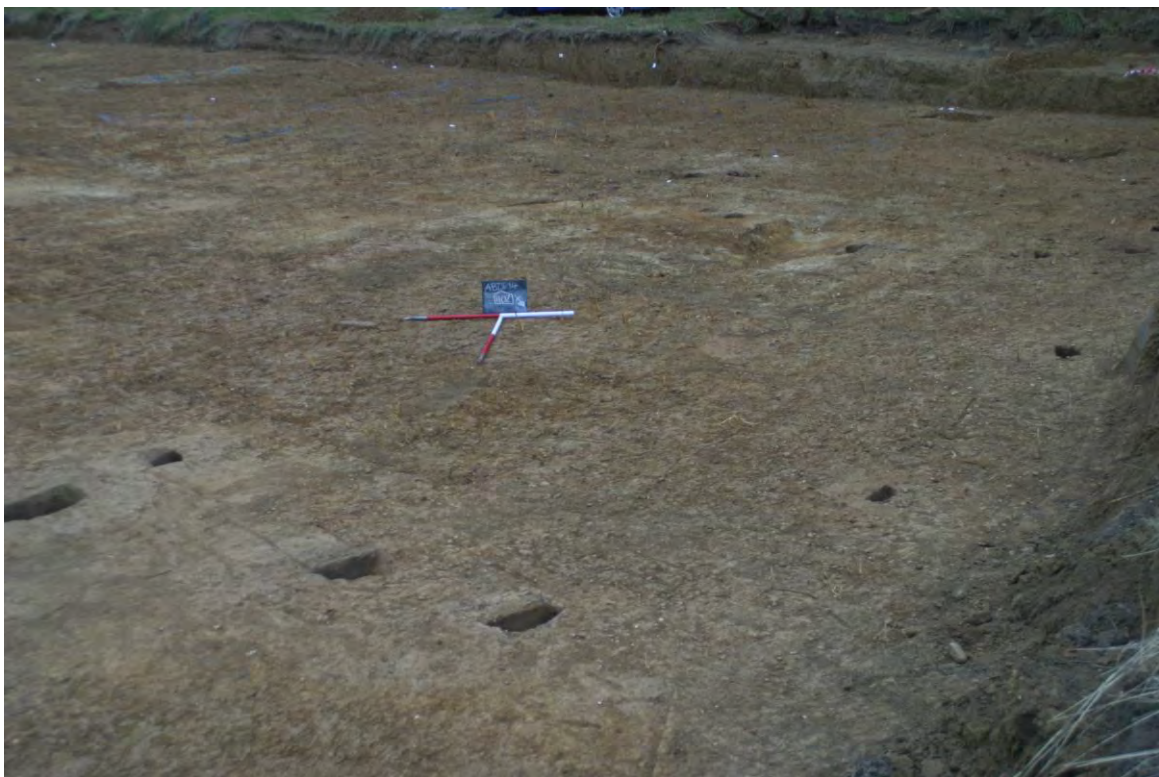


Plate 2. General overview of roundhouse 1102 looking southwest

Situated immediately east and south of Roundhouse **1102**, was pit and posthole group **2128** (Figs. 12 & 11. S. 72 & S. 73) that consisted of a cluster of five pits and eight postholes that represented various activities conducted outside the roundhouse. One posthole was securely dated to the Early Iron Age, the rest of the postholes were undated (Table 23).

Single posthole 1118 was situated 15m southeast of Roundhouse **1102** and was circular in shape, 0.3m diameter and 0.16m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay, (1119), that contained small fragments (133.7g) of fired clay, four fragments of animal bone from sample <7> and one sherd (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit 1097 was situated 3m east of roundhouse **1102** and was circular in shape, 0.4m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by two fills and the lower fill (1098) contained two flint chips.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1007	Posthole	0.4	0.3	0.25	Circular	Filled by 1008, a dark grey silty clay
1011	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.23	Circular	Filled by 1012, a dark grey silty clay
1056	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.15	Circular	Filled by 1055, a dark grey / brown clay.
1058	Posthole	0.3	0.24	0.04	Oval	Filled by 1057, a dark grey brown silty clay
1060	Posthole	0.34	0.34	0.18	Circular	Filled by 1059, a dark grey / brown clay.
1062	Posthole	0.32	0.38	0.12	Oval	Filled by 1061, a dark grey / brown clay. Sample 1
1064	Posthole	0.18	0.2	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1063, a brown silty sand.
1066	Posthole	0.33	0.33	0.11	Circular	Filled by 1065, a brown silty sand. Sample 3
1068	Posthole	0.56	0.52	0.38	Circular	Filled by 1067, a dark grey silty clay. Sample 2
1072	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.19	Circular	Filled by 1071, a brown silty clay.
1074	Posthole	0.16	0.2	0.05	Circular	Filled by 1073, a brown silty clay.
1076	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.1	sub-circular	Filled by 1075, a brown silty clay.
1078	Posthole	0.16	0.16	0.16	Circular	Filled by 1077, a brown silty clay.
1080	Posthole	0.14	0.14	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1079, a dark brown silty clay. Sample 6
1082	Posthole	0.2	0.22	0.08	Circular	Filled by 1081, a brown silty clay.
1084	Posthole	0.32	0.18	0.16	Oval	Filled by 1083, a brown silty clay.
1085	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1086, a brown silty clay.
1087	Posthole	0.46	0.46	0.2	Circular	Filled by 1088, a brown silty clay. Sample 4
1089	Posthole	0.38	0.38	0.13	Circular	Filled by 1090, a brown silty clay.
1091	Posthole	0.32	0.32	0.13	Circular	Filled by 1092, a brown silty clay. Sample 5
1094	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.14	Circular	Filled by 1093, a brown silty clay.
1109	Posthole	0.24	0.18	0.14	Oval	Filled by 1108, a dark brown clay.

Table 22. Roundhouse posthole group 1102

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1096	Pit	0.75	1.35	0.35	Sub-oval	Filled by lower fill, 1101, a brown silty clay and upper fill 1095, a dark brown clay
1097	Small pit	0.4	0.4	0.3	Circular	Filled by lower fill, 1098, a brown silty clay and upper fill 1099, a grey / brown silty clay
1105	Pit?	1.55	0.8	0.29	Oval	Filled by lower fill, 1106, a brown clay and upper fill 1107, a grey / brown clay
1110	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.2	Square	Filled by 1111, a brown silty clay
1112	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.25	Circular	Filled by 1113, a brown silty clay.
1114	Posthole	0.22	0.2	0.06	Circular	Filled by 1115, a dark grey silty clay.
1116	Posthole	0.6	0.32	0.1	Oval	Filled by 1117, a dark grey silty clay.
1118	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.16	Circular	Filled by 1119, a dark grey silty clay

1124	Small pit	0.75	0.42	0.27	Oval	Filled by 1123, a brown silty clay.
1128	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.14	Circular	Filled by 1127, a brown silty clay.
1132	Pit	1.1	0.45	0.36	Oval	Filled by 1133, a brown sandy clay.
1146	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.11	Circular	Filled by 1145, a brown silty clay
1148	Posthole	0.5	0.5	0.14	Circular	Filled by 1147, a brown silty clay

Table 23. Pit and posthole group 2128

Phase 1 dated single pits and postholes in Area 3

There were three features with dating evidence in Area 3 that were probably related to the occupation and use of nearby roundhouse **1102** (Fig. 12).

Pit 1120 was situated 25m south of roundhouse **1102** and was circular in shape, 0.65m in diameter and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay containing eleven sherds (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Posthole 1045 was situated in the southwestern corner of Area 3; it was heavily truncated by the base of pit 1041, which was then in turn cut by Ditch group **1138**. The posthole was circular in shape, 0.22m in diameter and 0.1m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay, (1046), that contained two sherds (7g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Pit 1135 was situated in the south-eastern corner of Area 3 and had an irregular shape in plan, 2.2m wide, 2.8m long and 0.5m deep, with steep sides and an undulating base. It was filled by a dark brown clay, (1134), that contained seven flint flakes and one core, one sherd (6g) of residual Neolithic pottery and two sherds (4g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Phase 1 undated features

Four-post structure group **1034** (Figs. 12 & 11. S. 84) (Table 24) was situated 15m southwest of roundhouse **1102** and was orientated northwest – southeast. The four posts are set in a 2m x 2m square, each post being c. 0.3m in diameter and up-to 0.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Deposit (1026) of posthole 1027 contained one sherd (1g) of indeterminate date and (1032), from posthole 1033 came five flint flakes. However this group of postholes has been tentatively placed in this phase due to its proximity to the roundhouse and also as it shares this early northwest – southeast alignment.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	Diam (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1027	Posthole			0.16	0.05	Circular	Filled by 1026, a brown silty clay
1029	Posthole			0.14	0.07	Circular	Filled by 1028, a brown silty clay
1031	Posthole	0.2	0.18		0.1	Circular	Filled by 1030, a brown silty clay
1033	Posthole			0.16	0.1	Circular	Filled by 1032, a brown silty clay

Table 24. Four post structure 1034

Gully **1138** (Figs. 12 & 11. S. 85) (Table 25) was situated in the southwestern corner of Area 3, it was orientated northwest – southeast and had four hand dug interventions excavated through it. It was 16m long, up-to 0.64m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a brown silty clay that was devoid of any artefacts. The gully

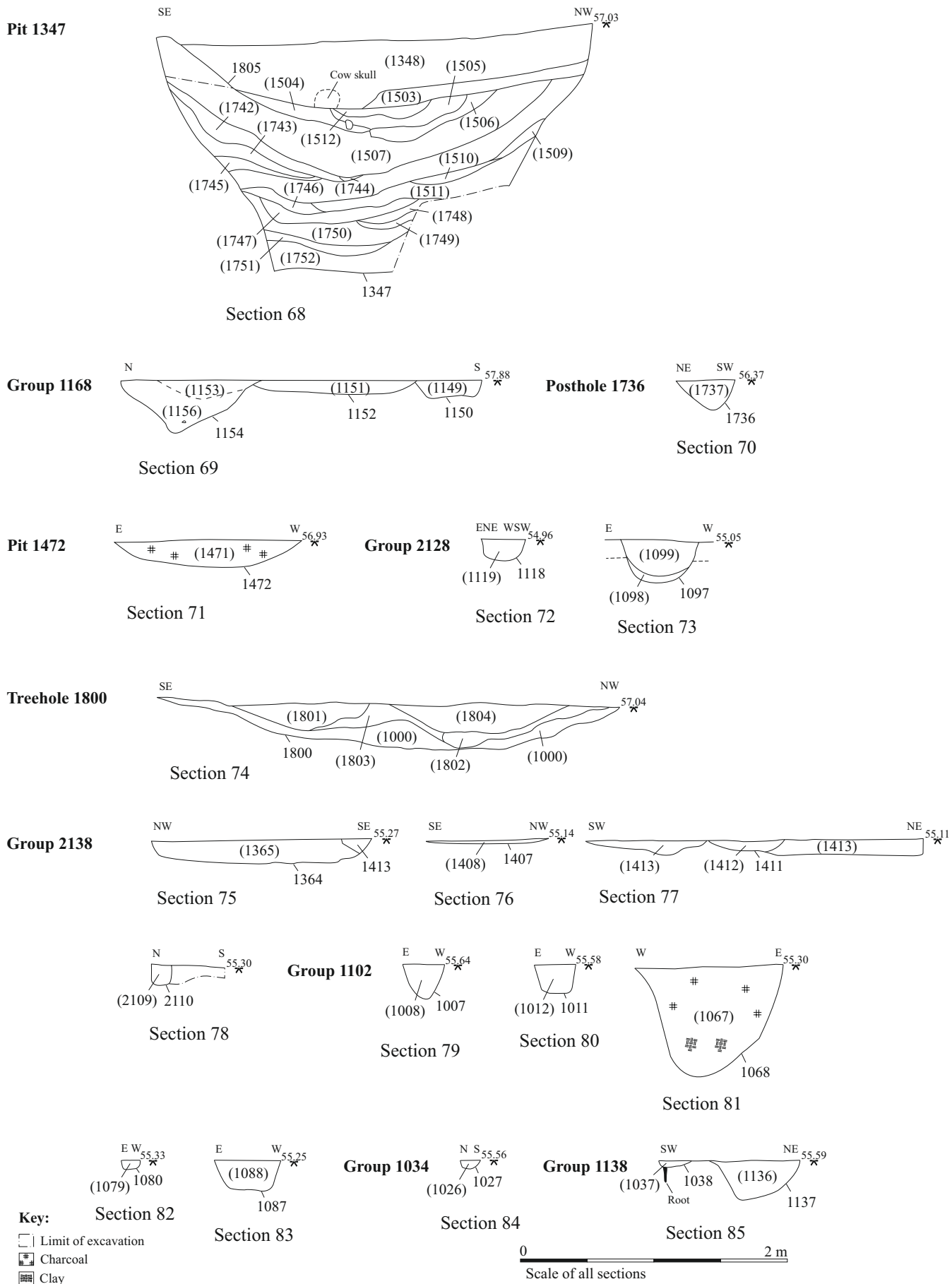
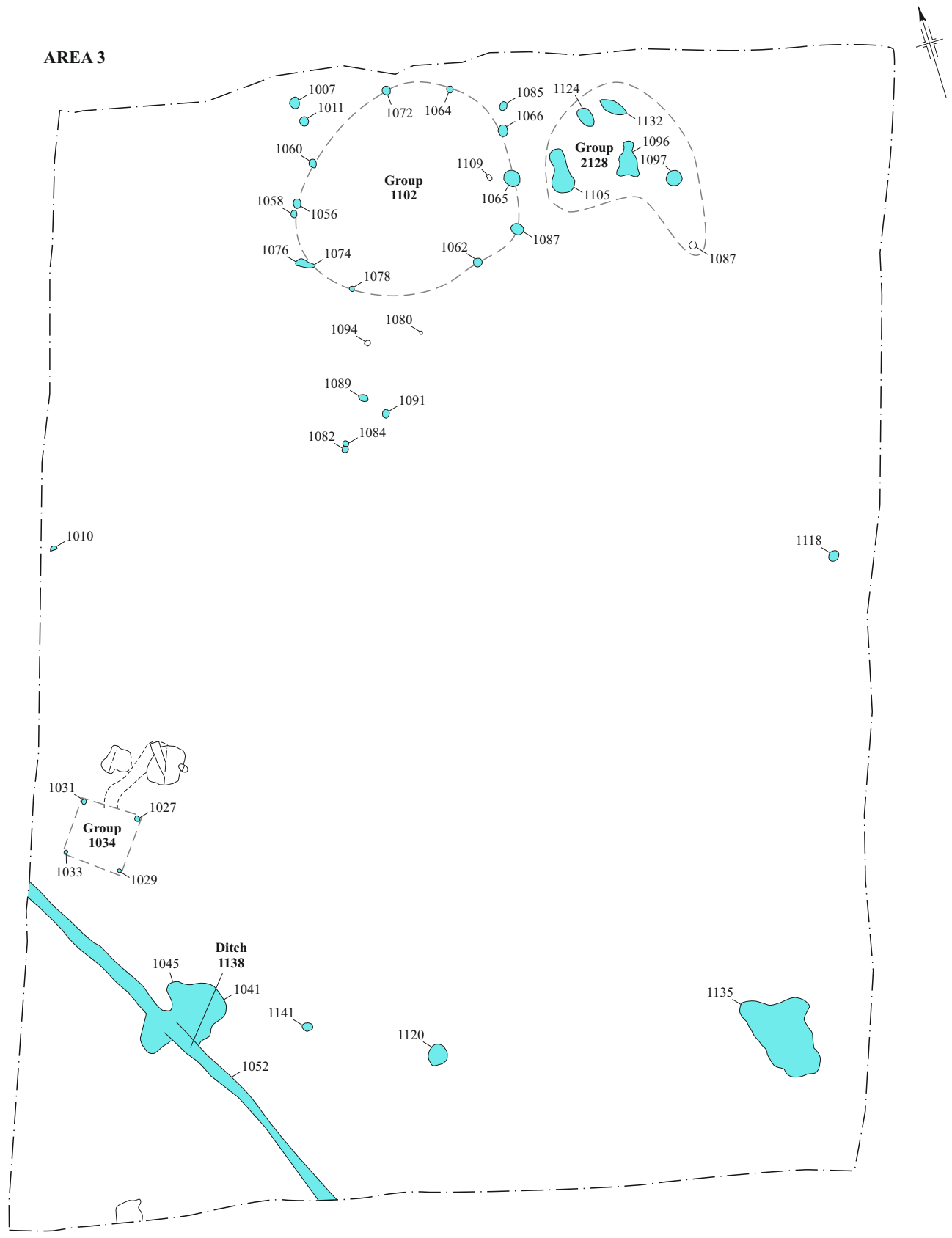


Figure 11: Sections 68 - 85



Key



-  Limit of excavation
-  Early Iron Age - Phase 1

Figure 12: Early Iron Age Phase 1 features - area 3



cut through four natural features and treehole 1041. This gully has been tentatively placed in this phase due to having the same alignment as the other Phase 1 ditches.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1020	Gully	0.5	0.46	0.21	N-S Linear	Filled by 1019, a brown silty clay
1137	Gully	0.8	0.64	0.25	N-S Linear	Filled by 1136, a brown silty clay
1043	Gully	1	0.54	0.28	N-S Linear	Filled by 1044, a brown silty clay
1052	Gully	1.2	0.5	0.22	N-S Linear	Filled by 1051, a brown silty clay

Table 25. Gully 1138

Un-dated single postholes 1040 and 1041, were situated near the southern baulk of Area 3 and two flint chips were recovered from (1139) of posthole 1040.

4.7 Early Iron Age (8th to 6th Centuries BC)

Phase 2

This second phase of activity is represented by ditch group **1403**, a roughly north – south ditch that deviated slightly to the northeast, north – south ditches **1498**, **1260** and crouched burial SK (1352), in grave 1351 (Fig. 6).

Ditch **1403**, (Plate 3) (Figs. 6 & 13. S.86-S.94) was situated running across both Areas 1 and 2, it had fifteen hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 26). The ditch was 103m long within the excavated areas, between 0.6 and 1.34m wide and generally increased in depth from the south, northwards, to a maximum depth of 0.8m. It had moderate to steep sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by deposits of redeposited naturals from the feature sides and possible associated bank located directly east of the ditch, and the main silting-up phase of the ditch. The finds recovered from these fills included ten pieces of flint, eleven fragments of animal bone, five fragments (12.5g) of slag and 35 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. Of note is a concentration of 30 sherds of pottery that was recovered from two interventions, 1618 and 1623 located in the southern extent of the ditch. A possible bank situated on the eastern side of the ditch was noted in the northern baulk of the site (discussed in 4.8).

The ditch was cut by the Roman rectilinear enclosure **1172** / **2125**, along its northern extent (Fig. 16) and a possible shallow animal burial dating to the Roman period was placed into the top of the ditch 1420 located next to the southern baulk of Area 2. It was also cut by the southwestern terminus of Early Iron Age Phase 4 gully **1686** (see below). The ditch cut through various tree-holes / natural features along its course, and two Early Iron Age Phase 1 ditches, **1860** at its southwestern end and **1521** north-western terminus (Fig. 6).



Plate 3. General overview of Areas 1 and 2 with ditch 1403, looking north

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1181	Ditch	1	1	0.42	N-S linear	Filled by 1185, a dark brown sandy clay, 1184, a yellow-brown clay and 1180, a dark brown clay
1193	Ditch	1	0.3	0.3	N-S linear	Filled by 1192, a dark brown sandy clay
1355	Ditch	1	0.5	0.3	N-S linear	Filled by 1354, a brown sandy silt
1361	Ditch	1	1	0.4	N-S linear	Filled by 1360, a brown sandy gravel, 1392, a grey-brown silty clay and 1393, a dark brown silty clay
1377	Ditch	1	1	0.36	N-S linear	Filled by 1378, a grey-brown silty clay and 1379, a dark brown silty clay
2139	Ditch	1	0.2	0.1	N-S linear	Filled by 1483, a yellow-brown sandy gravel
1487	Ditch	1.05	0.6	0.3	N-S linear	Filled by 1486, a grey-brown silty clay
1618	Ditch	1	0.7	0.36	N-S linear	Filled by 1620, a brown sandy gravel and 1621, a dark brown silty clay
1623	Ditch	1	0.6	0.48	N-S linear	Filled by 1714, a brown sandy gravel, 1713, a grey-brown silty clay and 1622, a dark grey-brown silty clay
1676	Ditch	1	0.48	0.36	N-S linear	Filled by 1677, a brown sandy clay
1706	Ditch	1	0.4	0.14	N-S linear	Filled by 1707, a brown-grey sandy silt

1791	Ditch	2	1.34	0.5	N-S linear	Filled by 1792, grey-brown silt, 1790, a brown sandy gravel, 1789, a yellow-brown silty sand and 1788, a grey-brown silty clay
1826	Ditch	1	0.7	0.3	N-S linear	Filled by 1825, a grey-brown silty clay
1828	Ditch	1	0.8	0.3	N-S linear	Filled by 1827, a grey-brown silty clay
2015	Ditch	1.4	1	0.34	N-S linear	Filled by 2016, a grey-brown silty clay

Table 26. Ditch 1403

Ditch **1498** (Figs. 6 & 13. S.95 & S.96) (Table 27) was situated 11m east of ditch **1403**, in Area 2, orientated north – south and had two hand dug interventions excavated through it. It was 10m long, up to 2.55m wide and 0.21m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a grey / brown silty clay containing 1 flint flake in (1493) and one sherd (9g) of Early Iron Age pottery in (1497). This ditch cut phase 1 ditch **1521**, and natural feature 1499. This ditch has tentatively been placed within this phase due to its proximity and shared orientation to ditch **1403**.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1496	Ditch	1	2.55	0.21	NNW-SSE linear	Filled by 1497, a grey / brown silty clay
1492	Ditch	1	2	0.15	NNW-SSE linear	Filled by 1493, a grey / brown silty clay

Table 27 Ditch 1498

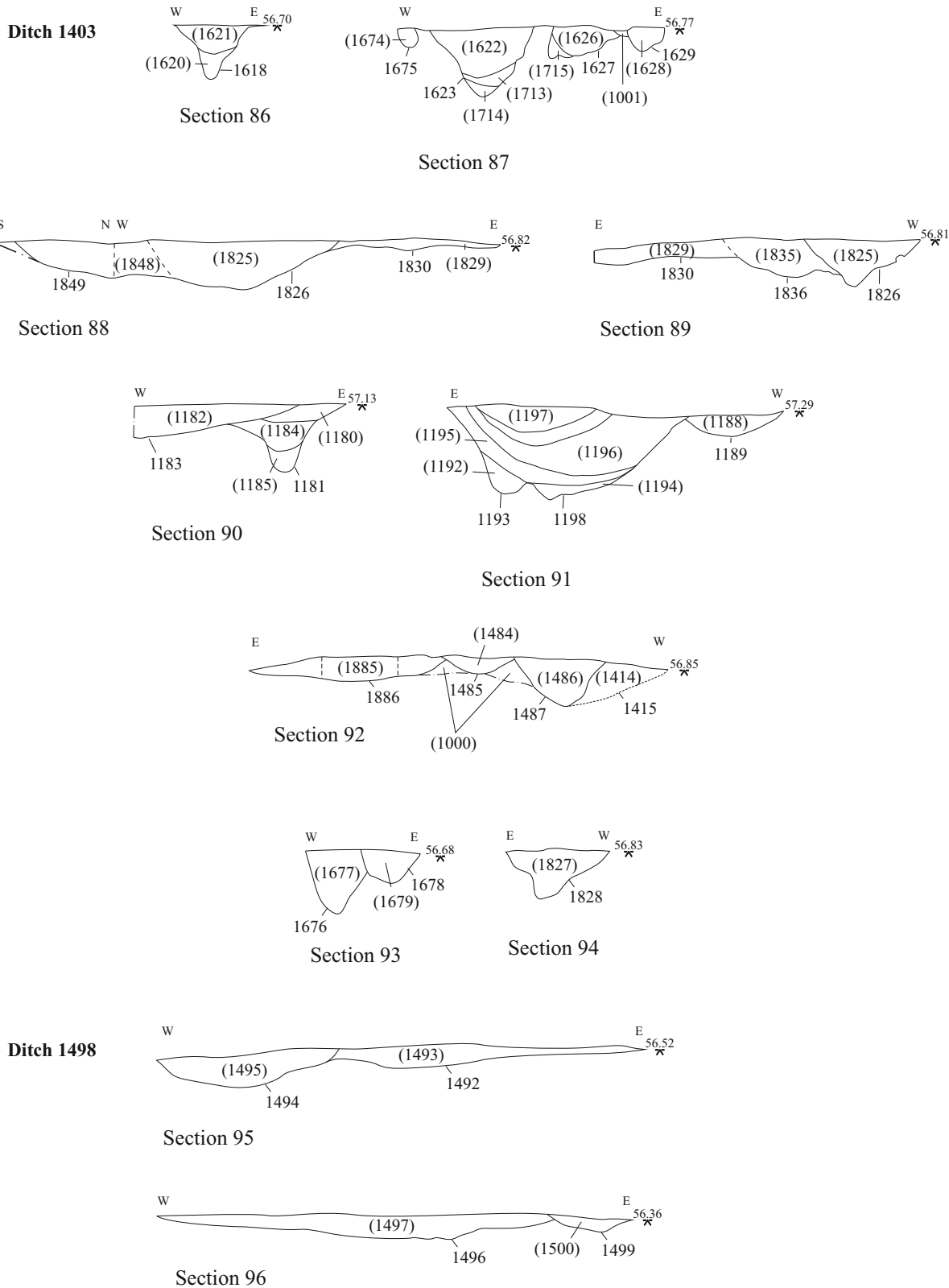
Ditch **1260** (Fig. 6) (Table 28) was situated 4.5m east of ditch **1403** in Area 1, orientated north – south and had two hand dug interventions excavated through it. It was 5m long, up-to 0.56m wide and up-to 0.27m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay containing one fragment of animal bone in (1251) and one flint flake from (1259). This ditch has tentatively been placed within this phase due to its proximity and shared orientation to ditch **1403**.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1250	Ditch	1	0.56	0.27	NNW-SSE linear	Filled by 1251, a dark brown silty clay
1258	Ditch	1	0.34	0.12	NNW-SSE linear	Filled by 1259, a dark brown silty clay

Table 28 Ditch 1260

Tentatively placed within this phase is crouched burial SK (1352) (Figs. 6 & 14) (Plates 4 and 5) that was within shallow grave 1351. No finds were recovered from the burial. However the position of the pit, located 4m west of where Phase 2 ditch, **1403**, cuts both Phase 1 ditches **1860** and **1521**, could be referencing the older field system alignment with the new field system alignment.

Grave 1351 was cut into an earlier silted up tree-hole 1349; the grave was oval in shape and orientated east – west. It was 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single fill of grey / brown silty clay, (1353), that contained SK (1352). Sample <9> was processed and contained 62 unidentifiable small fragments of bone.



Key:
 Limit of excavation

0 2 m
 Scale of all sections

Figure 13: Sections 86 - 96

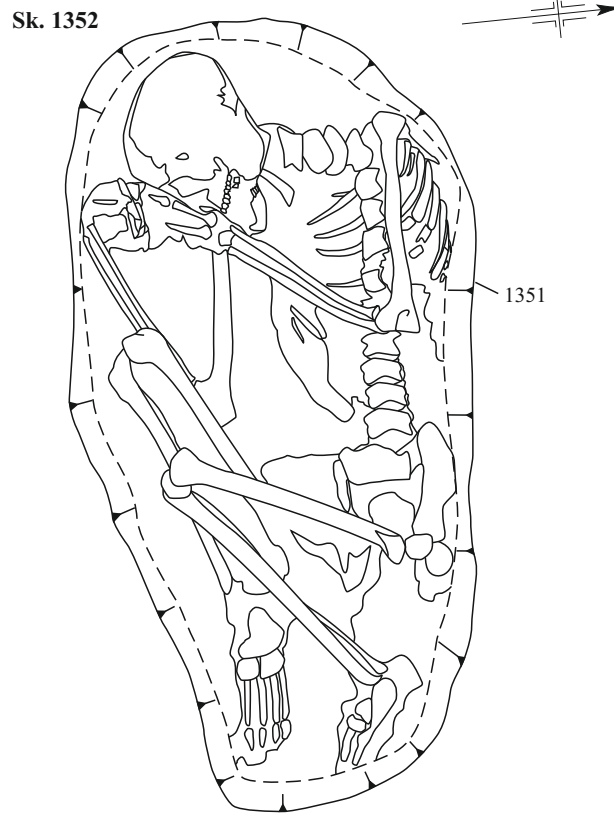


Figure 14: Plan of crouched burial with plates 4 and 5
40

No grave goods were present within the grave. The skeleton of a male aged between 30 and 50 at the time of death, lay in a crouched position on the right side, with the head situated to the west. The arms were flexed at the elbow and drawn up towards the head. The left hand lay on the right shoulder and the right hand was curled adjacent to it. The legs were tightly flexed so the knees were near the hands and the feet were supine extended.

4.8 Early Iron Age (8th to 6th Centuries BC) Phase 3

The third phase of activity was represented by gully groups **1333** and **1491** that formed a sub-rectangular enclosure that was added onto the eastern side of Ditch **1403**, in Area 1 (Fig. 6).

Gully **1333**, extended from the northern baulk, southwest for 33m where it terminated at a 2.5m wide entranceway in the enclosure. Gully **1491**, continued the northeast – southwest orientation for 15m, before turning northwest for a further 18.5m where it terminated 0.5m away from Ditch **1403** indicating that ditch **1403** had a bank on the eastern side. Phase 4 gully, **1934**, cut this gully in intervention 1372 / 1374, forming an additional enclosure.

Gully **1333** (Figs 6 & 15. S.97-S.99) had six hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 29); the gully increased in both width (0.3m to 0.8m) and depth (0.08m to 0.28m) from the northwest to the gully terminus. It had steep sides and a flat base and was filled by a single fill of brown silty sand containing two fragments of animal bone from (1323).

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1321	Gully	1	0.3	0.08	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1322, a brown silty sand
1324	Gully	1	0.36	0.15	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1323, a brown silty sand
1328	Gully	1	0.35	0.2	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1327, a grey silty clay
1334	Gully	1	0.75	0.14	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1335, a grey-brown silty clay
1336	Gully	1	0.8	0.18	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1337, a brown silty clay
2099	Gully	1	0.35	0.28	NE-SW linear	Filled by 2098, a grey-brown sandy silt

Table. 29 Gully 1333

Gully **1491** (Figs 6 & 15. S.100-S.102) had seven hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 30); the gully was up to 0.4m wide and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a grey / brown silty clay that contained six fragments of animal bone, and a further 42 small fragments from sample <16>, four pieces of flint and six sherds (74g) of Early Iron Age pottery.



Plate 6. Gully 1491, looking north

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1345	Gully	1	0.38	0.26	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1346, a brown silty clay
1372	Gully	1	0.2	0.24	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1371, a grey-brown silty clay
1376	Gully	1	0.2	0.06	NW-SE linear	Filled by 1375, a grey-brown silty clay
1402	Gully	1	0.2	0.18	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1401, a grey-brown silty clay
1419	Gully	1	0.34	0.12	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1418, a grey-brown silty clay
1871	Gully	0.7	0.4	0.27	E-W linear	Filled by 1872, a grey-brown silty clay, sample 16
2101	Gully	1	0.4	0.2	NW-SE linear	Filled by 2100, a grey-brown silty clay

Table. 30 Gully 1491

4.9 Early Iron Age (8th to 6th Centuries BC)

Phase 4

The fourth phase of activity was represented by six gully groups; **1934**, **1964**, **1686**, **1822**, **1560** and **1585** that formed a segmented gully adding a further enclosure to the south of the earlier Phase 3 enclosure **1333** / **1491**, in Areas 1 and 2 (Fig. 6). Gully **1934**, extended from the southeast corner of gully **1491**, southwards for 2m before turning southwest for a further 4.5m before terminating. There was a 2m gap before gully **1964**, it continued for another

2.3m, another gap 22m wide, then gully **1686**, continued along the south-westerly orientation for 11m before terminating in Ditch **1403**. There was a 4m gap to gully **1822**, which extended for a further 6m along the same orientation, another gap 1.5m wide led to gully **1560**, that was 2.5m long. There was a final 2m gap before gully **1585** extended southwest for 10m up to the baulk in the southwest corner of Area 2.

Gully **1934** (Figs. 6 & 15. S.103-S.105) had four hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 31), the gully was between 0.2 and 0.36m wide and up-to 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a brown / grey sandy silt that contained one sherd (35g) of Early Iron Age pottery. This gully cut Gully, **1491**, and un-dated small pits 1924 and 1928.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1374	Gully	0.35	0.2	0.12	N-S linear	Filled by 1373, a brown-grey sandy silt
1926	Gully	1	0.36	0.22	N-S linear	Filled by 1927, a brown-grey sandy silt
1930	Gully	1	0.24	0.2	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1931, a brown-grey sandy silt
1932	Gully	1	0.24	0.1	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1933, a brown-grey sandy silt

Table. 31 Gully 1934

Gully **1964** (Figs 6 & 15. S.106 & S.107) had two hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 32), it was up-to 0.28m wide and 0.08m deep, with moderately sloping sides. It was filled by a grey / brown silty clay that was devoid of any artefacts. The gully was cut by un-dated pit 1962.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1956	Gully	0.6	0.24	0.08	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1957, a grey-brown silty clay
1960	Gully	0.7	0.28	0.08	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1961, a grey-brown silty clay

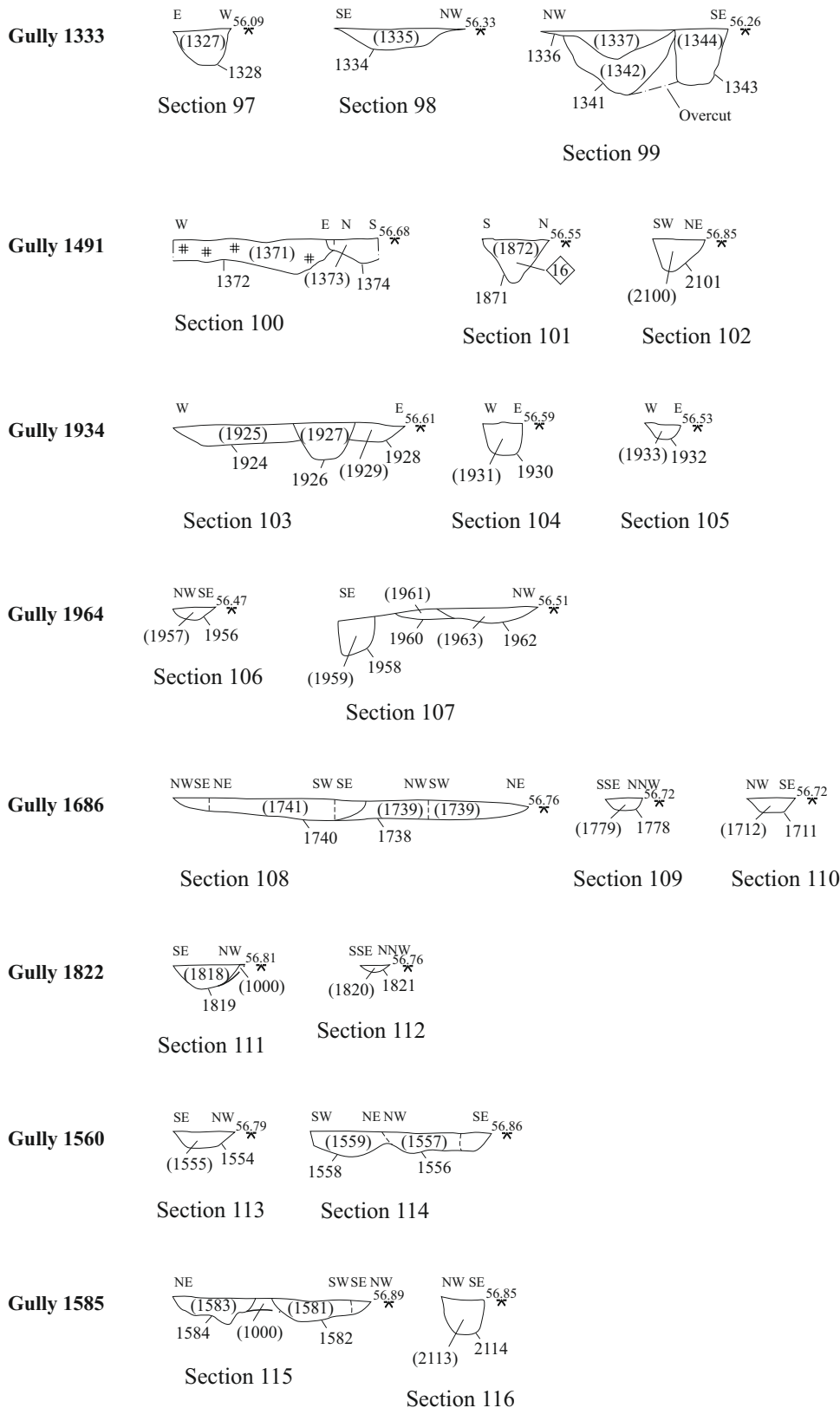
Table. 32 Gully 1964

Gully **1686** (Figs 6 & 15. S.108-S.110) had four hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 33), it was up-to 0.34m wide and 0.16m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a brown sandy clay that was devoid of any artefacts. This gully truncated phase 1 ditch **1521** and gully terminus 1678 cut phase 2 ditch **1403**.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1678	Gully	1	0.26	0.16	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1679, a brown sandy clay
1711	Gully	1	0.3	0.1	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1712, a brown sandy clay
1740	Gully	1.6	0.2	0.1	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1741, a brown sandy clay
1778	Gully	1	0.34	0.07	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1779, a brown sandy clay

Table. 33 Gully 1686

Gully **1822** (Figs 6 & 15. S.111 & S.112) had three hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 34), it was up-to 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a



Key:
 □ Limit of excavation
 ■ Charcoal



Figure 15: Sections 97 - 116

concave base. It was filled by a grey / brown silty clay and contained eight fragments of animal bone and two sherds (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1629	Gully	0.5	0.25	0.17	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1628, a grey-brown silty clay
1819	Gully	1	0.4	0.18	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1818, a grey-brown silty clay
1821	Gully	1	0.18	0.04	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1820, a grey-brown silty clay

Table. 34 Gully 1822

Gully **1560** (Figs 6 & 15. S.113 & S.114) had two hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 35), it was 0.2m wide and up-to 0.1m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a brown silty clay that was devoid of any artefacts. This gully cut un-dated pit 1558.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1554	Gully	0.6	0.2	0.04	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1555, a brown silty clay
1556	Gully	0.4	0.2	0.1	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1557, a brown silty clay

Table. 35 Gully 1560

Gully **1585** (Figs 6 & 15. S.115 & S.116) had three hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 36), it was 0.25m wide and 0.12m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a brown silty clay that contained two fragments of animal bone.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1582	Gully	1	0.25	0.12	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1581, a brown silty clay
1587	Gully	1	0.25	0.12	NE-SW linear	Filled by 1586, a brown silty clay
2114	Gully	1.8	0.22	0.1	NE-SW linear	Filled by 2113, a brown silty clay

Table. 36 Gully 1585

4.10 Roman period (1st to 4th Centuries AD)

The Roman period was represented by the southern extent of a small rectangular enclosure added onto the Phase 2 ditch, enclosing an area west of the ditch, a short length of an east – west ditch in the northwest corner of Area 1 and a few isolated pits across the site (Fig. 16).

The rectangular enclosure was aligned east – west / north – south, 12m wide and exposed for a length of 11m. It had a 2m wide entrance on the western side and re-cut Phase 2 ditch **1403**, along its northern extent. It consisted of ditch terminus 1163, that formed the north-western extent of the enclosure, ditch group **1172**, formed the western and southern extent and **2125** formed the eastern extent, re-cutting ditch **1403**. No features dated from the Roman period were identified from the interior of the enclosure.

Ditch terminus 1163 (Figs. 16 & 17. S.125) had one hand dug intervention excavated through it and was exposed for a length of 2.5m from the northern baulk of the site. It was 1.7m wide

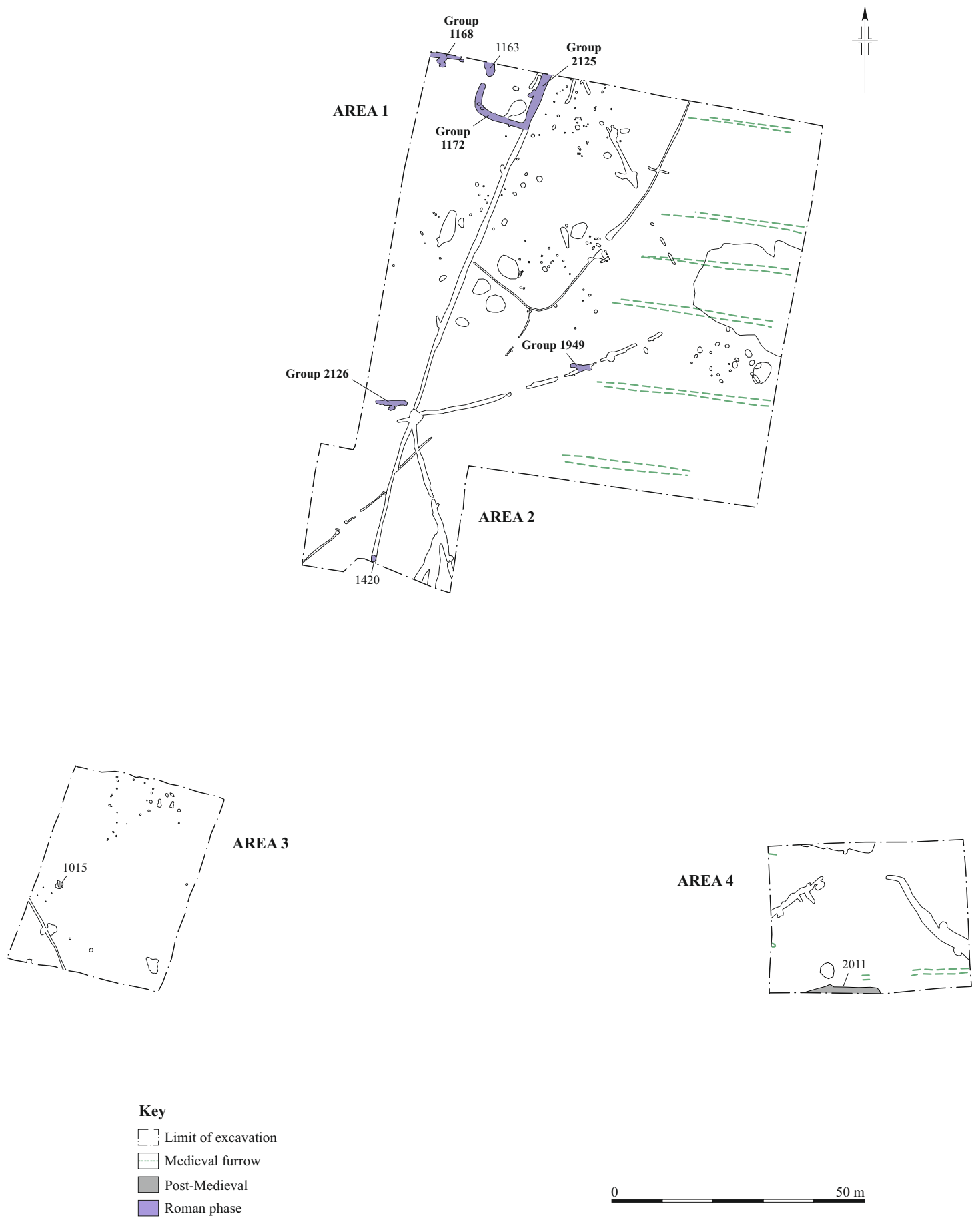


Figure 16: Plan of Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval features

and 0.5m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a brown clay (1162) that contained three fragments of animal bone.

Ditch **1172** (Figs. 16 & 17. S.117-S.121) had five hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 37), it was up-to 1.45m wide and up-to 0.5m deep with moderately sloping sides and concave base. It was filled by a single fill of a dark grey silty clay in both ditch termini 1170 and 1183 that contained five fragments of animal bone and one flint flake in (1169). Alternating fills of natural gravel rich fills and silty clay fills were present in ditch cuts 1170 and 1799, indicating erosion of the feature sides or related bank. Fill (1178), a brown silty clay contained eleven sherds (18g) of residual Early Iron Age pottery, one sherd of 250 – 400+ AD pottery, two sherds of Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery and 39 fragments of animal bone. This ditch cut tree-hole 1165 and the western edge of ditch **1403** and was cut by 1173, an un-dated shallow oval shaped cut containing a gravel rich fill (1175), possibly utilised as hard standing once the ditch had silted up.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1167	Ditch	1	1.1	0.44	E-W linear	Filled by 1166, a dark brown silty clay
1170	Ditch	1	1.14	0.31	N-S linear	Filled by 1169, a dark brown silty clay
1171	Ditch	1.3	1.3	0.5	N-S linear	Filled by; 1176 a dark brown clay, 1177, 1178, 1179, all brown clays
1183	Ditch	1.1	1.1	0.23	E-W linear	Filled by 1182, a dark brown clay
1799	Ditch	1	1.45	0.45	E-W linear	Filled by 1796, a dark brown clay, 1797, 1798, all brown clays

Table 37 Ditch 1172

Ditch re-cut **2125** (Figs. 16 & 17. S.122-S.124) had three hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 38), it was up-to 1.84m wide and up-to 0.8m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single fill of a grey / brown silty clay, (2014), containing no finds in the southern terminus. Ditch cuts 1198 and 1700 both were filled with alternating natural gravel and silty clay fills, indicating erosion of the feature sides or related bank material; fill (1196) a dark brown silty clay that contained four residual sherds (10g) of Early Iron age pottery, fill, (1197), a dark brown clay containing one sherd (9g) of Roman pottery, one piece (48g) of slag and two fragments of animal bone and fill, (1704), a grey / brown silty clay contained one residual sherd (4g) of Early Iron Age pottery and six fragments of animal bone.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1198	Ditch	1	1.5	0.6	N-S linear	Filled by 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1199, 1200,1201
1700	Ditch	1.1	1.84	0.8	N-S linear	Filled by 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705
2013	Ditch	1.5	1	0.3	N-S linear	Filled by 2014, a grey-brown silty clay

Table. 38 Ditch 2125

Remnants of a possible bank 0.60m wide and 0.23m thick, running along the eastern side of ditch were visible in the northern baulk of Area 1 situated next to cut 1700 (Fig. 17. S.124). Two thin (0.06m) layers of yellow / brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions, (1708)

and (1710), overlay an undulation in the natural gravels. Overlying these deposits was a 0.23m thick layer of a mid-brown sandy silt that was overlain by the top fill (1704) of ditch 1700. The bank was probably contemporary with the initial cutting of the ditch in the Early Iron Age and possible root disturbance from a hedge planted along the top of the bank could relate to the formation of layer (1709).

Ditch 1168 (Figs. 16 & 17 S.126 & S.127) was situated in the northwest corner of Area 1, 4m west of the rectilinear enclosure. It had two hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 39), it was up-to 1.1m wide, 6.5m long and up-to 0.38m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by two fills, lower fill was a brown clay that was devoid of any artefacts and the upper fill was a dark brown clay, (1153), that contained one sherd (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery and one sherd (52g) of Roman pottery.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1154	Ditch	1	1.1	0.38	E-W linear	Filled by 1156, a dark brown clay, 1153, a brown clay
1159	Ditch	0.9	0.8	0.26	E-W linear	Filled by, 1158, a dark brown clay, 1157 a brown clay

Table. 39 Ditch 1168

Possible pit 1420 (Fig.16) was cut into the top of Phase 2 Early Iron Age ditch **1403**, situated next to the southern baulk of Area 2. It was 0.7m wide, +1m in length and 0.33m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a brown silty clay containing the partial skeleton of a cow (156 fragments of animal bone), one flint flake and one sherd (3g) of Roman pottery.

Elongated shallow pit **1949** (Figs.16 & 8. S.24 & S.25) cut phase 1 Early Iron Age segmented ditch **1935**, in Area 1. It had two hand dug interventions excavated through it and was very diffuse in nature, elongated oval shaped, aligned east – west, 4.3m long, 1m wide and 0.06m deep, with a shallow slope and flat base. It contained a single fill, a light grey / brown silty clay that contained two sherds (3g) of residual Early Iron Age pottery from (1945), a further two sherds (5g) of pottery of the same date and one sherd (0.5g) of Roman pottery from (1947).

Undated Roman Features

Gully **2126** (Figs 16 & 18. S.128-S.130) is tentatively placed in this period due to its east – west alignment. It was situated near the southwest corner of Area 1. It had three hand dug interventions excavated through it (Table 40) and truncated four un-dated pits. The gully was 6.5m long, up-to 0.5m wide and up-to 0.18m deep, with a moderate slope and concave base. It was filled by a grey silty sand that was devoid of any artefacts.

Context	Type	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Shape	Notes
1600	Ditch	1	0.5	0.18	E-W linear	Filled by 1601, a grey silty sand
1639	Ditch	1	0.28	0.12	E-W linear	Filled by 1640, a grey silty sand
1643	Ditch	0.5	0.4	0.2	E-W linear	Filled by 1644, a grey silty sand

Table. 40 Gully 2126

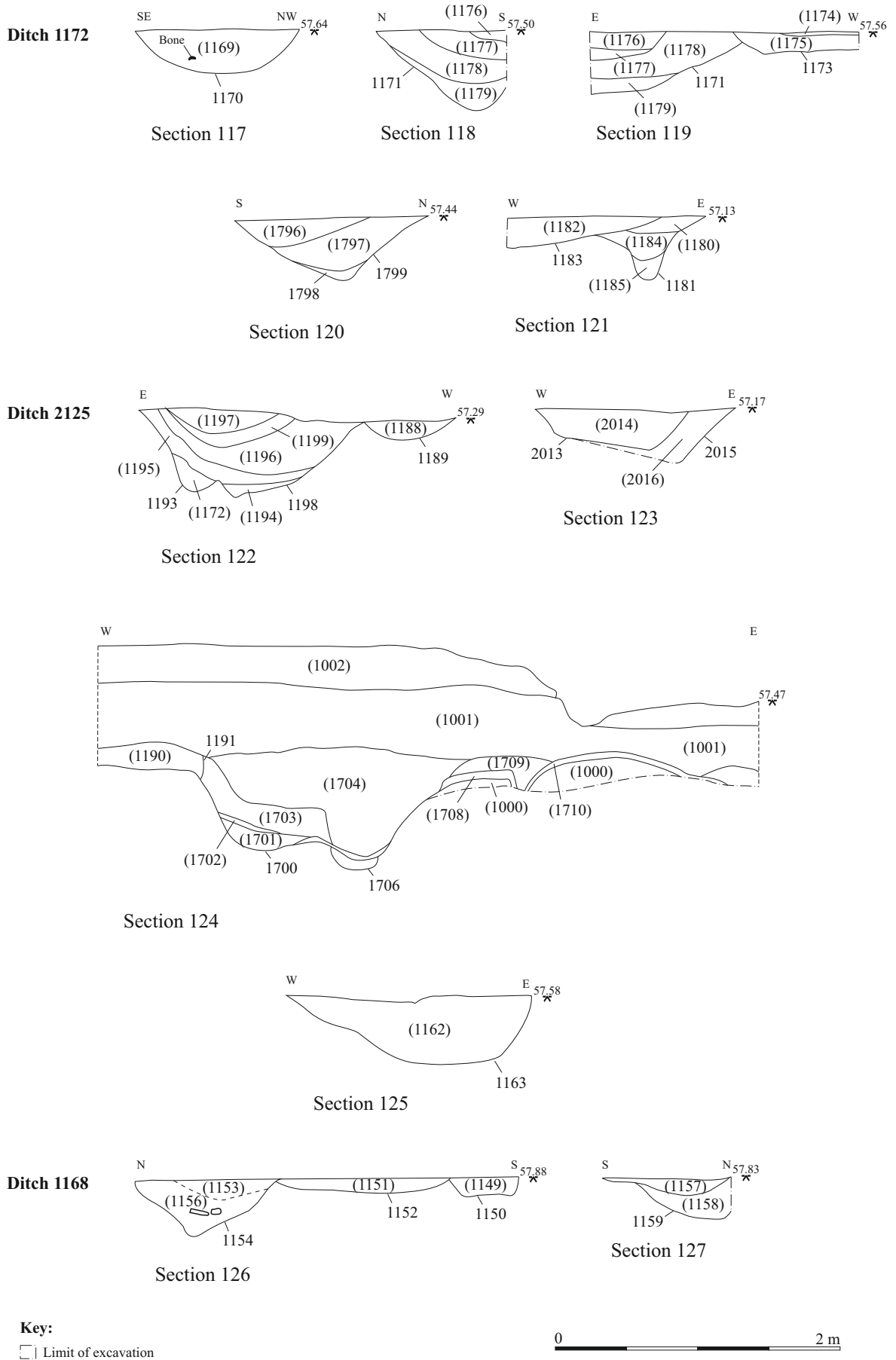
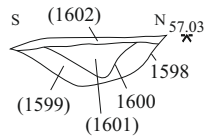
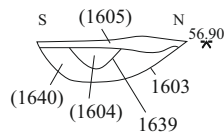


Figure 17: Sections 117 - 127

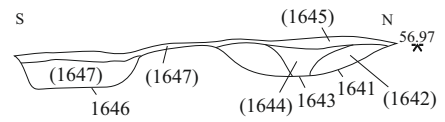
Gully 2126



Section 128



Section 129



Section 130



Figure 18: Sections 128 - 130

4.11 Medieval and Post-Medieval

There were six furrows visible in the eastern area of Area 1 where the depth of the sub-soil decreased and the furrows cut into the natural gravels (Fig. 16).

Furrow 2064 (Fig 7. S.2) cut palaeochannel **2049**, along its southern extent, the furrow was 1.3m wide, 1m long and 0.26m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by a grey / brown clay, (2063). A post- medieval field drain cut through the base of the furrow and due to the waterlogged nature of the palaeochannel, wooden faggots of sticks associated with the drain were preserved. The wooden faggots would have been laid in narrow trenches, arranged in a herringbone pattern, leading from the cultivation strip down to the ceramic drain trench running along the base of the furrow. The ceramic drain consisted of a 'U' shaped tile placed on-top of a flat tile that formed the main drain, this type of ceramic drain was utilised in the early land improvements of the late 18th to early 19th century.

Pit 1015 (Fig.16) was situated near the western baulk of Area 3 and cut undated posthole 1024. The pit was sub-circular in plan, 1.45m wide, 1.1m long and 0.40m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of dark grey and orange burnt clay and charcoal flecks and contained one sherd (5g) of post-medieval pottery and was probably utilised as a fire pit.

Quarry pit 2011 (Fig. 16) extended under the southern baulk of Area 4. The pit was sub-rectangular in shape, 16m wide, exposed for a length of 1.4m and 1.04m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by eight fills, comprising of alternating clay and gravel fills, (2044) and contained one fragment of clay tobacco pipe and one fragment of clay roof tile in fill (2047) and the lowest fill (2048) contained one sherd (4g) of post-medieval pottery.

4.12 Undated features

There was a relatively small ceramic assemblage from the features across the site, with 403 sherds (2618g), from 75 deposits, of prehistoric pottery and 12 sherds (109g), from eight deposits of Roman and later periods. However some of the undated features such as ditch segments, gullies, pits and postholes, have been tentatively placed in various phases by extrapolating various shared alignments of the dated features. A significant amount of undated tree-holes and natural features were investigated across all four areas during the excavation. All the features (except one post-medieval quarry pit) in Area 4 were undated; these consisted of 23 shallow postholes and one pit that had been heavily truncated by furrows (Fig. 16).

4.13 Reliability of Results

The reliability of results is considered to be very good. The archaeological investigations took place in generally clement conditions with good light and visibility. On the whole there was good cooperation from all involved in the project during all stages of the archaeological field work. The archaeological investigation was monitored by Hugh Coddington (OHaNET) on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Prehistoric Pottery by Frances Reymond (illustrations by Roy Entwistle)

Introduction

The prehistoric assemblage is composed of 403 sherds (2618g.), which apart from a few Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age fragments are principally of Earliest Iron Age date. The pottery is derived from 75 deposits, where it was mainly present in small quantities. The one exception is an Early All Cannings Cross group from the palaeochannel, which provides an insight into regional ceramic character and development. This early phase has been somewhat elusive on the margins of the distribution in Oxfordshire, where single period assemblages are scarce.

The pottery was recorded by context following the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010), while the All Cannings Cross vessels have been keyed into the Potterne type series (Gingell and Morris 2000). Details of fabric, form, decoration, surface treatment and colour, wall thickness, fragmentation, condition and estimated vessel equivalents have been entered on a database and are available in the archive. The sherds were sorted into fabric groups with the aid of a binocular microscope at X20 magnification, while the descriptions were prepared using this and a higher magnification of X40. The alpha numeric fabric codes reflect the initial letters of the principal inclusion types along with contrasts in density and size.

Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Pottery

Character and Context

The few fragments of earlier prehistoric pottery (eight sherds, 14g.) are derived from a Mortlake bowl and two other vessels in grog tempered fabrics of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age character. All are moderately to heavily abraded and there is no surviving evidence of surface treatment. The Mortlake Ware is represented by a single rim fragment (6g.) from an Iron Age pit 1135. The interior and exterior of the cavetto neck are decorated with short diagonally set impressions (not illustrated). Those on the interior are of twisted cord, but the character of the cord cannot be determined on the exterior where the impressions are worn and indistinct. The rim top is also embellished and again abrasion has obscured the nature and origins of the decoration. *Should these be () brackets or no brackets?*

Six wall fragments (4g.) in a sandy grog tempered ware, which could equally be from a Beaker or Early Bronze Age vessel, are the only sherds from 1161. Earlier prehistoric activity is otherwise represented by a simple, rounded and upright rim fragment (4g.) from an Early Bronze Age vessel of uncertain style, which is derived from another of the Iron Age pits 1407.

Fabrics

All of the earlier prehistoric fabrics are soft with evenly distributed inclusions that would have been available locally. The Mortlake Ware is in a coarse fabric (CFS/1) with a red exterior incorporating sparse calcareous inclusions (up to 2mm.), sparse burnt flint (up to 6mm.) and common rounded quartz sand (0.1 to 0.25mm.). The Beaker or Early Bronze Age sherds are made from a medium grade ware (GS/1) with a red exterior, moderate grog (up to 3mm.) and moderate rounded quartz sand (0.25-1mm.). The exterior of the Early Bronze Age rim is brownish yellow and the fabric is tempered with common, medium grade grog (up to 3mm.).

The Iron Age Pottery

Character and Context

The remaining pottery (394 sherds, 2603g.) is of Iron Age date, with the exception of a single fragment (1g.) of indeterminate phasing from one of the postholes of the four-post structure (Group **1034**, 1027). Virtually all of the featured sherds are of Earliest Iron Age origin, while the fabrics are similarly consistent with an assemblage that is predominantly of this period. The pottery from the palaeochannel is the only group that can be assigned to a more specific phase, otherwise it is unclear whether the sherds are of transitional, Early or Later All Cannings Cross type.

The largest and most significant of the ceramic deposits from the palaeochannel (Group **2049**, 2075) is composed of 194 Early All Cannings Cross sherds from 30 vessels (1662g.). The majority are from two of the four horizons with pottery ((2073): 99 sherds, 923g.; and (2078): 63 sherds, 349g.), which are united by refitting fragments from several vessels. Smaller groups of sherds were recovered from the primary silts ((2074); 30 sherds, 382g.) and one of the upper horizons ((2072); two sherds, 8g.). The sherds from each of the deposits are in similarly variable condition and approximately 95% are small (<5cm. across) suggesting exposure to different levels of attrition prior to final burial, consistent with a possible origin in a domestic midden.

Eleven percent of the remaining assemblage was residual within Roman features (22 sherds, 44g.), while the rest had a scattered distribution in 62 deposits (178 sherds, 897g.). Slightly over half each produced between one and three sherds from single vessels (36 deposits; 49 sherds, 290g.), while all but one of the other 25 contexts each yielded less than 60 grams of pottery from several vessels (totalling 105 sherds, 483g.). The one exception is a slightly larger group of 24 sherds (124g.) representing the remains of at least six vessels from one of the ditch sections (Group **1403**, 1623, (1622)). Just 20% of the scattered pottery is in fresh condition, while 97% of the sherds are small (<5cm. across) and the rest only marginally larger (6-7cm across). Even though it is conceivable that a few sherds may have been placed deliberately within some of the horizons, there is no evidence that would indicate or confirm the selective deposition of any of this material. It seems more probable that the pottery was incorporated accidentally in the various features. Given the small size of the ceramic groups and the potential for the inclusion of residual sherds, none of the assemblages provide more than a tentative indication of date.

Form and Decoration

The Earliest Iron Age assemblage from the palaeochannel includes a range of vessel types, which are typical components of the Early All Cannings Cross repertoire with combined characteristics that point to a date between the mid-eighth and mid-seventh century BC (Fig. 19: P1-P14). The undecorated biconical bowl from the central fill (2073) is a long-lived form with a currency extending from the tenth or ninth century to the early sixth century BC (Fig. 19: P1; Gingell and Morris 2000, 150, Fig. 47, Bowl Type 1). A likely date within the seventh century BC is indicated by its association with sherds from a large biconical bowl embellished with pre-firing incised swags (Fig. 19: P2; Gingell and Morris 2000, 151, Fig. 50, Bowl Type 14). Refitting sherds from this same vessel were also represented in the upper fill of the palaeochannel (2078). Both bowls were stratified above the remains of a round shouldered form also decorated with an incised swag pattern (Fig. 19: P3; Gingell and Morris 2000, 151, Fig. 55, Jar/Bowl Type 50), which had been deposited within the primary silts (2074). The bowl is a relatively rare type introduced during the tenth century BC that in this instance is likely to be of later eighth to earlier seventh century date. None of the sherds from

the primary silts refit with those from the overlying horizons, but there are two fragments including one from an omphalos base from the upper fill (2078) that might have been part of this same vessel.

There is only scant evidence of the form of other vessels with complex pre-firing incised geometric decoration. A carinated shoulder with part of a triangular motif from (2073) is most probably derived from another biconical bowl (Fig. 19: P4; Gingell and Morris 2000, 150-151, Figs. 47 and 50, Bowl Type 1 or 14). Sherds likely to have been from a single vessel from (2073) and (2078) are embellished with design fragments of similar character that appear to be composed of a combination of filled triangles and nested chevrons (Fig. 19: P5-P7). The only piece with surviving traces of white inlay carries bars filled with short strokes, which may represent converging, elongated triangles (Fig. 19: P8 from (2078)).

Shouldered jars that are sufficiently complete for identification to type are of the same form with fingertip rows around their shoulders (Fig. 19: P9 and P10; Gingell and Morris 2000, 151-152 and Figs. 56 to 58, Jar Type 51). Vessels with this profile emerged during the tenth century BC and from the time of the transition between the Late Bronze Age and Earliest Iron Age they frequently carried decoration on outer rim lips and shoulders. The type continued in production into the early sixth century BC (Gingell and Morris 2000, 151-152). One of the vessels is from the primary silts (2074), indicating a date before or during the seventh century BC (Fig. 0: P9) and the other is represented by refitting sherds from (2073) and (2078); Fig. 19: P10). One of two additional jars from (2073) decorated with fingertip rows is likely to have been of similar form (Fig. 0: P11).

As is typical of the period, all of the rims are simple unexpanded or slightly beaded types (including Fig. 19, P13 from (2073) and one example from (2078), not illustrated). There are none of the long-necked flaring varieties that occur in Later All Cannings Cross or Early Iron Age assemblages, strengthening the likelihood that the group is no later than the earlier part of the seventh century BC.

Fragments of strip lugs of the same type (Gingell and Morris 2000, 152, Type 1) are from four vessels of uncertain form. The only complete example from the primary silts (2074) has been keyed into the vessel walls and set on its shoulder (Fig. 19: P14).

The one potentially anomalous sherd from the upper fill (2072) is embellished with an oblique geometric motif defined by a fine line with a row of dots on one side and broad line infill on the other (Fig. 19: P15). The shallow tooled decorative technique is uncommon in an Earliest Iron Age assemblage and it is possible that the fragment is an intrusive element of Middle Iron Age origin.

Limited evidence of the character of vessels from other deposits is provided by approximately 9% of the sherd scatter (none illustrated). Five small rims (1-2cm. across) each from a different vessel are simple closed or upright forms. The latter include a slightly beaded example from a cup, while there is also one probable lid fragment. One weakly carinated and two carinated shoulders are additionally represented along with a few decorated sherds (eight sherds, 55g.) including three with fingertip or fingernail rows, three with fragmented elements of pre-firing impressed motifs and two from a vessel with a rusticated effect produced by vertical combing on part of its walls.

Surface Treatment, Firing and Use

Evidence of surface treatment is limited to slightly under half of the assemblage (185 sherds, 1787g.). Twenty-four percent of the sherds have burnished exteriors, including those from three of the bowls and from two other vessels with complex geometric decoration (Fig. 19: P1-P3, P8 and P15). Traces of internal burnishing survive on just two of the biconical bowls (Fig. 19: P2 and P4) and there are no examples with red surface coating. The other 76% of the assemblage with smoothed or partly smoothed exteriors include all of the fragments from jars with fingertip rows (Fig. 0: P9-P12).

Half of the sherds from the bowls and other vessels with complex geometric decoration have dark grey exteriors (including Fig. 19: P1-4 and P8), while the other half are in various oxidised hues ranging from red to reddish yellow, reddish brown and brown (including Fig. 19: P5-7 and P15). By contrast, oxidised colours appear to have been favoured for jars (including Fig. 19: P9-P10 and P12), although some have dark grey patches (e.g. Fig. 19: P9) and occasional small dark grey sherds are also represented (including Fig. 19: P11). The patterns suggest that there was some attempt to control colour in spite of the difficulties of doing so in open firings.

There are only three sherds that have been over-fired or re-fired to the point that they are partly vitrified. A base from (2073) in the palaeochannel has a large central perforation (16mm. in diameter) created either when the vessel was in a leather hard state or after it was fired.

The Fabrics

The fabrics are notably varied in character (Table 41: 48 fabrics, belonging to 24 groups) partly reflecting their likely origins in a range of contrasting clay sources. Sand, quartzite, iron ore, shell and limestone are present in the Thames Valley alluvial clays (Doherty 2006, 76), while dense fossil shell is typical of the local Kimmeridge Clay. Fabrics with the higher frequencies of glauconite are likely to have been derived from the Gault, which outcrops to the east around Culham and at the foot of the chalk escarpment to the south-east and south-west. An origin on the chalk downs is possible for the flint tempering, although an alternative source is provided by the Abingdon terrace gravels which also incorporate flint pebbles.

The assemblage is dominated by sandy wares with sparse additional inclusions (60-65% of the assemblage; Table 1: 258 sherds, 1569g.). The more prominent of the minority groups incorporate moderate to common shell or a mixture of fossil shell and limestone (16-22% of the assemblage; Table 1: 64 sherds, 567g.) and moderate to common quartz/quartzite or burnt flint (8-11% of the assemblage; Table 41: 33 sherds, 289g.). This fabric signature is closely reflected by that of the Earliest Iron Age assemblage from the palaeochannel (Table 42).

Fabric	Calcareous (* or **)	Clay Pellets	Burnt Flint	Glauconite	Grog	Iron Ore	Quartz/ Quartzite	Quartz sand	Shell	Voids (Ind or O)	Shd No	Wt g
Glauconitic Sandy Wares												
glS/1	-	-	-	S 0.1-0.5	-	-	-	A 0.0625-0.8	-	-	22	108
glS/2	-	-	R up to 4	S 0.1-0.3	-	-	R up to 2	A 0.1-1.2	-	-	5	15
glS/3	-	-	R up to 2	M 0.625-0.3	-	-	R up to 1	A <0.0625-0.3	-	-	1	2
SUB-TOTAL											28	125
Glauconitic Sandy Ware with Sparse Calcareous Inclusions												
CglS/1	**S up to 2	-	-	S 0.1 to 0.5	-	-	-	VC <0.0625-0.5	-	-	2	6
Glauconitic Sandy Ware with Sparse Flint												
FglS/1	-	-	S up to 1	S 0.1-0.25	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.5	-	-	31	178
Glauconitic Sandy Ware with Sparse Quartz and Quartzite												
glQS/1	-	-	-	S 0.1-0.5	-	-	S up to 5	A <0.0625-0.125	-	-	4	11
Glauconitic Ware												
gl/1	-	-	-	C 0.1-0.8	-	-	-	R up to 0.8	-	-	1	5
Glauconitic Ware with Sparse Calcareous Inclusions												
Cgl/1	**S up to 2	-	-	M 0.1-0.8	-	-	-	R up to 1.2	-	-	1	1
Sandy Wares												
S/1	R up to 3	-	-	R up to 0.3	-	-	R up to 3	VC 0.1-0.8	-	-	14	76
S/2	-	-	R up to 3	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.5	-	-	15	63
S/3	-	R up to 5	-	-	-	-	R up to 3.5	VC 0.1-1	-	-	20	96
SUB-TOTAL											49	235
Sandy Ware with Sparse to Moderate Clay Pellets												
clS/1	**R up to 9	S-M up to 3	-	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.5	-	-	8	38
Sandy Ware with Sparse Grog												
GS/2	-	-	R up to 6	-	S up to 1	-	-	C 0.1-0.5	-	-	1	3
Sandy Ware with Sparse Quartz/Quartzite												
QS/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	S up to 2.5	VC <0.0625-0.5	-	-	2	16
Sandy Wares with Sparse Flint												
FS/3	-	-	S up to 1.5	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.25	-	-	9	57
FS/2	-	R up to 1	S up to 3.5	-	-	-	-	A 0.1-0.8	-	-	3	36
FS/5	-	-	S up to 6	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.5	-	-	2	20
SUB-TOTAL											14	113
Sandy Ware with Sparse Flint and Calcareous Inclusions												
CFS/2	**S <0.5	-	S up to 1	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.25	-	-	1	2

Table 41: Iron Age fabrics (R: rare, S: sparse, M: moderate, C: common, VC: very common, A: abundant; fine wares highlighted in green, medium in purple and coarse in pink; numbers refer to size in millimetres; *limestone or **limestone and fossil shell mix; Voids: Ind = indeterminate, O = organic)

Fabric	Calcareous (* or **)	Clay Pellets	Flint	Glauconite	Grog	Iron Ore	Quartz/ Quartzite	Quartz sand	Shell	Voids (Ind or O)	Shd No	Wt g
Sandy Wares with Sparse Calcareous Inclusions												
COS/1	**S up to 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.1-0.5	-	OS up to 5	1	6
CS/1	**S 0.1-0.5	-	-	-	-	-	R up to 2	VC <0.0625-0.5	-	-	43	270
CS/5	**S0.1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	A 0.1-0.8	-	-	15	71
SUB-TOTAL											59	347
Sandy Wares with Sparse Calcareous Inclusions and Clay Pellets												
CcIS/1	**S 0.1-2	S-M up to 2	-	-	-	-	-	C <0.0625 to 0.5	-	-	11	96
CcIS/2	**S 0.1-3.5	S up to 2	-	-	-	-	R 0.1-0.5	C 0.1-0.5	-	-	17	264
SUB-TOTAL											28	360
Sandy Wares with Sparse Shell												
Ssh/5	-	R up to 1	-	-	-	-	S up to 0.5	-	S 0.1-2	-	1	1
Ssh/6	-	-	R up to 4	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.125	S 0.1-2	-	2	4
Ssh/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	VC 0.1-0.8	S 0.1-6	-	36	168
SUB-TOTAL											39	173
Sandy Ware with Iron Ore												
feS/1	-	-	-	-	-	M 0.1-1	-	VC 0.1-0.5	-	-	1	3
Sandy Wares with Moderate to Common Quartz/Quartzite												
QS/2	-	-	R up to 1	R up to 0.25	-	-	M 0.5-1.2	VC 0.1-0.5	-	-	1	1
CQS/1	**S 0.1-1	-	-	-	-	-	M 0.1-4	C 0.1-0.5	-	-	4	10
QS/1	-	-	-	R up to 0.5	-	-	M 1-3.5	A 0.1-1	-	-	9	164
QS/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.5-3	A 0.2-1	-	-	3	35
SUB-TOTAL											17	210
Fabric with Calcareous Inclusions and Clay Pellets												
Ccl/1	**S 0.1-1	S up to 2.5	-	-	-	-	-	R up to 1	-	-	15	78
Wares Tempered with Moderate to Common Burnt Flint												
FS/1	-	-	C 0.1-1.2	-	-	-	-	C 0.1-0.8	-	-	4	21
FS/7	-	-	C 0.1-2	-	R up to 1	-	-	S <0.5	-	-	2	13
FS/4	-	-	M 0.1-3	-	-	-	-	A <0.0625-0.125	-	-	9	32
FS/6	-	-	C 0.1-4	-	-	-	-	M 0.1-0.25	-	-	1	13
SUB-TOTAL											16	79
Sandy Ware with Moderate to Common Limestone												
LS/1	*C 0.1-2	-	-	-	-	R up to 8	-	C 0.1-0.25	-	-	1	9
Sandy Ware with Organic Inclusions and Common Voids (well rounded <0.25)												
OSV/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.1-0.25	-	OS <8	4	43

Table 41: Iron Age fabrics (R: rare, S: sparse, M: moderate, C: common, VC: very common, A: abundant; fine wares highlighted in green, medium in purple and coarse in pink; numbers refer to size in millimetres; *limestone or **limestone and fossil shell mix; Voids: Ind = indeterminate, O = organic)

Fabric	Calcareous (* or **)	Clay Pellets	Flint	Glauconite	Grog	Iron Ore	Quartz/ Quartzite	Quartz sand	Shell	Voids (Ind or O)	Shd No	Wt g
Sandy Wares with Moderate to Common Calcareous Inclusions												
CS/2	**M 0.1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	A 0.0625-1	-	-	3	23
CS/3	**M-C 0.1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.0625-0.5	-	-	11	102
CclS/3	**M-C 0.1-7	S up to 2	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.0625-1	-	-	2	41
CS/4	**C 0.1-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.2-1.2	-	-	2	11
SUB-TOTAL											18	177
Sandy Wares with Moderate to Common Shell												
Ssh/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	VC 0.1-0.25	C 0.1-4	-	2	26
Ssh/1	-	R up to 1	-	R up to 0.3	-	-	-	VC <0.0625-0.5	M 0.1-6	-	13	87
Ssh/2	-	R up to 4	-	R up to 0.3	-	-	-	VC 0.1-1	M 0.1-17	-	13	206
Ssh/3	-	R up to 1.5	-	-	-	-	R up to 2	VC 0.1-0.8	C 0.1-9	-	4	38
SUB-TOTAL											32	357
Shell Tempered Wares												
sh/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	VC 0.1-2	-	9	16
sh/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C 0.1-5	-	5	17
SUB-TOTAL											14	33
Indeterminate												
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1
TOTAL											394	2603

Table 41: Iron Age fabrics (R: rare, S: sparse, M: moderate, C: common, VC: very common, A: abundant; fine wares highlighted in green, medium in purple and coarse in pink; numbers refer to size in millimetres; *limestone or **limestone and fossil shell mix; Voids: Ind = indeterminate, O = organic)

The evidence points to the preferred selection of sandy clays, but there is no obvious relationship between the ratio of sand and the relative proportions of other inclusions in the fabrics (Table 41). The majority of the wares have common to abundant sand regardless of the density of additional non-plastics (90-95% of the assemblage; Table 41: 353 sherds, 2471g.) with just one incorporating moderate sand and six where it is rare to sparse or absent (5%-8% of the assemblage; Table 41: 33 sherds, 131g.). The only clear pattern is that the glauconitic and glauconitic sandy wares only ever have rare to sparse additional inclusions: either a mixture of limestone and fossil shell, burnt flint or quartz/quartzite (Table 41). The reasons for this are uncertain, although the prevalence of fine wares in the group may indicate that the mix was being reserved largely for bowls and other vessels with geometric decoration.

Fabric	Shd No	%	Wt g	%	Vessel Type/Decoration
Glauconitic Sandy Wares					
glS/1	2	1.0	21	1.3	Strip lug Type 1; and P8 (complex geometric)
glS/2	1	0.5	5	0.3	P15 (complex geometric)
Glauconitic Sandy Ware with Sparse Flint					
FglS/1	22	11.3	165	9.9	Bowl Type 50 – P3 (swags); omphalos base
Glauconitic Sandy Ware with Sparse Quartz and Quartzite					
glQS/1	1	0.5	6	0.4	No evidence
Sandy Wares					
S/1	4	2.1	38	2.3	No evidence
S/2	4	2.1	30	1.8	Strip lug Type 1
S/3	8	4.1	57	3.4	Bowl Type 1 – P1
Sandy Ware with Sparse to Moderate Clay Pellets					
clS/1	8	4.1	38	2.3	P5-P7 (complex geometric)
Sandy Wares with Sparse Flint					
FS/2	1	0.5	16	1.0	No evidence
Sandy Wares with Sparse Calcareous Inclusions					
COS/1	1	0.5	6	0.4	Simple, upright rim – P13
CS/1	27	13.9	171	10.3	Strip lug Type 1
CS/5	12	6.2	59	3.5	Jar Type 51 – P10 (fingertip row on shoulder)
Sandy Wares with Sparse Calcareous Inclusions and Clay Pellets					
CclS/1	8	4.1	79	4.7	No evidence
CclS/2	16	8.2	242	14.5	Jars – P11-P12 (fingertip rows on rims and upper walls)
Sandy Wares with Sparse Shell					
Ssh/4	6	3.1	44	2.6	No evidence
Sandy Wares with Moderate to Common Quartz/Quartzite					
QS/1	4	2.1	138	8.3	No evidence
Fabric with Calcareous Inclusions and Clay Pellets					
Ccl/1	15	7.7	78	4.7	Bowl Type 14 – P2 (swags); Bowl Type 1 or 14 (complex geometric)
Wares Tempered with Moderate to Common Burnt Flint					
FS/1	3	1.6	20	1.2	No evidence
Sandy Ware with Organic Inclusions and Common Voids (well rounded <0.25)					
OSV/1	4	2.1	43	2.6	No evidence
Sandy Wares with Moderate to Common Calcareous Inclusions					
CS/2	3	1.6	23	1.4	Strip lug Type 1
CS/3	7	3.6	81	4.9	No evidence
CclS/3	2	1.0	41	2.5	Carinated shoulder with fingertip row
CS/4	2	1.0	11	0.7	No evidence
Sandy Wares with Moderate to Common Shell					
Ssh/1	11	5.7	64	3.8	Jar Type 51 – P9 (fingertip row on shoulder)
Ssh/2	10	5.2	147	8.8	Base with central perforation
Ssh/3	4	2.1	38	2.3	No evidence
Indeterminate					
-	8	4.1	1	0.1	No evidence
TOTALS	194	100.0	1662	100.0	

Table 42: frequencies of Early All Cannings Cross fabrics from the Palaeochannel

Evidence of links between fabric character, technological choice and vessel form likely to have contributed to the diversity of represented wares is provided by the Earliest Iron Age pottery from the palaeochannel (Table 42). The bipartite bowls and vessels with complex geometric motifs are in fine sandy and fine glauconitic sandy wares or in fabrics with sparse clay pellets just falling within the medium grade category (Table 42). By contrast, the jars are in medium grade or coarse wares with a mixture of fossil shell and limestone or with moderate to common shell (Table 42).

Discussion

Deposits with identifiable Early All Cannings Cross pottery are scarce to the north of the Ridgeway in the Upper Thames valley. Earliest Iron Age assemblages from Whitecross Farm, Wallingford (Barclay 2006) and Appleford (De Roche and Lambrick 1980) are likely to be earlier in date than the Drayton Road ceramics. Fine vessels with geometric decoration were very rare at Whitecross Farm (Barclay 2006, 94) and absent from Pit 105 at Appleford (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, Fig. 21). Although it was thought possible that the Whitecross Farm ceramic sequence might have extended to the seventh century BC (Barclay 2006, 94), the assemblage may actually have been closer in date to the transition from Late Bronze Age Plain Ware perhaps no later than the mid-eighth century BC. A similar origin in the eighth century BC for the ceramics from Pit 105 at Appleford is indicated by an association between a bowl type in circulation from the ninth to eighth century BC (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, Fig. 21.11; Gingell and Morris 2000, Bowl Type 11) and other forms characteristic of the eighth to seventh century BC (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, Fig. 21.6 and 21.16; Gingell and Morris 2000, Bowl Type 3.1 and Jar Type 59).

Although All Cannings Cross pottery is represented on Oxfordshire sites in the Upper Thames Valley, the assemblages are mostly fragmented or lack the more chronologically sensitive vessel types so that there is no clear evidence of phasing, while the earliest material can be difficult to distinguish from later ceramics where occupation continues into the Early Iron Age. The distribution encompasses Wittenham Clumps (Hingley 1979-80), Castle Hill (Edwards 2010) and Allen's Pit, Dorchester (Bradford 1942) to the south-east of Drayton Road; Standlake (Harding 1972, Plate 47) and Beard Mill, Stanton Harcourt (Williams 1951, Fig. 9) to the north-west; and Wytham (Bradford 1942, Fig. 12), Yarnton (Bradford 1942, Fig. 12) and Woodeaton (Bradford 1942, Fig. 13) to the north.

The pottery from Pit 8127 in Cresswell Field, Yarnton is one of the few groups that can be attributed to the eighth to seventh centuries BC (Booth forthcoming). Otherwise the closest Early All Cannings Cross assemblages are either from sites to the south and south-west on the chalk downs and in the Vale of the White Horse at Lowbury (Timby 1994), Rams Hill (Barrett 1975), Uffington (Brown 2003) and Faringdon (Bryan, Brown and Barclay 2004); or are from settlements well to the west of Drayton Road like those at Latton Lands (Edwards 2009a) and Horcott (Edwards 2009b).

The palaeochannel assemblage is a typical Early All Cannings Cross group that can be paralleled both within and outside the region. Biconical bowls with simple rims (Fig. 19: P1) are one of a range of vessel types in circulation in neighbouring parts of Wessex and along the Middle Thames Valley (Potterne Bowl Type 1: Gingell and Morris 2000, 150, Fig. 47; Runnymede Bowl Type 4a: Longley 1980, 65, Fig. 43.4a; and Reading Business Park Form 3: Hall and Bradley 1992, Fig. 41.3), as at Knight's Farm 1 (Bradley et. al. 1980, Fig. 35.46v and 35.52u). In the Upper Thames the vessels are part of the contemporary Early All Cannings Cross repertoires from Castle Hill, Wittenham (Edwards 2010, Fig. 3.2.13),

Lowbury (Timby 1994, Illus.14.5), Rams Hill (Barrett 1975, Fig. 3:6.34) and Horcott (Edwards 2009b, Fig. 27.P31). The distribution of shouldered jars (Fig. 19: P9 and P10) also extends from neighbouring regions and beyond (Potterne Jar Type 51: Gingell and Morris 2000, 151-152 and Figs. 56 to 58; Runnymede Type 12/13: Longley 1980, 68 and Fig. 44 and Longley 1991, 162; Reading Business Park Form 10: Hall and Bradley 1992, 64-68 and Figs. 42.10 and 45.66-69). Later examples with decorated shoulders from the Upper Thames area are known from Pit 105 at Appleford (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, Fig. 21.14-15), Allen's Pit (Bradford 1942b, Fig. 9.5), the roundhouse gully at Wittenham Clumps (Hingley 1979-80, Fig. 10.48), Rams Hill (Barrett 1975, Fig. 3:6.64) and Latton Lands (Edwards 2009a, Fig. 26.6).

Strip lugs (Fig. 19: P14) have a similarly widespread distribution within Late Bronze Age and Earliest Iron Age assemblages (cf. Adkins and Needham 1985, 31-33 for parallels in the south-east) and like the shouldered jars continued in use into the sixth century BC (Gingell and Morris 2000, 152). They occur in the ceramic groups from a number of the Upper Thames Oxfordshire sites including Wittenham Clumps where they were derived from the Earliest Iron Age occupation layer and the Early Iron Age roundhouse gully (Hingley 1979-80, Figs. 9.37, 11.50 and 11.52).

The large biconical bowl and the round shouldered variety (Fig. 19: P2 and P3) are less common forms classified in the Early All Cannings Cross assemblage from Potterne in Wiltshire (Gingell and Morris 2000, 151 and Figs. 50 and 55, Bowl Type 14 and Jar/Bowl Type 50). There are no identifiable Earliest Iron Age parallels for the biconical bowl in the Upper Thames area, while the round shouldered type is also rare in the region, sharing a similar profile with only one other vessel from Pit 8127 in Cresswell Field, Yarnton (Booth forthcoming).

As with the vessel forms, the decorative motifs represented at Drayton Road are clearly drawn from a design repertoire that was well established both outside and within the region. The swag pattern on two of the bowls (Fig. 19: P2 and P3) was used on vessels from Uffington (Brown 2003, Fig. 9.4.1) and Faringdon (Bryan, Brown and Barclay 2004, Fig.26.23) and is broadly related in structure to the filled festoons embellishing the bowl from Cresswell Field, Yarnton (Booth forthcoming). Hatched triangles (Fig. 19: P5-P6) are represented at Rams Hill (Barrett 1975, Fig. 3.6.34), Uffington (Brown 2003, Fig. 9.4.9, 9.4.11 and 9.4.13), Faringdon (Bryan, Brown and Barclay 2004, Fig. 26.18), Allen's Pit, Dorchester (Bradford 1942, Fig. 11.11 and 11.17) and Woodeaton (Bradford 1942, Fig. 13.14). Filled bars (Fig. 19: P8) occur at Rams Hill (Barrett 1975, Fig. 3.6.55-56) and Faringdon (Timby 2004, Fig. 11.32 and 11.36) and were configured as converging elongated triangles on vessels of the eighth to seventh centuries BC from Uffington (Brown 2003, Fig. 9.4.19 and 9.4.21) and of the seventh to early sixth centuries BC from Liddington (Ashton, Bradley and Stevens 1996, Illus. 17.3).

The use of white inlay to emphasise geometric decoration had a widespread application on Early and Later All Cannings Cross vessels, generally surviving on a low proportion of sherds (as on Fig. 19: P8). Examples are noted at Cresswell Field, Yarnton (Booth forthcoming), Wytham (Bradford 1942, Fig. 12.27), Beard Mill, Stanton Harcourt (Williams 1951, Fig. 9.15), Wittenham Clumps (Hingley 1979-80, Fig. 8.9 and 8.13), Allen's Pit, Dorchester (Bradford 1942, Fig. 11.2 and 7), Rams Hill (Barrett 1975, Fig. 3.6.35-38 and Fig. 3.6.53, 55-56 and 59), Uffington (Brown 2003, eg. Fig. 9.4.9, 9.4.12-13, 9.4.15 and 9.4.19), Liddington (Ashton, Bradley and Stevens 1996, 38 and Illus. 17.1, 17.13 and 17.16), Latton

Lands (Edwards 2009a, 61 and Fig. 26.4) and Horcott (Edwards 2009b, 83 and Figs. 26.P27 and 27.P32). In all of these assemblages inlay tends to have been applied to vessels with more complex filled motifs (as on Fig. 19: P8) or with circular ring impressions. Analysis of the white paste identified a calcareous substance (probably chalk) at Uffington (Brown 2003, 167) and bone at Cresswell Field, Yarnton (Booth forthcoming).

The perforation in the coarse ware base from the palaeochannel is noteworthy in that it does not appear to have been a repair. It is an unusual find of uncertain function that recalls two similar bases with central piercings in the tenth to eighth century BC assemblage from Queen Mary's Hospital, Carlshalton (Adkins and Needham 1985, 30 and Fig. 7.99).

There are clear links between the Drayton Road fabrics tempered with moderate to common quartz/quartzite or burnt flint (Table 41) and their Late Bronze Age antecedents. Such fabrics are dominant in the Late Bronze Age Plain Ware and transitional Earliest Iron Age assemblages of the eastern part of the Thames Valley, as at Whitecross Farm, Wallingford, where they were used for 80% to 90% of the pottery (Barclay 2006, 74, 88 and 92).

The production of these traditional wares had declined dramatically when the palaeochannel ceramics were manufactured (Table 42: c.3% by count and c.10% by weight). This trend seems already to have been underway locally by the earlier part of the eighth century BC at Appleford, where flint tempered fabrics comprised approximately 25% of the assemblage (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, Table 1, Pit 105, Fabric 3). The increased prominence of sandy wares with sparse additional inclusions seen at Drayton Road (Table 2: c.62% by count and c.59% by weight) is similarly paralleled at Appleford where approximately 50% of the sherds from Pit 105 were in fabrics of this kind (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, Table 1, Pit 105, Fabric 2).

The emphasis on sandy clays at Drayton Road represents a marked contrast with the preceding phase of ceramic production. This is illustrated by the earlier assemblage from Whitecross Farm, just 14 kilometres to the south-east, where there was a significant difference in the frequency of fine sand in the various Late Bronze Age to Earliest Iron Age wares (Doherty 2006, 76). The increased production of sandy fabrics appears to have been part of a technological development that was taking place across a wide area from the time of the transition. It has been noted in the Middle Thames Valley (Longley 1991, 163), where it is best illustrated by the Area 16 deposit at Runnymede (Needham 1996, 111); and in Wessex where the trend has been charted with greatest clarity in the Potterne sequence (Gingell and Morris 2000, 148 and Fig. 43). An increasing emphasis on sandy fabrics was recorded at Rams Hill (Bradley 1975, Fig. 3.3, Fabric E), and appears to have been characteristic of other All Cannings Cross assemblages from sites within 10 kilometres of Drayton Road around the Wittenhams. The few sherds identified to this phase from Castle Hill were exclusively in sandy wares (Edwards 2010, 51-52 and Table 3.4), as were slightly over half of the fragments from the occupation layer at Wittenham Clumps (Hingley 1979-80, Table 2, Fabric 2).

The selection of these fabrics for vessels with incised and/or complex geometric decoration at Drayton Road is a preference also recorded at Cresswell Field, Yarnton (Booth forthcoming), Uffington (Brown 2003, 167), Tower Hill (Brown 2003, 228-229), Liddington (Ashton, Bradley and Stevens 1996, 38), Latton Lands (Edwards 2009a, 61) and Horcott (Edwards 2009b, 82). The correlation between shelly wares and jars or other vessel types embellished with fingertip and fingernail rows seems also to have been part of a wider technological tradition noted at Uffington and Tower Hill (Brown 2003, 167 and 228-229) and at Horcott,

where jars were made from fabrics with moderate shell (Edwards 2009b, 82). Again this seems to mark a departure with earlier phases, as there is little evidence of a similar relationship in the ceramics from Pit 105 at Appleford (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, 50-52 and Fig. 21). It may well pre-figure the kind of correlation noted between fabric and decoration, rather than fabric and vessel form, noted in the sixth century assemblage from Strawberry Hill in Wiltshire (Morris and Powell 2011, 71).

The considerable variation in the range of wares represented at Drayton Road is typical of All Cannings Cross ceramics (cf. Gingell and Morris 2000, 140), a characteristic marking a significant contrast with preceding phases, as at Rams Hill (Bradley 1975, 97 and Fig. 3.3, Phase Group 3). The predominant use of clay and tempering that would have been available locally suggests that the pattern may be linked with the kind of technological experimentation that might be expected within a period of ceramic innovation. There is certainly no clear indication that the wide range of fabrics was the product of intra-regional exchange. Nor is there any reason to suppose that the glauconitic wares were coming in from Wiltshire as might have been the case at Uffington on the Ridgeway to the south (Brown 2003, 167). The Gault is local to Drayton Road and furthermore, the technological competence of the potters is not as refined as in Wiltshire, where the vessels are harder fired with higher quality surface finishes. This appears to have been a sphere in which the exchange between communities seems principally to have been one of ideas and knowledge.

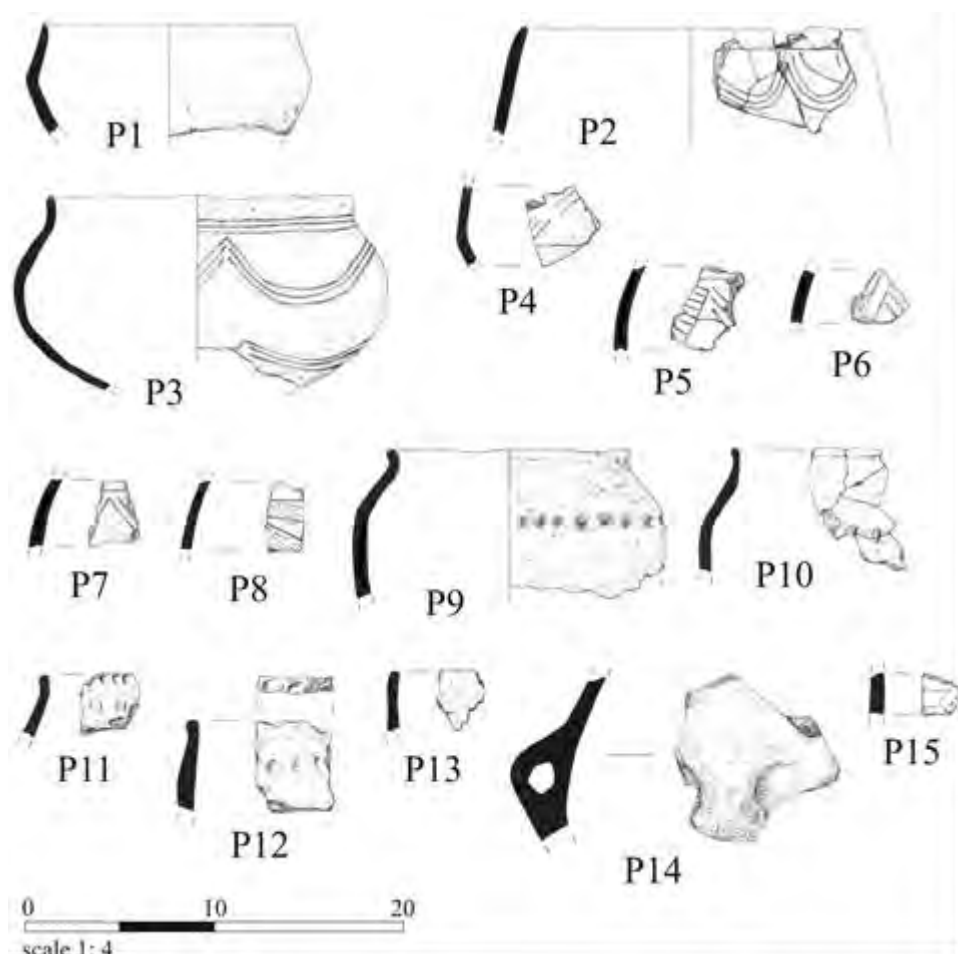


Fig. 19 Early All Cannings Cross pottery

5.2 Roman Pottery by Jane Timby

Summary

A small assemblage of 12 sherds (109 g) of Roman and later material was recovered from the mainly early Iron Age assemblage from Drayton Road. The assemblage was briefly scanned to assess its likely date and quantified by count and weight. Known named Roman wares are coded using the National Roman fabric reference system (codes in brackets) (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other wares are coded more generically reflecting fabric type and firing colour. The group is summarised in Table 43. The sherds are quite fragmentary and abraded suggesting some, or all, are redeposited.

The earliest material comprises four sherds of handmade grog-tempered ware (SOB GT). The only featured sherd is from an everted rim jar/ bowl from (1002). This material is likely to date to the pre-Roman Iron Age or early Roman period.

There are five sherds of Roman date, all likely to be products from the local Oxfordshire industry with one small sherd of colour-coated ware (OXF RS); two fine grey wares (OXF FR), one grey sandy ware (OXF RE) and one rim from an oxidised sandy bowl. The colour-coated and oxidised wares date from the mid-3rd-4th centuries; the other wares are not closely datable other than Roman.

The remaining material comprises three sherds of post-medieval date and one small fragment of ceramic building material probably from a post-medieval / modern brick. The pottery includes one shallow bowl in red earthenware with a slipped, clear glazed finish which could date from the later 16th or 17th century onwards; one base in an unglazed fine red earthenware and one sherd of black (iron) glazed kitchen ware of later post-medieval date.

Context	Fabric code	Description	Form/part	Wt	No	Date
1002	SOB GT	grog-tempered	jar rim	7	1	LIA-ERO
1002	REW	red earthenware	body	10	1	Pmed
1021	KITBW	iron glazed kitchen ware	body	5	1	Pmed
1153	OXF RE	Oxon grey ware	base	52	1	Roman
1178	SOB GT	grog-tempered	body	2	2	LIA-ERO
1178	OXF RS	Oxford colour-coated	body	0.5	1	250-400+

1197	OXID	oxidised sandy	bowl rim	9	1	Roman
1422	OXF FR	Oxon fine grey ware	?bowl rim	3	1	Roman
1945	OXF FR	Oxon fine grey ware	body	0.5	1	Roman
2048	CBM	ceramic building material	frag	4	1	modern
08-Jul	GRE	glazed red earthenware	bowl rim	19	1	C16/17th+
34/06	SOB GT	grog-tempered	body	1	1	LIA-ERO
TOTAL				113	13	

Table 43

5.3 Lithics *by Martin Tingle*

Introduction

The assemblage is composed of 125 pieces of worked flint weighing 580g and. The finds derive from 49 different contexts located across four sections of a large development site. These finds represent material derived largely from stratified contexts. A group of 124 pieces including a microlith and a leaf shaped arrowhead were recovered from the topsoil but were not part of the assemblage analysed here.

Raw Materials

The site is located in the Thames valley from where gravel flint is present in large quantities and appears to have the source for this assemblage. The flint is unpatinated and varies from light grey to a dark greeny brown. Chalk flint is not present here although the Berkshire Downs are relatively close, a pattern that has been observed in previous fieldwork in the Vale of the White Horse (Tingle, M. 1991 32)

Composition and Technology

Find	No	Wgt (g)
Primary Flake	2	36
Secondary Flake	4	21

Tertiary Flake	25	145
Uncorticated Flake	26	107
Blade like flake	1	0.5
Broken Flake	28	118.5
Chip	30	7
Core Fragment	2	41
End Scraper	6	101
Notched Flake	1	3
Total	125	580

Table 44 The composition of the assemblage

The assemblage is predominantly made up of tertiary, uncorticated, broken flakes and chips (87%) with very few primary and secondary flakes (5%) and only two core fragments. This would indicate that flint reduction is not taking place on site. Three of the six scrapers are broken and/or re-sharpened indicating a level of use that is characteristic of areas without direct access to flint sources

Distribution

Over 50% of the assemblage (67 pieces) was recovered from Area 1 with most of the remainder (31%) from Area 3. The context with the greatest number of lithic finds was 1067 a pit fill in Area 3 with 16 pieces although 12 of these were chips. Context 1134, another pit fill in Area 3, contained 7 flakes and a core fragment. The remainder of the assemblage is dispersed in groups of less than 5 artefacts with 32 contexts having only a single find.

Dating

While the topsoil assemblage, which was not examined here, appears to have included both Mesolithic and early Neolithic finds, there are no datable pieces within the stratified assemblage and its dispersed distribution makes it unclear whether it is from a single period or has accumulated over time.

Conclusion

The flint assemblage represents a small, dispersed group of finds which probably represents residual material within later features.

Terminology

Throughout this analysis the term ‘cortex’ refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint while ‘patination’ denotes the colouration of the flaked surfaces exposed by human or natural agency. Following Andrevsky (1998, 104) dorsal cortex is divided into four categories; the term primary flake refers to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face while secondary flakes have cortex on between 50% to 99% of the dorsal face. Tertiary flakes have cortex on 1% to 49% of the dorsal face while flakes with no dorsal cortex are referred to as non-cortical

A blade is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as its breadth. These often have parallel dorsal flake scars, a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio

5.4 Human Remains by Sharon Clough

Summary

A single inhumation in a crouched position and a cranial fragment in a ditch deposit were recovered. They are both thought to date to the early Iron Age.

Methodology

All skeletal material was examined and recorded in accordance with national guidelines (Hillson 1996a; Brickley and McKinley 2004; Mays et al. 2004).

Biological Age Assessment

Aging is a highly variable process whose causative factors and biological mechanics are not fully understood (Cox 2000). In addition, ‘biological age’ does not always equate to ‘chronological age’ or ‘social age’ (Lewis 2007) of which adulthood is primarily a culturally defined concept (Cox 2000, Lewis 2007). With this in mind, a multi-method approach was taken (Table 45) to provide a range of estimates. Then each indicator was weighted on reliability. Where only one (less reliable) method was available, then this individual was determined to be only Adult or Subadult.

Pubic symphysis – Brooks and Suchey 1990
Auricular surface – Lovejoy <i>et al</i> 1985
- Buckberry and Chamberlain 2002 (used for older adults)
Dental attrition – Miles 1962
Cranial suture closure – Meindl and Lovejoy 1985
Sternal Rib ends – Işcan & Loth 1984 & 1985
Epiphyseal fusion – McKern and Stewart 1957 and Webb and Suchey 1985
Dental eruption – Moorees, Fanning and Hunt 1963, AlQahtani 2009

Table 45: Macroscopic techniques used

Sex Estimation

The biological sex of all adult skeletons was based on examination of standard characteristics of the skull and pelvis (Ferembach *et al.* 1980; Schwartz 1995), with greater emphasis on features of the latter as they are known to be more reliable (Cox and Mays 2000). Measurements of the femoral and humeral heads were employed as secondary indicators (Giles 1970). Adult skeletons were recorded as male, female, probable male (male?),

probable female (female?), or indeterminate depending on the degree of sexual dimorphism of features. No attempt was made to sex subadults defined as individuals below 20 years of age for whom there are no accepted methods (Cox 2000), with the exception of adolescent skeletons whose innominate bones had fused and where preservation was adequate.

Skeletal condition and completeness

The completeness of each skeleton was classified as a percentage of the whole and divided in to four groups 0-25% 25-50% 50-75% and 75+%. The condition of the bone surface of each skeleton was recorded in detail with reference to different anatomical areas (skull, arms, hands, legs and feet) after McKinley (2004, 16) and given an overall summary score.

Metrics

Measurements of long bones were used to estimate stature in adults (Trotter 1970). Measurements of other long bones and skulls were taken (where appropriate) and used in the calculation of indices to explore variation in the physical attributes of the population.

Nonmetric

The presence or absence of frequently recorded non-metrical cranial and post-cranial traits were scored (Berry and Berry 1967; Schwartz 1995; Hillson 1996).

Dental

Dentition was recorded using the Palmer notation. Caries were graded into small (<1mm), medium (2-4 mm) and large (>4 mm). Abscesses were recorded with reference to Dias and Tayles (1997). Periodontal disease and dental enamel hypoplasia were graded using Ogden 2008. Calculus was graded per tooth (flecks, slight, medium, heavy after Brothwell 1981) and recorded as sub and supra gingival.

Pathology

Skeletal pathology and/or bony abnormality was described and differential diagnoses explored with reference to standard texts (Ortner and Putschar 1981; Resnick 1995; Aufderheide and Rodriguez-Martin 1998).

Results

The inhumations are discussed as individual burials.

SK 1352

This burial is dated by association with other features in the immediate area to the Iron Age (early). The individual lay in a crouched position on the right side. The arms were flexed at the elbow and drawn up towards the head. The left hand lay on the right shoulder and the right hand was curled adjacent to it. The legs were tightly flexed so the knees were near the hands and the feet were supine extended. There were no grave goods recovered.

A low level of damage had occurred upon revealing the grave, removing the left side of the skull and minor damage to the left upper femur. The remainder of the skeleton had low levels of fragmentation. There was more than 75% of the skeleton present including small phalanges of hands and feet. The cortical bone preservation was grade 3 (McKinley 2004), whereby most of the bone surface was affected by some degree of erosion, masking fine detail in places. Nearly all the dentition was present.

Thirty teeth were available for observation, of which two were loose (28 sockets). Of these, 25 had flecks or slight calculus present on the mesial and lingual surfaces. There were two very small caries present on the right maxilla 1st premolar and 1st molar (distal and mesial). Very heavy dental attrition to the right maxilla molars and left mandibular molars, exposing the root. No other dental pathology or anomalies were observed.

The individual was determined to be male as indicated by the pelvis and skull both of which displayed very typical male characteristics. These were supported by the metrical assessment of sex (femoral head, humeral head, scapula glenoid fossa) which also lay comfortably within the male range.

The estimation of age at death indicated a range of between 30 and 50 years, the pubic symphyses and auricular surface were used for this estimate. The dental attrition (though not population specific, but prehistoric date) gave an age range of 48-50 years (Miles 1962). Cranial suture closure and sternal rib end were not possible to use due to lack of preservation. It was possible to measure a number of long bones. These were used to produce indexes and stature estimate.

Stature estimate using the right femur, 168.51 cm (+- 3.27 cm) (5.528 feet)
Platymetric index Femur – 73.52 = <85 platymetric (flattened)
Platycnemic index Tibia – 58.33 = 55-62 platycnemic (very flat)

Stature for the Iron Age (Roberts and Cox 2003) for males ranged from 164-174 cm with a mean of 168 cm. This places this individual directly in the mean for the period.

The nonmetric traits observed for the cranium were coronal wormian (or ossicles) bones (2), lambdoid wormian bones (2 at least as right only available for observation), parietal notch bone on the right (again left absent) and one additional infraorbital foramen (right side only available). There were also additional bilateral zygomatic facial foramen. In the postcranial skeleton the tibiae had squatting facets and the patellae had a vastus notch. The calcaneal facet was double on the left, the right was not observable. As an isolated burial these traits cannot reveal much about the life or health of the individual as they are asymptomatic in life. They can however be used in wider studies of kin relationships.

The enthesophytes (muscle insertion points) were marked in places, particularly the anterior surface of the patella, to a less extent the soleal crest of the tibia, clavicular rhomboid fossa, humeral bicapital and intertubercular groove and calcaneal posterior spur. Extensive enthesophytes and cortical defects have been linked to older age (Robb 1998, Villotte *et al* 2010) and activity, but may also have predisposition aetiology (Rogers and Dieppe 1997).

Arachnoid granulations were observed on the frontal endocranial surface, these are age-related defects. No other pathology was identified on the skeletal remains.

Cranium 1404

The right parietal, temporal, frontal and occipital bones from a single cranium were recovered from a ditch which is dated to the early Iron Age. The bones were fragmented, but had clearly been attached when the bone was deposited. The surface of the bone had been affected by erosive action (grade 3) in a similar manner to the articulated skeleton 1352. The breaks to the other parts of the cranium were old breaks and no cut marks could be seen, which may indicate that at the time of deposition the cranium was already skeletonised.

The limited quantity of the remains restricted the methods available to estimate age at death and sex. The sutures of the cranium were mixed in level of closure, some open, some fused. The endocranial surface had arachnoid granulations on the parietal and the cranium was thick, both indicative of an older age range. The indicators of the skull for sex determination were limited to temporal line, nuchal crest, mastoid process, supraorbital ridges and posterior zygomatic, all of which were male.

There were no pathological lesions, but there were a great number of ossicles (or wormian) bones present in the sutures. The right side of the lambdoid suture had two small ossicles, plus one very large ossicle, which may be an Inca bone type 1. The left side had four ossicles before the rest of the bone was broken and absent. It is therefore not possible to say whether there was another large ossicle to mirror the one on the right, which would change it to a type 4 inca bone (Hanihara and Ishida 2001). The metopic suture had also been retained.

Inca bones are infrequent in the UK population, but seen in higher quantities in other populations around the world. There is therefore a high possibility of a genetic background for the occurrence of this bone.

Conclusion

Skeleton 1352 was a male aged between 30 and 50 at the time of death. He was approximately 168 cm tall (average height for males in the Iron Age) and the shape of the lower limb bones in conjunction with the squatting facets on the tibia indicated muscle use typical for this period. The teeth had heavy attrition which can indicate a diet of coarse food. The low level of dental calculus and two very small caries are also typical of the Iron Age where frequencies of all dental disease are observed to drop in numbers from the Bronze Age (Roberts and Cox 2003). The nonmetrical traits: cranial ossicles and patellae vastus notch, though not directly hereditary could place the individual within a familial framework.

Skeleton 1404 comprised a right cranium only and is considered to represent a male of the older age range. The cranium is thought to have been skeletonised bone when removed from the rest of the body. Most notably, the nonmetric trait of an inca bone was observed, which is an uncommon finding in UK populations.

Skeleton Catalogue -

Skeleton Number: **1352**

Sex: male

Age: 30-50

Height: 168 cm

Preservation:

Completeness: 75% +

Condition: (McKinley 2004) grade 3

Pathologies: none

Dental: 30/28 , calculus 25, 2 caries

Skeleton Number: **1404**

Sex: male

Age: older age range adult

Height: N/A

Preservation:

Completeness: 0-25%

Condition: (McKinley 2004) grade 3

Pathologies: None

Dental: N/A

5.5 Animal Remains by Claire Ingrem

A significant quantity of animal bone was recovered from Drayton Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire during excavation by John Moore Heritage Services in 2014. The deposits span the Palaeolithic to Post-medieval periods and animal bone was recovered from a variety of Iron Age features including pits, postholes, ditches, gullies and a palaeochannel; a small assemblage came from a Roman ditch. In addition, the natural gravels produced fragments of fossilized Palaeolithic remains.

1. Methods

The animal bone was identified and recorded during 2015 with the aid of the author's personal reference collection. All fragments greater than 10mm in the hand collected assemblage and greater than 2mm in the sieved samples were recorded to species or size category to produce a basic fragment count of the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP). All anatomical elements were identified to species where possible with the exception of ribs and vertebrae which were assigned to size categories. Fragments categorised as large mammal are likely to belong to horse or cattle and those in the medium mammal category to sheep/goat or pig. Mandibles and limb bones were recorded using the zonal method developed by Serjeantson (1996) to allow the calculation of the minimum number of elements (MNE) and the minimum number of individuals (MNI); this is based on the most numerous zone of a single element taking into account side.

A selected suite of elements was used to differentiate between sheep and goat during recording according to the methods of Boessneck (1969) and Payne (1985). These were the distal humerus, proximal radius, distal tibia, metapodials, astragalus, calcaneum and deciduous fourth premolar.

The wear stages of the lower cheek teeth of cattle, sheep and pig were recorded using the method proposed by Grant (1982) and age attributed according to the method devised by Payne (1973) and Legge (1982). The fusion stage of post-cranial bones was recorded and age ranges estimated according to Getty (1975).

The presence of gnawing, butchery and burning together with the agent responsible was recorded.

Measurements were taken according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976).

The sieved samples were analysed at a later date than the hand collected assemblage and as a result the two categories of material are tabulated and discussed separately.

Data (For Tables 46a-51 see Appendix 1)

A total of 1,014 fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand collection of which 14% is identifiable (Table 46a). Most of the material came from Early Iron Age (EIA) deposits and a small amount is from Roman contexts. The natural gravels which date to the Palaeolithic period produced a large number of amorphous fragments. A single specimen has a post-medieval origin.

A further 297 specimens came from the environmental samples and apart from a small number that were recovered from Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age palaeochannel deposits, all derive from Early Iron Age contexts (Table 46b).

Palaeolithic

Two hundred and thirty-three pieces of bone came from Palaeolithic deposits of Ipswichian/Eemian date but due to their poor condition, fragmentary nature and lack of diagnostic landmarks none are identifiable to species and only a few to animal size categories (Table 46a). However, several specimens clearly derive from animals the size of elephant or mammoth and since the deposits are of Last Interglacial (MIS 5e) age these almost certainly belong to straight tusked elephant (*Palaeoloxodon antiquus*). This is particularly the case in respect of the fragments from Context 1405, most of which are composed of cortical bone so probably represent limb bone(s). The possibility that some fragments belong to other very large and large mammals including hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) narrow nosed rhinoceros (*Stephanorhinus hemitoechus*), bison (*Bison priscus*) and giant deer (*Megaloceros giganteus*) cannot be ruled out as all are known to have inhabited the British Isles during this period (Currant & Jacobi, 2001: 1708).

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

An environmental sample taken from the palaeochannel produced thirteen pieces of bone of which four are identifiable - a cattle mandible and three loose teeth (two molars and an incisor) belonging to red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) (Table 46b).

Early Iron Age

Five hundred and thirty six specimens were recovered by hand collection from Early Iron Age deposits and 22% of these are identifiable. Most belong to cattle although a wide range of domestic mammals are also present including horse, sheep/goat, pig and dog. Red deer is the second most numerous species. The only other wild animal present is toad (*Bufo bufo*) and this most probably results from natural casualty. The NISP figures include 15 specimens which derive from partial skeletons, skulls, articulations or paired elements (Table 46c). The calculation of the minimum number of elements indicates that at least 4 cattle and 2 red deer are represented whilst other taxa are represented by a minimum of one individual (Table 46d).

The sieved samples produced a further 243 pieces but only 9% (N=23) are identifiable. Cattle are represented by two pieces of femur, sheep/goat by a pelvis and pig by three tooth fragments. In addition to the major domestic animals, several wild animals are represented including red deer, mole (*Talpa europea*), common shrew (*Sorex araneus*), finch (cf. *Fringilla coelebs*) and amphibian (Table 46b). Red deer is represented by an antler point which has transverse chop marks. The mole, shrew, finch and amphibian remains are almost certainly the result of natural casualty so will not be discussed further.

Cattle are represented by elements from most parts of the carcass – head, major limbs and feet. Mandibles are the most numerous elements according to both NISP and MNE (Table 46c & 47) although the latter indicates that humeri are equally numerous. A partial skull came from a pit (context 1348). Ageing data is scarce but two mandibles provide tooth eruption and wear data and indicate that one animal died between 6-15 months and another between 26-36 months (Table 48). All limb bones which have intact epiphyses are fused (Table 49).

The small caprine assemblage contains elements from most parts of the body (Table 47). A single mandible provides tooth eruption and wear data and is from an animal that died between 4-6 years. A pelvis is from an animal older than 5 months (Table 49).

Elements from most parts of the pig carcass are similarly present (Table 47). A mandible belongs to a sub adult animal and a calcaneus has an unfused proximal epiphysis so came from a pig aged less than 30 months (Table 49).

Horse is represented solely by a humerus, metatarsal and 1st phalanx.

A humerus and ulna belong to dog.

Red deer are represented by elements from the skull, major limbs and feet. Several pieces of antler were recovered from the palaeochannel (context (2072)) but none have their base intact so it is not possible to ascertain whether they were naturally shed and later collected by humans, or if they are from animals that were hunted. This context also produced a pair of humeri and an articulating radius. A pair of maxillae and mandibles came from a pit (context 1508) and it is conceivable that these derive from the same skull.

Several specimens display evidence for canid gnawing, the majority belong to cattle but gnaw marks are also present on single bones belonging to sheep/goat and dog (Table 50).

Three cattle bones display evidence for butchery – the partial skull has chop marks where the horns were removed (Plate 7), a mandible has transverse cut marks on the lateral side of the body and a scapula has oblique cut marks on the medial dorsal face. A caprine mandible also displays oblique cut marks on the lateral side of the body. Chop marks are visible on a red deer humerus (Plate 8) and on both ends of a piece of antler (Plate 9).

A few hand collected specimens have been burnt including one that belongs to cattle. The sieved samples contained 30 pieces of charred or calcined bone but none are identifiable.

A horse metatarsal displays evidence of pathology in the form of exostoses on the anterior proximal surface and lipping of the articular surface (Plate 10).

The majority of the remains were recovered from pit deposits and the palaeochannel although ditches, gullies and the palaeochannel produced small samples (Table 51). Cattle are the most numerous taxa in the samples recovered from the pits, palaeochannel and gully; sheep/goat slightly outnumber cattle in the posthole and ditch deposits but this may well be a function of small sample size.



Plate 7. Cattle skull with horn cores removed



Plate 8. Red deer humerus with chop marks



Plate 9. Red deer antler with chop mark



Plate 10: Pathology on horse metatarsal

Roman

Roman ditch deposits produced a total of 169 specimens of which 14% are identifiable (Table 46a). The sample is insufficient in size to be able to provide reliable information concerning animal husbandry or any other form of economic or cultural practice although it is clear that cattle, caprines, pig and dog were all exploited. Badger (*Meles meles*) is represented by a tibia but whilst some wild animals would have been valued for their pelts it is equally likely that this specimen results from natural casualty.

Body part representation is given in Table 47 and indicates that cattle are represented by a mandible, pelvis and foot bones, sheep/goat by a mandible and tibia and pig by a loose tooth and toe bones.

An isolated third mandibular cattle molar derives from a cow/steer aged between 6-8 years and a sheep/goat mandible provides evidence for the slaughter of one individual aged between 2-3 years. In addition, an unfused tibia belongs to a foetal/neonatal lamb/kid. The presence of immature pig is indicated by the recovery of an unfused 1st phalanx.

Gnaw marks are visible on single specimens belonging to cattle and sheep/goat.

Post medieval

A pig tibia which has been sawn through is the only specimen recovered from post medieval deposits.

Interpretation and discussion

As a result of the small size and scarcity of identifiable specimens the Palaeolithic, Roman and post-Medieval assemblages are unable to provide reliable information on which to base interpretations concerning economic or cultural practices. It is only possible to be certain that cattle, caprines, pig and dog were exploited during the Roman period and pig during post-medieval times.

The Early Iron Age assemblage is also relatively small and hence it is possible that taxa representation has been biased as a result of the various taphonomic processes that are known to modify bone from the time that an animal dies (Lyman, 1999). Bone density is a major factor affecting the survival of bone with large dense bones more likely to survive the effects of gnawing and chemical weathering that seek to destroy bone than their smaller counterparts. In addition, large bones are more prone to fragmentation than small bones (Klein, 1989) and as a result large animals can appear more numerous when considering fragment counts alone.

Another major cause of bias in the archaeological record results from human activities such as differential butchery and disposal practices according to animal size. At many Iron Age and Roman sites large animal remains are more frequent in ditch deposits than in pits (Maltby, 1984, 1985). This pattern is thought to reflect the practice of butchering larger animals such as cattle on the periphery of settlements with the resulting waste disposed of in surrounding ditches whilst the meat from sheep/goat and pig was generally cooked on the bone with the waste thrown into more centrally located pits. As a result of their enclosed nature, pits generally provide better protection and conditions for preserving bone than open features such as ditches and so the remains of smaller animals are more likely to survive. That said, as the majority of the assemblage came from pits and palaeochannel deposits it may be that the assemblage has not been overly biased by factors associated with differential disposal.

In light of the taphonomic processes outlined above it is almost certain that sheep/goat and pig were originally more numerous at Drayton Road than their remains suggest although clearly beef was eaten more often than mutton or pork. A study of Iron Age animal husbandry regimes by Hambleton (1999) suggests that most sites in the Upper Thames Valley and surrounds have fairly equal proportions of cattle and caprines and a low proportion of pig (Hambleton, 1999: 46) with cattle exploited primarily for meat (*ibid*, 88). In terms of species abundance, the proportions of cattle and caprines at Drayton Road appear to differ from other sites in the region which again calls into question the possibility that taxa representation is not a true reflection of Early Iron Age animal husbandry practices. However, an abundance of cattle would not be surprising at a site located in the Thames Valley where the relatively damp conditions would have been better suited to raising cattle than caprines since the latter do better on drier areas such as the chalk downlands. The influence that local environmental factors have on husbandry practices is illustrated by the high frequency of cattle that occur in Middle Iron Age assemblages recovered from the Cotswold Water Park

(Ingrem, 2007: 351) and at Hengrove Farm, Staines where cattle were the mainstay of the economy during both the Bronze Age and the Iron Age (Ingrem, n.d).

The presence of bones from most parts of body indicates the cattle and caprines arrived at the site as whole carcasses, most probably on the hoof and it is likely that this was also the case for pig.

Ageing data is scarce so cannot provide information of herd structure but evidence for the slaughter of some young cattle and pigs suggests that some animals were kept to provide good quality meat. The only indication of the age at which caprines were slaughtered comes from a mandible belonging to an animal aged between four and six years by which time it would have already provided several clips of wool; it is therefore possible that caprines were valued not only for meat but also for their secondary products such as wool, milk and manure.

Horse remains are commonly found at Iron Age sites and horses would have been valued for transport and as pack animals. Whilst exostoses is known to occur spontaneously on older horses, lipping tends to develop in response to excess pressure on limb bones (Bartosiewicz, 2013:108) so might reflect the use of horses for carrying heavy loads.

Dogs were probably present in greater numbers than their remains suggest as indicated by gnaw marks visible on bones belonging to cattle, sheep/goat, red deer and one of the dog bones which suggests that some bone waste was available to them. Dogs would have been valued for guarding, herding and perhaps as companions although the presence of feral dogs is not unexpected at human habitation sites due to the rich pickings on offer.

The remains of wild animals are generally scarce at Iron Age sites and so the relative abundance of red deer is particularly interesting and provides a clear indication that hunting took place. Red deer provide not only meat but also antler which would have been valued as a raw material with which to fashion a variety of tools and artefacts as was clearly the case at Drayton Road. Naturally shed antler can be collected but in this instance the presence of postcranial remains makes it more likely that the antler was deliberately removed from the skull of hunted animals.

Cut marks indicate that classic methods of Iron Age butchery were generally employed to disarticulate carcasses which involved cutting through soft tissue at the joints with flint blades. Heavier implements were clearly used on the red deer humerus and antler and also to remove the horn cores from a cattle skull. The latter provide evidence that horn and antler was valued and may have been worked at the settlement.

The recovery of articulated remains and partial skeletons from pits at several Iron Age sites, particularly at the hill fort of Danebury in Hampshire has led to the suggestion that pits were used for placing 'special deposits' that had ideological associations (Grant, 1984). At Drayton Road, a cattle skull and the paired mandibles and maxillae came from pits and these may represent deliberately placed deposits although without supporting contextual evidence they might also be interpreted as representing the routine disposal of butchery waste.

Conclusion

There is clear evidence for the exploitation of domestic animals during the Early Iron Age and Roman period but due to small sample sizes interpretations must be treated with caution. During the Early Iron Age, it appears that cattle were the major focus of animal husbandry with caprines and pigs kept in smaller numbers. Red deer were hunted and provided both venison and antler. Antler and horn were clearly valued as raw material with which to fashion tools and other artefacts and may have been worked at the settlement.

5.6 Palaeo-environmental Remains *by Kath Hunter*

Two samples were assessed from two fills of the palaeochannel (Sample17, Context (2074) and Sample18, Context (2076)) to identify the potential for further analysis for plant macrofossils. 40 litre samples were wet sieved through 500 micron mesh. The resulting material was kept wet. Each sample was scanned using a MTL10 stereo microscope at between x8 and x35 magnification. The frequency of plant macrofossils, with other environmental remains, were recorded (Table 52). The frequency of fragments of greater than 2mm in all dimensions of wood and charcoal are shown in brackets. These may have the potential to be identified to species.

Where the plant remains were sufficiently well-preserved identification was undertaken. Identifications were made by the author, using modern reference material. Nomenclature and habitat preferences follow Stace (2010). Whilst waterlogged plant remains were present in both of the samples assessed the majority of them were unidentifiable root fragments. Where identifiable remains survived they were relatively poorly preserved. A small number of fruit stone/seeds were present: sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). These tend to be fairly robust and more resistant to decay than other types of remains. This may suggest a preservation bias. With the exception of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subsect *batracium*), and celery-leaved buttercup (*R. sceleratus*) the remaining seeds were only tentatively identifiable beyond genus level. Two examples of partially decayed hemlock fruits in sample 17 represent a species found growing alongside water and in damp ditches. Now a common plant in the British Isles it was considered to be a Roman introduction. It has however been found in Iron Age deposits in the Thames Valley in Oxfordshire at Gill Mill (Hunter forthcoming) and Watkins Farm, Northmoor (Robinson 1990). Its presence in a sample with so much root material may suggest that it is intrusive material from the soil profile above. Unfortunately, the small number of fruits from this plant mean that they are unlikely to be enough to produce a suitable radiocarbon sample. A single poorly preserved poppy seed may be of an opium type (*Papaver* cf. *somniferum*). This species was present from a late Roman context at Gill Mill and may represent evidence of a culinary or medicinal plant.

The remaining assemblage suggests plants from an aquatic and water side environment with some drier land and woodland species in sample 17 whilst, sample 18 has potentially open ground species parsley-piert (*Aphanes* sp.) and buttercup type (*Ranunculus* sp.). Common nettle and goosefoot type (*Chenopodium* sp.) seeds in both samples suggest conditions of nitrogen enrichment possibly from animal manuring or human settlement close by.

The poor preservation from the site contrasts with some of the relatively rich assemblages recovered from similar contexts in the Thames valley in Oxfordshire e.g. Gill Mill (Hunter forthcoming), Cotswold Water Park (Robinson 2007), Gravelly Guy (Robinson 2004), Mingiest Ditch (Robinson 1993) and Watkins Farm, Northmoor.

The poor preservation and paucity of identifiable remains from ABDR14 mean that there would be little value in carrying out any further analysis on these plant remains. The analyses of the assemblages from other sites in the area highlight a potential for richer remains than have been seen in this assessment.

Sample	Context	Feature	sample vol/litre	% assessed	Charred	Waterlogged	charcoal	seeds	roots	monocot leaf/stem	Dicot. Leaf	wood	fruit/nut	insect	Comments	plant remains analysis potential	Charcoal analysis potential	wood analysis potential
17	2074	palaeo-channel 2049	40	50				**	*	**	*	*	*	*	abundant root mat, dicotyledonous leaf fragments including <i>Quercus cf. petraea</i> , <i>Ranunculus batracium</i> , <i>R. seleratus</i> , <i>Conium maculatum</i> , <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Carex sp.</i> , <i>Chenopodium sp.</i> , Solanaceae.	poor	poor	poor
18	2076	palaeo-channel 2049	40	20	(*)		**	*	**	**	(*)**	*	*	*	abundant roots, <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Papaver cf. somniferum</i> , <i>Aphanes sp.</i> , <i>Cirsium/Carduus sp.</i> , <i>Ranunculus sp.</i> , <i>Eleocharis sp.</i> , Lamiaceae	poor	poor	poor

Key- * 1-5 items
 ** 6-20 items
 *** 21-50 items
 **** 51-100 items
 ***** 100+ items

fragments
 >2mm in all
 dimensions
 shown in
 (*) brackets

Table 52. Frequency of plant macrofossils with other environmental remains

5.7 Palaeolithic Description and Lithics by Bob Eels

The excavations revealed the presence of a palaeochannel underlying the more recent archaeology discussed in the main part of this report. In the north-west of the site excavations revealed the depth of this 'dirty-gravel' to be circa two-metres (Steve Leech, *pers. comm.*). The channel was seen at the surface of the Summertown-Radley, second-terrace, gravel deposits a short distance downslope from the third-terrace gravels to the north-west at the Tythe Farm SAM (NGR SU483958) where Palaeolithic handaxes have been found on the ground surface (*pers. obs.*). Bone scatters within the palaeochannel and their state of preservation (collagen-free, brittle and stained with manganese) indicate a Pleistocene date for the assemblage. A small collection of the surface bones revealed the presence of Hippopotamus,

Hippopotamus amphibius, Red deer, *Cervus elaphus*, a Straight-tusked elephant or Woolly mammoth (respectively, either *Palaeoloxodon antiquus* or *Mammuthus primigenius*) and a Bovid, possibly Bison, *Bison priscus*, or Aurochs, *Bos primigenius* (Table 1). Assuming it was not reworked, *Hippopotamus* would indicate deposition during a warm interglacial corresponding with the period of gravel aggradation during the latter part of Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 5e (the Ipswichian/Eemian interglacial circa 124 to 119,000 years ago). It has not been recorded subsequently in Britain. If the proboscidean is the extinct Straight-tusked elephant then this too would support a date for the channel being earlier than MIS-4 (i.e., earlier than 119,000 years ago) because this species never returned to the country after MIS-5e. It would also strongly imply the presence of woodland. The stony gravel in the north-west of Trench 1 (Figure 20) where the majority of mammal remains were found has abundant and *in-situ* but very fragile remains of the thermophilous river mussel *Potamida littoralis* (see below), which is extinct in Britain. Its nearest populations are now located in Iberia and France. [Borders](#)

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	MATERIAL	COMMENTS
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Hippopotamus	Small molar or premolar found in three parts.	Complete crown only.
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Red deer.	Antler fragment.	Surface details indicate this species.
<i>Palaeoloxodon antiquus</i> or <i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	Straight-tusked elephant or Woolly mammoth.	Limb bone fragment.	Maximum thickness 3-cm, circumference 34-cm.
<i>Bison priscus</i> or <i>Bos primigenius</i>	Bison or Aurochs.	Molar or premolar.	Proximal part only from lower jaw.

Table 53: Ipswichian/Eemian large mammal remains from the MIS-5e palaeo-channel surface at Oday Hill (Drayton Road). The find locations are indicated in Figure 20. Nomenclature follows Yalden (1999). Identifications by Bob Eeles.

Further investigations on the palaeo-channel surface located a sandy-silt with abundant molluscs a little downslope and south-east of the concentration of mammal remains discussed above (location shown in Figure 20). Ten-litres of this material, the top three-centimetres was removed and taken to the laboratory in three parts. The samples were dried, were not sieved, and organic remains, on a black sampling tray, were removed. The samples have been retained for further analysis. The molluscs are identified to species, where possible, and these are listed in Table 54 as combined totals. The condition of the molluscs is generally good in this location although some of the larger terrestrial species such as *Cepaea nemoralis*, although with intact periostraca, are crushed. Most species are aquatic with a small proportion (9.16%) of land snails. The assemblage and sediment would indicate deposition in relatively calm

water with some input of species from nearby areas of land. Some of the terrestrial *Cepaea nemoralis* shells have aquatic *Bithynia tentaculata* embedded within them. A small number of the smaller bivalves (*Pisidium* species) are still joined suggesting that they died where they were found. In addition the sample produced the vertebra of an unidentified medium-sized mammal (probably a deer) and five unidentified post-cranial bone fragments from small mammals. Fish remains are absent.

Area 4 (Figure 20, lower right) is lower-lying than the warm-stage channel feature (Figure 21) and the presence within it of extensive frost cracks would strongly indicate a date earlier within the Ipswichian/Eemian when the cold-stage Summertown-Radley gravels were deposited. No organic remains were found in the gravels of Trench 4.

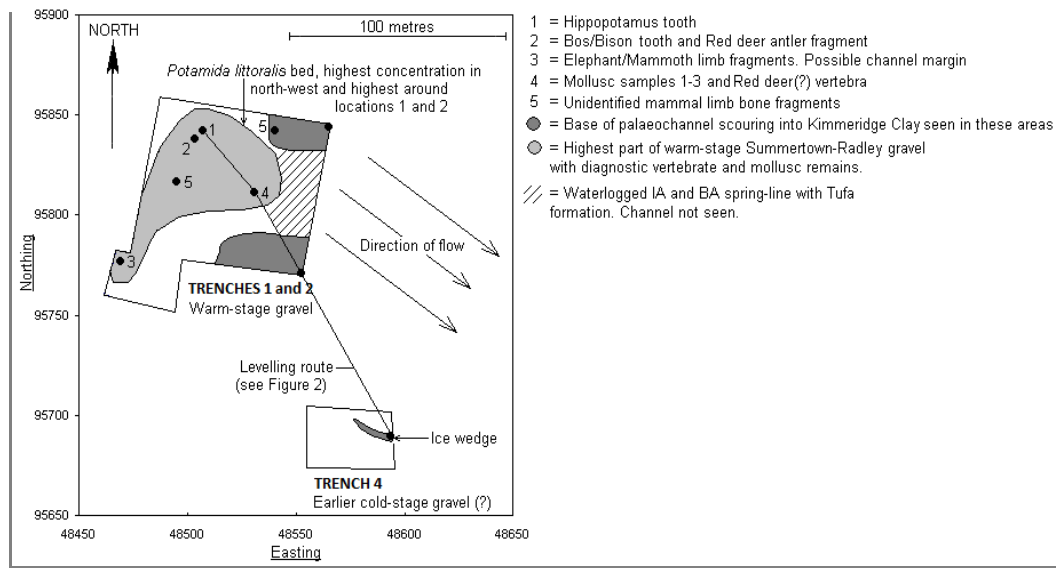


Figure 20. Plan of Areas 1 and 2 with indicative Ipswichian/Eemian find locations shown as well as the interpreted direction of channel flow. The transect level route shown as Figure 21 is also indicated (between location 1, top left, and the ice wedge, bottom right).

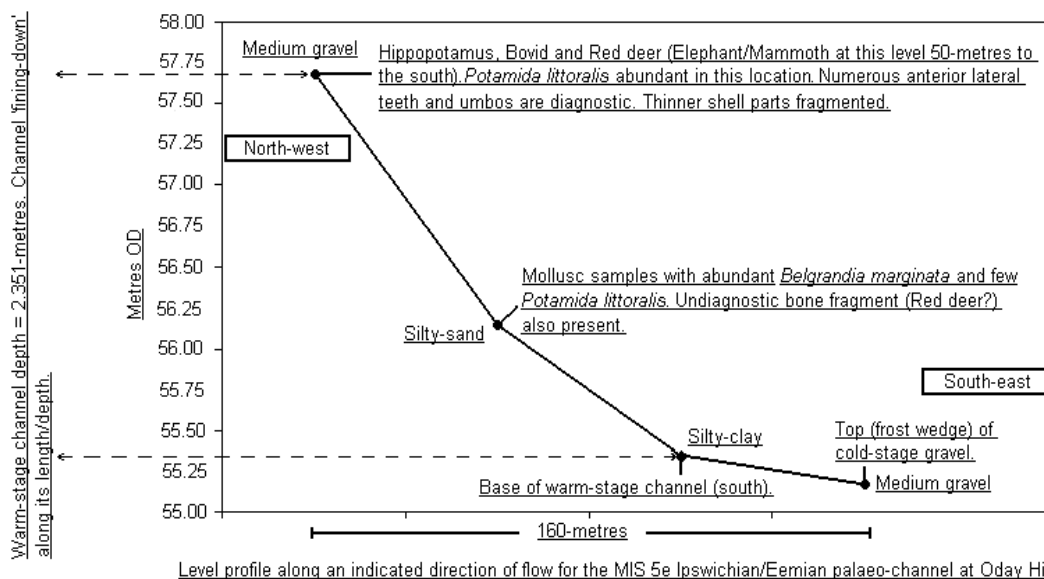


Figure 21. Levels on the Ipswichian/Eemian palaeo-channel surface from the highest part of the warm-stage gravel (location 1 in Figure 20, top left) to the surface of the cold-stage gravel (the ice wedge, bottom right in Figure 20). The x-axis is compressed.

Discussion

The absence of the thermophilous river clam, *Corbicula fluminalis*, from the molluscan assemblage (the nearest modern populations occur in Sicily and Greece Meijer & Preece 2000) indicates that the palaeo-channel is later than MIS-7 (the ‘Avelly’ interglacial, 245-186,000 years ago) since this species has not been found in Britain after this earlier warm-stage(Keen 1990). Both interglacial Hippopotamus and *Corbicula fluminalis* are ‘mutually exclusive’ in the fossil record (ibid). The presence of the tiny (1.5-mm) *Belgrandia marginata* (now occurring in France) would support an interpretation of the channel being MIS-5e, as this snail is not known from earlier or later periods in Britain. Both of these species plus *Potamida littoralis* and *Vallonia pulchella cf. enniensis* are indicative of a warm climate and one that fits with the known warming event that occurred during the Ipswichian/Eemian Interglacial. All of these species are currently extinct in Britain. The presence in the sediments of Hippopotamus, *Hippopotamus amphibious* and possibly Straight-tusked elephant, *Palaeoloxodon antiquus* (these limb bone fragments may belong to Woolly mammoth, *Mammuthus primigenius*), lend further weight to the palaeo-channel being MIS-5e in age. The former animal is not known from MIS-7 and was not present after MIS-5e (it occurred prior to MIS-7 during the MIS-12 Anglian period circa 478 to 424,000 years ago). No stone tools were found associated with the palaeo-channel and it is generally believed that our ancestors were not present in Britain at this time (Stuart 1995).

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	TOTAL	%
<i>Valvata cristata</i>	Flat valve snail	1	0.07
<i>Valvata piscinalis</i>	Common valve snail	415	27.59
<i>Belgrandia marginata</i>	Jenkin’s horn-shell	51	3.39
<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i>	Common bithynia	623	41.42

<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> operculum	"	1	/
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	Dwarf pond snail	3	0.19
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>	Marsh pond snail	2	0.13
<i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i>	Great pond snail	1	0.07
<i>Lymnaea peregra</i>	Common pond snail	11	0.73
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>	Margined ram's-horn	12	0.79
<i>Planorbis carinatus</i>	Keeled ram's-horn	8	0.53
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	Button ram's-horn	3	0.19
Indet <i>Planorbis/Anisus/Gyraulus</i> spp.	Ram's-horn	1	0.07
<i>Gyraulus laevis</i>	Smooth ram's-horn	66	4.38
<i>Armiger crista</i>	Nautilus ram's-horn	7	0.46
<i>Potamida littoralis</i>	A river mussel	Numerous fragments	/
<i>Sphaerium corneum</i>	Horny orb mussel	1	0.07
<i>Pisidium amnicum</i>	River pea shell	14	0.93
<i>Pisidium milium</i>	Rosy pea shell	1	0.07
<i>Pisidium subtruncatum</i>	A pea shell	1	0.07
<i>Pisidium henslowanum</i>	A pea shell	1	0.07
<i>Pisidium</i> spp.	Pea shells	76	5.05
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i> (recent introduction)	Blind snail	2	0.13
<i>Succinea/Oxyloma</i> spp.	Amber snail/s	37	2.46
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.	Whorl snail/s	2	0.13
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	Slippery moss snail	8	0.53
<i>Vallonia pulchella</i> cf. <i>enniensis</i>	Smooth grass snail	48	3.19
<i>Trichia striolata</i>	Strawberry snail	24	1.59
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Brown-lipped snail	17	1.13
Indet. Most probably abraded <i>Armiger crista</i>		68	4.52
Total		1,504	

Table 54. Aquatic and terrestrial molluscs from Area 4 (a silty-sand) in Figure 20. Characteristic MIS-5e warm-stage species that are no longer present in Britain are emboldened. Bivalve totals are the number of individual valves divided by two. It has not been possible to quantify the highly fragmented *Potamida littoralis* shells although there are many hundreds. A single valve of *Sphaerium corneum* was also found where the Hippopotamus tooth was recovered. Nomenclature follows Kerney (1999).

Flint artefacts

During investigations of the MIS-5e palaeochannel I had the opportunity to recover mostly unpatinated flint artefacts weathering out from the site's two spoilheaps, during and after the machine strip of the site (Table 55). The majority of finds were located in the topsoils with fewer in the subsoils. The majority of pieces are Neolithic and the leafshaped arrowhead, knapped on a long blade, would suggest an early-Neolithic or Mesolithic date for this white-patinated artefact. Nothing would indicate

a date later than the Neolithic for anything in the assemblage although some of the undiagnostic pieces could be later. This site probably represents ‘overspill’ from the widespread Neolithic occupation site located at the Tythe Farm SAM, a short distance to the north-west (SU-483-958). The lithic assemblage at this site has the same ‘signature’ in its overall characteristics and tool proportions as does Tythe Farm (*pers. obs.*).

PERIOD	ARTEFACT TYPE	QUANTITY
Mesolithic	Microlith (a retouched bladelet).	1
Mesolithic and/or Neolithic	Blades and bladelets including possibly utilised forms [utilisation may be due to mechanical/plough damage].	17
	(clearly) Retouched blades [with invasive retouch along at least one edge or at the distal end].	2
	Notched blade/ 'spoke shaver'/'shaft scraper' [not considered to have been notched during microlith manufacture].	1
	Retouched pointed blade [a perforator-like piece, unfinished, unsuitable as a projectile].	1
	End scrapers on blades. One thick specimen is ‘waisted’ and may be a Late Upper Palaeolithic piece.	2
	All blades [sub-total of all Mesolithic and/or Neolithic pieces].	23
Neolithic	Leafshaped arrowhead. This was made on a long-blade and may be late-Mesolithic or early-Neolithic.	1
	Polished flint axe fragment.	1
Unattributable	Flake cores including ‘tested’ nodules. Some ‘tested’ nodules may have natural damage.	13
	Burnt & unrecognisable pieces.	16
	Flakes and chips including possible utilised forms [utilisation may be due to mechanical/plough damage].	46
	(clearly) Retouched flakes [with invasive retouch along at least one edge or at the distal end].	9
	Retouched pointed flake.	1
	Notched flakes/'spoke shavers'/'shaft scrapers' [of unknown use].	2
	Scrapers (larger), rounded to ovoid including side scrapers.	6
	Fabricators cf. hammering rods/'strike-a-lights'.	3
	Burins.	2
	TOTAL	124

Table 55: Additional flint implements recovered from the spoil heaps during and after the excavations.

5.6 Miscellaneous finds by Simona Denis

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were found during the excavation. The items are plain stem fragments; no maker's marks or decorations were observed.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (gr)	Length (mm)	Diameter (mm)	Bore Hole	Bore Hole Diameter (mm)	Manufacturing Technique	Date Range
1002	Stem	1	4.5	37	9	off-centre	3	Moulded	?17 th C
2044	Stem	1	3.5	37	8	off-centre	3		

Table 56. Clay tobacco pipes

According to Harrington's charts (Harrington 1954), bore holes of an average diameter of 3.1 mm were common between 1620 and 1680.

Due to the very limited potential for further analysis, it is not recommended to retain the clay tobacco pipe stem fragments.

Clay Roof Tile

A single fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from context (2047). The item is very limited in size, measuring 24x24 mm and weighing 8 gr; it is preserved to its complete thickness of 13 mm and made of a sandy, orange-pink fabric with occasional very small inclusions. The fragment was identified as a plain roof tile. No diagnostic features or marks were observed; only a general dating between 15th and 19th centuries can be suggested. The item is not recommended for retention.

Fired clay

A small quantity of fired clay, of a total weight of 224.1 gr, was recovered from two different contexts, and identified as possible daub or fired clay produced as a result of iron smelting.

Daub is smeared onto a structure of timber or wattle as a finish to the surface. The material usually survives only when baked or fire-hardened.

Context	Weight (gr)	Context Type
1067	90.4	Fill of pit [1068]
1119	133.7	Fill of posthole [1118]

Table 57. Fired clay

It is not recommended to retain the material due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

Seed shell

Nine fragments of seed shell were found through flotation in sample <18>, collected from context (2076). The items, weighing 0.4 gr, were tentatively identified as belonging to a type of hazelnut.

Metalwork

Slag

Evidence of metalwork were observed in two individual contexts.

The single example collected from context (1197) and weighing 48.3 gr, was positively identified as a smithing hearth bottom. Although fragmentary, it clearly showed the characteristic circular shape, rounded bottom and fairly flat top (Fregni 2014).

The five fragments found in context (1180), of a combined weight of 12.6 gr, are undiagnostic; they could have resulted from smelting or other processes.

Copper Alloy

A small collection of copper alloy objects was recovered from context (1002). With the exception of a single item, all of the finds were modern and therefore not considered for retention.

Crotal bell

An extremely fragmentary copper alloy object was found in context (1002). The ball-shaped item, weighing 18.2 gr, was tentatively identified as a bell; part of the rounded hole is preserved, as well as two slightly protruding elements.

Similar objects were commonly produced between the 17th and the 19th centuries, to be around the neck of an animal, such as sheep.

The fragmentary state of preservation of the object and its provenance from subsoil (1002) advises against retention.

Coin

A 5 pence cupronickel coin was collected from context (1002). The reverse bears the Badge of Scotland and the FIVE PENCE. The coin was minted in 1992, as indicated on the *recto*.

Hair Clip

A complete, modern copper alloy hair clasp, weighing 3.8 gr and measuring 68 mm in length, was found in context (1002).

Rivet

One copper alloy item, weighing 2.2 gr, was recovered from context (1002). It was identified as a rivet, with a flat rounded head 15 mm in diameter and a round cross-section shank preserved to a maximum length of 10 mm. The general aspect as well as manufacturing details suggest a modern dating, as round cross-section shaft were introduced after 1880 (Chervenka).

Unidentified objects

Two unidentified copper alloy object were collected from context (1002).

One complete item, weighing 10.7 gr and measuring 21 mm in length, is drop-shaped and has a round passing hole 8 mm in diameter.

A second object, weighing 10.2 gr, is composed of a flat, curved strip of metal. The item is too fragmentary to be identified.

The function of the objects remains undetermined, although a modern dating can be suggested on the basis of their general aspect.

Lead

Context (1002) yielded five lead objects, including four bullets and one fragmentary seal.

Bullets

A small collection of four bullets was recovered from subsoil (1002), analysed and not retained. All of the items are cast and made of soft lead; none of the bullets impacted, as no obvious deformations were recorded. The superficial corrosion of the objects prevented from the observation of any firing marks.

Three of the items were positively identified as musket bullets of various calibres; the remaining object being a rifle pointed bullet with a flat base (<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/719966>).

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (gr)	Diameter (mm)	Length (mm)	Comments	Date Range
1002	Round ball	1	31.7	19	N/A		15 th -18 th C
		1	5.1	12	N/A	Offset mould	
		1	5.2	10	N/A	Bubble	
	Pointed	1	7.9	8	14		19 th -20 th C

Table 58. Bullets

The largest round ball shows the typical snipped sprue, a bar dividing two slight half circle depressions. The remaining spherical bullets display signs of poor manufacture: the example weighing 12 gr shows a clear mould line, caused by the poor registration between the two halves of the mould, while the smallest round bullet has a depression in the surface, as a result of the incomplete filling of the mould.

Seal

Two separate fragments of lead seal were found in context (1002). The items, of a combined weight of 7.7 gr, were identified as modern and not retained.

Stone

Two fragments of possible quern stone, of a combined weight of 3359 gr, were found in context (1412).

The largest item, possibly an upper stone, weighing 2191 gr, has an irregular round shape and a flat bottom, measures ca 130x160 mm and a maximum thickness of c. 68 mm.

The second object, weighing 1168 gr, is preserved to a maximum length of 230 mm and a maximum width of 90 mm. the preserved edge shows a curved, oval profile; and a flat base.

Only a very broad date to the Prehistoric to the medieval period can be suggested for the objects.

6 DISCUSSION

Introduction

The archaeology of the site falls into six broad time periods. The earliest phase is the Palaeolithic fossilized mammal bone recovered from within the natural gravels that the later archaeology was cut into. The earliest human activity on the site is of a Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date and is represented by a single pit and a few sherds of residual pottery from later features.

The Late Bronze age / Early Iron Age is represented by the deposition of material into an active palaeochannel; further focus on this palaeochannel is seen in the Early Iron Age, where four phases of activities were identified. The first phase was represented by the establishment of rectilinear field system with evidence of settlement represented by various pits and postholes forming a single roundhouse and various fence lines and pit clusters. The second phase of Early Iron Age activities shows the start of a re-organisation within the landscape, with a change in enclosure layout and a single crouched burial situated where the first two phases intersect. The third phase was represented by a sub-rectangular enclosure added onto the phase two ditch, enclosing an area eastwards. Phase four was represented by a further extension southwards from the phase three enclosure.

There was no evidence for any activity on the site during the middle and later Iron Age. In the Roman period there was limited activities involving the partial re-cutting of an earlier phase enclosure ditch and the addition of a small rectangular enclosure. The medieval and post-medieval are represented by the ridge and furrows present across the site and a few pits.

Palaeolithic

The site was situated on the surface of the Summertown-Radley, second-terrace, gravel deposits, that overlay the Kimmeridge clay. In area 1, various striations cut into the Kimmeridge clay and filled by the gravels had a northwest – southeast orientation give a possible direction of flow of the palaeochannel. Mixed within this gravel layer was quantities of disarticulated fragmented fossilized animal bone and molluscs (See above), that represented various large mammals. A possible date of the latter part of the Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 5e (the Ipswichian / Eemian interglacial c. 124 to 119,000 years ago has been suggested. No flint tools were recovered within the gravels; however hand axes and other flint tools have been recovered from the local area.

Very few comparative sites on the Summertown-Radley gravels in the Upper Thames region have been conducted. Dix pit, near Stanton Hardcourt, was an important site, conducted in the channel deposits at the base of the Summertown-Radley gravel formation, and yielded large assemblages of mammalian and organic material (Morigi *et al* 2011) with both these sites produced a similar range in large mammal species.

Neolithic / Early Bronze Age (2500 to 1600 BC)

This period is represented by a single small pit 1161 that contained six wall fragments from a Beaker or Early Bronze age vessel. Residual pottery was recovered from Early Iron Age pits, a single rim fragment of Mortlake Ware from pit 1135 and a single rim fragment of an Early Bronze Age vessel from pit 1407. Also there was an assemblage of flint tools retrieved from the topsoil and subsoil that dated to the Mesolithic / Neolithic.

The presence of features and artefacts of this date on the site is un-surprising as the Neolithic Cursus complex at Drayton is situated a short distance away to the south-east and a widespread Neolithic occupation site was located at the Tythe Farm SAM, a short distance to the north-west

Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (9th to 6th Centuries BC)

Activity in this period is represented by the deposition of pottery and bone into an active palaeochannel associated with the nearby river Thames. The palaeochannel in Area 1 was situated down-slope of the later features at c. 55.5m (MOD) and formed the western edge of a channel. The alluvial fills of the palaeochannel along the western edge had been trampled by livestock, however it is not clear whether this happened during this phase or during the Early Iron Age phase of activities.

It is possible that the channel was utilised as a midden during the Late Bronze Age as the channel deposits contained disarticulated bone from cattle, red deer, sheep / goat, and medium / large mammals together with 194 Early All Cannings Cross sherds from 30 vessels. All these were recovered from the intervention near the edge of the paleochannel, whereas the intervention further into the channel produced very few finds, suggesting the objects were cast into the channel along the western edge.

Of interest no features of this date were found within the excavation areas and the material found suggests there is a settlement site of this date in the neighbourhood.

Evidence from the plant macrofossils recovered from the two samples taken from the fills of the palaeochannel suggests an open ground environment with some woodland species next to a waterside environment. Seeds from both samples suggest conditions of nitrogen enrichment possibly resulting from either animal manuring or human settlement nearby. The evidence of trampling along the edge of the palaeochannel, and the recovery of animal bones from the fills seems to suggest that both wild and domesticated species of animals were utilising the palaeochannel.

In the Upper Thames Valley the rising water table resulting from increasing water run-off and erosion due to land clearances and agriculture on the higher ground was increasing from the Bronze Age onwards. The earliest evidence of a rising water table in the Upper Thames Valley during the Bronze Age comes from a palaeochannel on the multi-period site at Yarnton (G.Hey, P. Booth and J.Timby, 2011). There was evidence of flooding from the Mid Bronze Age, and by the Late Bronze Age there was sufficient levels of water in the paleochannel to preserve a timber and brushwood platform dated to 920 – 520 cal BC (Lambrick et al. 29, 2009).

Early Iron Age (8th to 6th Centuries BC)

The Early Iron Age has been divided into four phases, as previously mentioned above, this involves the 1st phase that represents the development of the field system orientated to the northwest - southeast that enclosed a small settlement consisting of a single roundhouse, associated pit cluster and four post feature identified in Area 3 and various post and pit alignments related to the management of livestock within the rectilinear enclosure in Areas 1 and 2. The second phase represents a re-organisation of the field system within the landscape and a possible settlement shift to elsewhere nearby. The enclosures formed in the second, third and fourth phases perhaps represent a shift in agricultural practices, possibly resulting from rising water levels in the palaeochannel to the east.

The early settlement

Enclosure / field system

The earliest form of land management is the development of the northwest - southeast and northeast - southwest land divisions, surviving as shallow ditches, often segmented in Areas 1 and 2. This orientation continues with ditch **1138** in Area 3, and in seven of the evaluation trenches within the development area. This orientation also partially continues as cropmarks on the Sutton Wick SAM (monument number 233986) located *c.*100m to the northwest of Areas 1 and 2, indicating that the field system extends for some distance beyond the boundary of the site (Fig. 3).

It is unclear, due to the shallow nature of the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1, whether it was originally a continuous ditch or that it was cut in segments and then later re-cut along its length, as the much later ridge and furrows cut through the enclosure, and the lines of the furrows do mostly correspond with the gaps between the ditches. However, along the southwestern extent of the enclosure there was evidence of re-cutting along ditch groups **1859** and **1889** by **1860** and **1990**. If there has been an unknown level of truncation across the site then these ditches could have been deeper and thus a bank could have been created to form an additional barrier.

Evidence for an entrance way in between the south-eastern terminus of ditch **1265** and the north-western terminus of ditch **1280** could be postulated as there are a number of postholes present (see below) within the entranceway suggesting the control of animal movement.

The segmented ditch produced a very small assemblage of finds from the interventions; in total five sherds (37g) of early Iron Age pottery, 29 small fragments of unidentifiable animal bone from sample 19, and one human skull from ditch **1860**. This lack of finds within the ditches possibly suggests that material was not generally intentionally disposed of in ditches, but elsewhere. The presence of a human skull in a ditch in the Iron Age within the upper and middle Thames valley is a fairly common practice for the region.

Comparative sites of Early Iron Age rectilinear fields in the Upper Thames Valley are sparse and include Rough Ground Farm, Lechlade, where the remains of an Early Iron Age rectilinear field system made up of various ditches and gullies was present (Allen et al. 1993, 36-47). A possible Early Iron Age rectilinear field system comprising

varying lengths of ditch that was related to a complex enclosure entrance that developed from the early to middle Iron Age was present at Watchfield (Birbeck, 2001, 221-88).

Post built structures

Post-built roundhouse **1102**, was the only roundhouse identified within the excavated areas and composed of eighteen postholes, with twelve postholes forming a 9m diameter ring, with a further two postholes forming a porch / entranceway on the southern side of the structure. The interior of the roundhouse was devoid of any archaeological features, suggesting that the ring of posts provided support for both the wall and roof. Various paired postholes and three exterior postholes along the ring of posts could indicate repairs / modifications to the structure whilst it was occupied and situated directly southwest of the porch four postholes could represent a windbreak / screen / winnowing barrier associated with the roundhouse. Three of the postholes produced seven sherds (18g) of Early Iron Age pottery, and 22 pieces of worked flint and 17 small fragments of animal bone were recovered from other postholes in the structure.

This type of roundhouse is common in the Early Iron Age in the Thames Valley, as later Iron Age roundhouses usually have a ring gully / ditch enclosing the circle of posts. Comparative sites with single roundhouses present on the site in the upper Thames Valley include Rough Ground Farm and Butlers field, Lechlade (Allen, et al. 1993; Boyle, et al. 1998). Within the Abingdon area Early Iron Age roundhouses have been identified at; Spring Road Municipal Cemetery, a multi-period site (Allen, et al. 2008) and Wyndyke Furlong, a multi-period site (Muir, et al. 1999).

Four-post structure **1034** was the only four-post structure identified on the site and was located 15m southwest of the roundhouse. Five flint flakes and one indeterminate sherd of pottery was recovered from the postholes, so a secure date for this feature was established due to the proximity to the roundhouse and the shared orientation of the Phase 1 features, it has been tentatively placed in this phase.

Four-post structures are a common occurrence on settlement sites throughout the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age within the Thames Valley and are thought to be have been used for storage.

Gateway and fence lines

A drafting gate and various lengths of fence lines were located within the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1 that possibly represent the remains of various pens that would have been utilized to corral, subdivide and manage both herds and individual animals within the enclosure.

Posthole group **2136** was within an entranceway on the north-eastern extent of the segmented ditch enclosure in Area 1 and comprised sixteen postholes. It has been postulated as representing a drafting gate to help with the movement and sorting of livestock in the enclosure. It consisted of three postholes set into the centre of the entranceway (with only one being utilized at the time, and the other two representing use wear / modifications to the central post) and two gates / hurdles attached to the central post. The remaining postholes were located c.4m away arranged in an arc from the southwest around to the east; here the gates could be tethered to the posts in

various positions to restrict the movement of livestock. Just one of the postholes contained pottery, two sherds (3g) of Early Iron Age pottery. A similar example of a simple drafting gate arrangement was excavated at Perry Oaks / T5, in the middle Thames valley, where it was associated with a trackway within the Bronze Age Field system (Framework Archaeology, 2006).

Various lines of postholes represented by groups **2127**, **2130**, **2131**, **2132**, **2133** and **2134** were present within the enclosure, these varied in length but all shared the early orientation of northwest - southeast and northeast – southwest. These formed the truncated remains of fence lines that were probably formed various paddocks within the enclosure. Finds from these features were sparse and included sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, fragments of animal bone and flint flakes.

Small pits, posthole scatters and large pit

There were two main distinct areas of small pit and posthole clusters present on the site; group **2138**, located next to the palaeochannel **2049**, and group **2128**, situated next to roundhouse **1102**. Both of these possibly represent working / activity areas near the southern bank of the palaeochannel and the area directly south and east of the roundhouse.

The pits and postholes were generally shallow, sub-rounded in shape and contained a single fill. Finds recovered from pit and posthole group **2138**, consisted of mainly heat affected quartzite pebbles, two fragments of limestone quernstones, and a small amount of Early Iron Age pottery, suggesting that there were specialised activities, perhaps cooking or heating water, involving the heating of stones near a water supply.

The small assemblage of finds recovered from the pits and postholes from group **2128**, (consisting of a few fragments of animal bone, flint flakes and one sherd of Early Iron Age pottery) unfortunately does not indicate any evidence of specialist activities occurring in this area of pit scatter.

Large pit 1347 was possibly utilised for storage and once the feature had silted up there was evidence of a ‘ritual sealing’ of the pit with a clay cap that overlay a cow skull. The placement of artefacts as ‘closing deposits’ within pits and postholes was a common practice in later prehistory and is highly visible in the archaeological record (Lambrick et al. 2009, 285). Examples of ritual deposition in features could be seen at Gravelly Guy, Oxfordshire (Lambrick and Allen 2004, 489-490) and Corporation Farm, Abingdon (Barclay et al. 2003, 31-40).

Later enclosure development

Enclosures

The second phase of activity in the Early Iron Age saw the re-organisation and abandonment of the earlier field system and a possible settlement shift. This phase is represented by ditches **1403**, **1498** and **1260** that are orientated roughly north – south. Both of the ditches seem to respect the layout of the earlier field system, in that ditch **1498** terminates as it reaches ditch **1521** and ditch **1403** cut through the northwest corner junction of earlier ditches **1860** and **1521**. It is worth noting that this junction where the ditches meet also forms a reference point for the human remains found on

the site (see below) as a human skull was recovered from ditch **1860** here and crouched burial SK (1352) was located 4m to the west of this junction.

Again a small assemblage of finds from the ditches was apparent, with ditch **1260** containing single animal bone fragment and one piece of flint, and ditch **1498** contained one flint flake and one sherd (9g) of Early Iron Age pottery. Ditch **1403** contained ten flints, eleven fragments of animal bone and 35 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery; however 30 of these sherds were recovered from two interventions along the southern extent of the ditch. 1618 contained six sherds (24g) and 1623 contained 24 sherds (124g), this possibly represents the deliberate dump of material into the ditch in this area.

Soon after the cutting of ditch **1403** the third phase of activity is represented by the establishment of gullies **1333** and **1491** that form a sub-rectangular enclosure 'tacked' onto the eastern side of ditch **1403**. The sub-rectangular enclosure had an entrance along the south-eastern extent and the north-western terminus of gully **1491** respected the line of ditch **1403**. A small assemblage of finds was again apparent, with no pottery recovered from gully **1333**, just two fragments of animal bone and a few fragments of animal bone, four flints and six sherds of Early Iron Age pottery from gully **1491**.

Once gully **1491** had at least partly silted up, an additional gully was cut enclosing the area to the south of the sub-rectangular enclosure. This shallow gully represents the fourth phase of activity in the Early Iron Age and is made up of six varying lengths of gully (**1934**, **1964**, **1686**, **1822**, **1560** and **1585**) that represent a single gully which has been heavily truncated. However there is a possible entrance located where the gully reaches ditch **1403**, where the southwestern terminus of gully **1686** cut into the side fills of ditch **1403** and the north-eastern terminus of gully **1822** just respected the line of ditch **1403**, creating a 4m wide entrance. It is in this area that the increased amounts of pottery were recovered from ditch **1403** (see above). A small assemblage of finds was recovered from these gully segments; three sherds (37g) of Early Iron Age pottery and ten fragments of animal bone.

The re-organisation of the field systems during these phases could reflect seasonal or more a general rise in the water table, with part of the Phase 1 rectilinear fields being made redundant and a new series of enclosures being developed further up the slope away from the palaeochannel. Entranceways in the Phase 3 and 4 enclosures suggest livestock could still move down eastwards towards the palaeochannel from the enclosures.

The evidence for Early Iron Age activities within the upper Thames Valley is well documented, normally developing into Middle Iron Age settlement sites, such as Wyndyke Furlong, Abingdon, (Muir et al. 1999) and Yarnton (Hey et al. 2011). However evidence of multi-phase field systems and enclosures within the Early Iron Age is limited, single phase field boundaries have been recognised at Butlers Field (Boyle et al. 1998) and Roughground Farm, Lechlade (Allen et al. 1993) and Watchfield (Birbeck, 2001), there are no multi-phase field system / enclosures within the Upper Thames Valley. There is more evidence for Middle Iron Age field systems than Earlier Iron Age ones, and the evidence tends to be piecemeal, perhaps in part due to the focus of excavations on settlement sites (Lambrick et al. 2009, 86).

The Iron Age burials

One crouched burial SK (1352) and one cranium fragment SK (1404) were present on the site located a short distance from each other, in or near the intersection of boundary ditches.

The cranium fragment was recovered from the upper fill of Phase 1 rectilinear enclosure ditch **1860**, close to where it intersects with ditch **1521**, also part of the Phase 1 Early Iron Age field system. The crouched burial was located c.6m away to the west on the western side of Phase 2 ditch **1403**, near the terminus of ditch **1860**. The location of the burial here seems significant in that it references where the older Phase 1 field enclosures, and the later Phase 2 re-orientated boundary intersect.

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age inhumation burials associated with boundaries, either placed in them or alongside is a fairly common burial practice in the Upper Thames valley within these time periods. At Roughground Farm, Lechlade two Early Iron Age crouched burials were associated with a boundary ditch. One crouched burial, of a young adult with no grave goods was located within the ditch (relationship with ditch unclear) and one crouched burial of an adult male with no grave goods was located a short distance away from the same ditch (Allen et al. 1993, 45).

Site economies and status from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age

The location of the site during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, as seen from the environmental samples taken from the palaeochannel, was set in an open ground environment with woodland nearby and next to a waterside environment. The site was situated near the base of an east facing slope running down to the Thames floodplain and Sutton Wick SAM (monument number 233986) where an area of complex cropmarks was situated further up-slope to the west. This site forms the eastern extent of this cropmark complex as it reaches the palaeochannel that once fed into the River Thames system. Parts of the cropmark complex has rectilinear enclosures that share the orientation of the Early Iron Age Phase 1 rectilinear field system, further indicating the sites inter-connectivity.

Evidence from the animal bone assemblage suggests a pre-dominance of cattle bone with sheep / goat, horse, pig and dog also represented with the majority of the assemblage being recovered from pits within the field system and the palaeochannel. The abundance of cattle bones from the site could be reflecting the site's location next to water, as cattle are better adapted than sheep / goat for grazing in damp conditions. The animals probably arrived on site on hoof and there was limited evidence for butchery. Of note red deer was the second most represented animal in the assemblage, with some evidence for the removal of the antler from the skull. This could indicate that as well as the palaeochannel providing water for the domesticated animals, wild animals such as red deer were utilising the area as well and being hunted for their meat, skin and antler. Evidence of livestock management is also represented by the various fence lines within the Phase 1 enclosure and the various entrances in the phase 3 and 4 enclosures created to maintain access to the palaeochannel.

There was very little evidence for what crops (if any) were being grown, with the only evidence that crops were being processed coming from two quernstone fragments

recovered from a pit cluster located near the palaeochannel. The lack of agricultural evidence suggests that the main function of the site during the Early Iron age predominantly involved the management of herds of cattle.

Settlement on the site during this period was represented by the single Phase 1 roundhouse located within the rectilinear field system and may be part of a dispersed 'open' settlement within the field system. There was a paucity of artefacts that were recovered from the roundhouse and associated pit scatter nearby, thus there is very little information regarding activities that occurred around the roundhouse. It showed signs that the structure had been repaired or modified over time. However it is unclear for how long the structure was in use for and if it was lived in seasonally or permanently all year round.

The pottery assemblage from the features associated with Phases 1 to 4 is dated to the 8th to 6th centuries BC. A significant assemblage of sherds representing 30 Early All Cannings Cross vessels were recovered from the fills of the palaeochannel, these have a slightly earlier date range from the earlier 9th century to the mid 8th - 6th centuries BC that dates them to the transitional period between the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. Both these dates overlap and if the All Cannings Ware vessels were curated for a period of time, then the palaeochannel deposits could be contemporary with the Early Iron Age phases of the site.

The fabric and tempers used in the production of the pottery suggest they were made from a wide range of locally available materials and some were decorated with various designs. There was no clear evidence that the wide range of pottery fabrics indicates intra-regional exchange, it may suggest that the pattern may be linked with the kind of technological experimentation that might be expected within a period of ceramic innovation.

The evidence suggests that the site was sparsely populated and primarily focused on animal husbandry rather than agricultural and the paucity of finds from the site suggests a relatively low status site. However if this site is related to the area of cropmarks identified to the west it could form part of a settlement that is later than the Early Iron Age and due to a rising water table, later settlement focused on the higher ground.

Roman (1st to 4th Centuries AD)

There was limited evidence of occupation on the site during the Roman period, with only 12 sherds (109g) recovered ranging from the Late Iron Age / Early Roman to the mid-3rd-4th centuries AD, indicating a mid to late Roman date for the activity on site. There were only five features dated to this period, the small rectilinear enclosure **1172** / **2125**, three short east – west ditches, **1168**, **1942**, and **2126**, and pit 1420 and all these features were aligned on a roughly north – south / east – west orientation.

The rectilinear enclosure was tacked onto the western side and re-cut Phase 2 ditch **1403**, forming three sides of a small enclosure, with an entrance on the western side and there was limited evidence for the remains of a bank situated on the eastern side of ditch re-cut **2125**.

The three short lengths of east – west ditches scattered around Areas 1 and 2 possibly represent localized attempts to improve drainage, and the pit containing the partial remains of a cow was cut into the southern end of Phase two ditch **1403**, could indicate that the ditch was still visible as an earthwork.

Excavations at Wyndyke Furlong, Abingdon (Muir, et al. 24-27, 1999), revealed similar low levels of Roman activities on an Iron Age site that consisted of a linear ditch and small enclosure cut into the earlier features.

Medieval / Post-Medieval

Ridge and furrow on an east – west alignment was present across the areas, mostly cut through the sub-soil along the western extent of site, and where the thickness of sub-soil decreased eastwards, the furrows cut into the gravels and the archaeological horizons.

A single post-medieval pit was identified in Area 3, and a large quarry pit resulting from gravel extraction was present in Area 4.

Conclusions

Excavations within the four areas at Drayton Road have revealed Palaeolithic fossilized mammal bone recovered from within the natural gravels. The earliest human activity on the site is of a Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date and is represented by a single pit and a few sherds of residual pottery from later features together with a small assemblage of worked flint.

The Late Bronze age / Early Iron Age is represented by the deposition of material into an active palaeochannel, further focus on this palaeochannel is seen in the Early Iron Age, where four phases of activities were identified. The first phase was represented by the establishment of rectilinear field system with evidence of settlement represented by various pits and postholes forming a single roundhouse and various fence lines and pit clusters. The second phase of Early Iron Age activities shows the start of a re-organisation within the landscape, with a change in enclosure layout and a single crouched burial situated where the first two phases intersect. The third and fourth phases were represented by further small enclosures added to the second phase ditch. The evidence suggests that the site was set within an open grassland environment close to water, and the site was utilised for the management of livestock and was fairly low status.

There was no evidence for any activity on the site during the middle and later Iron Age. In the Roman period there were limited activities involving the partial re-cutting of an earlier phase enclosure ditch and the addition of a small rectangular enclosure. The medieval and post-medieval periods were represented by the ridge and furrow system present across the site and a few pits.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds
Environmental samples

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museum Services under accessional number OXCMS: 2012.115.

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Appendix 1*Animal Bone Tables**Table 46a. Taxa representation (NISP)*

	Palaeolithic	EIA	?EIA	Roman	?Roman	Post med	?	Total
Horse		5	1					6
Cattle		59	7	7				73
Sheep/goat		12	2	2				16
Pig		11	1	3		1		16
Dog		2		1			1	4
Cervus elaphus		18						18
cf. Cervus elaphus		4						4
Meles meles				1				1
Bufo bufo		1						1
Amphibian		6						6
Very large mammal	4							4
Large/very large	64							64
Large mammal	25	192	16	49			7	289
Medium mammal	5	15	1	3				24
Small mammal		2					1	3
Unidentifiable	135	209	26	103	4		8	485
Total	233	536	54	169	4	1	17	1014
Total identifiable		118	11	14		1	1	145
% identifiable		22	20	8		100	6	14

Table 46b. Taxa representation in sieved samples (NISP)

	LBA-EIA	EIA	Total
Cattle	1	2	3
Sheep/goat		1	1
Pig		3	3
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	3	1	4
<i>Talpa europea</i>		2	2
<i>Sorex araneus</i>		1	1
Vole		1	1
Rodent		8	8
cf. <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1	1
Amphibian		3	3
Small mammal		1	1
Unidentifiable	26	243	269
Total	30	267	297
Total identifiable	4	23	27
% identifiable	13	9	9

Table 46c. Early Iron Age. articulations and paired elements (NISP)

	Articulations	Paired elements	Skull	Part Skeleton
Cattle			4	
Cervus elaphus	1	6		
Ampibian				4
Total	1	6	4	4

Table 46d. Early Iron Age. minimum number of elements and individuals

	Horse		Cattle		Sheep/goat		Pig		Red deer	
	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right
Mandible			3	3	1			1	1	1
Humerus	1	1	3	3				1		1
Radius			3	1						2
Ulna										
Pelvis			1	3	1	1				
Femur			2	1						
Tibia			1	2	1			1		
Astragalus			1							
Calcaneus				1				1		
Metacarpal			3	4						
Metatarsal	1		2	1		2				
MNE	2	1	19	19	3	3		4	1	4
MNI	1		4		1		1		2	

Table 47. Anatomical representation (NISP)

i) Early Iron Age

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
Skull		1				
Antler						7
Horn core		1				
Zygomatic		2				
Incisor				3		
Upper premolar				1		1
Upper molar		6		1		
Lower molar		1	2			

Maxilla		2		1		2
Mandible		11	2	1		3
Atlas		1				
Scapula		1				
Humerus	2	6		1	1	2
Radius		5				2
Ulna					1	
Pelvis		1	2			
Femur		4				
Tibia		4	2	1		
Astragalus		1				
Calcaneus		1		1		
Navicular cuboid		1				
Metacarpal		7	1			
Metatarsal	2	2	3			
1st Phalanx	1	1		1		1
Total	5	59	12	11	2	18

ii) Roman

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Dog	<i>Meles meles</i>
Canine			1	1	
Mandible	1	1			
Pelvis	2				
Tibia		1			1
Metatarsal	1				
1st Phalanx			1		
2nd phalanx			1		
3rd phalanx	1				
Tooth fragment	2				
Total	7	2	3	1	1

Table 48. Estimated age at death (NISP)

i) according to dental data

Taxa	P4	M1	M2	M3	Estimated age
<i>EIA</i>					
Cattle	e	b			6-15 months
Cattle	V	k	g		26-36 months

Sheep/goat		k	g	g	4-6 years
Pig	b	h	e	1/2	Subadult
<i>Roman</i>					
Cattle				j	6-8 years
Sheep/goat	e	j	g	b	2-3 years

Table 49. Epiphyseal fusion data (NISP)

i) EIA

a) horse

Age of fusion		Fused
12-15 months	Phalanx I	1
15 months	Metatarsal, d	1
15-18 months	Humerus,d	1

b) cattle

Age of fusion		Fused
7-10 months	Scapula	1
"	Pelvis	1
Subtotal<1yr		
12-15 months	Radius,p	4
15-20 months	Humerus,d	1
20-24 months	Phalanx I	1
Subtotal<2yrs		
24-30 months	Tibia,d	1
"	Metacarpal	1
Subtotal<3yrs		
36 months	Calcaneus	1

c) sheep/goat

Age of fusion		Fused
5 months	Pelvis	1

d) pig

Age of fusion		Fused	Unfused
24 months	Phalanx I	1	
Subtotal<2yrs			
24-30 months	Calcaneus		1

*ii) Roman**c) sheep/goat*

Age of fusion		Unfused
15-20 months	Tibia,d	1
42 months	Tibia,p	1

d) pig

Age of fusion		Fused	Unfused
12 months	Phalanx II	1	
Subtotal<1yr			
24 months	Phalanx I		1
Subtotal<2yrs			

Table 50. Incidence of taphonomy

i) EIA

	Gnawed	Butchered		Burnt
		Cut	Chop	Charred
Cattle	8	2	1	1
Sheep/goat	1	1		
Dog	1			
Cervus elaphus	1		2	
Large mammal	1			6
Medium mammal	1			
Total	13	3	3	7

ii) Roman

	Gnawed	Butchered
		?cut
Cattle	1	
Sheep/goat	1	
Large mammal		2
Medium mammal	1	
Total	3	2

*Table 51. Taxa representation according to feature type (NISP)**i) EIA*

	Ditch	Gully	Palaeochannel	Paleochannel	Pit	Posthole	Treethrow	Total
Horse				4	1			5
Cattle	2	2	6	36	12	1		59
Sheep/goat		1	1	5	3	2		12
Pig	3			5	2	1		11
Dog	1			1				2
Cervus elaphus			1	10	6		1	18
cf. Cervus elaphus				1	3			4
Bufo bufo		1						1
Amphibian		6						6
Large mammal	4		9	57	120	2		192
Medium mammal	1	2	2	2	3	5		15
Small mammal					2			2
Total	11	12	19	121	152	11	1	327

ii) Roman

	Ditch	Total
Cattle	7	7
Sheep/goat	2	2
Pig	3	3
Dog	1	1
Meles meles	1	1
Large mammal	49	49
Medium mammal	3	3
Total	66	66